



BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

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

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

October-November 2025

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen ✠

Let me begin by saying what a joy and privilege it is to write to you. These letters, which I send as your spiritual father, are important because they allow me to share what God has placed on my heart for our church in this season and to remind you how deeply I value each one of you. The practice of bishops and fathers of the church writing to their flock goes back to the early centuries of Christianity. Many of these letters are still preserved today. They were used to strengthen the unity of the Church, knowing fully that we are not isolated or independent; we are members of the body of Christ. To follow the Church is to follow Christ, who is her head.

As St. Cyprian said:

"He who does not have the Church for his mother does not have God for his Father."

The Church Calendar

One vital means of unity is the church calendar. It humbles our proud minds and keeps Jesus Christ at the centre of daily life. It sanctifies time itself—days, weeks, and months—by lifting them into the spiritual realm. The calendar guides us through Christ's life and salvation history and unites us in a shared rhythm of feasts, fasts, and the commemoration of saints, leading us together into holiness.

As St. Basil the Great reminds us:

"The Church appoints fasts and feasts not to burden us, but to train our souls and keep our hearts directed to God."

St. John Chrysostom further encourages us:

"Let us not neglect the feasts appointed by the Church, for in them we receive instruction and spiritual nourishment."

Therefore, my dearly beloved, I encourage you to embrace the church calendar in order to live a God-centred life.

New Liturgical Year

Believers Eastern Church is preparing to enter into a new liturgical year on 2 November 2025. The church calendar and the lectionary for the new liturgical year will be available for you to obtain your personal copy.

Instructions for the Faithful

- **Ask for it:** Request a copy from your parish priest. Make sure your family has at least one, and hang it in a prominent place in your home where everyone can see it.
- **Read it:** Go through the calendar with your family. Note the dates of feasts and fasts such as Easter, Great Lent, and other important seasons, so you can observe them properly.
- **Plan with it:** Great Lent is a significant season in our Church. Prioritise attending all parish prayers and services. Follow a fasting pattern—avoid meat, limit phone use or unnecessary spending of money and time, and use what you save for almsgiving. Arrange other commitments to give full focus to these 40 days of spiritual growth. Seek guidance from your parish priest for areas that require assistance.
- **Pass it on:** Teach your children the importance of following the church calendar. Even if they are away studying or working, encourage them to observe it. Children learn by watching us, so parents and elders must lead by example. Passing this way of life to the next generation is a responsibility God has given us.

Instructions for the Clergy

- **Be the shepherd:** Gently guide your parish in following the church calendar. Lead by example, as your parish members will follow what they see you do.
- **Follow the calendar strictly:** Do not skip or neglect any feasts, fasts, or commemorations for convenience or any other reason. Adhere to the calendar and liturgy provided by church headquarters, including all required elements for each church event as directed by the Holy Synod.
- **Be eager to learn:** If there is anything you do not know, humbly seek guidance from your Diocesan Bishop and or Diocesan Vicar. Never be satisfied with what you already know; always seek to learn more.
- **Use the lectionary:** The lectionary has been carefully prepared with prayer. The passages and themes point to Christ and help the Faithful grow in the faith and tradition of the Holy Church. Follow it diligently.

My beloved, Jesus, in His high priestly prayer, said, *“Lord, sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth”* (John 17:17-19) — and this remains our goal in this world: to remain steadfast on the path of repentance, to be perfected, and to become more like God. The temptations and patterns of this world are stronger than we often realise, and without warning, they can pull us away from God and His Holy Church. That is why the Apostle Paul warns us: *“Do not be conformed to this world”* (Romans 12:2). We cannot do this on our own; we need help. One of the ways the Fathers of the Church provided that help is through the church calendar — a guide to keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Kingdom of God which is to come.

May the ✠ Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—illumine your heart and mind, open your eyes to grow in the knowledge of God, and, through the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and all the Saints, may we be enabled to live according to the pattern established by the Holy Church from time immemorial, now and always. ✠Amen.

Your Spiritual Father in Christ,



Moran Mor Samuel Theophilus Metropolitan ✠

Date : 2nd October 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.