

MARTH MARIAM VANITHA SAMAJAM (MMVS)
DIOCESE OF UK, EUROPE & AFRICA
Annual Report 2025 – 2026

By the grace of Almighty God, MMVS UK, Europe & Africa (UEA) continued its mission of nurturing spiritual growth, fellowship, and charitable service throughout the Diocese during the year 2025–2026. Guided by faith and united in prayer, the organisation remained committed to its motto, “Pray, Serve, and Shine,” through various diocesan, Zonal and unit-level activities. Through the abundant grace and mercy of Almighty God, MMVS UEA, continued to uphold its dedication to spiritual enrichment and charitable service under the prayerful shepherdship of Diocesan Metropolitan H.G. Abraham Mar Stephanos and the leadership of Vice President Rev Fr Aby Philip. The current Executive Committee comprises the General Secretary, Treasurer, Two ex-officials and Zonal coordinators representing various zones of the Diocese, who are elected during the public meeting held at the Zonal and Annual Conferences. Together with the above leadership, they oversee and coordinate the day-to-day activities of MMVS UEA.

At present, more than 80 units are actively functioning across the Diocese of UK, Europe & Africa under the leadership and guidance of H.G. Abraham Mar Stephanos, Rev Fr Aby Philip and Unit Vicars. Each unit strives diligently to fulfil the motto, “Pray, Serve, and Shine,” in its fullest sense. The theme for the year 2026 is “Repent and Turn to God” (Acts 3:19), and all diocesan activities throughout the year are centred around this spiritual theme.

Conferences 2025

North Zone conference was conducted on 5 July 2025 hosted by St. Thomas IOC Newcastle with the participation of 100 MMVS members along with the priests from the North Zone units. Mrs Ruby Sibb (St John the Baptist IOC, Stoke-on-Trent) and Mrs Sheela Issac (St Behanan’s IOC, North Wales) were elected as the new Zonal Secretaries for the term 2026–2028.

Central Zone conference was held on 7 June 2025 hosted by St. Mary’s IOC Coventry with the participation of 140 MMVS members along with the priests from the Central Zone units. Mrs Bindu Varghese (St Stephan’s IOC, Birmingham) and Tintu Jose (Holy Innocents IOC, South Wales) were elected as the new Zonal Secretaries for the term 2026 – 2028.

South Zone conference was held on 17th May 2025 hosted by St. Peter’s & St. Paul’s IOC East Kent with the participation of 160 MMVS members along with the priests from the South Zone units. Mrs Ruby Samuel (St Stephan’s IOC, Woking) and Mrs Asha Thomas (St George IOC, City of London) were elected as the new Zonal Secretaries for the term 2026 – 2028.

Ireland - 2nd regional conference in the Irish region (Ireland and Northern Ireland) held on 30th August 2025 hosted by St. Peter’s & St. Paul’s IOC Drogheda. Mrs Rajee Shajee (St Gregorio’s IOC, Waterford) and Mrs Sini Kuriakose (St Gregorio’s IOC, Belfast) were elected as the new Zonal Secretaries for the term 2026 – 2028.

Annual conference held on 18th October 2025 hosted by St. Thomas IOC Hemel Hempstead. The keynote addresses were delivered based on the theme ‘TowardstThe Redeeming Christ’.

Group song competitions were conducted during the conferences. Mrs Bindu Benoyi (St George IOC, Manchester) and Mrs Sony Jerrin (St John The Baptist IOC, Stoke-on-Trent) were elected as General Secretary and Treasurer for the term 2026 – 2028.

Prayer

St. Mary's Intercessory Prayer: By the grace of Our Lord and through the intercession of St. Mary, the weekly St. Mary's Intercessory Prayer (Madhyastha Prarthana) continued to be conducted every Wednesday at 8:45 PM via the Zoom platform. On average, around 50 families from across the Diocese participated regularly. The prayer meetings were led on a rotational basis by different MMVS units, with members actively contributing through prayer songs, Bible readings, prayers, and assisting the Vicar during the Madhyastha Prarthana. Guest speakers and Vice Presidents were also invited on several occasions to share reflective messages and spiritual insights.

Great Lent Noon Prayer: Beginning in 2026, MMVS UEA successfully organised the Great Lent Noon Prayer sessions, led by different Achen's from across the Diocese every Wednesday for 25 days then daily for the remaining until 40th Friday. The sessions also featured guest speakers who shared reflective thoughts based on the weekly Lenten themes. Among the prominent speakers were H.G. Abraham Mar Stephanos, Bazelel Ramban, Aprem Ramban, Merlin Kochamma, along with several other clergy members from various dioceses. On average, around 50 participants attended the sessions each week.

Prayer Cell WhatsApp Group: A Prayer Cell WhatsApp group was initiated under the guidance and direction of Rev Fr Aby Philip to support the prayer needs of members across the Diocese. Prayer requests submitted by members were regularly shared within the group, and each request was prayerfully remembered and specially mentioned during the Wednesday Intercessory Prayer meetings.

Special prayer: The names of children and adults appearing for various examinations were also collected and shared through the Prayer Cell groups. These individuals were specially remembered in prayers by Rev Fr Aby Philip during Holy Qurbana services, and their names were also included in the Wednesday Intercessory Prayer meetings.

