

THE INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa

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Blessings to the Vicars and all the faithful members of the Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa:

Merry Christmas to all of you!

The world is all set to go for the celebrations! This time of the year people extravagantly indulge themselves in merry-making though the importance and divinity of the very occasion is often casually ignored. In our tradition and as per the teachings of Orthodox Holy Father's, we shall look forward to commemorate the birth of Lord Jesus with prayers rather than worldly celebrations. Now we are observing the Lent of Nativity. Our Holy Fathers set apart the days of Advent season as a period of Lent.

In Greek language Mother Mary is reverentially mentioned as 'Theotokos' which means Mother of God. The Orthodox proclamation of Theotokos is part of our true faith and doctrine. St Luke Chapter 1 is chosen by our Church Fathers as the Gospel readings during the period of Advent. The evangelist vividly narrates the submission and glorification of her to Almighty God. When Mary visited Elizabeth, she undoubtedly proclaims Mary as the mother of God. This is the first witness of a person on earth as Mary as the mother of God. Gospel says that Mary detached herself and lived with Elizabeth in solitude for three months. This is the time she prayerfully prepares herself for the birth of Jesus. May the Lent of Advent be the time for the preparation for infant Jesus to be born in you.

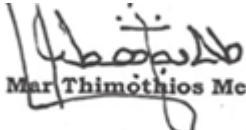
Let us praise Lord Almighty for all the blessings received in 2019. We urge you to review your deeds and acts in the past year and reconcile for any wrong doings. We shall pray for a peaceful and blissful year 2020.

My dear young children, cheerfully celebrate Christmas and New Year with love and always remember to care and share.

Marry Christmas and Happy New Year 2020 !

May God Bless

Your Spiritual Father and Shepherd


+ Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan