



EN/02/April-May/2025

BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

World Headquarters, St Thomas Community
Thiruvalla - 689 103, Kerala, India

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

April/May 2025

To My Beloved Shepherds and all the Faithful of the Holy Church

Grace, mercy and peace be with you from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ ✠. Amen.

I address you today to draw all of your attention to one of the most significant moments in the history of our church: the first memorial of the repose of our Metropolitan Father, Athanasius Yohan I, of blessed memory. May 8, 2025, marks one year since he entered into eternal rest.

It is definitely difficult for us as a Church to comprehend his departure from this world, yet we have the privilege of keeping his memory alive. I lovingly urge all of you to imitate his life — by living in accordance with the teachings he has imparted, continuing the work he began, and passing it on to the next generation. This responsibility is not a burden but a great joy and honour for each one of us — one that we should embrace with passion and commitment.

The holy Church is preparing for the first memorial of our reposed Father, Metropolitan Athanasius Yohan I, of blessed memory. And we must all engage both our hearts and minds in this sacred observance. As a parish, come together to offer prayers and to thank Almighty God for the life and legacy of our reposed spiritual father. Please do not confine this memorial day to passive remembrance within your four walls. Rather, take a step further — put his memory into action, just as our reposed Metropolitan Father of blessed memory demonstrated and taught us: to serve the world in need with love and compassion.

As your spiritual father, I would like to draw your attention to the key aspects of the lifestyle of our reposed Metropolitan Father so that we may live by them — not just on this particular day but every single day.

1. Acts of Compassion and Charity: Our reposed Father's heart broke for the poor, the sick, and the forgotten, and he made sacrifices to love them as Christ did. In his memory, I urge you to reach out to those in need — whether through charitable giving, visiting the sick, or simple acts of kindness within your community.

2. Daily Prayer and Reflection: Our reposed Father encouraged us as a Church to pray without ceasing and to make the Jesus Prayer a part of our daily lives. Let us commit to a deeper life of prayer

—through personal devotions, family prayers, attending the Divine Liturgy, and faithfully praying the Jesus Prayer.

3. Service to the Church and Community: Our reposed Father loved the holy Church with all his heart and tirelessly served to build it up. One statement he constantly made was, “Think Church.” Let us continue his work by offering our time and talents for the growth of our Church and, through that, the well-being of our community. There are countless opportunities for us to serve in both small and large ways —helping with parish events, supporting church ministries, and assisting in outreach efforts.

4. Preserving the Faith for Future Generations: Our reposed Father loved children and always gave them priority. Let us commit to passing on the life of the holy Church to the next generation through Sunday School, Believers Youth, Women’s Fellowship, catechism, prayer, and living an exemplary life. Let us ensure that the faith which sustained our Reposed Father and shaped our Church will continue to sustain and shape our next generation.

My beloved ones, I urge you not just to be hearers but, more importantly, doers. May we wholeheartedly embrace the lifestyle of the Father of our Church, Metropolitan Athanasius Yohan I, of blessed memory.

And remember, we are called to be the hands, mouth and feet of Jesus — to serve others and to reflect Christ’s image, which is sealed in us. Let us continue to be like Christ.

May his memory be eternal!

May the Holy Trinity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit guide us with His abounding grace and mercy; and may the intercessions of all the Saints and the Holy Mother Theotokos be the protection for us before the throne of God, now and always ✠. Amen.

With paternal love and prayers,



Moran Mor Samuel Theophilus Metropolitan

Date : 15 April 2025

Place : World Church Headquarters

P.S: Please make sure this is translated into all regional languages and read in all parishes for the encouragement of the faithful.