



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

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UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159302

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**No. E-196/AMS/2024**

**15 November 2024**

**Blessings to the faithful of the Indian Orthodox Church in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in the name of the Holy Trinity:**

**Dearly beloved in Christ,**

With heartfelt joy and by the grace of God, I officially announce, in reference to the letter dated 1 October 2024 from you, the formation of a new congregation to be known as **St. Philip and St. Bartholomew Indian Orthodox Congregation**, Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

This is a significant milestone in our mission to gather the faithful, who have been scattered across various regions, into a unified body of worship. As you have noted, many of our members reside in and around Rotterdam, highlighting the strength and potential of our growing community. It is essential that we continue these efforts, bringing together all of our people, and I am deeply encouraged by the dedication and commitment you have already demonstrated.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Fr. Aashu Alexander Mattackal for his exceptional pastoral care and leadership. His tireless efforts have united our faithful in this region, offering them spiritual guidance and support. To further strengthen this new community, I hereby appoint Fr. Aashu Alexander Mattackal as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Philip and St. Bartholomew Indian Orthodox Congregation, effective immediately and until further orders. Under his leadership, I instruct the congregation to operate in strict adherence to the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church as well as the laws of the land.

The naming of the Rotterdam Parish as St. Philip and St. Bartholomew is both a tribute to their steadfast companionship and an invitation to emulate their witness in our lives. These two holy apostles journeyed together in the proclamation of the Gospel, embodying the strength found in fellowship and shared faith. May their example inspire our parish to cultivate unity and mutual support, fostering a community that walks together in faith, service, and love. In a world often marked by division, their model of brotherhood reminds us of the spiritual motivation and strength that come from genuine fellowship within the Church.

May God continue to bless and guide you as you undertake this sacred mission, gathering His people into one fold.

With prayers and blessings,

**+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos**