



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE  
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**From the Oriental Churches**

**Resignation of bishop of the eparchy of Kanjirapally of the Syro-Malabars, India, and election of new eparchical bishop**

**Election of auxiliary bishop of the eparchy of Palghat, India**

**Resignation of bishop of the eparchy of Kanjirapally of the Syro-Malabars, India, and election of new eparchical bishop**

The Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, has accepted the resignation from the pastoral care of the eparchy of Kanjirapally of the Syro-Malabars, India, presented by Bishop Mathew Arackal, and has elected as his successor Bishop Jose Pulickal, currently auxiliary of the same eparchy.

**Bishop Jose Pulickal**

Born in Inchiyani on 3 March 1964, Bishop Pulickal entered the Mary Matha Seminary. After institutional studies at the Saint Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, he was ordained a priest on 1 January 1991. After serving as vicar of Kanjirapally Cathedral and director of Snehashram Jesus Fraternity, he continued his studies, obtaining a master's degree in biblical theology at St. Peter's Institute (Bangalore) and a doctorate at Dharmaram Institute in the same city. He has then held the following positions: director of Catechesis, vicar for theology, consultor, protosyncellus for Ranni and Pathanamthitta, and syncellus for the clergy. In 2016 he was elected titular bishop of Lares and auxiliary bishop of Kanjirapally.

**Election of auxiliary bishop of the eparchy of Palghat, India**

The Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church has elected the Reverend Peter Kochupuruckal as auxiliary bishop of the eparchy of Palghat, India, to which the Holy Father had granted his assent, assigning him the titular see of Lares.

### **Reverend Peter Kochupuruckal**

The Reverend Peter Kochupuruckal was born on 29 May 1964 in Marangoli, in the eparchy of Palghat. He entered the seminary in 1981, and was ordained a priest on 29 December 1990. After ordination he exercised his ministry for ten years in the parishes of the eparchy, at the same time studying for a master's degree in canon law at the Saint Peter's Pontifical Institute in Bangalore from 1993 to 1995. He subsequently also worked in the marriage tribunal, where he was defender of the bond and promotor of justice from 1997 to 2000. He was sent to Rome in 2000, where he was awarded a licentiate and a doctorate in oriental canon law from the Pontifical Oriental Institute.

Upon returning to his homeland in 1997, he was appointed as judicial vicar, as well as parish priest of Saint Antony's Church, Walayar, until 2010. From 2010 to 2013 he was rector of the minor seminary, from 2013 eparchial chancellor, and from 2016, also syncellus for seminarians and consecrated persons, still maintaining the role of judicial vicar. Besides Malayalam and English, he speaks Italian and German.

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