OFFICIAL CIRCULAR

Circular No: 549/2026

Date: 17/10/2026

Notification No: 07

To: Venerable Clergy, Beloved Religious, and Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the Diocese of Palakkad—truly a missionary diocese in every sense—extends its apostolic ministry beyond the boundaries of Kerala, it has now been nearly six years since we commenced our mission centered in Dabwali, Punjab. Within this rural territory fraught with diverse challenges, the St. Mary's Mission Center, established with the compassionate touch of Christian love and fraternity, is being steadily nurtured by the Good Shepherd for the benefit of the local populace.

The Dabwali region, which our diocese has undertaken to fulfil the mandate of proclaiming the Gospel of salvation to all humanity, lies within the Eparchy of Faridabad of the Syro-Malabar Church.

You would already be aware of the joyful news that the construction works of the St. Mary's Church and the presbytery at our Mission Center have reached their final stages, and that the consecration of the church and the blessing of the presbytery are scheduled to take place on Saturday, 31st October.

Toward this end, we earnestly solicit the prayers and spiritual presence of our clergy and the faithful. It is solely by the grace of God and through the prayers and cooperation of each of you that this undertaking has been brought to this stage of completion. We must resolutely press forward with this apostolic mission, initiated by Bishop Emeritus Mar Jacob Manathodath with the support of our presbyteral communion.

Commencing with the early apostolic presence and ministry of Rev. Fr. Soji Olickal, the pioneers—Rev. Fr. Anto Thaikkattil and his fellow priests—labored diligently to carve out a small territory in our own nation as an apostolic field of the Diocese of Palakkad. The missionary endeavors they initiated through intense sacrifice have now begun to yield manifold fruits. The primary factor contributing to this current reality is the steadfast mission leadership of Rev. Fr. Jose Alukkakkunnel, coupled with the collaborative ministry of Rev. Fr. Albin Vettickatt and Rev. Fr. Fredy Kanjirathingal. Like faithful servants who have doubled the talents entrusted to them, they labor in this mission field. The diocese extends its heartfelt gratitude to our clergy, who render service with goodwill amidst hardships, and to all the benevolent faithful who foster the Punjab Mission through financial support and prayer. Our diocesan family endeavors—through prayer, the provision of auxiliary support, and the dispatch of priestly ministers—to fulfil our Lord's unceasing desire for laborers in the harvest.

I recall with profound gratitude all individuals, families, and parish communities who have stepped forward with generous hearts during the construction phase of the church and other essential amenities to sponsor various requirements. Words cannot adequately express our

gratitude for the consideration extended by His Excellency Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Metropolitan of the Eparchy of Faridabad, as well as for the goodwill and encouragement of Mr. Sebastian and Mr. Anto Thundathil. We are likewise grateful for the assistance and cooperation rendered by Very Rev. Fr. George Alukka, Superior of the CST Punjab Province, Rev. Fr. Basil Mookanthottam, renowned retreat preacher in Punjab, and the DM Sisters.

The Mission Center is expanding, and much work remains to be completed there. Opportunities continue to exist for those who wish to assist through sponsorship. Those able to do so need merely inform your respective parish priests. Participation in mission activities constitutes our individual vocation to proclaim the Gospel of Christ throughout the world. This year's Mission Sunday collection of our diocese shall be allocated entirely to the operations of the Punjab Mission. Rev. Parish Priests shall ensure that the entirety of the funds, respecting the intentions of the contributors, reaches the Diocesan Curia prior to 15th November 2026. We affectionately appeal to every family to contribute toward supporting our missionary clergy and ensuring the success of the mission activities. Even a modest assistance provided by us shall serve as a formidable pillar of support for our newly Christian brethren and apostolic ministers in Punjab, thereby reinforcing their confidence.

We anticipate the prayers, assistance, and cooperation of all as we harmoniously participate in the ministry of the Kingdom of God. May God abundantly bless those who give generously with goodwill. Let us pray and labor together to advance this mission with greater efficacy in the coming days and to cause the beacon of the Word to shine more brilliantly in the mission soil.

In the course of the Holy Rosary devotions we currently offer, let us specifically commend our new mission field and the apostolic brethren therein.

+ **Peter Kochupurackal**

Bishop Peter Kochupurackal

Bishop of Palakkad