

Mar Joseph Srampickal
Bishop, Syro Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain



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***Kudumba kootayma* Year 2020- 2021**

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, of the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:2). The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32). Marriage and the family have been redeemed by Christ (*Eph* 5:21-33), restored in the image of the Holy Trinity, the mystery from which every true love flows. It is through his Church, Christ imparts the grace required to share the love of God and to live the life of love and communion. The family is uniquely important in the Church and it is the “school of humanity” (*Gaudium et Spes*, 52).

It is in continuation with my former circular (No. 6/2017) dated on 04 April 2017, I am writing once again about *Kudumba kootayma* (Family Units). I am happy to know that the family units are functioning in a more organized manner in our Parishes/Missions/Proposed Missions. The family needs to be rediscovered as the essential agent in the work of evangelization. As I have mentioned in my previous circular it is my earnest desire that our Eparchy should give due importance to the *kudumba kootayma*. The family Units are the basic foundation of our Church, where families are formed into small groups to grow in faith and fellowship. They are the true expression of communion of the Church and thus become a helpful channel for evangelization and faith formation.

Evangelization is the shared responsibility of all the children of God, each according to his/her charism and ministry. No individual person or group of persons can carry on the work of evangelization in the Church in the same way as the family. In fact, the family units are to be equipped for mission to serve as a model for all mission efforts in our Eparchy. The domestic churches are the places where the Vital cells of society live and proclaim the Gospel values. It is through the *kudumba kootayma* the members of the parishes/missions/proposed missions keep up the loving and caring nature of the Eparchy and thus the spiritual, ecclesial and cultural growth of all our faithful are nourished and enriched.

Realizing its importance and significance and according to the pastoral plan (Living Stones), I declare the year 2020-2021 as a year specially dedicated to the *kudumba kootayma*. In this year the Eparchy will organize different programmes to strengthen the *kudumba kootayma*. Initially we may conduct seminars and orientation classes for the leaders of the Family Units in the Eparchial and Regional levels so that they are better equipped to build up the units from the grassroot level. Eight such Regional level Seminars, by Rev. Dr. Arun Kalamattam, the Director of the Family Apostolate and *Kudumba kootayma* of the Eparchy of Palghat, are

planned in the Eparchy. The Pastoral Council members, the Custodians, the Committee members of the parishes/missions/proposed missions and the leaders of the Family Units are expected to participate in the orientation classes. A separate class for the priests serving in the Eparchy is also arranged.

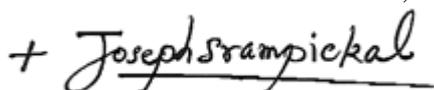
**Schedule of the Online Orientation Classes
by Rev Dr Arun Kalamattam**

Date & Time	
24-09-2020 11.00 am – 01.00 pm	Priests
05-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Glasgow Region
06-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Preston Region
07-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Manchester Region
08-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Coventry Region
12-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Cambridge Region
13-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	London Region
14-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Bristol & Cardiff Region
15-10-2020 06.00 pm – 08.00 pm	Southampton Region

It is my ardent desire to visit all parishes/missions/proposed missions and as far as possible to participate in the gatherings of the *Kudumba koottayma* between 29th November 2020 and 27th November 2021 (Year of *Kudumba koottayma*). I wish that there shall be monthly gathering for all the family units of the Eparchy in accordance with the Eparchial guidelines.

All our pastoral works are meant to interiorly fashion and form each and every family of the Catholic Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain as domestic church. May our families be moulded after the Holy Family!

Yours in our Lord and our God,



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