

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



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Kudumba Kootayma Election

'Every day, in the temple, and from house to house, they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as *Messiah*' (Acts 5:42 & 20:20).

Dear Brothers and Sisters in *Isho M'shiha*,

I write this to bring to your attention once again the importance of *Kudumba Kootayma* and the upcoming election of office holders for the years 2025-2027. The Catholic family as a fundamental and primary ecclesiastical reality, it is impossible to unite family and family ties apart from the *Messiah* and the Church, His body. Thus, the Family Unit becomes the most important link between the family and the Church. Through the *Kudumba Kootayma* our Eparchy aims at the sanctification of families, the training of children and the ecclesial experience of communion and life.

Our family units should be the study centre and training ground of the traditions of the Syro-Malabar Church especially of her liturgy, theology, spirituality, discipline and culture. From the 1st of December 2024 to the 29th of November 2025, we observe the Year of Spirituality in our Eparchy. Our family units should be places, where we learn, practice and share the East Syriac Spirituality. Therefore, it is my desire that none of the members of our Eparchy avert from the family units.

With great warmth I remind the Priests that the establishment and the pastoral caring of *Kudumba Kootayma* is one of their prime pastoral responsibilities. They should be regular in *Kudumba Kootayma* meetings, diligent in addressing the curious questions of the faithful and to teach them the position of the Church. Let us all have the aching heart of Jesus searching for the lost sheep. With compassion, love, patience and care the leaders of *Kudumba Kootayma* shall attempt to unite those who are diverged. Thus, the family units shall become the active link that connects each family to the Parish/ Mission/ Proposed Mission and thus to the Holy Church.

I request you all to follow carefully the revised guidelines given below regarding the upcoming *Kudumba Kootayma* elections at Unit, Parish, Regional and Eparchial levels. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact Rev Fr Jibin Vamattam, the Chairperson of the Eparchial Commission for *Kudumba Kootayma* (Mob +44 7879221309).

Unit Level *Kudumba Kootayma*:

A *Kudumba Kootayma* can be comprised of ten to fifteen families living in the neighbourhood. Each *kudumbakootayma* is required to conduct election in a democratic manner for the following office holders: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The positions of either President or Secretary must be filled by a woman.

Parish Coordinators for the *Kudumba Koottayma*:

A Coordinator and a Joint Coordinator (two persons) from each Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission will be selected from among the presidents and secretaries of all units or they may be appointed by the vicar/priest in charge in consultation with the parish council. The positions of either the coordinator or the joint coordinator must be filled by a woman.

Regional level *Kudumba Koottayma*:

The Regional Council is a governing body composed of representatives from family units within the region. Each Parish/Mission/ Proposed Mission within the region elects or may be appointed by the vicar/priest in charge in consultation with the parish council two representatives (a Coordinator and a Joint Coordinator) to serve in this council. From among these members, the following office holders of regional council are elected: President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, and Treasurer. The remaining members serve as Regional Executive Members, contributing to the overall governance and execution of programmes. The positions of either President or Secretary must be filled by a woman and they are elected to serve as the Eparchial representatives.

The Eparchial *Kudumba Kootayma* Council

The Eparchial *Kudumba Kootayma* Council serves as the highest governing body of family units, responsible for organising and coordinating all family unit programmes within the Eparchy. Members of this body include regional president and Secretary from twelve regions across the Eparchy. From among these members, the following office holders are elected: President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Treasurer. The remaining members serve as eparchial council members, contributing to the overall governance and execution of programmes.

Election Schedule

The unit election should be conducted between 1st January and 31st March, 2025, while the regional and eparchial elections are scheduled to take place in April and May 2025. The new eparchial office holders will take charge on the 21st June, 2025, during the Annual Gathering of the *Kudumba Koottayma*. The term of the elected members at all levels will be two years.

Yours in our Lord and our God,

+ *Joseph Srampickal*

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NB: This circular must be read in all the Parishes/Missions/Proposed Missions of the Eparchy during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana on Sunday the 10th of November 2024 (or the nearest Sunday when Holy Qurbana is celebrated, if there is no Holy Qurbana celebrated on the 10th of November 2024).