

"The Lord disciplines those whom he loves" Hebrews 12:6

2026

9TH CSMEGB BIBLE KALOTSAVAM

Date: Saturday, 21st November 2026
Time: 08:00 am to 10:00 pm

Frederick Gough School
Grange Lane
Scunthorpe
DN16 3NG



Prepared by
BIBLE APOSTOLATE COMMISSION
CATHOLIC SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Version 2026.9.5.7, 15-May-2026





9th CSMEGB Bible Kalotsavam 2026 Competition Rules & Guidelines



Catholic Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain

9th CSMEGB BIBLE KALOTSAVAM 2026

COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Theme

“The Lord disciplines those whom he loves...” Hebrews 12:6

“താൻ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നവന് കർത്താവു ശിക്ഷണം നൽകുന്നു...” ഹെബ്രായർ 12:6

Date: Saturday, 21st November 2026

Time: 08:00 to 22:00

Venue: Frederick Gough School, Scunthorpe

Address: Grange Lane, Scunthorpe, DN16 3NG

Participants are requested to visit our website, [Bible Kalotsavam 2026](#),
regularly for more information and the latest updates.

Patron

His Excellency Mar Joseph Srampickal

(Bishop, Catholic Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain)

Reviewed and approved by

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(Chairman, CSMEGB Commission for Bible Apostolate)

Mr. John Kurian

(Coordinator CSMEGB Commission for Bible Apostolate and Bible Kalotsavam)



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1. Rules and Guidelines

This section describes the general rules and guidelines applicable to all levels of Bible Kalotsavam, Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission, Regional and Eparchial Levels.

All participants and coordinators must read this document carefully and strictly adhere to it.

1.1. General Rules

- 1.1.1. Competitions are to be first conducted at the unit level (Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission), where possible.
- 1.1.2. Entries to the regional competition must be selected from the unit-level competitions, where possible.
- 1.1.3. The Regional Coordinators can decide on the number of participants from unit-level competitions who can participate in regional competitions.
- 1.1.4. Each Participant can only participate in a maximum of 3 individual items and 3 group items, including the 'All' category.
- 1.1.5. The 'All' category is open to all age groups, i.e., it can be a mix of ages.
- 1.1.6. Number of Participants from Regional Levels to Eparchial Level
 - a. Solo Items: Best one winner from the regional level.
 - b. Group Items: Best one winner from the regional level.
- 1.1.7. CSMEGB Bible Apostolate Commission will not be responsible for any copyright violation or plagiarism by participants.
- 1.1.8. The decisions of the CSMEGB Commission for Bible Apostolate are final. For the seamless execution of the Kalotsavam, the CSMEGB Commission for Bible Apostolate reserves the right to implement any necessary changes in the event of unforeseen circumstances.
- 1.1.9. Please visit Eparchial Kalotsavam website regularly for more information and updates:
[CSMEGB Bible Kalotsavam 2026](#)



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1.2. Bible Version

- 1.2.1. Only the following Bible versions can be used for the Bible Kalotsavam:
- English: The New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition (NRSVCE)
 - Malayalam: POC Bible

1.3. Age Categorisation

- 1.3.1. **Age groups are divided as follows (Amended in 2026):**

Age groups	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	Margam Kali	
	Up to 7 years	8 –10 years	11–13 years	14–17 years	18–24 years	Adults 25 & above	All ages	Under 30 Years	30 Years & above
Date of Birth Range	01/09/2018 to 31/08/2026	01/09/2015 to 31/08/2018	01/09/2012 to 31/08/2015	01/09/2008 to 31/08/2012	01/09/2001 to 31/08/2008	Born on or before 31/08/2001	Any age	01/09/1996 to 31/08/2026	Born on or before 31/08/1996

- 1.3.2. The cut-off date for determining the age year group is **31-AUG-2026**, regardless of the competition date. If the unit level or regional level competitions are conducted before **31-AUG-2026**, you must ensure the participants fall within the age group as of **31-AUG-2026**.
- 1.3.3. The age group of a group-item will be decided based on the age of the oldest participant of the team.
- 1.3.4. **If there are insufficient participants in any group item, participants from a lower age category may be permitted to join the higher age category to make up the required numbers.**
- 1.3.5. **However, this flexibility does not apply to Margam Kali. For Margam Kali, participants in the lower age category should not compete in the higher age category, and participants in the higher age category should not compete in the lower age category under any circumstances. (Amended 2026).**
- 1.3.6. For each group item (excluding 'All ages'), at least 4 participants or 50% majority must be within the age group category they are registered to contest.
- 1.3.7. If a participant from a lower age group participates in the higher age group, they will not be allowed to contest again in any category of the same item.
- 1.3.8. Proof of age may be requested from the participant if there is a contention.



