

THE INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa

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Blessings to Vicars, Parish Office Bearers and all the faithful members of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa;

Dearly beloved Children in Lord!

We are passing through one of the toughest times in the history of our Church. Malankara Orthodox Church is amongst the oldest Christian Churches in the world established by St. Thomas The Apostle in AD 52. As you are aware, the recent unholy incidents flared up by the rebellious faction of the Church in relation to the execution of the Supreme court order and implementation of due justice articulated by the constitution has created misunderstanding among common people in our society. It is very unfortunate that the rebel groups are trying to gain support from leaders of some other Churches. We should remember the history that those leaders and their ancestors walked away from our Church for their personal gains and now finds this as a chance to back stab us and sabotaging the ecumenical relations.

We would like to re-affirm that The Malankara Orthodox Church is self-esteemed, Sovereign and Indigenous Church in India and is Unique, Holy, Apostolic and Catholic in nature. We are accepted as one of the members of the Oriental Orthodox Churches and our presence and identity is well established and acknowledged in International Ecumenical forums. The identity of the Church, the establishment of Catholicate in Malankara in 1912 and the credibility of 1934 constitution, the MAGNA CARTA of our Church, are widely accepted and approved by all the relevant bodies across the world.

The Bishops, Priests and Lay persons of our Church are undergoing very stressful situation and are concerned about the heinous attack on the justice system and sovereignty of our Church. The head of our Church, the Malankara Metropolitan His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, and the members of the Holy Episcopal synod are determined and stood firm on maintaining and upholding the integrity and sovereignty of our Church.

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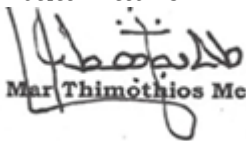
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As you know, Bawa Thirumeni has been on a vow of silence and now is on silence fasting (മൗന വ്രതം) for last one week. In this crucial time, We urge you that we all shall stand together and express our solidarity and support to our Bawa Thirumeni to lead us through these turmoil to the shining shore of permanent peace in our Church. Let us all rigorously pray and mediate which is the only way that we could attain justice and peace in our Church.

We urge all our members to hold vigil prayers on 06, 07 and 08th of September for our Church as convenient as possible. Further to the Kalpana no 165/2020 from our Bawa Thirumeni, We urge the Vicars and Parish office bearers of all the Parishes / Congregations of our Diocese to make arrangements to conduct Holy Eucharist and special service on 15th September 2020 by following the COVID 19 guidelines in your place. On that day special Prayers shall be done for the Church, Catholicate flag should be unfurled and Priests shall explain the current situation to the faithful. If it is not feasible to conduct the service on that day, it should be done on the next day of the scheduled service of that Parish/ Congregation.

Let us all pray for the Heavenly blessings which shall give Peace and Harmony.

Your Spiritual Father in Lord


+ Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan