



St. Thomas SyroMalabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago

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Day of Prayer and Fasting on March 23,2018

Dear Rev.Fathers, Rev.Sisters,brothers and sisters,

Glory to God in the highest.Amen!

In the season of Lent when we all find time to get closer to God in prayer and to seek forgiveness for our sins, I think it would be ideal if we pray fervently for our Mother Church as she is sailing through rough seas. Our Church is going through a very difficult time. We must all pray for the establishment of deep and lasting peace in the Church, for perfect discipline, and for total allegiance and obedience from all- bishops, priests, religious and the laity- to the Father and Head of the Syro Malabar Church Cardinal Mar George Alencherry and thereby unity with the Head and Father of our Catholic Church, Pope Mar. Francis. Our unified efforts will enable us to solve the problems emerging in our church. Our Lord has told us to overcome evil through prayer and fasting. Let us turn to the Lord and pray for HIS intervention.

So I exhort you all my dear brothers and sisters that we, as a family in the diocese should observe Friday 23rd March, known popularly as “nalpathaam velli” as a day for fasting and prayer with the intention that peace be established in our SyroMalabar Church.

The recent events have brought indescribable agony and suffering to the Major Archbishop and the faithful of the Church everywhere. Targeting the Shepherd is the easiest means to cause panic and confusion among the flock. Let us all pray for our Major archbishop and for the church with single-minded devotion and unity of purpose.

This is the time when we dwell deeply on the agony of Jesus Christ, His suffering and death on the Cross for us. He conquered Sin and death by dying for us. He is our Salvation and our Fortress (Psalm 62:2). We will place our trust in Christ Jesus and pray with hope.



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The Permanent Synod of our Church has requested all the faithful to spend a day in prayer and fasting. On 23rd March all the members of our Diocese must fast and pray at least from 12 pm to 3 pm, if possible in their parish, or in any church or a chapel or wherever they may be at that time, even in their homes; If not all the three hours, please find at least one hour to pray for these pressing needs of the time. Let us all be united in prayer during these hours of the day.

May the Lord bless all of us and hear our prayers and bring peace and harmony in our SyroMalabar Church.

Your loving Pithavu,

+ *Jacob J. Angadiath*

Mar. Jacob Angadiath

