

Patriarchal Message

His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas

Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, the Supreme Head of the

Universal Syrian Orthodox Church

at

KANDANAD

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
the One True God. Amen.

Your Beatitude, our beloved Brother-in-Christ
Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I, Their Eminences
the Metropolitans, Very Reverend Corepiscopos,
Priests and Deacons, Respected Nuns and our beloved
spiritual children.

We have great pleasure to be with you this day. Our
St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Kandanad, has
always upheld the true faith and practices of our Holy
Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch. Even in the
midst of many hardships you have remained loyal to

our Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East. This church has a prominent place in the history of our whole Church in India. Patriarchal Delegates sent from the Holy See of Antioch have visited and stayed at this church. The mortal remains of the late lamented Maphrian Mor Baselios Sacralla, whom we have declared a Saint, are entombed at this church. This tomb is a source of blessing for those who seek his intercession. The blessed tomb of the fourth native Metropolitan of our Holy Church in India – Mor Thoma IV - is also situated at this church. Two of our present Metropolitans – Their Eminences Mor Ivanios Mathews of Kandanad and Mor Clemis Kuriakose of Idukki – are members of this parish. Our beloved Church Secretary Bar Eto Mheero Commander Thambu George Thukalan also belongs to this parish. This parish is also the mother-parish of other parishes in and around Kandanad. In view of the importance of this church, we have declared it a Cathedral.

On this blessed occasion, we exhort you to rededicate yourselves to God and to His Holy Church and to continue to work hard to protect the apostolic faith and practices of our Holy Church. And we admonish you with St. Paul the Apostle: **“Be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for as much as you know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”** (First Epistle to the Corinthians Chapter Fifteen, verse Fifty-eight) May God bless you all.