



## ZERO ALCOHOL POLICY STATEMENT

Syro-Malabar Eparchy is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and spiritually-focused environment within our church community. To uphold our values and promote the well-being of all individuals, we have implemented a Zero Alcohol Policy. This policy unequivocally prohibits the possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol within any church-related setting or event.

### **Aim of the Policy:**

By adopting the Zero Alcohol Policy, Syro-Malabar Eparchy reaffirms our commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and spiritually-focused environment for all individuals within our church community.

### **Prohibition of Alcohol:**

Alcohol is strictly prohibited within all church facilities, including the church buildings, function centres, grounds, parking lots, and other areas under the church's jurisdiction. This prohibition extends to all church-sponsored events, gatherings, meetings, and activities, regardless of whether on or off church premises. Events include Christmas Carol, Perunnal, Feast, Parish Day, Sports and Arts events, Holy Communion, or any other church events such as Family Meetings, Ward Prayer or Ward meetings.

### **Volunteer Compliance:**

All volunteers, including staff, leaders, and those serving in any capacity within the church, are expected to comply with the Zero Alcohol Policy fully. This means refraining from the possession, consumption, or distribution of alcohol while engaged in any church-related duties or activities.

All volunteers are expected to refrain from consuming alcohol before, during, or immediately after their volunteer duties within the church setting. This includes any activities related to worship services, community outreach programs, and other church-sponsored events.

### **Community Member Accountability:**

All individuals associated with Syro-Malabar Eparchy, Parishes/Missions/Communities, including members, attendees and visitors, must comply with the Zero Alcohol Policy while attending Syro-Malabar Church events or activities, regardless of whether on or off church premises.

### **Pastoral Leadership:**

Our pastoral leaders and staff are expected to demonstrate and uphold the Zero Alcohol Policy. They are to serve as role models by abstaining from alcohol in any church-related context and promoting healthy lifestyles and spiritual well-being.



### **Accountability and Disciplinary Measures:**

Any violation of the Zero Alcohol Policy will be taken seriously. An immediate response may include reporting to **000**, as the church is responsible for safeguarding children and church communities from a possible escalation of violence. Violation may also result in a warning, and disciplinary measures, including referral to counselling and suspension of volunteer duties. These measures are implemented proactively to protect our church community's well-being and spiritual environment.

### **Education and Awareness:**

Syro-Malabar Eparchy/Parishes/Missions are committed to providing education and support for individuals and families who may be affected by alcohol-related issues. The Eparchy encourage open discussions, awareness programs, and resources that promote healthy lifestyles, personal well-being, and community support.

The Eparchy recognizes that this policy may differ from individual beliefs or practices outside the church community. However, it is implemented to maintain a safe, inclusive, and spiritually-focused environment that aligns with our mission and values.

### **Support and Pastoral Care:**

Syro-Malabar Church recognizes that individuals within our church community may struggle with alcohol-related issues. Our church is committed to providing compassionate support, guidance, and pastoral care to those in need. The Eparchy encourage individuals to seek assistance, and we will strive to connect them with appropriate resources and support networks.

**If you or someone you know is suffering from Alcohol or other drugs addiction, please call the below numbers for support**

NSW- 1800 250 015  
QLD - 1800 177 833  
SA - 1300 131 340  
NT - 1800 131 350

TAS - 1800 811 994  
VIC - 1800 888 236  
WA - 1800 198 024

### **Enquiries and contact:**

Professional Standards Division of Syro-Malabar Eparchy

E: [ProfessionalStandards@syromalabar.org.au](mailto:ProfessionalStandards@syromalabar.org.au)