

**FROM THE APOSTOLIC SEE OF MALANKARA METROPOLITAN
DR THEODOSIUS MAR THOMA**

Circular No 31



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

Beloved in Christ

As a church we have set apart Sunday, 24th October as Christian Family Dedication Sunday. Family and family relationships are a blessing and a great gift of God. The topic for this year's meditation is "Family - Replica of the Kingdom of God". Christian families are small units of the Kingdom of God upon the earth. The meditation assigned for this Sunday is based on the Bible portion St Luke 2:41-52. Jesus and His parents going to Jerusalem to participate in the festival of Passover and their return journey, is narrated in this portion. On their return journey His parents thought that Jesus would be with fellow travellers. It is inevitable to have clear awareness and checks on family members, especially youths and children, where they are, when they go out to their places of education and for other needs. In this instance the parents, though they were perplexed, faced the situation with sobriety. It is a model for us too, when facing crises.

In these times when moral values are being lost, family relationships are disintegrating. Mutual trust, love, care and sanctity of life are becoming scarce Therefore; celebration of Christian Family Sunday must be an opportunity for rededication and submission. Be together as a family in the presence of God.

As a parish, arrange programs to help and care for those who are facing breakup in family relationships and who are lonely. Consider ministry of strengthening families seriously and avail family counselling and pre-marital counselling for parishioners. Observing Covid protocols attend worship service and Holy Qurbana as families, on Sunday 24 October. Let us offer praise and thanksgiving for the divine grace we have received as a family; let us humble ourselves in God's presence and rededicate.

Along with Joshua let us also witness "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

May grace be with you all.

From, Thiruvalla Poolatheen, on 16th October 2021



Dr Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan