

# The Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Syrian Church

CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

## DIOCESE OF CALCUTTA

[THE CALCUTTA ORTHODOX DIOCESAN COUNCIL]

REG. NO. 13697 / 10.05.1984

DR. JOSEPH MAR DIONYSIUS SST

DIOCESAN METROPOLITAN

DIRECTOR / PRESIDENT : St. Thomas Mission, Bhilai

GUEST FACULTY : STOTS, Nagpur

RESEARCH GUIDE : Science Faculty, University of Kerala

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VICE-PRESIDENT : ACCES (Asso. C.G. State Christ. Edu. Soc.)



ST. THOMAS ASHRAM

Dr. Stephanos Mar Theodosius Road,  
Kailash Nagar, Industrial Estate P.O.,  
Bhilai-490026, Durg (Dist)

CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

Tel. : 0788-2285309, 2285803

Email : [calcuttadiocese@gmail.com](mailto:calcuttadiocese@gmail.com)  
[josephdionysius@gmail.com](mailto:josephdionysius@gmail.com)

Website : [www.calcuttadiocese.com](http://www.calcuttadiocese.com)

Kalpana No. DOC/GEN/25/2020

Date : 27.04.2020

**GLORY TO THE FATHER THE SON AND THE HOLY GHOST, THE ONE TRUE TRIUNE GOD  
FOREVER AND EVER, AMEN.**

Blessings to the Vicars, Asst. Vicars, Secretaries, Treasurers, Members of the Managing Committee and the members of the parishes and congregations belonging to the Diocese of Calcutta!

**Dearly Beloved in Christ,**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

Last few weeks, including the Holy week, have been unprecedented due to the varied challenges presented by the Pandemic, COVID-19. Though we are experiencing the '*tomb experience*' of being locked down at home, let's hopefully look forward for an '*Easter experience*' of peace and hope. At this time of anxiety and uncertainty, we would like to offer our prayers of comfort and encouragement. The Resurrected Christ appears before the people 'locked down' and offers 'Peace' to those who were in closed rooms.

It's heartening that though you are not able to be physically present for public corporate Church Services due to Government restrictions, many are compensating it through attending the online streaming of Church Services. May this period also help to read the scriptures and pray more regularly in your homes and thus turn our homes into '*Home Churches*' as we read in '*Acts of Apostles*'. This time of trial is an opportunity to give thanks to our gracious God, for the 'abundant Blessings' we experienced in our past life. You should also thank for the love, care and the sharing courage of your family and friends and the Health Professionals and Government Officials who provide providential care in every dimension.

As Christians, we are called to support one another in every way we can, especially those who are most vulnerable, through age or underlying conditions. Even in the midst of any necessary "distancing" we must stand by each other. Let us talk to each other with kindness and check on the spiritual, physical and mental well-being of one another. We exhort you to pray for the sick, those caring for them, for those in positions of responsibility with difficult decisions to make, indeed for our Country. Those who wish to be remembered in Holy Qurbana and our prayers may submit the same using the link <https://www.calcuttadiocese.org/prayer-request/>.

We understand that some are also undergoing the trauma of the Pandemic or the stress about their families. We have been informed that all our Parishes are trying to extend their helping hands in all ways that they could and we appreciate such efforts. We shall attempt to ease the burden of those in need, Please contact the respective Vicars, Office bearers and the leaders of various spiritual organizations for your spiritual, medical or any other immediate help. **Please don't have any hesitation to inform us, for any personal intervention or prayer from our side. You may contact us through V. Rev. Fr. Thomas Ramban, The Diocesan Secretary (Mob: +91 9826422770) and Fr. Dr. Joshi Varghese, Principal Secretary to Diocesan Metropolitan (Mob: +91 8989649463).**

The Pandemic is also affecting the psychological status of the people. Many are undergoing stress, anxiety, fear and relationship issues during this period. In order to help out those who undergo such challenges, we have formed a '**Counseling Desk**'. **Those who need any counseling assistance may call any of the following persons:**

Fr. Geevarghese Varghese ( +91 9830943959), Diocesan Counselor and Priest Secretary who serves as coordinator of the Counseling Desk.

Fr. Kurian John (+91 8839432795)

Fr. K. I. Varghese (+91 6282384684)

Fr. Jobby Peter (+91 6282409318)

Fr. Shaji P Joshua (+91 9179526565)

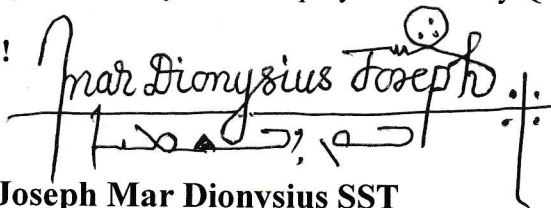
Mrs. Joji Biju (+91 9752199614)

Let us remind the promise of the God:

*"You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,  
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.  
A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand,  
But it will not come near you." (Psalm 91: 5-7).*

We shall continue to uphold all of you in our prayers and Holy Qurbana.

May God Bless You !



**Metropolitan Dr. Joseph Mar Dionysius SST**

Cc:

1. V. Rev. Fr. Thomas Ramban, Diocesan Secretary.
2. Fr. Dr. Joshi Varghese, Principal Secretary to Diocesan Metropolitan.
3. All the members of '**Calcutta Diocesan Counseling Desk for pandemic COVID-19 related**'.