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

Circular No: 261

Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with the Vicars, the Clergy, the Office-Bearers of Parishes and the believers in our Parishes in outside India.

Beloved in Christ,

The Episcopal Synod, taking into account the increasing cost of living, has considered the question of revising the salary of our Achens. A Committee was appointed to bring forward the necessary recommendations in this regard. The same committee was entrusted to revise the special Living Allowance of Clergy serving in overseas parishes. Having obtained their suggestions and recommendations, the Episcopal Synod that met on 7th of June 2016 took the following decisions.

1. The special living allowance was proposed to be revised as per the schedule in the overleaf. (Annexure I)
2. This revision shall come to be effective from 01.05.2016.
3. The LA is fixed as Rs.1,10,000 for all Clergy irrespective of the country as per the respective foreign exchange rates prevalent on 01.05.2016.
4. The LA in foreign currency is rounded up to the nearest tens in each currency, in order to avoid fractions.
5. The Basic Pay + Family Allowance + Living Allowance is calculated separately for each year above 10 years of service.
6. The BP + FA + LA for each year of service is calculated based on the prevalent foreign exchange rates as on 01.05.2016.
7. The fluctuation in foreign exchange rates shall not affect the total pay of Clergy for the tenure of overseas posting.
8. A Special Tuition Allowance shall be given to clergy posted in gulf countries who have children staying and studying with them.
9. The parishes/diocese has to deduct the 4% of total pay p.m. from the salary of clergy and remit in the Sabha Office as Medical Aid Scheme Subscription. Since the foreign parishes are providing medical insurance for the clergy and family serving there, the parishes are exempted from paying their share of 4% as Medical Aid Scheme Subscription as communicated through the Metropolitan's Circular No.240.

It is natural for the children of God to love and care for the Achens who minister to them by caring for and loving them in the name of the Lord. We should continue to give all help to enable our Achens to carry on their ministry with joy. May God help all of us to work for the building up of the Church and the spread of the Gospel through the joint efforts of the people and the Achens. Let us to continue in bearing our Christian witness.

Grace be with you all.

Dated 20th June 2016 from the Poolatheen, Tiruvalla

Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan

Annexure I

Revision of Living Allowance of Clergy serving in outside India parishes												
Sl No	Country	Current LA in Foreign Currency	Exchange Rate as on 01.05.2012	LA in INR as on 01.05.2012	Exchange Rate as on 01.05.2016	Current LA in INR as on 01.05.2016	Revised LA in Foreign Currency	Exchange Rate as on 01.05.2016	Revised LA in INR	% of Revision	Change in Foreign Currency	Change in INR
1	USA	1,550.00	49.00	75,950.00	66.42	1,02,951.00	**1,660.00**	66.42	1,10,000.00	7.10	110.00	7049.00
2	Australia	1,650.00	52.00	85,800.00	50.53	83,375.00	**2,180.00**	50.53	1,10,000.00	32.12	530.00	26625.00
3	Bahrain	525.00	123.00	64,575.00	176.12	92,463.00	**620.00**	176.12	1,10,000.00	18.10	95.00	17537.00
4	Canada	1,750.00	49.00	85,750.00	52.92	92,610.00	**2,080.00**	52.92	1,10,000.00	18.86	330.00	17390.00
5	Kuwait	375.00	177.00	66,375.00	220.18	82,568.00	**500.00**	220.18	1,10,000.00	33.33	125.00	27432.00
6	Malaysia	4,000.00	16.00	64,000.00	16.97	67,880.00	**6,480.00**	16.97	1,10,000.00	62.00	2,480.00	42120.00
7	New Zealand	2,000.00	41.00	82,000.00	46.37	92,740.00	**2,370.00**	46.37	1,10,000.00	18.50	370.00	17260.00
8	Oman	500.00	128.00	64,000.00	172.53	86,265.00	**640.00**	172.53	1,10,000.00	28.00	140.00	23735.00
9	UK	1,000.00	77.00	77,000.00	97.05	97,050.00	**1,130.00**	97.05	1,10,000.00	13.00	130.00	12950.00
10	Qatar	4,800.00	13.50	64,800.00	18.25	87,600.00	**6,030.00**	18.25	1,10,000.00	25.63	1,230.00	22400.00
11	Singapore	2,500.00	39.00	97,500.00	49.41	1,23,525.00	**2,230.00**	49.41	1,10,000.00	-10.80	-270.00	-13525.00
12	UAE	5,500.00	12.60	69,300.00	18.08	99,440.00	**6,080.00**	18.08	1,10,000.00	10.55	580.00	10560.00
13	South Africa	12,000.00	6.30	75,600.00	4.67	56,040.00	**23,550.00**	4.67	1,10,000.00	96.25	11,550.00	53960.00
14	Ireland (Euro)	857.00			75.36	64,584.00	**1,460.00**	75.36	1,10,000.00	70.36	603.00	45,416.00