

OO - RC/india

**"JOINT COMMISSION BETWEEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
AND THE MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH"**  
(Autocephalous since 1975 under Catholicos Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews II)

Sponsored by: The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity  
formerly Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity [ [www.christianunity.va](http://www.christianunity.va) ]

MEETINGS:

1. October 22-25, 1989 - Kottayam, India  
*"Mystery of the Incarnate Word; Christology; Mixed Marriages"* - REPORT and JOINT STATEMENT  
  
June 3, 1990 - DOCTRINAL AGREEMENT ON CHRISTOLOGY
2. December 9-12, 1990 - Kottayam, India  
*"Ecclesial Communion; Sacramental Mysteries; Marriage; Eucharistic Communion"* - REPORT and INTERIM  
REPORT ON MARRIAGE and INTERIM REPORT ON ECCLESIAL EUCHARISTIC COMMUNION
3. December 10-12, 1991 - Kottayam, India  
*"Role of the Episcopate in the Unity of the Church"*
4. December 8-12, 1992 - Kottayam, India  
*"Function of the Episcopate in Assuring the Unity of the Church; History of the Church in Kerala"* - REPORT
5. November 15-18, 1993 - Kottayam, India  
*"Episcopate's Function as a Guarantee of Church Unity; Local Church; Structure and Synodical Practices;  
Autonomy and Autocephaly; Koinônia; History of the Church in Kerala; Life and Ministry of the Church in  
South India; Mixed Marriage; Common Witness of the Church in Kerala"* (work done in sub-commissions) -  
REPORT
6. December 5-8, 1994 - Kottayam, India  
*"Episcopate's Function as a Guarantee of Church Unity; Synodical Structures; Koinônia; History of the Church  
in Kerala; Life and Ministry of the Church in South India; Mixed Marriage; Common Witness of the Church in  
Kerala"* (work done in sub-commissions) - REPORT
7. October 9-13, 1995 - Kottayam, India  
*"Authority: a biblical perspective; exousia"*
8. November 18-22, 1996 - Manganam, India  
*"History of Pre-Portuguese Christianity in India; Conciliar Dimensions of Authority and Dimensions of  
Eucharistic Communion"*
9. November 10-14, 1997 - Kottayam, India  
*"The Synod of Diamper; Collegiality and Primacies; Mixed Marriages; Common Witness"* - REPORT
10. October 26-30, 1998 - Manganam, India  
*"The Synod of Diamper; Biblical and Ecclesiological Significance of Apostolic Authority; Mixed Marriage: Joint  
Pastoral Projects"* - REPORT

11. October 25-29, 1999 - Kottayam, India  
*"Mixed Marriage; Notion of Communion and its Ecclesiological Implications; common Witness; Preparation of the Publication of the Major Papers; joint statement on the Synod of Diamper"* - JOINT STATEMENT
12. September 26-30, 2000 - Kottayam, India  
*"Ecclesial Unity: An East Syrian Perspective; Reflections on Ecclesial Unity in the Light of the Syrian Liturgical Tradition; Local Traditions both Oral and Written in Relation to the Coonan Cross Oath (1653); Common Witness; Inter-Church Marriage"* - REPORT
13. October 17-19, 2001 - Kottayam, India  
*"'Hierarchical Communion' according to the Canonical Sources of the Syrian Tradition; Historical Development in Kerala during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, after the Coonan Cross Oath; Archival Sources Regarding the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century History in Kerala"* - REPORT
14. October 16-18, 2002 - Kottayam, India  
*"Concept of Communion-Relating Local Church and the Universal Church; the Coonan Cross Oath and Subsequent Events; Pastoral Questions on Mixed Marriage"* - REPORT
15. October 8-11, 2003 - Kottayam, India  
*"Three issues were discussed: the concept of primacy in the Church; the problem of proselytism and offensive publications; the pastoral question of mixed marriages, agreed statement on proselytism"* - REPORT and AGREED STATEMENT
16. October 13-14, 2004 - Kottayam, India  
*"Two main issues on the agenda. Firstly, the sub-commission on history studied various developments in the liturgical tradition of the St. Thomas Churches from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; began preparatory work towards the publication of some primary sources relating to the history of the St. Thomas Churches. Secondly, the sub-commission on theology prepared a paper on the patristic teaching and liturgical catechesis on Primacy during the pre-Chalcedonian period"* - REPORT
17. December 7-9, 2005 - Kottayam, India  
*"Discussion on a proposal for the unity of St. Thomas Christians; historic patrimony of the St. Thomas Christians; discussion on the functioning of the sub-commissions"* - REPORT
18. September 13-14, 2006 - Kottayam, India  
*"Liturgy of the Saint Thomas Christians between 1599 and 1900; the impact of some new evangelical or Pentecostal movements"* - REPORT
- October 23-24, 2007 - Kottayam, India CANCELLED  
*"Patristic and liturgical reflections regarding primacy in the Church, up to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century; the liturgical tradition of the St. Thomas Christians from 1659 till the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; the liturgical traditions of the St. Thomas Christians between 1599 and 1900; bio-ethical issues as they emerge in the present day; revised proposed statement regarding mixed marriages"*
19. December 16-17, 2009 - Kottayam, India  
*"Five major issues were discussed: 1) Sharing of sacred places especially Churches and Cemeteries; 2) Administration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in certain circumstances; 3) Marriage between Catholic and Orthodox faithful; 4) Some projects for Common Witness were presented: a conference for Monks and Sisters; cooperation between Seminaries and a conference on family issues; 5) Primacy of Peter in the writings of the Fathers and the ancient liturgical texts"* - REPORT
20. December 8-9, 2010 - Kottayam, India  
*"Sharing sacred places such as Church buildings and cemeteries; approved the agreement; draft statement on Inter Church Marriages reviewed; Primacy and Conciliarity in Dialogue; proposed agreement on the sharing of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick"* - REPORT
21. December 7-8, 2011 - Kottayam, India  
*"The primacy of St. Peter; the authority of Peter and the nature of this authority; Monasticism and*

