

**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. 55/2025

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

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

The worship of our Holy Church is a treasure that we must cherish with utmost importance, like the breath of life. We have the moral responsibility and duty to follow and abide by the teachings and the theology of the Church, according to the liturgical traditions and rituals, that the Fathers and Elders, the protectors of the praised true Orthodox faith, have handed down to us with utmost devotion and even more with true trust in God.

In the celebration of the liturgical year's special services and prayers of the Feast of Nativity, the Feast of Passover, and the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, the ancient and traditional practice of beginning after midnight and concluding with the Holy Eucharist at dawn was followed until recently. However, since a few years, the timings of the prayers, services and Holy *Kurbana* on the said feast days have been modified to be held along with the evening prayers on the eve of the feast, with the permission of the respective diocesan metropolitans, taking into account the special circumstances in the churches under their dioceses. This change in the traditional timing of such services have created various kinds of confusion among our priests and faithful regarding the time schedule of such services. Worship services being held at different times in churches of our various dioceses in the same area, will dilute the glory of our worship heritage. Therefore, recognizing the widespread opinion that it is essential to have a unified schedule for the arrangement of worship on these special days, at least in the parishes within Kerala, and taking into account the advice of the Holy Episcopal Synod, We inform you the following arrangement.

Regarding the three feasts referred to above, for the feast of Nativity and that of Resurrection, after completing the evening prayer on the eve of the Feast, two *koumas* of the mid-night's prayer, also may be completed. The rest of the night's prayer, the special services of those days, and the Morning Prayer along with the *H. Kurbana* shall be completed in the morning, beginning at least by 5 a.m. on the feast day. For the Feast of Passover, the entire mid-night's prayer shall be completed conjointly with the evening prayer, and the Morning Prayer shall begin at least at 5 a.m. followed by the *H. Kurbana*. The arrangements existing at present can be continued in the parishes outside

(P.T.O)

Kerala. The parishes in Kerala shall follow the traditional worship timings or this new time schedule. Offering of *H. Kurbana* on the eve of the festival should be completely avoided.

If for any unavoidable reasons, these services need to be held differently from what is described here, at any place in Kerala, requests may be given to Us showing legitimate reasons, with the recommendation of the respective diocesan metropolitans and arrangements must be made according to the instructions We give.

Dear children, let us not allow the glory of our worship to be tarnished or diminished because of our inconveniences. This early morning worship timings occur only on three days of the year. Therefore, we should not view these instructions as a burden but should be careful to practise them. We should be able to pass on our noble liturgical traditions and observances to the generations that come after us without any alteration. The inconveniences that one has to endure for this purpose should be seen as sufferings for the name of God and for the faith (2 Cor. 4.17) and they will be received as acceptable offerings in the sight of God.

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 March 07, 2025