



Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

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Dear Rev Fathers, sisters & brothers

Establishment of 'SANTHOM CARE' - Social Services Ministry

Since its establishment, our Eparchy has been participating in several welfare activities both within and outside Australia as needs were identified from time to time. The Eparchy has now decided to enhance and expand its social commitment to Australia, in a more organised way in the current scenario, particularly with the challenge COVID-19 poses to our vulnerable population. This will be achieved under 'SANTHOM CARE'.

As a new initiative of the Eparchy, 'SANTHOM CARE' will be driving a campaign to donate blood through Australian Red Cross in the coming months, with the assistance of our parishes, communities and other agencies. We have in partnership with Australian Red Cross created "Santhom Care's Lifeblood Team" to facilitate and properly record blood donations made by our members all over Australia.

The Eparchy will now focus on developing a national and local team to embark on this initiative and develop the future vision of SANTHOM CARE to actively participate in the social, cultural and religious needs of the people of Australia.

Mr Assis Mathew, a member of St. Alphonsa Cathedral Parish, Melbourne, is appointed as Coordinator of SANTHOM CARE. You will receive further updates regarding the programs and activities of SANTHOM CARE through your local channels of communication.

The focus will be to develop this initiative under the leadership of 'Diakonia' (a parish/mission based social services team to help individuals and families who are in need across the board).

Santhom Care office contact: office.santhomcare@syromalabar.org.au

I invite you all to join the blood donation campaign as the first initiative of SANTHOM CARE and to enthusiastically support its future activities to care for those who are in need. For Jesus said: 'Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken, together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you'. (Luke 6:38)

May the Lord bless you all to do greater things for his glory!



Bishop Bosco Puthur

PS. This circular has to be published through parish/mission contacts/media with immediate effect, please.