

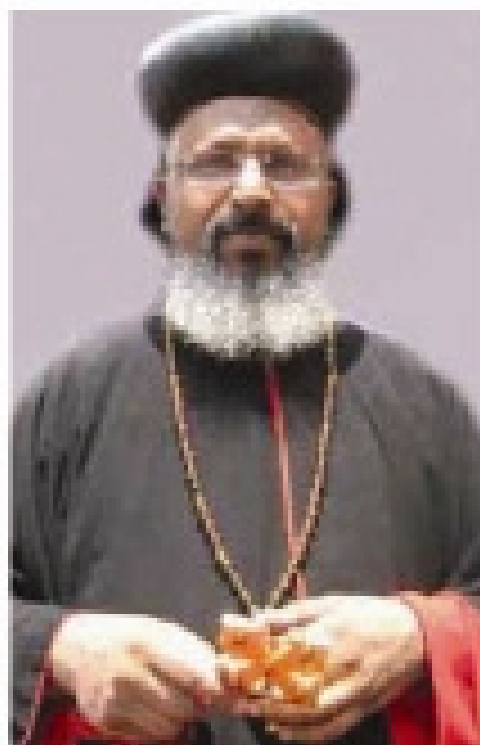
Indian Orthodox Bishop Mar Diascoros on visit

HG Dr Yuhanon Mar Diascoros, (pictured) Metropolitan of Chennai Diocese, is the chief celebrant for this year's Holy Week services being held at Muscat Mar Gregorios Orthodox Parish, Ruwi. This will be the Metropolitan's maiden visit to Muscat.

The Holy Week kicked off with a prayer and Holy Eucharist on March 22, Friday, which was followed by Catholicate Day Celebrations. Mar Diascoros also led the Palm Sunday Service on March 23, Saturday, and Annunciation to St Mary (Vachanippu Perunal) on March 24, Sunday.

Dr Mar Diascoros also delivered devotional address during Passion Week. Maundy Thursday (Pessaha) on March 27, Feet Washing and Good Friday services will be held today and tomorrow at St Thomas Church. The Holy Week programmes will conclude with Easter service on March 30 from 7 pm. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the Holy Week services.

The Metropolitan will also visit St Stephen's Orthodox Church in Salalah and deliver Holy Eucharist on First Sunday, April 5. Earlier, last week, Dr Mar Diascoros was given a warm welcome upon arrival at the Muscat Inter-



national Airport on March 20 by President/Vicar Fr Joji George Koickalethu, Associate Vicar Fr Binu John Thomas and managing committee members.

Dr Mar Diascoros is a member of the Joint International Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and Indian Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. He has authored five books and numerous articles and is a good preacher, teacher and a retreat father. The Metropolitan is a member of St Thomas Orthodox Valiyapally, Kundara, Kerala. He has a Master of Theology (1991) and Doctor of Theology (1995) from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome. He also holds a certificate in Pastoral Counselling from Glasgow University, Scotland (1997).