

# THE INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa

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**GEN/20/012**

**31 March 2020**

**Blessings to the Vicars/Priests-in-Charge, Parish Office bearers and all the faithful in our diocese;**

**Dearly beloved in Christ!**

We are staying back in India with heavy heart and every moment you all are in Our thoughts and Prayers. The effect of COVID 19 pandemic is still not fully under control in many parts of the world especially in Europe. Our Heavenly Father shall send His Holy Angels to protect and shelter us from all evil powers. Let us all continue Pray to Lord Almighty and be assured in the miracles from heaven.

We all are passing through the most important and compassionate days of our Liturgical year, the Passion week, commemorating our Lord's agonies and sacrifices towards the Feast of Resurrection which saved the world. It is painful that this year we would not be able to commemorate and conduct the Holy Liturgical services and Prayers as stipulated by our Holy Church Fathers. On this context, re-iterating the Kalpana from our Bawa Thirumeni and Our earlier Kalpana, We urge you to follow the below instructions.

1. All the Parishes and Congregations shall strictly follow the rules and guidelines issued by the Government Authorities / Public Health departments and Statutory bodies of the place of living. There shall not be any Church worships or Public gatherings if it is restricted in that state. You may restart the public worships only after the law of the land allows you to do so.
2. In the present climate, social distancing and personal hygienic protocols are the most important measure to be followed.
3. You should continue say all the prayers of the Great Lent with your family at your home in due diligence and reverence. You may arrange your home to create the holistic realm as that of a Church premise.
4. In places where Church worship is restricted, our Priests should conduct all the daily periodic prayers (യാമ പ്രാർത്ഥനകൾ) and Passion week liturgical prayers at their home. The Priests will do it by themselves in a controlled manner as per Our guidance. Acolytes and others should be allowed in restricted numbers only if it is permissible by the law of the land.
5. If it is possible, internet transmission to the relevant Parish members should be arranged with the help and support of the Parish Office bearers. If you watch the live/recorded telecast of the Holy services, you shall do it with utmost respect and reverence.

We gratefully noted that our Priests are in constant vigil and compassionately delivering their Pastoral duties during this difficult period. They may not be able to

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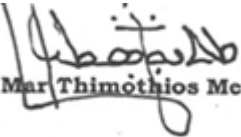
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visit your congregations and place of living due to statutory restrictions and general duty of care. However, they do continue praying for you from wherever they are and updating the situations to Us in a regular basis. We hereby urge you to pray for our Priests and continue support them by keep providing them with the monthly payments you used to do in normal circumstances.

Due to present COVID 19 circumstances, majority of our Parishes could not conduct the annual general body meeting and elect the new office bearers. We hereby allow all the Parishes, where new office bearers are not elected for 2020-21, the present managing committee should continue in their office until the situations become normal and the new office bearers are formally elected.

Once again assuring Our prayers for all of you

Your Spiritual Father and Shepherd

  
+ Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan