



st.joseph monastery, mannanam, kottayam-686561, kerala, india, tel. 0481 / 598350, 597237, 598170.

**Rishi**

**Research Institute for Studies in History,**

rev.dr.antony vallavanthara cmi  
director

**Mannanam.**

12-08-1999

Dear Reverend Father .....

This is to invite you to a workshop on Syriac Music and a session for selecting and recording a few representative specimens of chants and hymns of the Syro-Malabar Church. The workshop will be held at St. Joseph Monastery Mannanam on Friday 27th August 1999.

This is organized by Research Institute for Studies in History (RISHI) Mannanam, at the request of Rev. Fr. Joseph Palackal CMI. Fr. Joseph Palackal is doing his Doctorate in Musicology at the Department of Music in the City University of New York, USA. The topic of his doctoral thesis is "Syriac Music Traditions in Kerala". At present Fr. Joseph is in Kerala. The main work he is engaged in during the two months of his stay here is collecting and documenting all possible information on Syriac music in Kerala with all the different variations from all the liturgical traditions of Kerala, the East Syrian as in the Syro-Malabar Church and among the Surayis of Trichur and the West Syrian as in the Syro-Malankara and Orthodox Churches.

The workshop, the selecting and recording of chants and hymns is mainly for documenting of Syro-Malabar traditions of liturgical music, as it was known and practiced in the CMI communities, both in Syriac and in Malayalam. Your name has been given as a resource person, representing one moment in the transmission of the tradition of the music and its melodies.

Programme

(Friday 27th August, 10.00am-4.00pm)

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|---------------------------------|---|
| Session I: (10.00am-12.30 pm)   | Brain Storming Session<br>(to identify the specific model melodies) |
| Session II (01.30 pm - 4.30 pm) | Recording of melodies and chants                                    |

Your presence is very important as the particular way you learned and practiced the chants with the different variations of melodies is unique and is of immense value in our attempt of the collection and preservation of the models, modulations and variations Syriac music in Malabar Church. Every small variation and modulation is important. Kindly make it possible to spare the day for this valuable work. It is a very important contribution of yours to the Malabar Church and to music traditions of the world, as the number of those who know ancient tradition is dwindling down. Even now we do not have enough persons who know the various chants indicated in the ancient syriac manuscripts of Kerala.

Yours in Our Lord

Rev. Dr. Antony Vallavanthara CMI  
Director





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