

Media Release

Holy Father Pope Francis has bestowed the title of Monsignor upon Fr Francis Kolencherry, Vicar General of the Syro Malabar Eparchy, St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne. The title is in the division of 'Chaplain of His Holiness' and was granted at the request of Bishop Bosco Puthur, the current Eparch, in consideration of Msgr Francis's extraordinary service to the Syro-Malabar Eparchy and the Church.

"This Eparchy is joyful for this recognition by the Holy Father of Monsignor Francis Kolencherry, an exemplary priest who has shown such dedication to God's people." said Bishop Bosco Puthur while reading out the Holy Father's decree.

Fr Francis was born into a family who nurtured his faith and encouraged his call to the priesthood. He completed his seminary studies from the Sacred Heart Minor Seminary, Thrikkakara and St Thomas Major Seminary, Vadavathur, Kerala, India. He was ordained a priest on December 22, 1979, by Cardinal Joseph Parekattil for the Syro-Malabar Archeparchy of Ernakulam- Angamaly , Kerala.

He then served as the assistant vicar of Njarakkal Parish, Vicar of Tiruhridayakunnu Parish, the Director of Social Services Division of the Archeparchy and then as Executive Director for 'Save a Family Plan', India

Msgr Francis has extensive experience in working with Latin dioceses across both the United States of America and Australia. He served as the administrator of St Christopher's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Canberra from 2006 to 2014.

In 2010 the Syro-Malabar Synod appointed Msgr Francis as the national coordinator of the Syro-Malabar Community in Australia. When the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne was erected on December 23, 2013, he was appointed its first Vicar General.

Eparchy Media Commission

Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne