



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

DIOCESE OF UK-EUROPE AFRICA



Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music

2025-2026 Annual Report

Message from the Course Director

Glory and Praises be to the Holy Triune God!

May this please Your Eminence, Respected Clergy and Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with deep joy that I present the second Annual Report of the Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music for 2025–2026. This year marks a significant milestone as we completed the inaugural cycle with formal examinations for our 2025 batches, witnessing the spiritual and musical growth of our students.

Building on this success, we have expanded our reach by introducing the 2026 batches, which now include dedicated streams in both Malayalam and English. This growth reaffirms our mission within the Diocese of UK–Europe and Africa to preserve the Syriac liturgical tradition and provide structured training for the Malankara Orthodox faithful.

As we reflect on these achievements, we remain committed to our spiritual mission of glorifying God through sound doctrine and melodious worship. We look forward to continuing this journey, ensuring the beauty of our heritage is accessible to all generations.

In Christ,

Fr. Eldo P Varghese

Institutional Framework and Governance

The Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music was established under the spiritual leadership of the Diocese of UK–Europe and Africa of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, with the vision of nurturing the liturgical musical tradition of our Holy Church in the diaspora context. The school was officially inaugurated at the Malankara Orthodox Sangamam on 25th May 2024 by His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan, in the blessed presence of our Diocesan Metropolitan, His Eminence Abraham Mar Stephanos. This sacred beginning marked the formal establishment of the school within the administrative and ecclesiastical framework of the Diocese.

The Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music serves as a structured learning platform offering formal training in Orthodox liturgical music. Following the successful completion of its inaugural batch, the school expanded its 2026 Training Programmes to include both Malayalam and English streams, ensuring the beauty of the liturgy remains accessible

for all generations. Affiliated with the Sruti School of Liturgical Music, Kottayam, the school aligns with the broader vision of liturgical music formation within the Malankara Orthodox Church. The Faculty Board, as shown below, ensures the effective delivery of all programmes.

Table 1: Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music Faculty Board 2025

President	H. E. Abraham Mar Stephanos
Course Director	Fr. Eldo P. Varghese
Faculty Members	Fr. Shyju P. Mathai Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian Fr. Jobson Abraham
Office Secretary	Mr. Baisyl Biju

Table 2: Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music Faculty Board 2026

President	H. E. Abraham Mar Stephanos
Course Director	Fr. Eldo P. Varghese
Faculty Members	Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian Fr. Blessen Varghese
Office Secretary	Mr. Baisyl Biju

As we progress into a new academic year, we take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Fr. Shyju P. Mathai and Fr. Jobson Abraham, who served as faculty members for our 2025 inaugural batches. We thank them for their efforts, spiritual guidance, and commitment to nurturing our students during the school's foundational year.

Furthermore, we wholeheartedly welcome Fr. Blessen Varghese as a new member of the Faculty Board for 2026. We look forward to the unique insights and expertise Achen brings to the Level 2 Malayalam stream and the wider Mazmuro community.

2025 Training Programmes Review

The inaugural academic cycle of the Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music concluded with remarkable success, marking a milestone in the liturgical education of our Diocese. Of the 30 students initially enrolled in the Level 1 inaugural course, 28 students appeared for the final examinations, achieving a commendable 100% pass rate. This result is a testament to the dedication of our students and the academic rigour maintained throughout the year.

The curriculum was delivered through a consistent schedule of weekly classes, supplemented by several extra sessions to deepen the students' understanding. A spiritual highlight of the year occurred on 1st January 2026, when we were blessed to have our Diocesan Metropolitan, His Eminence Abraham Mar Stephanos, lead a Shehimo Vespers session. This was followed by an interactive gathering featuring singing sessions and student reflections. The Class Reeshes from both the Tuesday and Thursday batches shared their experiences, testifying to the programme's impact. The session was attended by Fr. Eldo P. Varghese, Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian, and Fr. Happy Jacob, with the post-Vespers interaction facilitated by the Office Secretary.

The teaching pattern for the 2025 cycle was structured as follows:

Table 3: **2025 Course Modules and Faculty Allocation**

Module No	Module Title and Contents	Faculty Member
MZM01	Shehimo: Ramsho & Soutoro	Fr. Jobson Abraham/ Fr. Eldo P Varghese
MZM02	Feast Day Services: Nativity, Epiphany, Shubqono, Mid Lent, Palm Sunday, Feet Washing Service, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost	Rev. Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian
MZM03	Sacramental Offices: Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick, House Warming	Rev. Fr. Shyju P. Mathai/ Fr. Eldo P Varghese
MZM04	Funeral Service: Men and Women	Fr. Eldo P. Varghese

The final examinations were conducted across late January and into early February 2026. Following a standardised process, a formal statement of results was issued to each student, providing a detailed breakdown of their marks per module. We place on record our sincere appreciation for the faculty members who delivered these sessions. In particular, we recognise the efforts of Fr. Eldo P. Varghese and Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian, who conducted the examinations and delivered the additional classes to ensure the students were well-prepared.

We congratulate all students for their unwavering commitment and hard work. While results have been released, a formal convocation ceremony in October 2026 is currently being finalised where certificates, affiliated with the Sruti School of Liturgical Music, will be officially distributed to our successful candidates.

2026 Training Programmes Induction

With the abundant grace of God, the Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music expanded its academic journey with the induction of the 2026 Training Programmes on Thursday 12th March 2026. This significant session marked the commencement of three distinct courses—Level 1 Malayalam, Level 2 Malayalam, and Level 1 English—bringing together a diverse group of students dedicated to learning the musical traditions of the Holy Church.