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1.4. Registration

- 1.4.1. To maintain a consistent approach across the Eparchy, all levels of Bible Kalotsavam centres must issue only a registration number, which should be used throughout the day at the centre. This registration number may only be issued to the participant on the day of the Bible Kalotsavam at the main registration counter.
- 1.4.2. Participants in the 'Up to 7 years', '8-10', '11-13', and '14-17' year categories should be current students or alumni catechesis at any CSMEGB parishes, missions, or proposed missions. For all other age categories (18-24, 25+, All Ages), registration with their respective CSMEGB parishes/missions/proposed missions is mandatory.
- 1.4.3. Participants can be disqualified at any stage of the competition if their Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission Priest-in-charge cannot verify their eligibility as per the rules set by the Bible Apostolate Commission of CSMEGB. Participants are responsible for ensuring they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 1.4.4. To participate in the unit level competitions, the participant must duly fill the registration form and e-mail/hand it to their unit coordinator.
- 1.4.5. To participate in the regional level competitions, the unit coordinator must confirm their participation with the eligible winners and forward the list of confirmed unit winners along with their completed consent forms to their regional coordinator by e-mail.
- 1.4.6. **To take part in the Eparchial Bible Kalotsavam, the Regional Coordinator must confirm participation with all eligible winners and then complete the online form at www.biblekalotsavam.com using the provided template, listing all confirmed participants. (Amended in 2026).**
- 1.4.7. Registration for the Eparchial level competition will be complete only after the regional coordinator has paid the registration fees in full.
- 1.4.8. To ensure the smooth organisation of events, eligible winners are strongly encouraged to confirm their participation in the Eparchial Bible Kalotsavam and promptly make their payments immediately after the results are announced on the day of their Regional Bible Kalotsavam.
- 1.4.9. The form should contain the group leader and group members' names for group items.
- 1.4.10. The closing date for Eparchial Bible Kalotsavam registration is **02-Nov-2026**. Entries submitted after this date will not be accepted. Therefore, **all regional competitions must be completed by 01-Nov-2026**.



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- 1.4.11. Regional coordinators will be notified of the confirmation of a participant's entry after **10-NOV-2026**.
- 1.4.12. The Eparchial Bible Kalotsavam programme timetable will be published by **14-NOV-2026**.
- 1.4.13. **Registration Fees:**
- Solo (up to 3 items) - £10.
 - Group items (including the 'All' category) - **£30** per group item. **(Amended in 2026)**



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1.5. Scheduling and Results

- 1.5.1. Please review the item schedule for any timing overlap with another competition you are taking part. We will make every effort to accommodate individual schedule clashes. Even though we strive to accommodate all requests, there may be instances where conflicting schedules arise, necessitating a decision on your part. However, in some cases, it may be possible to participate in both activities if one can be completed quickly. For instance, if you have a 30-minute painting session scheduled from 11:00 to 12:00, and a solo song competition that lasts 5 minutes per song also scheduled during the same timeframe, you may be able to attend both activities if you register at the earliest with the stage manager to participate in both items before the end of the session.
- 1.5.2. For participants involved in multiple items, the Kalotsavam Body (Eparchial or Regional) will provide a suggested order for their participation to minimise disruptions and scheduling conflicts. Participants must adhere to this order. Failure to do so may result in the forfeiture of the involvement.
- 1.5.3. Any late appearance for an item will not be accommodated unless the relevant stage manager is notified in advance in case of a conflict with another scheduled item.
- 1.5.4. No special requests will be considered on the day.
- 1.5.5. If there is only one participant for an item/category, the participant will be declared the winner, and the competition will not be held on stage.
- 1.5.6. The results will be announced publicly through one of these medium - announcements on main stage or other stages, visually displayed, published online. The exact method will depend on the facilities available at the respective Kalotsavam Venue.



