

**Mar Joseph Srampickal**  
Bishop, Syro Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain



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**The Pastoral Visit of His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry,  
The Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church,**

Dear Fathers, Brothers and sisters,

I am delighted to inform you that His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, the Head of our Church, is making his pastoral visit to our Eparchy from 24th November to 09th December 2018.

As you may know very well the Syro-Malabar Church is an Eastern Catholic Major Archiepiscopal Church which is a *sui iuris* (Of her own right) particular church in full communion with the Holy See in Rome and the worldwide Catholic Church. Our Church has been granted the faculty of self-governance under the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1992 by Pope John Paul II of happy memory, and at present our Church is headed by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry.

In reality, the Head of a Particular of Church is the visible representation of Christ Himself to that particular Church of which he is the Head, and in that regard His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry is the visible representation of Christ to the Syro-Malabar Church. It is customary that every Eparchy officially invites the Head of the Church for occasional pastoral visits to confess its Ecclesial communion to its Mother Church and to show its filial alliance to its Head. This custom may have much more significance in the case of an Eparchy such as ours which is in diaspora. In the Holy Tradition of the Church, these pastoral visits are occasions of grace and abundant spiritual blessings to the Eparchy. Aside from this, this would be an opportunity for him too to see and witness our commitment to the Faith, as well as our devotion and sincerity to the Church and its venerable traditions. In an administrative sense, these pastoral visits also help him as the Head of the Church to understand the Eparchy very well assessing both its strengths and weaknesses. This would not only help him to advocate for our Eparchy in the Holy Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church and to the Holy See respectively, but also helps him to propose creative and valuable suggestions directly to us for our further growth and well-being.

I, on behalf of our Eparchy, wrote to His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry officially inviting him for his pastoral visit to our Eparchy. He was kind enough to accept our invitation and has agreed to visit our Eparchy from the 24th November to 09th December 2018. We are fortunate to have him as the chief guest for our celebrations of the conclusion of the Year of Children and the inauguration of the Year of Youth on 1st December 2018 at Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, Birmingham B70 7JW. He will also visit our

parishes and missions. A detailed schedule of his visit will be finalized and published after the Eparchial Priests' Gathering in September 2018.

I earnestly request you to remember his visit to the Eparchy in our prayers.

I assure you of my constant prayers and I bless you from my heart.

Yours in our Lord and our God,

*+ Joseph Srampickal*

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NB: Please ensure to announce the content of this circular in all the Parishes/ Missions/ Qurbana Centres of our Eparchy during the Celebration of the Holy Qurbana before 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

