

**In the blessed name of the Tri-une God, Self-existent,
Beginningless and Endless, Perfect in Being, (Glory be to Him)
Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Mathews III Catholicos of the East and
Malankara Metropolitan enthroned on the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas**



No. 180/2025

Blessings to our beloved Vicars of the churches, Assistant Priests, Priests of the locality, *Kaisthanees* and faithful of all the Parishes!

Dear ones,

According to the tradition of our Church, marriages are permitted to be blessed only on the days between Easter and the next Sunday (*Puthu Njazarazhcha*) and on all Sundays and Mondays except on Lenten season and the days preceding the beginning of the Lent (*pethurtho*), as well as on days before the feasts of Ascension and Pentecost (*Kathirippu Dinangal*). However, it is quite distressing that the number of people applying for our special permission to have weddings on days when marriages are not permitted to be blessed according to our tradition, is increasing. In modern times, in rare cases where brides and grooms working abroad face the necessity of coming home for a short vacation to conduct a wedding and if they are forced to return within a few days, we have the authority as the head of the Church to grant special permission. But such permissions are given only in special cases where we are convinced that it is absolutely necessary. It is not appropriate to interpret this as a general rule or a principle applicable to all situations.

We have granted permission to hold weddings on such days when marriages are not allowed, based on applications submitted with the recommendations of the vicar and the bishop of the diocese. However, considering the significant increase in the number of applicants, we inform that henceforth, in the parishes in India, no permission will be granted for marriages on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, the days between the feast of Ascension and Pentecost (*Kathirippinte Dinangal*) and on days preceding the beginning of fasts (*pethurtho*), for any reason. This decision has been taken because fasting begins on Tuesdays and Thursdays evening and Sunday, the most important feast, starts on Saturday evening. We lovingly remind our dear clergy not to recommend for special permission on these days. Regarding the parishes outside of India, the current practice can continue.

Dear ones, we also acknowledge that according to the exigencies of modern times, the Church's traditions and practices should be subject to necessary changes that are not harmful. However, it is not desirable to consider the Church's traditions and regulations as obsolete in the guise of that. Therefore, we express our concern and expect the co-operation of all beloved members of the Church regarding the above matters.

May the Grace and Blessings of the God Almighty abide with you forever. And may the prayers of the Mother of our God, the Holy Virgin Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle of India, our Holy Fathers Yeldo Mar Baselios, Mar Gregorios, Mar Dionysius and all the Holy Saints be a stronghold for us. Amen.

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

From Catholicate Aramana

Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India On July 10, 2025

Baselios Marthoma Mathews III