

**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. 195/2025

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

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

We are happy to know that our Theological Seminaries, both at Kottayam and Nagpur, are functioning well by the Grace of God. These Seminaries are centers of learning as well as sacred places for the spiritual growth of our Church. Praise be to God that both the seminaries are flourishing with the immeasurable grace of God and by the generous help of our faithful. Even today, many young people are interested in priestly ministry and students with deep faith in God should be imparted with good theological training.

The Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, has 88 BD students and the St. Thomas Orthodox Theological Seminary, Nagpur, has 46 BD students for the current academic year. Apart from these, 26 students from different denominations, churches and states are attending Master's degree and Doctoral degree programmes under the FFRRC scheme in Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam.

In order to reduce the rising electricity expenses, a solar energy project is being planned at the Kottayam Seminary. *Sruti* School of Liturgical Music's training and sound engineering programme, Syriac department with language training and voice control training programme, *Pratyasha* Counselling Centre with advanced counselling courses and *Divyabodhanam* - a lay theological training programme are successfully progressing. *Satya Jyoti* - an online course for laymen and Prerana Special School for the differently abled children, launched by Nagpur Seminary are well received by our youth and other believers.

This year the Seminary Day falls on Sunday, 05th October 2025. On that day, everyone should pray for the Seminary in the middle of the *Holy Qurbana* in all the churches and everyone should co-operate in the Seminary Day Cover Collection and offertory. The seminaries are the backbone of our Church. A community of priests with a divine calling, total dedication, and a deep sense of social commitment is essential for the growth and vitality of the Church. Those who sincerely love the Seminaries may try to become *Friends of Seminary* by donating one thousand rupees (Rs.1000) each year. In spite of all our personal as well as parish level financial challenges, we have to extend a helping hand to our Seminaries for their smooth functioning.

We earnestly seek the support of the Vicars and the parish level managing committee members to ensure good participation of the parishioners in the Seminary Day Cover Collections and the offertory. The collected amount will be proportionally divided between the two Seminaries. The cover collections and offertory may be sent to, **The Principal, Orthodox Theological Seminary, P.B. No. 98, Kottayam, 686 001**, before 31st December 2025.

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 Mar Gregorios, Yeldo Mar Baselios, Mar Dionysius and all the Holy Saints be a stronghold for us. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

From Catholicate Aramana

Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India On August 4, 2025

Baselios Marthoma Mathews III