

# THE MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR CHENNAI – BANGALORE DIOCESE

No: 77, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 031



**Circular No: 20 CBD/DB/S20/M06/2014**

**Notification from Rt.Rev.Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos, the Diocesan Bishop, of the Chennai – Bangalore Diocese of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar to the Parishes and members of the Sabha Mandalam within the Diocese.**

***Blessings to the members of the Chennai- Bangalore Diocese.***

The tenure of the existing Sabha Council ends with the Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014. According to the Church Constitution, subsection 164 (3), the election of the new Sabha Council should be completed before the first meeting of the new Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam. This information was conveyed to you by Circular No: 196, issued by the Metropolitan.

According to the Sabha Constitution 164(1)(a), since we have 55 lay- representations, three members should be elected from our Diocese to the Sabha Council (one member from the clergy, one lay member and one lady member). The Mandalam Members of the Diocese will elect these members to the Sabha Council.

According to the Constitution 164 (2) (b), the Sabha Council members of this Diocese can, for convenience, be elected through postal ballot. The Metropolitan has also authorized the Diocesan Episcopa to do so. According to 164 (2) (a), the election of the members to the Sabha Council from each Diocese is the responsibility of the Diocesan Episcopa and should be conducted under his supervision.

I appoint Rev. K G Joseph, Vicar of Madras Mar Thoma Church, Chetpet, Chennai (Mar Thoma Bhavan, No: 77, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai, 600 031) as the Returning Officer to help me in the election procedure. If necessary, additional Polling Officers will also be appointed. Any complaints about the election procedure can be given to the Diocesan Episcopa and the decision of the Episcopa will be final.

The first voters list will be published in the Diocesan Office, **Chennai on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014** at 5 pm. If there is any complaint or correction, it should be conveyed in writing to the Metropolitan on or before **5 pm on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014**. The decision of the Metropolitan will be final in this regard. After due consideration of complaints, if any, the Final Voters List will be published on Thursday, **24<sup>th</sup> July 2014** at 5 pm at the **Diocesan and Sabha Office**. Nominations are to be made only from this list.



The nominations should reach the Returning Officer, Diocesan Office, Chennai in the prescribed form on or before **1 pm on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014**. (The copy of the prescribed form for nomination is enclosed here with.) The nominations received after this time will not be accepted. The scrutiny of the nominations will be done in the Diocesan office under the supervision of the Returning Officer at **2 pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014**. After scrutiny, the list of candidates will be published in the Diocesan office at 5 pm on the same day.

Withdrawal of nominations, if any, should be made in writing through the Vicar on or before **5 pm on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014**. The final list of candidates will be published on the same day at the Diocesan office, Chennai at **6 pm on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014**. This then will be made known to the respective Vicars of the candidates. The candidates may know it from the Diocesan office.

The ballot papers will be sent to the Mandalam Members on **Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014** by Registered Post/Courier/Speed Post along with the instructions. The members should vote according to the instructions given and **ballots should reach the Diocesan office in the name of the Returning Officer before 5 pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2014** by Registered Post/Courier/Speed Post. The ballot papers received after this time will not be accepted.

The ballots received will be counted at the Diocesan office, Chennai on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at 10 am** and the Returning Officer will announce the result.

The election should be conducted without divisiveness and polarization, in a manner that will bring glory to God. You are hereby exhorted to elect persons who bear true and faithful allegiance to the Church and the Sabha Constitution, who will conscientiously abide by the faith, teaching and practices of the Church and will honorably and loyally discharge their duties during the time pertaining to the office for which he/she is elected as Members to the Sabha council.

*May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.*

*Dated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 from the Mar Thoma Bhavan, Chennai*



**Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa**  
Diocesan Bishop  
Chennai - Bangalore Diocese

