



**MALANKARA ORTHODOX  
SYRIAN CHURCH** (INDIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH)

**DIOCESE OF UK • EUROPE • AFRICA •**  
UK REGISTERED CHARITY : 1139302

**+METROPOLITAN ABRAHAM MAR STEPHANOS**

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**21 April 2025**

**His Eminence Cardinal Kurt Koch**

Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity  
Via della Conciliazione, 5, 00193  
Rome, Vatican City

**Your Eminence,**

**Christ is Risen!**

It is with profound sorrow, yet unwavering hope in the Risen Lord, that we received the news of the repose of His Holiness Pope Francis. During these sacred days of the Feast of the Resurrection, our hearts are consoled by the triumphant victory of Christ over death, affirming our shared faith in the promise of eternal life.

His Holiness Pope Francis will be remembered as a shepherd of humility, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the Gospel. His dedication to fostering unity among Christian communities has left an indelible mark on the journey toward ecclesial reconciliation.

Under his pontificate, the relationship between the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the Catholic Church experienced significant growth. His support was instrumental in the signing of bilateral agreements that strengthened our mutual commitment to theological dialogue and fraternal relations.

In 2024, with the blessings of His Holiness, our Church had the honor of hosting a high-level delegation from the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity in India. Furthermore, the meetings held in 2013 and 2023 between the Heads of our Churches were milestones in our ecumenical journey. The Department of Ecumenical Relations of our Church, along with the Diocese of UK, Europe, and Africa, played a pivotal role in orchestrating these significant events.

On behalf of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, and in my capacity as the Diocesan Metropolitan of the Diocese of UK, Europe, and Africa, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the College of Cardinals, the clergy, and the faithful of the Catholic Church worldwide. May the memory of His Holiness Pope Francis be eternal, and may his life's witness continue to inspire all Christians.

As we hold the Catholic Church in our prayers, we are reminded of the Apostle's words:

"If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him." (2 Timothy 2:11)

With fraternal love in the Risen Christ, I remain,

**+ Metropolitan Abraham Stephanos**