

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH(INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

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## Blessings to all the Vicars and Faithful of the Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity:

## Dearly beloved in Christ,

In these troubled times, as our communities witness the turmoil and unrest on the streets, I write to you with a heart full of concern, compassion, and faith. The recent events have caused deep distress among us all, as the riots and animosities we see around us remind us of the fragile nature of our social fabric.

As responsible citizens of this country, we are called to uphold the principles of peace, justice, and love. Our faith teaches us that we must be agents of reconciliation in a world often divided by conflict. It is our sacred duty to pray fervently for the integrity and peace of our nation, asking the Lord to guide us through these difficult times.

I have been informed that some of our parishes have chosen to cancel their Eucharistic celebrations due to the unsettled circumstances. While I understand the concerns for safety, I urge you all to remain steadfast in prayer, trusting in God's providence. Let us not be disheartened, but rather, let us use this time to deepen our spiritual lives.

I also encourage all parishes to ensure that brief reflections on the Sunday Gospel are prepared and circulated through relevant platforms. Even in the absence of our communal gatherings, let the Word of God continue to be a source of strength and encouragement to our people. Remember, this challenging period will pass, and by God's grace, we will move forward together.

As St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

Let us hold fast to this peace, and in all things, let us seek to be bearers of Christ's love and light in the world. Please, stay safe, care for one another, and continue to place your trust in the Lord.

With every blessing,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos

IN SEARCH OF 'WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN' 2 COR. 4:18