



The Most Reverend Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma

- ❑ The Most Reverend Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma is the present head and the 21st Malankara Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church which has its headquarters in Kerala, a south-western state in India.
- ❑ Dr. Joseph always wanted an academic career, but when he was called to take up theological studies he readily accepted it. So, in 1954, he joined the United Theological College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India and obtained a Bachelor of Divinity degree.
- ❑ His Highness was ordained as deacon of the Mar Thoma Church on 29 June 1957, and kasseessa (priest) on 18 October 1957. He then continued his studies at the Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Virginia, United States. From there he went to Canterbury and Oxford in England and obtained Master of Divinity (MDiv) and Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degrees. He was later awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by the Virginia Seminary where he studied.
- ❑ He was the President of the National Council of Churches in India, Senior President of CCA and the chairman of CASA. He is an excellent administrator known for his active involvement in the national and regional socio-political scene to secure rights of the Christian community.