

By the Grace of God  
**Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros Metropolitan**  
of the Diocese of Madras of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church



No. 02/2020

Blessings to the Vicars, Asst. Vicars, Managing Committee Members and all Our Faithful Members of the Church in all Our Parishes and Congregations in the Australia Region.

Dearly beloved in the Lord!

We are writing this with a very heavy heart and We express our solidarity with all the people of Australia, bearing the brunt of the recent bushfire. The consequences of this bushfire, which has impacted extensive areas and accounted for the death of people and animals, is totally inexplicable. We are sure that Our faithful there would be having a better picture of the ongoing crisis. At this juncture, we remember with gratitude the relentless services offered by the Red Cross and other agencies which is supporting numerous people in evacuation centres across Australia. We are also grateful to the fire service personnel and emergency services who have selflessly stepped to fight the fires. Things might look bleak at the moment but We shall surely overcome as it was in the past in India. The Holy Scripture assures us *"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand"* Isaiah 41:10. This is something that should shed the light of hope and confidence to those who have lost the loved ones, animals and properties in the wake of these ravaging fires.

Our Lord Almighty, the creator of flora and fauna is always with us and shall not desert Thy children. Let us beseech Him to restrain the forces of nature from the catastrophic damage. We urge all Our faithful to take care of themselves and exercise caution. This is a time to join together and lend our helping hands to those in need. Our heart goes out to all Our brethren in Australia and may our incessant prayers be answered. We shall overcome!

May the Grace and Blessings of the Holy Trinity the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you all and the vocations pursued by you.

**Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros Metropolitan**

07<sup>th</sup> January 2020, From Madras Orthodox Bishop's House