*Ecumenism; draft statement on Inter-Church Marriages was again taken up for discussion" - REPORT*

22. December 6-7, 2012 - Kottayam, India  
*"The 'Praxis of the Principle of Oikonomia in the Sharing of the Sacraments in Pastoral Situations' from the Orthodox perspective; the Catholic theological principles of Sacramental sharing; Challenges raised by the Pentecostals and the New Christian Churches"*
23. December 18-19, 2013 - Kottayam, India  
*"Work of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual renewal of the Church; the basis and epistemological understanding of Canon Law in the Orthodox Tradition; challenges raised by Pentecostals and other New Christian Churches; work on a draft of a common document on the praxis of the principle of Oikonomia in the sharing of the sacraments in pastoral situations, from the Orthodox perspective and the Catholic theological principles of sacramental sharing"*
24. December 4-5, 2014 - Kottayam, India  
*"Commemoration of 25 years of dialogue; work of the Holy Spirit in the multi-religious context of India"*
25. December 15-16, 2015 - Kottayam, India  
*"The Religious harmony that existed in Kerala in Pre-Colonial and Colonial Times; ecclesiological principles underlining pastoral cooperation and the principle of oikonomia in the Orthodox Church; work on a Joint Statement on pastoral cooperation"*
26. December 13-14, 2016 - Kottayam, India  
*"Pastoral orientation of the clergy; documents on the local and universal church; the process of reception of the agreement on mixed marriages"*
27. December 12-13, 2017 - Kottayam, India  
*"The presentation of two documents of the Catholic-Oriental Orthodox dialogue: 'Nature, Constitution and Mission of the Church' (2009), and 'The Exercise of Communion in the Life of the Early Church and its Implications for our Search for Communion Today' (2015)" - REPORT*
28. December 11-12, 2018 - Kottayam, India  
*"Theme of the fullness of communion and degrees of communion; participation of the faithful in the life of the Church; discussed updates on various practical projects"*
29. December 10-11, 2019 - Mar Baselios Dayara, Njaliakuzhy, India  
*"Updates on various practical projects: a 'Source Book on Ecclesiastical History', a 'Common Patristic Readings for 365 Days', and diverse proposals for pastoral cooperation; Perichoretic Dynamics of Koinonia Ecclesiology; Communio: Principles and Practices. A Catholic Understanding" - REPORT*
30. December 10-20, 2020 - Manganam, Kottayam, India

CO-CHAIRMEN: Bishop Pierre Duprey, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (1990-1998)  
Bishop Walter Kasper, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2000)  
Bishop Marc Ouellet, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2001-2002)  
Bishop Brian Farrell,lc, Secretary, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2004-2005, 2009-2018)  
Archbishop Mar Joseph Powathil (2003, 2006 acting co-chair)

Paulos Mar Gregorios, Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (1990-1991, 1994-1996, 2009-2018)  
Bishop Thomas Mor Athanasius, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (1992)  
Philipos Mar Eusebios, Metropolitan, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (1993, 1997-2005)  
Bishop Yuhanan Mar Chrysostom, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (2006)

CO-SECRETARIES: Msgr. Gérard Daucourt, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (1990-1991)  
Rev. Bernard Dubasque, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (1992-1996)  
Rev. Johan Bonny, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (1997-2007)  
Rev. Gabriel Quicke, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2009-2017)  
Rev. Fr. Hyacinthe Destivelle, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (2018-)

Rev. Dr. John Mathews, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (1995, 2004, 2006-2009)  
Rev. John Panicker, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (2005)  
Rev. Fr. Abraham Thomas, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (2010-2018)