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1.6. Complaints

- 1.6.1. The Bible Kalotsavam aims to promote the Bible and Christian faith. Every participant is expected to follow the Christian spirit. If there is a genuine reason for a complaint, this section explains the complaints procedure.
- 1.6.2. **Feedback will not be provided due to practical constraints. (Amended in 2026).**
- 1.6.3. Participants, parents, and guardians and coordinators must not contact judges or stage managers directly for any complaints.
- 1.6.4. **Appeals are only for procedural or technical faults—not for subjective judging decisions. (Amended in 2026).**
- 1.6.5. **Judges' decisions are final. (Amended in 2026).**
- 1.6.6. **Non-appealable grounds (Subjective):** artistic impression, performance quality, judging, or comparisons between participants, etc.
- 1.6.7. **Appealable grounds (Objective)**
 - a. **A verifiable breach of eligibility criteria or disqualification. (Amended in 2026)**
 - b. **A verifiable breach of an official competition rule from the published Competitions Rules and Regulations. (Amended in 2026)**
 - c. **Any technical fault during the performance. (Amended in 2026)**
- 1.6.8. Photo or video evidence from the complainant will not be accepted.
- 1.6.9. **Complaints or appeals must be lodged only through the Parish/Mission/Proposed mission/Regional Kalotsavam coordinator or acting coordinator within 30 minutes following the announcement of the provisional results, using the Official Appeals Submission Form. (Amended in 2026)**
- 1.6.10. **The Appeals Review Team will first check whether the appeal meets the objective criteria before referring it to the Appeals Committee. (Amended in 2026).**
- 1.6.11. **The appeal fee is £25, payable only if the appeal is referred to the Appeals Committee. No fee is due if it is rejected at review stage. (Amended in 2026).**
- 1.6.12. **If an appeal is formally accepted and the fee is paid, the Appeals Committee will review it and provide written feedback. The fee is refunded if the appeal is upheld; otherwise, it goes to the organising fund. (Amended in 2026)**
- 1.6.13. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.



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1.7. Health & Safety Guidelines

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants, volunteers, and spectators, the following guidelines must be always followed.

1.7.1. Personal well-being

- a. Participate only if medically fit; consult a doctor if needed.
- b. Stay hydrated and take breaks to avoid fatigue.
- c. Always wear appropriate clothing and suitable footwear.
- d. Inform organisers of any medical conditions, allergies, or special needs.
- e. All children must be supervised by a responsible adult (parent/guardian/teacher).

1.7.2. Emergency procedures

- a. Familiarise yourself with emergency exits, assembly points, and first aid stations.
- b. Report any injury or illness immediately to a volunteer or stage manager.
- c. Follow all emergency instructions and evacuation procedures.
- d. Do not re-enter restricted areas until authorised.

1.7.3. Equipment & Environment Safety

- a. Use equipment and props only as instructed and in designated areas.
- b. Keep all areas free from hazards (bags, cables, spills).
- c. Report unsafe conditions immediately.
- d. Dispose of waste properly and keep areas clean.
- e. Maintain cleanliness in changing rooms.

1.7.4. Stage & Movement Safety

- a. Move carefully near stages and performance areas.
- b. Follow designated entry and exit routes.
- c. No running, pushing, or overcrowding.
- d. Ensure props and costumes are safe and non-hazardous.

1.7.5. Conduct & Behaviour

- a. Follow instructions from organisers, volunteers, and stage managers.
- b. Treat all with respect and courtesy.
- c. No bullying, teasing, aggressive behaviour, or inappropriate language.
- d. Be mindful of children and vulnerable individuals.



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1.7.6. Safeguarding

- a. Children must always remain under supervision.
- b. Report any safeguarding concerns immediately to the safeguarding team.
- c. Follow procedures for lost or separated children.
- d. Parents/guardians retain full responsibility for the safety, supervision, and conduct of their children during the event. Event organisers and volunteers cannot assume responsibility for unsupervised children.

1.7.7. Volunteers (Key Responsibilities) including stage managers

- a. Attend briefing and always wear high-visibility jackets.
- b. Know emergency exits, first aid points, and venue layout.
- c. Stay at assigned posts and report hazards or incidents immediately.
- d. Communicate clearly and act calmly in all situations.
- e. Take breaks, stay hydrated, and use safe lifting practices.

1.7.8. Compliance

- a. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disqualification or removal from the event.

Stay safe, work together, and make this Bible Kalotsavam a blessed and memorable experience for everyone.



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2. Rules and Marking Criteria for each item.

