



Christian Conference of Asia

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1 November 2024

His Eminence Joseph Mor Gregorios Metropolitan
Malankara Metropolitan
Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

Your Eminence Joseph Mor Gregorios Malankara Metropolitan,

On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), I write this to express our heartfelt condolences on the passing of His Beatitude Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church. The members of the CCA across Asia join with the faithful of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in India as well as the Diaspora in different parts of the world to pray, and thank God for the life and ministry of His Beatitude Mor Baselios Thomas I.

It is with profound thanks to God almighty that the CCA acknowledges the contributions of the prelate who led the Church tirelessly over two decades. His tenure as the Bishop of the Angamaly Diocese of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, and as the head of the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church since 2000, helped to strengthen the church and its mission. His deep insights and far-sightedness were evident in times of crises. He provided able leadership in various ways, especially in building up many institutions of his church today, that will be considered and remembered as a legacy of his commitment and dedication.

The personal warmth, love, and affection of His Beatitude not only to the faithful in the church but also people from all walks of life, as well as his deep concerns for the downtrodden, are deeply appreciated by people in Kerala at large. His quest for nurturing spirituality and prayerful life, and passion for building bridges between churches and different religious communities, and his determination to overcome obstacles and zest for instilling hope in the minds of people at times of despair are revered by the faithful.

We thank God for the life and witness of His Beatitude Mor Baselios Thomas I, and we offer our sympathy to all members of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church. As St Paul reminded us: "... neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

May his memory be eternal!

Dr. Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA