



# World Council of Churches

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## General Secretariat

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Geneva, May 5, 2021

His Grace the Most Rev. Dr.  
Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan  
Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Your Beatitude,

It is with profound sadness that we received the message of the passing away of His Holiness the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan (Metropolitan Emeritus) of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, at the age of 104 years old. His death is a great loss for all, but we, along with the global ecumenical movement join the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, to thank God and celebrate his remarkable life of service of God and humanity with holiness, humility, humour and helpfulness.

In his fruitful life, His Grace Mar Chrysostom Metropolitan has been providing leadership to the Mar Thoma Syrian Church and the ecumenical movement from the global to the local context. This is illustrated by his participation and leadership at the Evanston and Uppsala Assemblies of the World Council of Churches (WCC); his participation at the Second Vatican Council as Official observer of the Mar Thoma Church; his leadership and participation at the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) Assemblies and its committees; his leadership as President of various councils and bodies during various periods at the state and national level such as of the Kerala Council of Churches, Christian Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI).

His long and fruitful life of 104 years, his service as a priest for 87 years, his leadership as an Episcopa (Bishop) for 68 years, has been dedicated in the *service of the other*. *His spiritual journey was guided by responding to the needs of the other and he met God and heard God's call responding to challenges of social realities around him. His Holiness represented an outstanding leadership- of ageless wisdom; mentoring and nurturing younger leaders. A deeply spiritual and humble person, he was very approachable, compassionate and proactive assisting people in need. He was a great communicator whose wit and wisdom was legendary. May his legacy direct us reflect and transform ourselves for the better.*

His Holiness *lived out the commandment of our Lord- "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). His whole life was committed to building communities and the nation, breaking down barriers and narrow*

*religious and domestic walls. His life drew great love and respect from across communities. He showed us that it is eminently possible to live a life of holiness, mutuality, justice, love, and good humour, never tired of loving and giving freely and joyously (2 Corinthians 9:7). May his life inspire us to live likewise.*

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ioan Saucă". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line at the beginning of the first word.

Rev. Prof Dr Ioan Saucă  
Acting General Secretary