

By the grace of God and the approval of the Holy See
From the **Major Archbishop – Catholicos**
of the Syro-Malankara Syrian Catholic Church
Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Bava
Blessings to the Bishops, Corepiscopoi, Rambans, Priests,
Deacons, Religious and all the Faithful under our authority



Prot. No. CPL 2/2026

*Praise be to the Triune God, who is Sovereign, Omnipotent,
Eternal, and Co-substantial!*

96th Reunion Anniversary and Sabha Sangamam

Most Rev. Bishops, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi & Rambans, Rev. Fathers,
Deacons, Religious and dear Faithful in our Lord,

We are enthusiastically celebrating the 96th Reunion anniversary and *Sabha Sangamam* of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church this year. The Reunion Movement, which began on September 20, 1930, under the leadership of Mar Ivanios Metropolitan, was a significant turning point in the history of our Church. His vision, sacrifice and testimony presented the church with the spirit of Reunion that continues to guide our journey today. Reunion is not just a reminder of an event in history. It is a constant call to live as one in Christ, love one another and witness the love and mercy of Christ in society. The Reunion anniversaries in the previous years have not only helped to revive the memory of that history but also served as opportunities to further strengthen the unity and renewal of the Church. Unity is not something that is expressed only at a venue of celebration. It must be felt in our families, visible in parishes, reflected in the lives of young people, and evident in our approach to society. True Reunion must become an experience that leads us together on mission. The life, search for truth, and dedication to unity of Venerable Mar Ivanios continue to inspire us today. Our duty today is to re-embodiment that legacy in our lives.

96th Reunion Anniversary Celebrations

The 96th Reunion anniversary is being organized on 17th, 18th and 19th September 2026 at Mar Ivanios Nagar (Mar Gregorios College Campus) in Mogappair, Chennai, near Mylapore, where the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle is situated. Everyone should pray that the Reunion anniversary celebrations and *Sabha Sangamam*, organized under the auspices of the Eparchy of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune, be a blessing. Khadki-Pune, which was established as an Exarchate in 2015, was elevated to Eparchy of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune in the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church in 2019. We thank God for the blessings that have been bestowed upon the Church and the community through this diocese, which began among the diaspora. Many people from the mission areas of this diocese continue to come to our community. We pray for them and hope that these annual Reunion celebrations will be an inspiration to them.

I commend to God's presence Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios, who is leading the celebrations, and Rev. Fathers, Religious and the Faithful. Let me remind you to ensure your active participation in the celebration of the Holy *Qurbano*, Eucharistic Adoration, the proclamation of the Word of God, and various *Sabha Sangamams*. Let me draw your attention to the changes that have been made to the general arrangement this year. On Thursday, September 17th, at 5.00 pm, there will be Reception of the Torch, *Chhayachitram* and Catholicate Flag followed by Flag Hoisting. At 5.45 pm, there will be a *Gana Sandhya*, *Suvisesha Sandhya* and Adoration. On Friday, the 18th, from 2.00 pm onwards, the meetings of various pious organizations (MCA & MCMF, MCYM, MCCL) are scheduled and at 5.45 pm, there will be *Gana Sandhya*, *Suvisesha Sandhya* and Adoration. On Saturday the 19th, at 8 am, there will be a liturgical procession and Third hour prayer followed by the solemn Holy *Qurbano*. At 10.30 am, with the Public meeting followed by Agape, the 2026 Reunion Anniversary and *Sabha Sangamam* will be concluded.

Reunion Centenary: Inauguration of the Year of Charity and Justice

The occasion of the 96th anniversary of Reunion marks the official launch of the Year of Charity and Justice leading up to the Reunion Centenary. The aim of this year is to make our journey towards the

Centenary a period of spiritual renewal, deepening of church life, and a new sense of mission, while remembering with gratitude the blessed legacy of Reunion. Through the Year of Charity and Justice, we are called to deepen our prayer, penance, and spiritual renewal, and to make the love and mercy of Christ active in our lives, families, parishes, and communities. Charity is not a program, but the nature of Christian life; charity is not a ritual, but a spiritual journey that turns the heart to God. Therefore, let us combine the spiritual calls to Charity with the fellowship of the *Sabha Sangamam* and the remembrance of the Reunion anniversary. Let us pray together and care for one another, and initiate a new church life, reaching out with love, to those in need and sharing our time, talents, and resources. May the face of Christ's mercy be reflected in comforting a sick person, providing companionship to a lonely person, helping a needy family, helping a student in studies, and sharing in one's pain. The conviction that access to justice is the right of all must be strengthened. May this journey towards Reunion Centenary become a journey of our spiritual renewal, growth of mercy, unity of the church, and active testimony. It has been a special instruction of the Holy Synod that all dioceses should take special care to identify and help those who do not have their own homes before the celebration of the Reunion Centenary in 2030. I lovingly remind everyone that all dioceses should seriously consider this. Thus, may the 96th Reunion anniversary and *Sabha Sangamam* not remain just a historical memory, but rather mark the beginning of a new church life that leads from unity to mission, from mission to mercy, and from mercy to the witnessing of Christ.

I cordially urge all those who are able, from all our dioceses, mission centers and religious houses to actively participate in the Reunion anniversary celebrations to be held at Mar Ivanios Nagar (Mar Gregorios College Campus), Mogappair, Chennai on 17th, 18th and 19th September 2026 and receive blessings. The offertory at the Holy *Qurbono* on the Reunion Anniversary Day will be offered for the charitable activities of the St. Ephrem Malankara Syrian Catholic Eparchy of Khadki, Pune, which is hosting this year's Reunion anniversary. I lovingly remind the entire worshipping community participating in the Holy *Qurbono* to be prepared for this dedication. Let our gathering be a living testimony of the love of the church for the

growing generations. I urge everyone to generously help with the expenses of the annual celebrations.

Beloved, may the 96th Reunion Anniversary and the *Sabha Sangamam* be an opportunity to remember with gratitude the blessed heritage of our Church and to infuse new spiritual awakening into our journey towards the Reunion Centenary. May we be able to turn more deeply into the presence of God through the Year of Charity and Justice and to reach out with love to our brothers and sisters in their pain and need. May this year's celebrations inspire us to grow into a Church that shares the mercy and love of Christ in our families, parishes, and communities. May the heritage of Reunion generate a renewed faith in our hearts and may the spirit of charity transform us to lead a holy life and become a living testimony. May our faith-life today be the greatest gift to the future Church. May we all move forward with one heart, one faith, and one sense of mission on this blessed journey towards the Reunion Centenary.

May Almighty God abundantly bless our Church and its members through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle, Venerable Mar Ivanios, and all the saints. May the 96th Reunion Anniversary, *Sabha Sangamam* and the Year of Charity and Justice leading up to the Reunion Centenary be the beginning of a new chapter of renewal, unity, and mercy in our Church life.

May the peace and blessings of the Lord be abundantly upon each of you, your families and communities.

Your humble servant in the Lord,

Sd/-

✠ Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Bava
Major Archbishop-Catholicos
of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church

Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram
29.08.2026

NB: This pastoral letter should be read during the upcoming Sunday Holy Mass in all our churches, mission centers, and places of worship.