



Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

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Circular

Prot. NO: 42/20/46

31 March 2020

Dear Rev. Father, Sisters and Brothers in Jesus,

Hereby, I most earnestly request that all the Syro-Malabar Parishes, Missions and Communities in Australia and New Zealand urgently form **SOCIAL SERVICE TEAM (DIAKONIA)** to help individuals and families who are badly affected by the Coronavirus Shutdown and the restrictive measures now in place. International students, casual workers, very senior parents visiting relatives and other vulnerable persons need our immediate attention and generous help.

I call upon all people of good will to come forward generously with their manpower, professional skills and financial resources to help our brethren in need.

Parish Priests/Chaplains shall immediately form SOCIAL SERVICE TEAM (DIAKONIA) especially from among the members of the Parish Council, leaders of Family Units, SMYM, Catholic Congress, Mathru Vedi, and Nurses' Ministry etc. The team might choose contact persons to seek out those in the neighbourhood who might need financial, food, medical, spiritual or psychological assistance. The leaders of Family Units can play a vital role in this.

I request you to make ensure that all of us strictly follow the rules and regulations of the Federal, State/Territory Government authorities.

I keep all of you in my prayers and invoke upon you the blessings of the merciful God!

Yours in Jesus Christ,

+Bishop Bosco Puthur

Bishop, The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas, Melbourne
Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar faithful, New Zealand

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