

*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*

***PATHANAMTHITTA: OCTOBER 23, 2008***

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 Eminences our beloved Metropolitans, Very Rev. Corepiscopos and Rambachans Reverend Priests and Deacons, Dedicated Nuns and our beloved spiritual children.

We stand before you with great joy and with great gratitude to God. Until recently, we did not have a church in this important town of Pathanamthitta in southern Kerala. This town is the headquarters of the Pathanamthitta District which is religiously important. Manjinikkara Dayro, where the Syrian

Christians as well as other devotees from all over the world gather at the annual Feast of St. Elias the Third is in this District. Sabarimala, another place in the District, is a well-known pilgrim centre of the Hindus. Maramon, the place where the Marthoma Syrian Christians gather every year for their great gospel convention is also in this District. The construction of this church in this town which is the headquarters of this important District is a real achievement. We congratulate and bless His Eminence Metropolitan Mor Meletheose Yuhanon of our Thumpamon Diocese and all others – the Clergy as well as the Laity – who have worked hard to complete the construction of this church, and especially, all members of the family who donated the land for building this church. On this occasion, we also remember with gratitude the sincere and dedicated service rendered by the late lamented Metropolitan Mor Coorilos Kuriakose of our

Niranam, Thumpamon and Kollam Dioceses who stood firm in the faith and practices of our Holy Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch and strengthened others also in the true faith.

Beloved children: Be thankful to God for all His blessings and mercies upon you, and always abide in Him. At the dedication of the temple of Jerusalem, King Solomon prayed: “Let this holy place be an abode of comfort to all those who come here in faith and dedication.” (I Kings 8:28-30). Let these words come true for this church also.

Another thing we would like to mention is that, though this time we are not visiting the diocese of Kollam, we are happy to learn that our Kollam diocese is making good progress under the leadership of His Eminence Mor Theodosios Mathews. And we understand that by his able leadership a beautiful church has been built at Kundara. The members of

that church has worked hard to protect our true faith and allegiance to the Holy throne by suffering much hardships. By considering the importance of that church, we hereby declare that church a **Cathedral**. Now onwards it will be known as St.Mary's Jacobite Syrian Cathedral, Kundara. We congratulate all the members of that church. Continue to uphold your true faith and allegiance to the Holy throne.

May God bless you all.