

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP POITRAS

Since December 2024, Fr. Jijimon Malakkial has been ministering to the faithful of Indian origin, of the Syro-Malabar Rite, residing in Timmins and Kirkland Lake. Having been granted the necessary faculties to minister to Latin Rite communities, he has served as an assistant pastor at Saint Anthony of Padua and Sacred Heart Parishes in Timmins, in collaboration with Fr. John Lemire, the pastor. He has also served at the Timmins Hospital. His bishop, Bishop Jose Kalluvellil, has assigned him to another mission in the Province of Prince Edward Island, beginning in June.

I thank Fr. Jijimon for his ministry in our Diocese. The Latin and Syro-Malabar communities greatly appreciated his presence and his dedication to them. I wish him a fruitful ministry in his new assignment.

To succeed him, Bishop Kalluvellil has appointed Fr. Mathew Joseph Areekkattu. Born in 1970 and ordained a priest on December 27, 2003, he has served in India for twenty years; since 2023, he has been working in Canada with the Syro-Malabar community in Windsor and Chatham-Kent. Like Fr. Jijimon, he will exercise his priestly ministry among the Syro-Malabar faithful in our Diocese, serving also as assistant pastor at St. Anthony of Padua and Sacred Heart Parishes in collaboration with Fr. Lemire, as well as at the Timmins Hospital and senior care facilities.

(Bishop Serge Poitras, Bishop Emeritus and Apostolic Administrator of Timmins)