



**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**

No. E-208/AMS/2023

12 August 2023

Subject: Observance of Diocesan Day - Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross

Blessings to the Vicars, Trustees, Secretaries, Managing Committee Members, Malankara Association Members, Diocesan General Body Members, Office bearers of the Parishes and all the faithful of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa, in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity

Dearly beloved in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

I trust this message finds you well and in good spirits. I write to you as your Metropolitan with a heart full of joy and anticipation for the upcoming Diocesan Day. As a Church that cherishes the St. Thomas apostolic tradition, it is our duty to hold fast to our heritage and pass it on with reverence.

We exhort you to observe Sunday, the 17th of September 2023, which falls after the Feast of the Holy Cross, as the Diocesan Day. This observance of the day should offer us a wonderful opportunity to come together as a united community to celebrate the essence of our tradition and faith.

I kindly request all Parishes within our Diocese to observe this day in a befitting manner, upholding the values that our Church has held dear for centuries. As part of the Service, I encourage arranging a brief talk on the significance of the St. Thomas' tradition, particularly in the context of the country we reside in. This will help us connect our ancient heritage with the lives we lead today.

After the Holy Eucharistic celebration on that day, I urge you to include the special prayers that have been attached to this letter. These prayers are meant to invoke blessings and guidance as we continue to journey in the footsteps of our forefathers.

Our Sunday School Teachers are requested to organize a seminar session dedicated to the St. Thomas' tradition of India. This will serve as a valuable opportunity for our younger generations to learn and appreciate the rich tapestry of our history.

Let us also ensure that the awareness of this special day reaches every corner of our Diocese, spanning the vast lands of Europe and Africa. For those Parishes that may not have Eucharistic services on the 16th or 17th of September, I advise observing the Diocesan Day on the nearest available date with Eucharistic celebrations.

May I urge all to come together in spirit and celebration, with hearts full of gratitude for the legacy we inherit.

Please follow the footnotes below about the Diocesan Day and Catholicate Day Collections.

In Christ's service,

God Bless

Your Shepherd and Spiritual Father

+ Abraham Mar Stephanos Metropolitan

1 of 2

PS.

- ❖ For the sustenance of our Diocese, I encourage all Parishes to contribute an annual subscription of £30 / Euro 30 per family, to the Diocese. This payment should be made collectively from each Parish. A representative of the Diocese will be reaching out to you regarding this matter.
- ❖ Envelopes have been provided for families to make individual donations. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated. These envelopes also contain an abstract of the audited account for the financial year 2022-2023.
- ❖ The faithful are kindly requested to collect envelopes from their respective Parishes. With their donations, they may return these envelopes to their Parish office bearers, who will then submit them collectively to the Diocese.
- ❖ Collection points for Diocesan Day contributions and envelope donations will be available at the venue of the Sunday School Annual Talent Competitions in Crawley on Saturday, 30 September 2023. Vicars and office bearers are advised to bring both their Catholicate Day Collections (equivalent to £10 / Euro 10 per family) and Diocesan Day collections (equivalent to £30 / Euro 30 per family).
- ❖ Remittance of Diocesan Day envelope donations to the Diocesan accounts is expected to be completed on or before 31 December 2023.