



Circular No. 9

16 October 2025

“There is need of only one thing” (Luke 10:42)

Grand Mission 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Maran Isho M'Shiha,

Jesus says to Mary, the sister of Martha, that “there is need of only one thing” (Luke 10:42): the Word. “All flesh is like grass... the grass withers... but the Word of the Lord endures forever. The Word is the good news that was announced to you” (1 Peter 1:24-25). When we talk about the Word, it is not only Scripture, but the living Word - M'shiha - who speaks through Scripture, Tradition, and the Church. M'shiha, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In Him He has said everything; there will be no other word than this One (CCC 65).

When we don't understand that the Word we hear is of the same substance of God the Father and the true God, “the devil comes and takes away the Word from our hearts, so that we may not believe and be saved” (Luke 8:12). It is very important to have a true understanding of our Lord Isho M'shiha for our faith and salvation.

Mary is the witness of the truth that only the Word endures forever. Her reception of the Word while she “sat at Isho's feet and listened to what the Lord was saying” (Luke 10:39) is a stark contrast to the “worried and distracted” Martha (Luke 10:41). We learn from Mary's example that if we trust in the Lord and His Word, we can be in peace and tranquillity like a ship anchored securely.

When we meditate upon the life of Mary, we come to know that she could sit and listen to the Word because she was in the hands of the Lord. In Deuteronomy we read, “All His saints are in your hand; and they sat down at your feet; every one shall receive your words” (Deuteronomy 33:3). In our context, we are called to be the continuation of Mary in sitting before the Word and listening to Him.

Grand Mission 2026, which starts on 13 February and ends on 29 March 2026, is an occasion for us to listen to the “perfect and unsurpassable Word”. I invite all the members of the Eparchy, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Isho M'shiha because faith begins not in fear or duty, but in joyful encounter with Christ (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium* 1 & 3).

I believe that Grand Mission renews the Church, revitalises faith and Christian identity, and offers fresh enthusiasm and new incentive (*Redemptoris Missio* 2). Grand Mission is not just about others, it renews each faithful of our Eparchy and gives life and purpose. All of us are called to bear witness to M'shiha by our way of life, by the word, and by the testimony of faith (*Redemptoris Missio* 42; cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 41). To participate in the mission of the church is the primary and holy responsibility of each baptised Christian faithful (*Ad Gentes* 6; 29). Faith is strengthened when it is given to others (*Redemptoris Missio* 2).

The call to mission derives, of its nature, from the call to holiness (*Redemptoris Missio* 90). Holiness and mission are inseparable - the more deeply we are united with M'shiha, the more naturally we become missionaries. In this context I invite you all to recall the name of our Five Year Pastoral Plan '*Holy to the Holy Ones*' and particularly this year we celebrate the Year of Discipline.

Priests, who are well known as retreat preachers, will be arriving to our Parishes/ Missions/ Proposed Missions, for preaching. Kindly make all necessary arrangements to make the annual Lenten retreat effective and fruitful.

Important points to be taken care of for the success of the Grand Mission 2026:

1. The Priest in charge of the Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission should 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 at the Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission level and one Co-ordinator for each Kudumba Kootayima (Family Unit).
4. Prepare a flyer regarding the time, days, dates and venue of the retreat at the Parish/ Mission/ Proposed Mission Level.
5. The Kudumba Kootayima leaders may visit all families in their respective units, distribute the aforementioned flyer before 30 November 2025, invite all of them to the retreat and ask them to pray for its success.
6. Submit the retreat before the Lord and pray the Liturgy of Hours and other intercessory prayers, in the Church, families, and also personally.
7. Pray the given Karosoosa prayer for the Grand Mission 2026, during the Holy Qurbana, Family unit meetings and in the family prayer, and also remind in the Church every Sunday about the retreat.
8. Give repeated information about the retreat through Social media and personal relationships.
9. Organise Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission level fasting, one-day prayer sessions, and vigil services for the success of the retreat.
10. Identify the new families and people in each family unit and also families who have thus far not been part of the units and invite them to the retreat.
11. 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.
12. Arrange transportation for those who require it to attend the retreat.
13. Identify those individuals and families interested in evangelisation and invite them to join the evangelisation team at the Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission level.
14. Arrange separate retreat programmes for the children, led by the Nuhra team. For that, please contact Roselyn +44 7403 641731 or Brian +44 7454 327436 .
15. Arrange music ministry in each Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission in consultation with the respective retreat preacher.

I pray for all the preachers of Grand Mission 2026 who do not proclaim themselves, but Isho M'shiha as Lord and themselves as the slaves of all the faithful for Isho's sake (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:5) and that all the members of our Eparchy may sit at the feet of Isho, the True God and same substance of God the Father, so that their sins may be forgiven and that they may be saved and live eternally in the person of Isho M'shiha.

The Grace of our Lord Isho M'shiha, the Love of God the Father, and the Fellowship of the Ruha D'Qudsha be with you all. Amen.

Yours in our Lord and our God,

+ *Joseph Srampickal*

Yawsep Srampickal

Bishop, Catholic Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain



NB: This Circular must be read in Parishes/Missions/Proposed Missions of the Eparchy during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana on Sunday 19 of October 2025 (or the nearest Sunday when Holy Qurbana is celebrated, if there is no Holy Qurbana on the 19 of October 2025)

