

ECUMENICAL PARTICIPATIONS DIOCESE OF UK, EUROPE & AFRICA

The Diocese continued to remain actively engaged in the ecumenical life and witness of the Church during the year under review, participating in various national and international ecumenical forums, dialogues, and collaborative initiatives.

The Diocese maintained its active participation in the works and activities of Churches Together in England (CTE) and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), contributing to common Christian witness, inter-church fellowship, theological engagement, and social responsibility initiatives. The Diocese also remained actively involved in the activities of the Council for Oriental Orthodox Churches in the United Kingdom, strengthening fraternal relations among the sister Oriental Orthodox Churches in the region.

The Diocesan Metropolitan H.E. Abraham Mar Stephanos represented the Church at the Central Committee Meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC) held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in June 2025. Furthermore, as a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches, he participated in the organizing team and activities connected with the Sixth World Conference on Faith and Order held at Wadi El Natrun, Egypt, contributing to the wider theological and ecclesial reflections of the global Church.

The Diocese also played a significant role in facilitating and supporting important ecumenical and inter-church engagements of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church during the year. Among these, special mention may be made of the historic first-ever official meeting between His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of St. Mark of the Coptic Orthodox Church, and His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan, held in Cairo, Egypt in November 2025. The Diocese was also involved in facilitating the participation of His Holiness the Catholicos in the commemorative events connected with the 1700th Anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea held at Iznik (ancient Nicaea), Turkey, in November 2025.

During the year, greetings and fraternal messages were exchanged with various sister Churches and Christian leaders on significant ecclesiastical occasions, including enthronements, anniversaries, feasts, and major ecclesial events. In particular, the Diocese conveyed its greetings and prayers on the occasion of the assumption of office by the new Archbishop of Canterbury, continuing the longstanding bonds of friendship and cooperation shared with the Church of England.

Metropolitan Stephanos continues to serve as the Co-Secretary of the Anglican–Oriental Orthodox International Commission, contributing to the ongoing theological dialogue and relationship-building efforts between the Anglican Communion and the Oriental Orthodox Churches.

The clergy and faithful of the Diocese also participated in several ecumenical services, prayers, discussions, and commemorative events organized in collaboration with the Church of England and other Christian bodies. Particular mention may be made of the participation of clergy representatives of the Diocese in various services and events held at Westminster Abbey, reflecting the warm fraternal ties and mutual respect shared between our Churches.

In Ireland, the Indian Orthodox Church is represented at various Ecumenical as Interfaith bodies, including active roles in the Executive Committees of the Irish Council of Churches (ICC), Irish Inter-Church Meeting (IICM), Dublin Council of Churches (DCC) and Dublin City Interfaith Forum (DCIF). It is noteworthy that the Opening Prayer service for the Week of Christian Unity in Dublin, was hosted by Dublin St. Thomas IOC in January 2026, which witnessed bishops, clergy and faithful of several Churches come together for the annual event organized by the World Council of Churches. The event was attended by the Archbishops of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland, as well as bishop of Romanian Orthodox Church and others. Armenian Orthodox Bishop Hovakim Manukyan delivered the main address.

In Germany, a historic ecumenical gathering SEGEN (Sonntag der Einkehr, Gnade, Erleuchtung und Nähe) was hosted by Germany St. Thomas IOC, honouring 1700 Years of the Nicene Creed. The event was inaugurated by HH Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, Catholicos of the East & Malankara Metropolitan, and presided over by the Diocesan Metropolitan. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Theresia Hainthaler, Honorary Professor Emerita for Christology of the Old Church and Theology of the Christian East. The gathering witnessed the participation of metropolitans, bishops, theologians, and ecumenical leaders from Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Churches

It is also noteworthy that the Indian Orthodox Church is now a full assembly member of the Ecumenical Council of Churches in Austria.

The Diocese remains committed to the ecumenical calling of the Church — bearing witness to the Gospel of Christ in cooperation, mutual respect, and dialogue with fellow Christian communities, while faithfully preserving the apostolic faith and spiritual heritage of the Holy Orthodox Church. Through prayer, theological engagement, common witness, and fraternal relationships, the Diocese continues to seek meaningful participation in the visible unity and mission of the wider Body of Christ.