

# The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

## CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

**BASELIOS MARTHOMA MATHEWS III**  
CATHOLICOS OF  
THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF  
ST. THOMAS  
AND MALANKARA METROPOLITAN



CATHOLICATE PALACE  
KOTTAYAM - 686 004  
KERALA, INDIA

December 03, 2022

**His Eminence Cardinal Kurt Koch**  
**President,**  
**Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Holy See of Vatican**

Apostolic blessings,

It was with deep sadness that we have learned of the passing away after a long illness of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Personally and on behalf of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, we would like to express our deepest sympathy and closeness in prayers to Holy Father Pope Francis and the whole God-loving Catholic Church in mourning.

Our Church calls in mind with sentiments of esteem the commitment of both the Churches to promote the Ecumenical Relations. At this time of grief, we personally cannot attend the Funeral Service of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI but we would like to delegate His Grace Abraham Mar Stephanos Metropolitan of UK, Europe & Africa to represent the Church and us to the funeral service with our message of condolences.

We set our eyes to the glory of Jesus Christ, whose victory over death is our redemption and we make ours the words of the Psalmist: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in the green pastures; he leads me besides still waters; he restores my soul....and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long" (Ps 23:1-2:6).

Please accept this expression of our fraternal communion and prayerful solidarity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Baselios Marthoma Mathews III". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Baselios Marthoma Mathews III**