

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD ALMIGHTY**  
**HIS GRACE DR. ABRAHAM MAR SERAPHIM METROPOLITAN**  
**DIOCESE OF BANGALORE**



C No 09/2017

Blessings to our Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Trustees, Secretaries, Managing Committee Members and Members of the Parish.

Our Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The season of Advent which means 'Coming' in Latin, is the four Sundays and weeks before Christmas that we utilise, to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. As true Orthodox Christians, these sacred days of Advent, are spent preparing for the coming of Christ, through fasting and confession. Advent opens the door for us to turn again to our Lord, rejoicing that our Father is sending us a Saviour through His son Jesus Christ. Advent commences on the 1st of December.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember the pain, burden and grief that so many of us are bearing. We will obtain true internal satisfaction through generosity that will go a long way in alleviating the needs of those in need, this is the true spirit of Christmas.

As the year comes to a close, it is also a time of retrospection, have we achieved the spiritual goals we set ourselves, how have we grown, who am I now, what did I achieve and of course, have I forgiven old wounds. While we celebrate our successes, let us also look back at where we could have done better, with a more mature perspective, and that much wiser.

Thank you for staying with and supporting the Bangalore Diocese of The Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Church this past year, our community is alive, vibrant and there is much to share.

We wish you all and your dear families a Very Blessed, Happy, Joyous Christmas and A Spiritual, Safe, Happy and Prosperous 2018. We pray that all your Spiritual needs, prayers, hopes and dreams come true in the New Year.

This year the Zamar 2017 (the carol singing competition) will be hosted by the youth of St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally, Jalahalli, Bangalore on Saturday December 02, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. onwards. We encourage you to participate in the Zamar and make it a success

May the Grace and Blessings of the Almighty God abide with you all forever.

From the Bangalore Aramana on the 21st day of November 2017.

Metropolitan Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim  
Bangalore Diocese