



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

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

+METROPOLITAN ABRAHAM MAR STEPHANOS

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Dearly beloved Vicars and all the faithful of our diocese in Christ in the name of the blessed Holy Trinity.

As we approach the closing weeks of this year, several of our parishes are preparing to celebrate their annual feasts and Carol services. These occasions have always been cherished moments for our faithful to express their devotion, fellowship, and gratitude to God. I wish to remind you that our liturgical and devotional traditions are not merely cultural displays but expressions of our faith, rooted in the rhythm and sanctity of the Church's life.

At the same time, I urge you to exercise pastoral discernment and prudence in planning and conducting public events. In light of the recent rise in anti-immigration sentiment in Ireland and the United Kingdom, it would be wise to remain mindful of the local climate and to ensure that our activities are respectful, measured, and discreet. Please give thoughtful consideration before finalising or promoting programmes that may draw undue public attention or place our community in situations of misunderstanding.

This is a time to let our witness be seen through humility, reverence, and neighbourly goodwill, rather than outward display. Let every celebration reflect the peace and grace of Christ who was born in simplicity and revealed God's glory quietly yet powerfully.

May the Holy Spirit guide you in all preparations and grant your parishes a blessed season of joy, peace, and spiritual renewal.

With prayers and blessings,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos