



**FROM THE APOSTOLIC SEE OF MALANKARA  
METROPOLITAN DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA**

**Circular No. 260**

*Blessings to you all the Vicars, Resident Clergy, Trustees  
and Members of all the Parishes under our authority.*

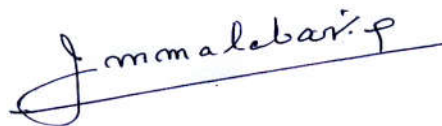
Beloved in Christ,

It is hereby informed to all through this Kalpana about the conditions approved by the Epsicopal Synod which met on June 7, 2016 regarding the burial of Clergy and their family and usage of tombs/vaults.

1. In cemeteries where enough space is available, separate tomb can be constructed for burial.
2. Baskiomos can be buried in such tombs.
3. If family vaults are available Clergy can be buried in such family vaults.
4. Existing single tombs belonging to a family can be opened for burial of Clergy in that family with the permission of the Metropolitan/ Episcopa.
5. If the son also happens to be a priest, his body as well as that of the Baskiomo can be buried in the tomb of his father priest.
6. If the owner of a tomb (single or family vault) requests in writing with the knowledge of the vicar and trustees of the parish for the burial of the mortal remains of a priest or Baskiomo, the Metropolitan/ Episcopa can grant permission for such burial. In such a case the name can be inscribed on the tomb.
7. Special area can be demarcated for the burial of clergy in a cemetery.
8. Special common vault for clergy can be constructed in places with scarcity of land. It is desirable to construct a separate pit for that purpose. The parish can construct the vault with as many cells considering the number of the Clergy in the parish and future need.
9. In places where there is scarcity of space and it is not possible to construct new cells, one or more cells in the common vault can be set apart for the burial of Clergy.
10. The Metropolitan/ Episcopa reserves the right to permit the cremation of the mortal remains of Clergy either in an electric crematorium or otherwise on the basis of the prior request by the Clergy. This could be permitted only after the burial service is completed at the Church. The mortal remains after cremation must be buried in either the family vault or single vault. Permission can be granted for doing so after cremation of the body in a foreign country.
11. Parishes have permission to collect fees for Clergy tomb/vaults.

Grace be with you all.

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 from Poolatheen, Tiruvalla



**Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan**