

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



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Pastoral Letter 17

26 December 2022

Relying on God's grace and protection, I, Mar Joseph Srampickal, Bishop of Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, write to all Priests, Deacons, Religious, and all the Faithful.

### **Grand Mission 2023**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Long with love for the appearing of the Lord and hasten the coming of the day of God.  
(2Tim 4:8; 2Pet. 3:12)

According to the scripture, "This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come" (Mt. 24:14). St Peter asks the faithful to wait for and hasten the coming of the day of God. (2Peter 3:12). St Paul teaches that the Lord will present the crown of righteousness to all who long with love for his appearing (2Tim 4:8). In the Holy *Qurbana* we pray: let us, who become one with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, may shine with all the saints on his glorious returning. The Church exists to evangelise, for the spread of the Kingdom of God and to long for and hasten his appearing with love and praying "Come, Lord Jesus" (Rev 22:20). To participate in this mission is the primary and holy responsibility of each baptised Christian faithful. (*Ad Gentes* 6; 29). It is a great contradiction to be a christian and not to preach the gospel. St John Paul II in his encyclical "*Redemptoris Missio*" affirms that, "evangelisation is the clear indicator of our faith in Christ and of his love towards us".

Evangelisation is not merely a human action, but is an action of God. The evangelists proclaim Jesus by the Holy Spirit sent from Heaven (1Pet1:12) No one who lives in the worldly spirit can become the child of God or receive the Holy Spirit from Heaven or become an evangelist (Jn 14:17). "If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied" (1Cor 15:19). Each person is united to Christ through Baptism. Those who have received the gospel and were converted were being baptised. Only those who are repentant, baptised, and believing in the gospel are able to receive the Holy Spirit.

Evangelisation must first happen in the members of the Church and the Church itself. If we are evangelised, God will act both in and through us. Lord Jesus, seated at the right hand of God, works with them and confirms the message by the signs that accompany it. (Mk 16:19-

20). Evangelisation is 'working together with God'(1Cor3:9). Christian faith is rooted in Jesus who is 'Word made flesh'. In our Eparchy the Grand Mission 2023( Lenten Annual Retreat) is arranged with the intention to know more deeply, Jesus, the Word, and become one with him, to become He(Jesus) himself. This Grand Mission takes place in the Year of Liturgy, the first year of "Holy to the holy ones", the Five year pastoral plan. Being an oriental Church, we give the central place to the Liturgy and aim at evangelisation through that. Grand Mission will be an occasion to deepen in these. As in the previous years, this time also I shall try to visit our communities, give a message, pray for all and give blessings.

The committee is led by *Protosyncellus* Very Rev Dr Antony Chundelikkatt, *Syncellus* Very Rev Fr George Chelackal and Rev Sr Ann Maria SH, Chairperson of the Evangelisation Commission (Mob.07737302377, Email. [evangelisation@csmegb.org](mailto:evangelisation@csmegb.org)) will co-ordinate the Grand Mission. Priests, who are well-known as retreat preachers, will be arriving to our Parishes/Missions/Proposed Missions for retreat preaching. Kindly make all necessary arrangements to make the Annual retreat effective and fruitful. The dates of retreat in each community had already been announced on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022. It was announced well in advance so that all the Syro-Malabar faithful in each Parishes/ Missions/ Proposed Mission might be able to make all arrangements, including taking leave, to participate in the retreat in their respective place. Let all the faithful in our Eparchy receive the Word of God through prayerfully participating in the retreat and by that our families will be a continuation of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Let all to be the 'gospel and give the gospel' by living a life rooted in the Word of God in the family, workplace, and society.

Important points to be taken care for the success of the Grand Mission 2023.

1. The Priest in charge of the Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission visit and bless all the families in his care as preparation for the retreat and Easter.
2. Form a committee for the arrangements of the retreat in every Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission, including Custodians (*Kaikkarans*), representatives of Parish Council, and Evangelisation team members.
3. Select one General Co-ordinator and one co-ordinator each for each *kudumba kootayima*.
4. The unit leaders may visit all families in their respective units before 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and remind them about the retreat and invite all of them to the retreat and ask them to pray for its success.
5. Submit the retreat before the Lord and pray the Liturgy of the hours and other intercessory prayers, in the Church, families, and also personally.
6. Pray the given *Karosoosa* prayer for the Grand Mission 2023, during all Holy *Qurbana*, Family unit meetings and in the family prayer, and also remind in the church every Sunday, about the retreat.

7. Give repeated information about the retreat through Social media and personal relationships.
8. Organise Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission level fasting prayers, one-day prayer, and vigil services.
9. Identify the new families and people in each family unit and also families so far not been part of the units and invite them to the retreat.
10. Organise special intercessory prayers with self-sacrifice for all those who face any kind of obstacles to participate in the retreat and encourage them to participate. Also be considerate to offer transportation to those who need, to come and participate in the retreat
11. In the Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission, identify families interested in evangelisation, join them to the evangelisation team and ask them to pray for the fruitfulness of the retreat and other evangelisation ministries.
12. Arrange separate retreat programmes for the children.
13. Arrange music ministry in each Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission in consultation with the respective retreat preacher.

*The co-ordinating committee will be giving other necessary details regarding the organisation of the Grand Mission.*

I pray that “he may so strengthen your hearts in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints” (1Thess 3:13)

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father, and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

Yours in our Lord and our God,

+ *Joseph Srampickal*

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NB: This Pastoral letter must be read in all Syro-Malabar Parishes/Missions/Proposed Missions during the celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* before 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023.