

# Eparchy of St. Ephrem Khadki~Pune

Kripaniketan Eparchial Bishop's House,  
St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral  
51 Bhau Patil Road, Bopodi, Pune - 411 020



## CIRCULAR

Prot. No. CL 02/2026

04 May 2026

**Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Respected Pastoral Council Members, and Beloved Faithful,**

Prayerful greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord!

As you are all aware, three priests have been newly ordained in our Eparchy. Their ordinations and first Holy Masses were truly grace-filled occasions. I congratulate all those who were involved in organizing these ceremonies. I also extend my sincere thanks to all the fathers, religious, and faithful who participated in these services at various places.

We warmly welcome Rev. Fr. Mathew Chirangara, Rev. Fr. Johnson Venmantharayil, and Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Thekkeparambil into the priestly koinonia of our Eparchy.

I am also happy to inform you that on May 3, two of our seminarians, Bro. Jebin Reji Thayyil and Bro. Joseph Chittattu, after completing their regency, received the cassock. I extend my prayerful wishes to them and request you to keep them in your prayers.

We are completing two years of administration under the present Curia, which took charge on May 15, 2024. Our Eparchy is making steady progress in the pastoral administration of our parishes, missions, and institutions. As we move forward, we must also equip ourselves to respond to changing circumstances. With this in mind, Fr. Justin Chempanal has begun his PhD in Canon Law in Rome.

This year, three of our priests have received scholarships for higher studies. Accordingly, Rev. Fr. Jobin Thannickakuzhy will go to Eichstätt, Germany, to study Biblical Theology. Rev. Fr. Jacob Matcha will attend the Lateran University in Rome to study Pastoral Theology, and Rev. Fr. Paul Vettickattil will pursue Canon Law at the Oriental Institute in Rome. We are also in the

process of securing a scholarship for one more priest from the Catholic University of Belgium. As the academic year in Europe begins toward the end of September, they are expected to depart in September or October. We hope and pray that their studies will greatly benefit the Eparchy in the years to come.

These developments—namely, the recent ordinations and priests leaving for higher studies abroad—necessitate certain transfers. Further details will be communicated latter.

The preparations for the Reunion Day celebration in Chennai are progressing well. The convenors' meeting is scheduled for May 23 in Chennai. The Presbyteral Council and Pastoral Council meetings will be held on June 12 and 13, respectively, during which the progress of the Reunion Day celebrations and other Eparchial programs will be reviewed. The General Convener will provide periodic updates on the work of the various committees.

The Media Commission released the Reunion Day posters on May 3 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Khadki, and these communications will be made available in five languages. In connection with the Reunion Day celebrations, we are also planning to establish a center at Velloor for people who come for treatment at Velloor Hospital. We already have a small community there, and weekly services are conducted every Saturday. The feast donations will also be utilized for this initiative.

On April 22, I underwent an angiogram, which revealed three major blockages. The doctors have advised bypass surgery. Accordingly, I will be admitted to Pushpagiri Hospital on May 5, and the surgery is scheduled for May 6. I will be on medical rest for a few weeks thereafter. During this time, I kindly request you to contact the Vicar General, Msgr. Shaji Mathews Vazhayil, for any important matters.

I humbly request your prayers for the success of the surgery and for a speedy recovery.

With paternal blessing,



✠ **Mathews Mar Pachomios OIC**  
*Bishop of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune*



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**N.B.:** Kindly ensure that the important points from this communication are announced in the parish for the information of all the faithful.