

*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 the***

***MULANTHURUTHY CHURCH***

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, Your Eminence  
Mor Gregorios Joseph, the Diocesan Metropolitan of  
this church, Their Eminences the Metropolitans, Very  
Reverend Corepiscopos, Priests, Deacons, Nuns and our  
beloved spiritual children.

We are very happy to visit this church once again. We  
had visited this church on our three earlier Apostolic  
Visits to India and this is our fourth visit to this church.

This is a very important and historic church for our whole Syrian Orthodox Church. One of our predecessors-in-office, Patriarch Mor Peter IV conducted the first Syrian Christian Association Meeting at this Church in 1876. And the late Patriarch Mor Abdulla II also visited this Church in 1909. Holy Mooron was consecrated at this Church two times – by Patriarch Mor Peter IV and by Patriarch Mor Abdulla II. Three blessed Metropolitans sent by the Holy See of Antioch are entombed here – Mor Ivanios (+1693), Mor Gregorios of Jerusalem (+1770) and Mor Coorilos Yuyakim (+1874). A portion of the Holy Relics of the Apostle St. Thomas was given by us to this Church in 1994. This church was declared ‘the second Jerusalem’ by one of our predecessors. And we had also declared it the ‘Sehion of India’ and a Cathedral during our last Apostolic Visit in 2004.

This Parish is more than Nine Hundred years old. It has a membership of more than two thousand families and it has always remained very loyal to the Holy See of Antioch. We congratulate you all for the same.

We are also glad to note that Saint Gregorios of Parumala and the late lamented saintly Malankara Metropolitan Mor Coorilos Paulos were members of this parish. And this is the Home-Parish of His Grace Metropolitan Mor Gregorios Joseph also.

On this blessed occasion, we entreat you all to remain always thankful to God and to rededicate yourself to Him and to His Holy Church. May God bless you all.