



World Council of Churches

General Secretariat

150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100
CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 791 6111 Fax: +41 22 791 6099
Email: media@wcc-coe.org www.oikoumene.org

Direct phone: +41 22 791 6285
Direct e-mail: Beth.Godfrey@wcc-coe.org

Geneva, 1 November 2024

Letter of condolences addressed to the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in India

The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them. (Ps 25,14)

Your Eminences,

It is with deep sadness that we heard of the falling asleep in the Lord of His Beatitude Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in India.

Through his spiritual leadership for more than two decades Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I, promoted and sustained the spiritual life of Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in India. He strengthened the witness of his Church locally and globally through promoting and consolidating dialogues with other Oriental Orthodox Churches and supporting ecumenical engagement. Throughout his leadership, His Beatitude ordained approximately 350 priests and 13 bishops and played a pivotal role in the establishment of various educational institutions and hospitals.

His Beatitude Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in India remains in the prayerful memory of the Church as an inspired spiritual leader who committed himself to a common and prophetic voice of Christians in India in the face of societal challenges.

We pray for the rest of the soul of Catholicos Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I in the tents of the righteous (Ps 118,15) and in the light, peace and love of the Most Holy Trinity and we give thanks to Christ, our Lord, the One who is the resurrection and the life (cf. John 11:25), for the life and ministry of His Beatitude.

On behalf of the World Council of Churches I extend our profound condolences to the members of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church in India.

May his memory be eternal!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Pillay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jerry" being more prominent and the last name "Pillay" following in a similar style.

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay
General Secretary
World Council of Churches