



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE **BOLLETTINO**

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHL
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE SALA DE IMPRENSA DA SANTA SÉ
BIURO PRASOWE STOLICY APOSTOLSKIEJ دار الصحافة التابعة للكرسي الرسولي

N. 160728f

Thursday 28.07.2016

Other Pontifical Acts

The Holy Father:

- erected the eparchy of Great Britain of the Syro-Malabars with its see in Preston.

- appointed Fr. Joseph (Benny Matthew) Srampickal as the first bishop of the new eparchy. The bishop-elect was born in Poovarany, India in 1967 and was ordained a priest in 2000. He holds a licentiate in biblical theology from the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome, and has served in a number of pastoral roles including professor at the minor seminary and at the Mar Ephrem Formation Centre of Palai; director of the Mar Sleeva Nursing College, Cherpumkal; director of the evangelisation programme, secretary to the bishop, and parish priest. He is currently vice-rector of the Pontifical Urban College “De Propaganda Fide”, Rome.

- appointed Msgr. Stephen Chirappanath as apostolic visitor for Syro-Malabar faithful resident in Europe, at the same time raising him to the dignity of bishop. The bishop-elect was born in Puthenchira, India in 1961 and was ordained a priest in 1987. He holds a doctorate in moral theology from the Alphonsianum Academy in Rome, and has served in a number of offices including parish priest, judge at the tribunal, director of centres for drug rehabilitation, rector of St. Paul's Minor Seminary, Irinjalakuda, and professor and subsequently vice-rector of the St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary in Vadavathoor. He is currently procurator to the major archbishop in Rome and coordinator for Syro-Malabar faithful in Italy.