

بطریرکیة کنیسة المشرق الأشوریة یاتریهرکخانهی کهنیسهی روزهه لاتی ئاشووری

## مليقة ولنبر بالعلاية والمنطيع والمعلون والمعلون والمعالية والمعالية والمرتمة والمنطيع والمرابع والمراب

## Patriarchal Encyclical

Our venerable Brothers in the Apostolic Ministry, the Hierarchs members of the Holy Synod of our Holy Church; the Reverend Presbyters and the Elect Deacons; and all the ranks of the Faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide:

Receive Prayers and Apostolic Benediction!

The peace and grace of the Lord be with you all, our beloved in Christ. The reason for this Patriarchal Encyclical to all the ranks of the hierarchy, clergy and faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide is our announcement concerning the general ecclesiastical observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the passing of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, of thrice blessed memory, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 6, 1975. This matter was discussed in our last Holy Synod convocation, which was convened under our presidency in the city of Erbil in April of 2024. Therefore, we would like to inform all the clergy and faithful of our holy Church that this memorial shall be observed this year by the entire Church on the First Sunday of Annunciation, that is, November 30, 3025. All the archdioceses, dioceses, and parishes of the Church worldwide shall observe this appointed day by the celebration of the Holy Qurbana for the eternal repose of the soul of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII. We are exhorted by the blessed apostle St. Paul to continually honor our leaders and those who spoke to us the word of God, that we might follow the example of their way of life (cf. Hebrews 13:7).

The late Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII was born in the village of Qudshanis, in Ottoman Turkey, on the 18th of February 1908. After the atrocities of the First World War and the exodus of our Assyrian Nation for its historic homeland in the Hakkari region and the Plains of Urmia, they were settled in Bakuba, in the newly created Iraq. After the repose of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Polus Shimun XXII of thrice-blessed memory in 1920, Mar Eshai Shimun, his nephew and successor, was elected and consecrated as catholicos-patriarch on June 20, 1920, in the Bakuba Camp, Baghdad, while he was yet a young lad of twelve years. The patriarchal consecration was celebrated by St. Mar Yosip Khnaninsho and the late Mar Zaia Sargis, of blessed memory, in the makeshift chapel of St. Mary.

The late Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII toiled greatly and without rest on behalf of the Assyrian Church of the East for the lengthy period of fifty-five years, that is, from 1920 until his passing in 1975. In recognition of the entirety of his historical tenure during which he served our holy Church as the longest reigning catholicos-patriarch in modern history, and in acknowledgement of the great weight of the Church and nation which he bore during the most difficult period of our history in the twentieth century, it is incumbent upon us all to venerate



and honor his memorial, which cannot be erased from the soul and hearts of the faithful children of our holy Church.

In conclusion, we implore the blessings of Almighty God upon all the clergy and faithful of the Church who shall partake in commemorating this catholicos-patriarch of thrice blessed memory, in every diocese and parish of our holy Church worldwide. May the Lord give eternal rest unto the late Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, the 119th Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, among all the holy fathers the patriarchs who have passed from this life unto eternal rest in the hope of the Resurrection. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all; amen.

Given from our Patriarchal Cell in Erbil, Iraq, at the Great Church of the Holy Apostles of the East: September 23, 2025

🎌 Mar AWA III

By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch

Assyrian Church of the East Worldwide.