

THE INDIAN (MALANKARA) ORTHODOX CHURCH

Diocese of UK- Europe and Africa

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Blessings to the Vicars, Parish Office bearers and all the faithful of the Diocese of UK-Europe and Africa:

Dearly beloved in Holy Triune Lord,

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous heart. (Acts 2:46)

The above verse from the Acts of The Apostles is very relevant to us too. It is by the Mercy of Lord we have been blessed and gracefully practising the true faith in this country. Let us Praise God for the blessed growth of our Diocese from a small beginning in 2009. We are grateful to the Priests and all the faithful for your firm faith and devotion which made it possible to upkeep the divine faith and incomparable tradition of Malankara Orthodox Church. Our current episcopal visit to UK is overwhelmingly blessed by His Mercy. We have two more consecrated Churches in the UK, St Thomas Liverpool and St Stephens Birmingham. Let us Praise and give thanks to Almighty Lord for this magnificent achievement for our Church. We would like to prayerfully congratulate and appreciate the Priests and faithful who contributed by any means for this remarkable milestone for our Church.

We had a very fruitful and constructive Annual General body meeting held on 12 December 2021 at St. Stephens Indian Orthodox Church, Birmingham. On behalf of the diocese, We would like to thank the Vicar and Managing committee of St Stephens Birmingham for providing a warm hosting for the meeting. As we establish ourself more prudent as we should be, We would like to bring your attention to the following AGM decisions and urge you to take necessary steps to implement those for the well-being of our Church.

Our Vicars are doing a great service in the Parish ministry. The meticulous contributions by the virtue of their valuable time and energy for the spiritual well being of the folks and for overall growth of the Parishes are gratefully acknowledged. It is our responsibility to support our spiritual fathers in their financial front so that they could reasonably balance their personal needs. On this context, We hereby urge all the Parishes / Congregations that a consolidated amount of not less than GBP 250.00/ Euro 250.00 per service should be provided to the clergies with effect from next financial year.

It is our responsibility as law abiding residents in the country where we live in, to follow the law of the land and adopt whatever relevant rules in our administrative portfolios. It is decided that all the members of the Parish managing committee, Diocesan representatives, Spiritual Organisation office bearers and anyone wish to be elected as a representative from a Parish/ Congregation in Church bodies shall prove their DBS check passed. This measure is presently become applicable only to the UK and Republic of Ireland. Unlike in the past the DBS checks should be managed at Parish level and certificates should be

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produced upon demand. Also every Parish/ Congregation must have an approved Health and Safety Policy, relevant liability Insurance Policy, Children & Vulnerable Adult safety policy and any other statutory policies applicable in the state where our Parish/ Congregation is established.

It is also reinstated in the AGM that all our Parishes / Congregations shall make sure that any immovable property acquired and registered either on lease or freehold, shall add Diocesan Metropolitan as one of the Custodian trustees. This is applicable for the new purchases as well as the existing title deeds whenever it would be revised.

It is much appreciable to see that a good number of our members are recently migrating to the UK. We hereby urge all of you to welcome them with joy to our Parishes/ Congregations. Anyone who wish to take temporary or permanent membership in our Parishes/ Congregations, no objection certificate shall be produced from the Vicar of their parent Parish to the Vicar of the Parish/ Congregation where they wish to take new membership.

On another note, It has been brought to Our attention that in some circumstances the Vicar of the Parish is not an authorised signatory for the financial transactions in some of our Parishes/ Congregations. It is mandatory that the Vicar of the Parish shall be a joint signatory along with the treasurer of the Parish/ Congregation in all financial transactions. The managing committee should take necessary initiatives to adopt this rule if it has not been done so far.

Keeping all of you in Prayers

God Bless

Your Shepherd and Spiritual Father


Mathews Mar Thimothios Metropolitan