

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



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## **Dowry Tour Visitation of Our Lady of Walsingham to Preston 08-09 February 2020**

Dear Beloved Priests, Seminarians, religious, brethren and Children in Jesus Christ,  
Praise be to Jesus Christ, our Lord!

It is indeed an occasion of joy and honour for the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain to give prayerful reception to the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham on 08-09 February 2020 at St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Preston in preparation for the re-dedication of England as the dowry of Mary on 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. The historical consideration is that England is set apart as Mary's Dowry (a medieval understanding of dowry in England was that a husband would set apart a portion of his wealth for the maintenance of his wife). This rededication is the personal gift of the faith of the people of England to the Mother of God, to seek her help in building a strong spiritual foundation for New Evangelization. Certainly, it is a fitting occasion for us to seek her intercession. In the Scriptures we find Mary fully submissive to the Word of God. She did all things that the heaven asked of her and consequently the heaven cannot neglect her intercession. We witness to this truth in the intercession of Mary at Cana (Jn. 2). Hence, when Mary of Walsingham visits us on February 08-09, 2020 let us make this an opportunity to seek her intercession for our Eparchy, our parishes, missions, proposed missions and very specially for our families in the year of couples. She arrives to St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Preston at 4.00 pm on 08<sup>th</sup> of February and leaves on the following day after the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana at 10.45 am. It is my desire that there is continuous prayer and vigil in St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Preston whilst our Blessed Mother is with us. As your shepherd, I request you to find time to visit her and receive all the blessings through her intercession. May the priests and trustees in our parishes/missions/proposed missions make all the necessary arrangements for the same.

Yours in our Lord and our God,

+ *Joseph Srampickal*

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NB: This circular must be read in all Parishes/Missions/Proposed Missions of our Eparchy during the Celebration of the Holy Qurbana before 07<sup>th</sup> of February 2020.