



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

DIOCESE OF UK•EUROPE•AFRICA•
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Blessings to all the Vicars and the Acolytes of all the Parishes in the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

I am pleased to announce the **Annual Acolytes' Conference** for this year, which will take place on **Saturday, 19 October 2024**, at **St. Giles Church Hall, 149 Church Road, Sheldon, Birmingham B26 3TT**. This one-day conference is an important event for all acolytes within our Diocese, providing an opportunity for spiritual growth, fellowship, and deeper understanding of our sacred duties.

Conference Details:

- ◆ **Registration** : 9:00 A.M.
- ◆ **Inaugural Session** : 9:30 A.M.

We are blessed to have **Fr.Dr. K.M. George** and **Fr. Jibin Thomas Abraham** as our resource persons for the day. Their deep spiritual insights and rich experience in the Orthodox faith will undoubtedly enrich our understanding and commitment to our roles as acolytes.

It is imperative that every parish within the Diocese is represented at this conference. **The Vicars of the Parishes are requested to gather the names of acolytes who wish to participate and submit them to Fr. Binoy C. Joshua by September 10, 2024.** This early submission will help us in the proper planning and organization of the conference.

As acolytes, you serve a vital role in the life of the Church. Your presence at the altar is not merely functional but deeply symbolic. You assist in the liturgical celebration, reflecting the light and presence of Christ in the sacred mysteries. The altar is a holy place, and those who serve there must do so with reverence, humility, and a deep sense of the divine. Your role is not just about performing tasks, but about embodying the prayerful and worshipful spirit of the Church.

By attending this conference, you will be better equipped to serve the altar with the dignity and solemnity it requires, enhancing not only your personal spiritual journey but also the liturgical life of your parish.

Let us remember the words of the Psalmist as we prepare ourselves for this gathering:

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" (Psalm 122:1)

We look forward to your active participation in this important event. May the Lord bless our efforts and grant us a spiritually fulfilling day together.

Yours in Christ,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos