

## MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to all our beloved Vicars, Priests of the locality, Cor-Episcopoi, Ramban, trustees, and members of the Managing Committee, as well as the faithful of all our parishes in the Diocese of South-West America!

## Beloved in Christ,

With joy we cry aloud: "Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!" The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is not only the crown of our faith but the very foundation upon which the Church stands. The Apostle Paul, in his powerful words to the Corinthians, writes: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). But Christ has been raised—He who was crucified is now alive forevermore through His Resurrection, He has destroyed death, trampled Hades, and opened the way of life eternal for all who believe in Him.

Our Holy Father, St. Severus of Antioch, writes: "Christ, who rose from the dead did not only renew His own body, but also the entire nature of mankind, restoring it to its original beauty through His divine resurrection." These words are a call and a challenge. We who rejoice in the Resurrection must also take up the path of spiritual transformation. I urge you, beloved children: flee from sin, forgive those who have wronged you, be reconciled with one another, and adorn yourselves with the virtues of Christ. Let the Resurrection not remain merely a feast we celebrate once a year, but a truth we live daily. In our families, in our churches, and in our communities, let the love of the Risen Christ be made visible.

May the Risen Lord bless you and your households with peace, health, and spiritual strength. May the blessings of the Holy Cross and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints be with you always. And may the joy of the Resurrection dwell in your hearts now and forever.

May the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us forever and ever.

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley On the Day of Resurrection of the Lord, April 20, 2025

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios