



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

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UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159302

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Blessings to the Vicar, Sunday School Teachers, Students, and Parents of the St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, South Africa in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

It brings me immense joy to address you all through this letter, which serves both as a word of introduction and a note of appreciation for the Newsletter of the Sunday School of your parish. This initiative is not merely a publication—it is a testimony to the living faith of our children and the loving labour of those who shape their spiritual journey.

At the heart of every vibrant Church community lies the unwavering commitment to pass on the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). In this sacred task, the Sunday School becomes not just a classroom, but a sacred space where hearts are formed, minds are renewed, and young souls are drawn to the life of the Church. I extend my sincere appreciation to each Sunday School Teacher for your dedication, patience, and sacrificial love. Your ministry is vital in shaping the next generation in the faith and tradition of our Holy Church.

To the dear students, I commend your eagerness to learn and grow in Christ. May your journey in Sunday School be one that deepens your love for the Lord, His Church, and His people. And to the parents, your support and example remain the first and most enduring source of spiritual formation for your children—thank you for walking with them in this sacred journey.

The words of St. Paul in Romans 12:2 remind us: ***“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”***

This transformation - ἀνακαίνωσις (anakainósis), a renewal of the heart and mind - is the very purpose of our Christian formation. It is in this spirit that I pray your Sunday School will continue to nourish and renew the hearts of our children in godliness, wisdom, and Orthodox faithfulness.

I also take this moment to thank the Vicar, Office Bearers, and the entire Parish community for your unwavering support in nurturing the spiritual life of our children. May your united efforts bear much fruit in the Kingdom of God.

May the Lord, who called the little children to Himself, continue to bless your efforts, deepen your faith, and guide you in all that you do for His glory.

With prayers and blessings,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos