

## ***Jacobites' call to reopen churches; 'Church Courts' to be setup for resolving family disputes***

*Staff Reporter*

**KOCHI:** The Jacobite Syrian Christian Church has expressed optimism that with some initiative from the State Government it would be possible to celebrate Christmas in peaceful circumstances in the churches that are still closed owing to the lingering dispute between the two factions of the Malankara Church.

Metropolitan and Episcopal Synod Secretary of the Jacobite Church, Joseph Greogorios, told reporters here on Monday that the Church was not fully satisfied with the inquiries into the police action on the faithful at the Thrikkunnathu seminary. He also expressed unhappiness at the way the police tended to enter premises of churches. He said that in some cases the police even entered the 'Madhbaha' or the Holy of Holies.

He, however, said that the Jacobite Church had an assurance from the Government that such action would not be repeated.

The Metropolitan also reiterated the called for steps to reopen the churches that are still closed and expressed willingness to negotiate for a permanent resolution of the contentious issues between the two factions of the Malankara Church.

He was speaking to reporters ahead of releasing a book by Father Varghese Kallappara, official spokesman for the Jacobite Church.

Minister for Public Works T.U. Kuruvilla released the book 'Bible Prabhashana Dhyana Chinthakal.' Ernakulam Press Club president Jai Nath presided over the function.

The Metropolitan said that the constitution of the church court by the Jacobite Church recently was to meet the situation arising out of family disputes.

The need to provide counselling to families was obvious now and the church court would be a suitable place for the same. The decision to constitute the church court was in keeping with the increasing number of family cases going to civil courts, he said.