



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH (INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

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

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Blessings to the Vicars, Managing Committee members of the Parishes, leaders of the Spiritual Organizations and all the faithful of the parishes of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa, in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

I write to you with deep joy and anticipation for the upcoming **Diocesan Day**. Following our established tradition of observing the Sunday after the Feast of the Holy Cross as Diocesan Day, this year it will be held on **15th September 2024**.

On this special day, I encourage each of you to reflect on how we can strengthen our commitment to preserving our faith and traditions, while renewing our dedication to passing on our faith to the next generation.

It is important that we reaffirm our commitment to maintaining peace and integrity within our community. Holding steadfast to the faith of the Church, let us strive to live in harmony, ensuring that our actions reflect the teachings of Christ. May this Diocesan Day not only strengthen our unity but also deepen our connection to our apostolic heritage. Trusting in the mercy of God, we can, together, achieve greater things.

In keeping with our Diocesan vision, let us be guided by the words of **2 Corinthians 4:18**, our Diocese's tagline: **"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."** As we celebrate this day, let us remind ourselves of the importance of focusing on the unseen life—the spiritual life that gives eternal meaning and purpose. However, this does not diminish the importance of our responsibilities in the seen life, the day-to-day actions and relationships that require our attention and care. We are called not only to look to the unseen but to give proper importance to the seen, ensuring that through our actions, we reflect God's love in the world.

Moreover, I urge each of us to remain vigilant in our search for those who are often "unseen" by society—the marginalized, the forgotten, and those in need of our compassion and service. As a Church, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ, extending His love to all, especially those who may otherwise go unnoticed.

In your parishes, I humbly exhort you to offer prayers during the celebration of the **Holy Eucharist** on the Diocesan Day or on the nearest Eucharistic celebration. Let us gather in prayer, thanking God for His many blessings and seeking His guidance as we move forward together in faith.

Envelopes have already been distributed for the **Diocesan Day collection**. Kindly ensure that along with the envelope collections made, your parishes also remit the diocesan contribution to the Diocesan account by **31 December 2024**.

As we come together to celebrate this Diocesan Day, may we do so with hearts full of thanksgiving, striving to preserve our faith, and seeking to build a stronger, more compassionate community, always fixing our eyes on Christ.

With prayers and blessings,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos