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# FROM THE APOSTOLIC SEE OF MALANKARA METROPOLITAN DR, HHEQDOSIUS MAR THOMA 

Circular No. 121

 and Members of all the Parishes under our authority.

Beloved in Christ,
The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church has always given great importance to ecumenical relations. Sending Deacon Mathews (later Mathews Mar Athanasius Metropolitan) to Antioch, having a unique historical relationship with the Thozhiyur Church, signing a memorandum of understanding with the Church of England in 1936, forming the Communion of Churches in India (consisting of the C.S.I., C.N.I., and the Mar Thoma Church), dialogue with various Churches, relations with movements of ecumenical importance in the countries where our members live, and the leadership given in various ecumenical organizations by our Bishops, priests, and lay people are honourable events.

During this time, when our members of faith community migrate to different countries of Europe for study and work, it has become necessary to work more closely with the Churches and ecumenical movements in the aforementioned region. For the past 18 years, we have cooperation in various fields with the Old Catholic Church, one of the Churches in Europe, which upholds reformation traditions. The Old Catholic Church has places of worship in various countries of Europe, sees the ancient liturgical (Latin) tradition and ecumenical outlook in the vision of reformation, and actively maintains the social witness of the Church. Over the past few years, our Episcopal Synod and Prathinidhi Mandalam have been providing advice and support to strengthen the aforementioned ecumenical relationship. Since 2006, unofficial friendly visits have been made between the two Churches, our Church has received scholarships for theological studies, and Old Catholic parishes in Switzerland and Netherlands have given arrangements for the celebration of the Holy Qurbana. At various stages, discussions have been held between the official representatives appointed by the two Churches and their statements have been published.

The migration of our families and students to countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, France, Poland, Belgium and Italy is increasing significantly. In the 2023 Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam Meeting, it was decided to enter into ecumenical relationship between the Old Catholic Church and the Mar Thoma Church (similar to the existing relationship between the Mar Thoma Church and the Thozhiyur-Malabar Independent Syrian Church) and to work together in all possible areas. On Saturday, 10th February 2024, at 8 AM, a Holy Qurbana service in English will be held at St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Thiruvalla, followed by a public meeting, in which members of our Church and representatives of the Old Catholic Church will participate. All are invited to this event.

Beloved, may God strengthen all of us to work together with other congregations fruitfully, to understand contemporary situations and work creatively, and to advance in Christian witness.

Grace be with you all.


Dated $24^{\text {th }}$ January 2024, from Poolatheen, Thiruvalla,


Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan

