



Prot. No. 0922/2021

**Decision of the Synod on the
Implementation of the Revised Text &
Uniform Mode of Celebration of Holy *Qurbana***

1. The Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church unanimously decided to begin the celebration of Holy *Qurbana* using the revised text (*editio typica*) with the *recognitio* of the Apostolic See (Letter of the Oriental Congregation, Prot. N. 248/2004, dated 9 June 2021) with effect from the First Sunday of the Season of Annunciation (28 November 2021).
2. The Synod unanimously accepts the exhortation of the Holy Father Pope Francis through his letter dated 3 July 2021, addressed to the bishops, clergy, religious and laity of the Syro-Malabar Church, to implement the uniform mode of celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* in all eparchies in the Syro-Malabar Church as decided by the November 1999 Synod and reiterated by the Synodal Sessions in 2020 and approved by the Congregation for the Eastern Churches (Prot. N. 1796/99, dated 17 December 1999; Prot. N. 248/2004 dated 9 November 2020 & 9 June 2021) together with the implementation of the revised text of Holy *Qurbana* from the First Sunday (28 November) of the Season of Annunciation 2021. The Congregation through its letter dated 9 June 2021 has specified the uniform mode of celebration as follows: “the celebrant shall face the faithful at the *Bema* during the Liturgy of the Word, turn towards the Altar - in the same direction that the faithful are facing - for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and once again face the faithful during the concluding rites after Holy Communion” (Prot. N. 248/2004).
3. The bishops of certain Eparchies who expressed their difficulties to implement the decision in the whole eparchy will, abiding by the above mentioned decisions, introduce the uniform mode of celebration starting with the cathedrals, pilgrim centers, religious communities, possible parishes, minor seminaries and other formation centers on 28 November 2021 itself. By effective catechesis, the uniform mode shall be gradually introduced in the whole eparchy as early as possible, not later than Easter 2022 (17 April 2022).
4. In this regard, the directives from the Congregation for the Eastern Churches in its letter dated 09 November 2020 (Prot. N. 248/2004) about dispensation by eparchial bishops as per provisions of CCEO c. 1538 § 1 are to be



followed. The Congregation states: “precision is necessary on the question of dispensations: as the *Codex Canonum Ecclesiarum Orientalium* clearly says, these must be given in a "special case" (can. 1538 § 1) for the spiritual good of the faithful. By their very nature, they should not come to appear as general permission for something that cannot legitimately be authorized in opposition to the common norms. Therefore, Bishops should have recourse of dispensations only for well-defined times and for specific reasons”.

5. From the First Sunday of Annunciation 2021, all the Bishops will celebrate the Holy *Qurbana* in the uniform mode everywhere in the Syro-Malabar Church.
6. Apostolic Visitation in Europe, the Syro-Malabar Communities in Gulf countries and other places where the Syro-Malabar Church does not have jurisdiction, all the bishops and priests will celebrate the Holy *Qurbana* in the uniform mode.
7. The Synod should think of formulating an effective liturgical catechesis catering to the specific needs of the new mission areas.
8. The options given to the celebrant shall not be reserved by eparchial bishops as it is clarified by the Congregation for the Eastern Churches through its letter dated 9 November 2020 (Prot. N. 248/2004).
9. Innovations in Liturgy in matters like rituals, vestments, symbols, prayers etc. are to be introduced only with the consent of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas Kakkanad on 27 August 2021.

Cardinal George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

