



**MALANKARA ORTHODOX
SYRIAN CHURCH**(INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

DIOCESE OF UK•EUROPE•AFRICA•
UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159302

+ABRAHAM MAR STEPHANOS METROPOLITAN

MALANKARA HOUSE
35 HENMAN CLOSE
SWINDON SN25 4ZW
UNITED KINGDOM
TEL: +44 1793 921224
MOBILE: +44 7391 210127
E-MAIL: metropolitan@indianorthodoxuk.org
abrahamstephanos@mosc.in

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14 April 2023

Blessings to the Vicars, Parish Managing Committee Members, newly elected Diocesan Representatives and all the faithful members of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa, in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

I am writing this further to the letter dated 30 March 2023 which had been sent to all the Parishes of the Diocese regarding the Diocesan general assembly meeting scheduled to be conducted on 29 May 2023 and the election of the new Diocesan Council. Please be informed that the diocesan general assembly meeting would elect the new Diocesan Council for the period of 2023-2028, comprise of the Diocesan Secretary, two Priest representatives and four Laity representatives according to the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.

As a growing diocese in the diaspora, our responsibilities are far greater than others. I encourage sincere and committed persons to be elected to the new diocesan council who could positively contribute towards the spiritual and administrative empowerment of the Holy Church. Elected diocesan representatives from the Parishes and the respective Parish Vicars are eligible to attend the meeting and exercise their votes, if necessary. For the priests who hold the vicarship of more than one Parish, it is to be noted that, the priest will not have multiple voting rights.

The final list of the eligible voting members would be announced from my office by 12 May 2023. If more than allowable number of candidates are contesting to the Diocesan Council positions, an election will be conducted by online secret ballot. Please note that, though the meeting is held physically, the voting will strictly be conducted through online e-voting system.

Despite that we have to incur some nominal financial liabilities to cater the online voting, to meet the infrastructural expenses and fees, each Parish is requested to remit an amount of GBP/Euro 15.00 per person for the total number of eligible members from the unit and for the Vicar. For example, if a parish has two eligible members, an amount of £45.00 (3x15) should be remitted to the diocesan account and the payment shall be transferred on or before 25 May 2023. For transferring the payment, the bank details are; for UK transfer, Account name: DIOCEUK, HSBC bank, Account number 81441876 sort code 402007. For Outside UK transfer, Account name: DIOCEUK EURO, HSBC bank, Account number: 76903868,

sort code 401276, IBAN: GB26HBUK40127676903868, BIC: HBUKGB4B. Please do make a reference to the payment by adding 'DGM prefix your Parish Name. For example, Aberdeen Parish should add the reference as ABERDEEN-DGM.

Mr. Thomas George, Chempakasseril, #2410, 2nd Main 3rd Cross, Bangalore - 560 017, is appointed as the Returning Officer for the election. In consultation with the Diocesan Council, I hereby constitute a committee with the following members to support me and the Returning officer for the smooth functioning of the election process:

Fr. Happy Jacob	-	Diocesan Secretary
Mr. Saji Varghese	-	PRO
Mr. Byju John	-	St. George IOC, Manchester
Mr. Thomas Koshy	-	St. George IOC, Manchester
Mr. Kurien Varkey	-	St. Thomas IOC Liverpool
Mr. Baisyl Biju	-	St. Thomas IOC Liverpool

The aspirant members those who wish to be in the Diocesan Council shall submit the duly filled nomination form before 5 PM on 15 May 2023. Further to the scrutiny, approval / rejection of the nomination form will be intimated by 5 PM on 17 May 2023. Any candidates wish to withdraw their nomination should officially write to me or the Returning Officer by 5 PM on 20 May and the final list of the candidates will be announced by 10 PM on 20 May 2023. The election, if necessary, will be conducted from 1 PM through to 2 PM on 29 May 2023 and the results will be declared soon after the election on the same day. If more than one candidate gets same number of votes, the winner will be declared by taking a lot as directed by the Returning Officer by the permission of the Diocesan Metropolitan. All the times mentioned above in this letter is in the UK Summer time (BST). The detailed procedure for the election process will be issued to the eligible members in due course.

All communications on this regard including the submission of authorisation forms, request for nomination forms, submission of duly filled nomination forms, withdrawal of nomination and any grievances shall be sent to the Diocesan Metropolitan or to the Returning Officer by email to the diocesan office via email office@indianorthodoxuk.org

I hereby authorise the present Diocesan Council to act as the grievance cell to address any concerns received and duly report to me for the final decision. As informed in my earlier circular, the list of newly elected diocesan representative(s) from individual Parishes shall be sent to the diocesan office on or before 08 May 2023 and for which a template form is hereby attached.

May the peace and blessings of the Risen Lord be with you always.

God Bless

Your Spiritual Father and Shepherd



+ Abraham Mar Stephanos Metropolitan