

**In the blessed name of the Tri-une God, Self-existent,
Beginningless and Endless, Perfect in Being, (Glory be to Him)**

**Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II Catholicos of the East and
Malankara Metropolitan enthroned on the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas**



No. 35/2019

Blessings to our beloved Vicars of the churches, Priests of the locality, *Kaisthanees* and faithful of all the Parishes!

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

This is essentially a time when the Holy Church prepares herself to enter the holy path of the Great Lent which leads to the salvific passion and the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ the one who is the author and perfecter of our faith. The Great Lent is the spiritual potter wheel to shape us to wage our spiritual warfare throwing off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. Therefore, we exhort our faithful to observe this period in austerity and fill our lives with holiness through genuine repentance, prayers and prostration meditating the living Word of God. Let us be diligent in our prayers and vigilant in our thanksgiving by concentrating on 'the things above not the earthly things'. We should not forget that the weapon of Lent has the invincible power to overcome the temptations of the modern world which often urge us to prostrate before satan and turn the stone in to bread. Let us observe the Lent which our Savior also observed, with holiness and purity. This would purify and empower our families and individuals by casting out our frailties. May the observance of the Lent be a great opportunity to journey through the way of the cross of our Lord in worship and to enjoy the imperishable joy and peace His resurrection imparts. All our faithful shall observe the Great Lent.

May the Grace and Blessings of God Almighty abide with you forever. And may the prayers of the Mother of our God the Holy Virgin Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle of India, our Holy Fathers Yeldo Mar Baselios, Mar Gregorios, Mar Dionysius and all the Holy Saints be a stronghold for us. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II

From Catholicate Aramana
Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India
On February 20, 2019.