Faith & Bible Study

Faith and Bible Study sessions were held on the fourth Wednesday of each month under the leadership of Fr. Bideesh Mathew. The sessions initially focused on the Gospel of St. Matthew and were later extended to include examination-oriented study topics, specifically the Books of Ruth and Esther, along with the centrally prescribed syllabus.

Continuous Bible Reading

MMVS organised Continuous Bible Reading during the Fasting and Lenten seasons, with active participation from across the Diocese. More than 500 MMVS members engaged in this initiative, contributing to a sustained and collective reading of the Holy Scriptures throughout the period.

Annual Examination

The Annual Examination was conducted on 22 November 2025, based on the Books of Ruth and Esther, providing a meaningful opportunity for all participants to deepen their understanding of the Word of God. In 2025, a total of 234 members participated in the examination across the Diocese. All candidates performed well and secured commendable grades. A notable achievement was recorded by Mrs Meenu Joseph, who secured 3rd position in the Junior Category at the Akhila Malankara level. All participants were appreciated and awarded certificates during the zonal conferences. In addition, zonal toppers and category-wise high scorers were specially recognised and honoured with mementos during the conferences.

Charity

During the term 2025–2026, MMVS UEA successfully extended financial and humanitarian support to four individuals in need. Two charity initiatives were carried out in 2025 under the leadership of Rev Fr PJ Binu, and a further two were completed in 2026 under the guidance of Rev Fr Aby Philip.

In line with diocesan recommendations, there is a continued emphasis on promoting and strengthening local charitable initiatives in the coming years. At the same time, charitable cases arising from overseas regions will also be considered where necessary, with final decisions being taken by the Executive Committee.

1. Rs 50 000 – Aid for accident victim in Kerala.
2. Rs 50 000 – To meet hospital expenses for a stroke patient.
3. Rs 50 000 – Little Adam to meet treatment expenses.
4. Rs 50 000 – Aneesha to meet treatment expenses.

Celebrating special days and meetings

World Women’s Day

On 8 March 2026, MMVS UEA conducted a special prayer gathering via Zoom in celebration of World Women’s Day. The Prayer of Dedication was led by Rev Fr Aby Philip, while meaningful reflections and inspirational thoughts were shared by Dr Elizabeth Joy.

Leadership Meet

The Executive Committee organised Leadership Meetings through the Zoom platform, inviting all Unit Secretaries and Treasurers across the Diocese. These meetings provided an opportunity to introduce the new committee, strengthen fellowship, share feedback, and discuss the various activities conducted at unit level.

The majority of units participated actively, while a few apologies were received from members who were unable to attend due to personal circumstances. During the discussions, there was strong support for conducting more regular online and offline leadership gatherings, and the Executive Committee is currently working towards implementing these recommendations.

Devotional Song Initiative

MMVS UEA invited all parishes within the Diocese to submit devotional songs dedicated to the intercessory prayers of St. Mary through email or Google Drive. This initiative was introduced to encourage MMVS members across all units to come together in praise and worship of Almighty God.

The submitted devotional videos are planned to be shared before the Wednesday Intercessory Prayer sessions conducted via Zoom, and selected videos will also be uploaded to the MMVS UEA YouTube channel.

Nurses Day Celebration

MMVS UEA is planning to conduct an online gathering for World Nurses Day on 14 May 2026 under the theme, “Hands that Heal and Hearts that Lead.” The programme will be hosted by Rev Fr Aby Philip together with the Executive Committee. The theme address will be delivered by H.G. Abraham Mar Stephanos, alongside keynote contributions from M P Sojan and Mrs Beena Jacob. During the event, nurses who have received special awards and notable achievements will be honoured and recognised. Special appreciation will also be extended to nurses above the age of 60 within the Diocese in recognition of their dedicated years of service.

Conclusion

With humble gratitude to Almighty God, MMVS UK, Europe & Africa thankfully reflects upon another blessed year of spiritual growth, fellowship, worship, and charitable service. Throughout the year, the Diocese witnessed active participation from units across different regions through prayer meetings, Bible studies, leadership gatherings, charitable initiatives, examinations, conferences, and various spiritually enriching programmes.

Under the prayerful guidance of H.G. Abraham Mar Stephanos and the dedicated leadership of Rev Fr Aby Philip, MMVS UEA continued to uphold its motto “Pray, Serve, and Shine” striving to strengthen faith, unity, and Christian witness throughout the Diocese.

The wholehearted commitment of the Executive Committee, clergy, unit leaders, members, and families has been instrumental in the successful conduct of all diocesan activities during the year. MMVS UEA also remains deeply thankful to all Achens, Kochammas, diocese office bearers, volunteers, and well-wishers whose prayers, encouragement, and support contributed greatly to the ministry and mission of the organisation.

As we move forward into the coming year with the theme, “Repent and Turn to God” (Acts 3:19), may the Lord continue to guide and strengthen every member in faith, humility, prayer, and service for His glory.

“Repent therefore and be converted, so that your sins may be blotted out.” — Acts 3:19.

Report submitted by

Mrs Sony Jerrin – Treasurer, MMVS UK, Europe and Africa

On behalf of Mrs Bindu Benoyi – General Secretary MMVS UK, Europe and Africa.