The session began with an opening prayer led by Fr. Blessen Varghese, representing the Faculty Board. Although our President, His Eminence Abraham Mar Stephanos, could not join the session due to prior commitments, His Eminence graciously extended his prayerful wishes to all students and faculty in advance. Fr. Eldo P. Varghese, the Course Director, formally presented the course structure, curriculum, and the vision for the upcoming academic year. The induction was also attended by faculty member Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian.

The induction session comprised of a self-introduction session, which provided a unique opportunity for students from across all three courses to meet and interact, fostering a strong sense of community and fellowship within the school.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Office Secretary, Mr. Baisyl Biju. The programme was brought to a solemn close with a prayer led by Fr. Eldo P. Varghese, followed by the final benediction by Fr. Blessen Varghese.

2026 Training Programmes Overview

The 2026 academic year has seen a significant expansion of the Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music, with a diverse student body enrolled across three distinct streams. Currently, 17 students are enrolled in Level 1 Malayalam, 23 in Level 2 Malayalam, and 1 student in the newly introduced Level 1 English course. Classes continue to be held online weekly, ensuring accessibility for participants across the Diocese.

The current curriculum is delivered through a structured timetable with specialized faculty allocation for each module, as detailed below:

Table 4: 2026 Course Modules and Faculty Allocation

Module No	Module Title and Contents	Faculty Member
MZM26-ML1	Level 1 Malayalam: Shehimo (Ramsho, Soutoro, Sapro) and Feast Day Services	Fr. Eldo P. Varghese
MZM26-ML2	Level 2 Malayalam: Ekkara Tones 1-8 of Sreeba Namaskaram Tones (Sapro, 3rd Hour, 6th Hour)	Fr. Blessen Varghese (Batch A) Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian (Batch B)
MZM26-EL1	Level 1 English: Shehimo (Ramsho, Soutoro, Sapro)	Fr. Jobin Mammen Cherian

A significant development for this year is the bespoke English course currently in the design phase. This program, specifically focusing on Shehimo for Sunday School students, is being tailored to meet the spiritual needs of our younger generation and is anticipated to launch in September 2026.

Students across all batches are supported by the Office Secretary and an elected Class Reesh for each cohort. To maintain the standards of the school, a minimum attendance requirement of 80 percent remains in place. All resources are shared digitally, facilitating a flexible yet disciplined learning environment.

Following the successful model of our inaugural year, students who successfully complete their 40-hour course commitment and final assessments will be awarded certificates affiliated with the Sruti School of Liturgical Music, Kottayam. As we progress through the 2026 batches, we continue to value feedback from our growing community and we remain prayerfully committed to serving as a liturgical cornerstone for Diocesan events, offering trained musical support.

Finance and Accounts

Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music upholds transparency and accountability in all financial matters, operating under the guidance and oversight of the Diocesan administrative structure. The Office Secretary works closely with the Diocesan Accounts Officer to maintain accurate and timely financial records. All income and expenditure are duly recorded, and financial reports are submitted in accordance with the expectations and timelines set by the Diocese.

Registration for the 2026 Training Programmes was open to students across the three offered streams, following a first-come, first-served process. To ensure the sustainability of the school while remaining accessible to the faithful, the fee structure remained consistent with the previous year.

An overview of the Financial Summary for the Financial Year 2025–2026, including the opening balance from the inaugural year and the registration income from the new batches, is presented below:

Table 5: Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music Financial Summary (2025–2026)

Section 0: Opening Balance	
Opening Balance	£4191.00
Section A: Income	
Registration Fees	£5175.00
Bank Interest	£0.00
Incorrect Transfer	£2318.00
Donation	£10.00
Sub-Total	£7503.00
Section B: Expenses	
Zoom Account Fees	£0.00
Bank Fees	£25.00
Refund for Incorrect Transfer	£2318.00
Faculty Honorarium	£1300.00
Sub-Total	£3643.00
Section C: Closing Balance	
Income – Expense	£7503.00 – £3643.00 = £3860.00
Section D: Cash in Bank	
Amount	£8051.00

For the period from 1 April 2025 until 31 March 2026

Acknowledgements

With hearts filled with gratitude, we offer thanks to our Almighty Lord for blessing the Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music and guiding us through another successful year with grace and mercy.

We extend our deepest respect and gratitude to His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Mathews III, Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan, for His Holiness's continued prayers since the inauguration.

We remain deeply grateful to His Eminence Abraham Mar Stephanos, our Diocesan Metropolitan, for his unwavering support, spiritual leadership, and vision. We also thank the Diocesan Secretary, Fr. Varghese T. Mathew, along with the Diocesan Council for their continued administrative support and guidance.

We gratefully acknowledge Sruti School of Liturgical Music, Kottayam, for their affiliation and prayerful collaboration. In particular, we express our heartfelt thanks to His Eminence Zachariah Mar Aprem, Director, and to Fr. Dr. Johns Thomas Karingattil for their ongoing encouragement.

A special note of gratitude is extended to our outgoing faculty members, Fr. Shyju P. Mathai and Fr. Jobson Abraham, for their dedication during the school's foundational year. We are especially grateful to the current faculty board alongside Mr. Abraham Kurian, Diocesan Accounts Officer, and Mr. Saji Varghese, Diocesan PRO, for their invaluable assistance and continued guidance.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the inaugural 2025 batch. Their dedication and feedback have been instrumental in shaping the 2026 programmes. It is truly inspiring to see many of these students continue their journey by enrolling in the Level 2 Course.

May this work be pleasing before the Lord, and may Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music continue to serve the Diocese as a spiritual and musical offering, glorifying the Triune God. I hereby submit this report on behalf of the Mazmuro School of Liturgical Music, relying on God's Grace and Mercy.

With Prayers,

May 10, 2026

Fr. Eldo P Varghese - Course Director

Endorsed and Approved by:

+ Abraham Mar Stephanos - Diocesan Metropolitan