



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

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

+METROPOLITAN ABRAHAM MAR STEPHANOS

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Blessings to all the Vicars and faithful of all the Parishes in the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity.

Beloved in Christ,

Following the pattern of the past years, I would like to remind you that we will observe the Feast of the Holy Cross (14 September) as the Diocesan Day. The Cross, being the symbol of salvation in Christ, calls us to thankfully acknowledge the redemption we have received through Him.

As all of us know, in order to hold the same pace and add momentum for the future, we face various challenges, particularly in financial matters. While we continue to keep intact the reserve fund from the sale of the Swindon property, the Diocesan Council and the Property Committee are prayerfully and actively searching for a suitable property to serve as our Diocesan Centre. For this next stage, we are in need of more direct debits and potential contributors, and once the Committees and the General Body of the Diocese finalise an appropriate property, timely intimations will be provided. We earnestly seek the prayers of the whole Diocese in this regard.

Parish contributions towards the Diocese, especially marking the Diocesan Day, remain the major source of income for the general functioning of our Diocese. I request you all to wholeheartedly and earnestly participate in this offering. This year, with the cooperation of the Vicars, office bearers, and the Diocesan representatives from each Parish, along with the Management Committee and the Diocesan Council, we intend to organise regional collection days to gather the Catholicate Day and Diocesan Day contributions from each Parish. The specific dates for these will be intimated shortly.

Yet, more than financial aspects, what we truly need is a prayerful fellowship in Christ and a committed witness of faith to hand down to our next generation. I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank all our Vicars, office bearers, and faithful for your dedication and cooperation.

For those Parishes where the Holy Qurbana (Eucharist) is not celebrated on 14 September, please ensure that the Diocesan Day is prayerfully observed on the next occasion when the Eucharist is celebrated.

May this Diocesan Day strengthen our unity in Christ, renew our commitment to the common cause of our Diocese, and deepen our witness to the Gospel.

May the intercessions of St. Mary the Mother of God, St. Thomas the Blessed Apostle, St. Gregorios of Parumala, and St. Dionysius be with us and strengthen us.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos