



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

DIOCESE OF UK•EUROPE•AFRICA•
UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1159502

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Blessings to the faithful of the Indian Orthodox Church in Plymouth, England, in the name of the Holy Trinity:

Dearly beloved in Christ,

With heartfelt joy and by the grace of God, I officially announce, in reference to the letter dated 1 October 2024 from Fr. Geevarghese J. Tharakan, the formation of a new congregation to be known as St. Elijah Indian Orthodox Congregation, Plymouth.

This is a significant milestone in our mission to gather the faithful, who have been scattered across various regions, into a unified body of worship. As you have identified, many of our members reside in and around Plymouth, representing the strength and potential of our growing community. It is essential that we continue these efforts, bringing together all of our people, and I am deeply encouraged by the dedication and commitment you have already demonstrated. The congregation should bring together all faithful in Plymouth and its surrounding areas.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Fr. Geevarghese J. Tharakan for his exceptional pastoral care and leadership. His tireless efforts have united our faithful in this region, offering them spiritual guidance and support. To further strengthen this new community, I hereby appoint Fr. Geevarghese J. Tharakan, residing at 12 Rose Street, Newport, Gwent, NP20 5FD, as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Elijah Indian Orthodox Congregation, effective immediately and until further orders. Under his leadership, I instruct the congregation to operate in strict adherence to the 1934 Constitution of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, as well as the laws of the land.

In the words of St. Paul to Timothy, I remind you to uphold the sanctity of the Church, knowing how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the Church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15).

Lastly, let us always stand firm in our true apostolic faith as St. Paul reveals the great mystery of godliness:

"Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: *He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*" (1 Timothy 3:16)

May God continue to bless and guide you as you undertake this sacred mission, gathering His people into one fold.

With prayers and blessings,

+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos