

**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 Mathews III Catholicos of the East and
Malankara Metropolitan enthroned on the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas**



No. 32/2024

Blessings to our beloved Vicar of
church, Priests of the locality, Kaisthanees and all members of the parish!

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

Let us praise the Almighty for enabling our holy Church, founded by St. Thomas, the Apostle, to thrive in the midst of manifold challenges and crises. The Catholicate of the East is the symbol of the apostolic heritage, identity and indigenous character of the Malankara Church. Catholicate Day or *Sabha Dinam* is set apart to recollect the significance and value of the Catholicate and to pray for the Church. In 2024, The Catholicate Day falls on Sunday 17 March, the 36th day of the Great Lent. It is our ardent wish that the Catholicate Day observance be a blessed occasion to grow in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, for the renewal of families, sanctification of our spiritual life and above all the transformation in our personal life. Special prayers for the Church shall be offered on the day during Holy Qurbana. Catholicate flag shall be hoisted and all shall take the Catholicate Day pledge. Speeches highlighting the significance of the Catholicate and explaining the faith, history and traditions of the Church shall be arranged on the day. In those parishes where there is no Holy Qurbana on the day, the Catholicate Day shall be observed on the next Sunday and special offerings shall be collected.

The main source of income of the Church is the amount we get through the Catholicate Day Collection. We heavily depend on the cover collection for funding the charity projects of the Church and for nurturing our spiritual organizations. Since the collection received during the last few years fell short of the target, it became difficult to give ample funds to various projects of the Church. Dearly beloved, the church has decided that we need to collect at least Rs. 22 crores as Catholicate Day Collection during the financial year 2024 – 25 in order to implement all the projects envisaged and included in the budget of the Holy Church. This 22 crores comprise of 15 crores from the parishes of the Church, 5 crores from individuals and 2 crores from various institutions of the Church. At least one day's average income of the family shall be given for the development of the Church. The average income shall be calculated as the total daily income of all members in a family who have regular income. We lovingly exhort you all to participate in this collection considering it as a humble offering in front of God for the progress of the Church, inspired by the love and allegiance to the Church. We remind you of the scriptural truth 'the tithe belongs to God'. All our beloved shall participate in the Catholicate Day observance and the Cover collection.

(P. T. O)

To make the Cover collection a success, the folders and envelopes should be delivered to all the families at the right time. Contributions shall be accepted from bureaucrats, traders, industrialists and well wishers of the Church. Due interest should be taken by the parish Vicars. An amount exceeding the target should be collected by visiting maximum families. The amount so collected shall be remitted to the Catholicate Office along with the offertory on the Catholicate Day and *Reessessa* within the stipulated time.

The minimum amount of donation fixed for a family in that parish is Rs..... The target for the parish is Rs..... The covers and folders shall be distributed to all Diocesan centers from the Central office. And the Diocesan centers should see that they reach the respective parishes in time. The parish should ensure that the folders and envelopes reach all families before 17th March 2024, the Catholicate Day.

Dearly beloved, we lovingly ask you to pray for us, our brother metropolitans, all our priests, monastic communities, members and workers of spiritual organizations and all our beloved faithful across the world. We strongly believe that the prayers of our beloved faithful are very valuable to restore peace and tranquility in the Church and remove all dissensions and discords in the Church.

May the Grace and Blessings of the 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 Mathews III

From Catholicate Aramana
Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India
On January 29, 2024