



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH (INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

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UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159302

+METROPOLITAN ABRAHAM MAR STEPHANOS

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No. E-205/AMS/2025

11 August 2025

Blessings to the faithful of the Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Church in Sweden in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

By the grace of God and with heartfelt joy, in reference to the letter dated 08 August 2025, I officially announce the formation of the new congregation, which will henceforth be named St. Marys' Indian Orthodox Congregation, Stockholm, Sweden effective from 15 August 2025, the feast day of the Dormition of Mother Mary.

This marks a significant moment in our mission to gather our people, who are scattered across different regions, for unified worship. As you have stated, our faithful have been identified in the country of Sweden and Nordic regions representing the strength and potential of our growing community. It is imperative that we continue to put in greater effort to bring together all our people, and I am deeply encouraged by the commitment demonstrated thus far. The congregation should bring together our people in Sweden and Nordic regions.

We thankfully acknowledge the initiatives taken by my predecessor, His Eminence Dr. Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan, in providing guidance during the initial stages of the spiritual gatherings of our faithful in the region. We also express our gratitude to Fr. Geevarghese Kodiyattu (Joby) for his dedicated service in leading the faithful and offering leadership to the community, as well as to Fr. Abraham John for his ministry during the Holy Week services in 2024. Furthermore, we gratefully recognise the selfless and tireless services of Fr. Jibin Thomas Abraham, whose leadership and pastoral care have been instrumental in uniting and nurturing our faithful across the Nordic region, ultimately leading to the formal establishment of this congregation."

To further strengthen this community, I hereby appoint Fr. Jibin Thomas Abraham, Endenicher Allee 21, 53121 Bonn, Germany as the priest in charge of St. Mary's Indian Orthodox Congregation until further orders are issued. Under his leadership, I instruct the newly formed congregation to operate strictly in adherence to the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the laws of the land.

In the words of St. Paul to Timothy, *I remind you to hold fast to the sanctity of the life of the Church, as you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* (I Timothy 3:15).

Finally, let us always uphold our true apostolic faith as St. Paul reminds us of the great mystery of godliness: *"Without any doubt, the mystery of godliness is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory."* (I Timothy 3:16)

May God continue to bless and guide you as you strive to gather His people in this sacred mission.

With prayers and blessings,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos