



Christian Conference of Asia

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Congratulatory Message from CCA

on the occasion of the episcopal consecration in the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Esteemed Mar Thoma Metropolitan His Beatitude Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma, and the newly consecrated bishops of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church,

It is with profound thanks to God Almighty that the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) extends greetings and congratulations to the newly consecrated bishops and all faithful of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian church on this blessed occasion. The Asian ecumenical family spread across this vast continent rejoices with all members of the Mar Thoma Church, in all its numerous parishes all over India and across the globe, and the sister churches in India, as you have come together today, 2 December 2023, to witness the celebration of this divine occasion of the consecration of three new bishops for the church.

The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, a founding member of the Christian Conference of Asia, has always been a valued member of the CCA ever since its inception. It was heartening for the Asian churches to understand that the Mar Thoma Syrian Church decided to consecrate three new bishops. It is also a matter of great joy to learn that each of the three bishops consecrated today comes with rich experiences in pastoral care, missional involvement at the grassroots, academic proficiency, theological acumen, and deep understandings of the rich liturgical and monastic traditions and practices as well as their deep ecumenical commitments. As these three newly consecrated bishops take up their new roles, we pray that God's empowering love, care, and blessings will continue to surround them in their episcopal ministry towards people and communities scattered in different congregations of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in various parts of the world.

Esteemed newly consecrated bishops, on behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia and its large member constituencies, spread across this large Asian continent, I take this opportunity to congratulate each of you and pray for God's abundant blessings upon you. May Divine favour surround you and may the Lord endow you with wisdom and ever-deepening grace as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care. May you continually grow in the knowledge and love of Christ, professing the faith and expressing love to the people of God.

On this occasion, we are again reminded of the Prophet's message:

"I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge, and understanding" (Jeremiah 3:15).

On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia,

Yours along the journey,

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA

2 December 2023