



DICASTERIUM  
AD CHRISTIANORUM UNITATEM FOVENDAM

*E Civitate Vaticana, die* 20 March 2023

PROT. N. 306 /2022/k

TO HIS BEATITUDE  
Cardinal George Alencherry  
*Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church*

It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the death of His Grace, Most Reverend Mar Archbishop Joseph Powathil, emeritus Archbishop of Changanacherry.

“Truth and Charity” was Archbishop Joseph Powathil’s motto. His commitment to the dialogue in “truth and charity” with other Christians was one of the characteristics of his fruitful ministry, animated by a deep and sincere desire to respond to the Lord’s prayer for the unity of all his disciples.

Alongside Mar Powathil’s many merits in his long and dedicated service of the Church, mention should be made of his substantial contribution to the theological dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Malankara Orthodox Syrian and the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Churches. Without Archbishop Powathil’s wisdom and the respect he enjoys among all Christians in Kerala, it would have been difficult to establish these commissions.

Praying for the eternal repose of Archbishop Joseph, our Dicastery expresses its condolences to the Syro-Malabar Church, and especially to the clergy and faithful of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. An outstanding laborer in the vineyard of the Lord, may he remain an enlightening example to all who seek the will of Christ “that all may be one” (Jn 17:21).

*Grant eternal rest unto our brother Joseph, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
Requiescat in pace.*

*Kd Card. V-ou*

*Prefect*

*+ Brian Farrell*

✠Brian Farrell  
*Secretary*