



**SYRO MALABAR YOUTH
MOVEMENT - SMYM
GLOBAL**

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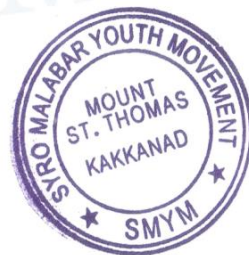
March 22, 2019
Friday

Subject: Maundy Thursday, Commemoration of Last Supper

Office of Syro Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) – Global express profound pain and sorrow engulfing the catholic faithful in India regarding National Election Schedule on Maundy Thursday, a Holy day for Christians where Jesus Christ instituted Holy Eucharist; the pillar of Catholic faith.

Putting forth the rights entrusted by our Constitution under Article 25: Right to Freedom of Religion; A citizen of India is entitled to freedom of practise and propagation of religion and Article 326: Universal Adult Suffrage; A citizen of India above the age of 18 is entitled with voting power. Furthermore considering free and fair elections, one of the elements of Basic Structure of Indian Constitution; having an election on Maundy Thursday will put the faithful in jeopardy.

The tradition of Palm Sunday: start of Holy Week with triumphal reception of Prince of Peace: Jesus Christ (Bible: Gospel of John, Chapter 12), Maundy Thursday: Commemoration of Last Supper (Bible: Gospel of John, Chapter 13), Good Friday: Crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Bible: Gospel of John, Chapter 18-19) and Easter Sunday: Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Bible: Gospel of John, Chapter 20) forms the crux of Catholic faith. The faithful will be participating in religious services on Thursday April 18, 2019 in preparation to Good Friday and Easter Sunday thus attracting faithful on obliged Holy



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Thursday which falls on scheduled election dates in different states of India. The Election Commission considering the Good Friday and omitting the date in election schedule is very thoughtful and catholic population is grateful for the same.

Our beloved motherland is secular in religion, and is known for welcoming and accepting ways since time immemorial. The Maha Upanishad phrase “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” resounds the brethren feeling of our nation which is proud of its rich and diverse heritage. Considering religious sentiments of faithful, smooth voting process at polling booths and violation of the Election Code of Conduct, we appeal to concerned authorities to look into the matter with great attention and understanding by postponing the scheduled date of the election, thereby not hurting the sentiments of Christians in the country who are its proud sons and daughters.

Jai Hind!

Vipin Paul
Global General Secretary
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