

Mar Joseph Srampickal
Bishop, Syro Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain



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Formation of the Laity for Effective Mission

“For an adequate participation in ecclesial life the lay faithful absolutely need to have a clear and precise vision of the particular Church with its primordial bond to the universal Church.” (*Christifidelis Laici* 25)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The role and mission of the laity in the Church has been emphasized in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. As *Apostolicam Actuositatem* points out, the wholehearted, spontaneous and fruitful involvement of the laity was at the very beginning of the Church (AA 1). This is very true of the Eparchy of Great Britain as well. We had humble beginnings, at the initiatives of lay people, with the formation of small communities to celebrate the Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana. After the erection of the Catholic Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, it is overwhelming to see the co-operation of the laity at all levels of the life of the Church. We have great participation at the Eparchial events, such as Eparchial Gathering for Pastoral Planning, Bible Conventions, Bible *Kalotsavam* and pilgrimages to name a few.

Formation of the Laity in matters of faith is very important to equip them for effective mission. As our Eparchy is moving forward with definite plans to organise ourselves into more stable ecclesiastical structures, we need all the more intensified co-operation and leadership from the laity. Ongoing formation of laity in matters regarding the Liturgy, Theology, Spirituality, and Discipline of the Syro-Malabar Church is a top priority that we have taken as per the suggestion of the Eparchial Gathering for Pastoral Plan 2017-2022 (20th - 22nd November 2017).

A series of Lectures by the famous Bishop Theologian Mar Joseph Pamplany, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Tellicherry, is arranged in the month of September. Mar Joseph Pamplany will also be the Resource Person and Animator of the Eparchial Priests' Gathering (17th-19th September 2018) and of the Youth Animators' Training Programme (21st-23rd September 2018). We hope to enkindle a renewed sense of our identity and mission through the inspiring talks of this great theologian and preacher.

I encourage all priests, trustees, committee members, catechesis teachers, choir members, sacristans, members of Women's Forum and youth leaders to take part in the seminars arranged at the regional level.

Schedule of the Lectures by Mar Joseph Pamplany
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Tellicherry

Date & Time	Place & Region	Priest-in-charge
14/09/2018 4:00 pm –9:00 pm	St. Philip Howard Catholic Church, 33 Walpole Road, Cambridge, CB1 3TH (Cambridge)	Rev. Fr. Philip Panthamakal 07713139350 kochuspip@gmail.com
15/09/2018 10:00 am-4:00 pm	St. Vincent de Paul Church, Aldermoor Close, Southampton SO16 5ST (Southampton)	Rev. Fr. Tomy Chirackalmanavalan 07480730503 tomychirackalmanavalan@gmail.com
16/09/2018 3:00 pm –9:00 pm	Our Lady and St. George Church, 132 Shernhall Street, Walthamstow, E17 9HU (London)	Rev. Fr. Jose Anthiamkulam MCBS 07472801507 joseajmcbcs@gmail.com
19/09/2018 4:00 pm –9:00 pm	Our Lady of the Rosary and St. Therese of Lisieux Church, Parkfield Road, Saltley, Birmingham, B8 3BB (Coventry)	Fr. Terin Mullakara 07985695056 frterinmullakkara@gmail.com
20/09/2018 4.00 pm –9:00 pm	St Wilfrid's Catholic Church, 2a Whincover Bank, Leeds, LS12 5JW (Preston)	Rev. Fr. Mathew Mulayolil 07932446885 mulayolilbennyachan@gmail.com
23/09/2018 12:00 pm –6:00 pm	St. Joseph's Church, 232 Forest Road, Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 3QT (Bristol-Cardiff)	Rev. Fr. Paul Vettikatt CST 07450243223 frpaulvetti@gmail.com
24/09/2018 4.00 pm –9:30 pm	St Cuthberts R C Church, 98 High Blantyre Rd, Hamilton ML3 9HW (Glasgow)	Rev Fr. Joseph Vembadamthara VC 07865997974 frappachan@gmail.com
26/09/2018 4.00 pm –9:30 pm	St Joseph Church, Portland Crescent, Longsight, M13 0BU (Manchester)	Fr. Joseph Anchanickal 07534967966 joseanchanickal@gmail.com

Yours in our Lord and our God,

+ Joseph Srampickal

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NB: The content of the circular should be announced in all the Parishes/ Missions/ Qurbana Centres of our Eparchy during the Celebration of the Holy Qurbana before 09th September 2018.