This section describes the rules and marking criteria for each competition item. An overview of the competition grid can be found in Appendix 2.

2.1. Bible Reading

ITEM CODES: Bible Reading English - BRE; Bible Reading Malayalam - BRM.

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years, and 14-17 years.

2.1.1. Bible Reading – Rules

- a. Duration: 2 Minutes. Bell on time.
- b. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- c. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- d. The participant must read directly from the Bible (NRSVCE or POC).
- e. For the 'Up to 7 years' age group, the participant must bring their own Bible (NRSVCE). Bookmark is permitted to identify the passage. The passage to be read will be placed on a card on the table.
- f. For the 8–10 age group, three Gospel chapters are given for preparation. On the stage, a card placed on the desk will indicate, preselected by the organising team, the passage to be read, along with the Bible.
- g. For the 11-13 age group, the participant will be asked to read from the given Gospel. On the stage, a card placed on the desk will indicate, preselected by the organising team, the passage to be read, along with the Bible.
- h. For the 14–17 age group, a card placed on the desk on stage will indicate the passage to be read, which will be preselected by the organising team. A copy of the Bible will be provided.
- i. For 8-10, 11-13 and 14-17 age groups, the participants may view the passage to be read upon reaching the desk. However, they must not pick up the Bible, look for the passage, or begin reading until instructed with the words, "Your time starts now." (Amended 2026)
- j. Guidance on Reading the Bible: Beginning and Ending (Amended in 2026)
 - Begin by saying: "Brothers and sisters, a reading from the Letter of ... to the ..."
 - Examples:



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- (i) “Brothers and sisters, a reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 6, verses 5 to 13.”
- (ii) “Brothers and sisters, a reading from the Gospel according to St Matthew, chapter 5, verses 1 to 11.”
- (iii) At the end of the reading, pause briefly in silence and close the Bible respectfully.

2.1.2. Bible Reading – Topics

Participants will be asked to read one of the passages from the table below:

Age Group	Bible Reading English (BRE)		Bible Reading Malayalam (BRM)	
Up to 7 Years.	Passages	Matthew 6:25-33	No competition	
		Mark 4:1-9		
8-10 Years	Passage	Matthew Chapters 8, 9 & 10	Passage	Luke Chapters 8, 9 & 10
11-13 Years	Passage	Gospel of John	Passage	Gospel of Matthew
14-17 Years	Passage will be given on the stage.		Passage will be given on the stage.	

2.1.3. Bible Reading – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Reverence before reading/Spoken introduction	5
Reading	25
Poise and Appearance	15
Reverence after reading	5



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2.2. Elocution

ITEM CODES: Elocution English – EE; Elocution Malayalam – EM,

AGE GROUPS: 8-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-17 years, 18-24 years, and Adults

2.2.1. Elocution – Rules

- Duration: 3 Minutes. Bell on time, except for the 'Adult' category.
- For the 'Adults' category, competition will be only in Malayalam. Topic will be given 5 minutes before their performance. The contestant must not use any mobile phone, books, bible, or any reference during the 5-minute preparation time. (Amended in 2026).
- For Malayalam Elocution competition, the Participant must use Malayalam throughout, other languages must only be used while referring to direct quotes or proper nouns (unless the equivalent word in Malayalam exists).
- 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Triple bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- For the Adult category, a single warning bell will be given at 2 mins 30 secs and a double final bell at 3 minutes.

2.2.2. Elocution Topics

Age Group	Topics for Elocution English	Topics for Elocution Malayalam
8-10 Years	Discipline: Not to pull us down, but to lift us higher.	ദൈവം നമ്മെ വിജയിക്കാൻ തയ്യാറാക്കുന്ന പരിശീലകൻ
11-13 Years	Discipline: Another face of Love.	ദൈവത്തിന്റെ ശിക്ഷണം നമ്മെ കാക്കുന്ന രക്ഷാവലയം
14-17 Years	Divine Discipline: Purifying us to become pure gold.	പ്രതിസന്ധികൾ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ പരിശീലന കളരി
18-24 Years	Scriptural Discipline: A blueprint for walking the right path.	വിലക്കുകളിലെയും തിരുത്തലുകളുടെയും ആത്മീയത
Adults	No competition	Topic will be given 5 minutes before their performance. (Amended in 2026)

2.2.3. Elocution – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Introduction and Conclusion	10
Voice, Diction, and Grammar	10
Poise, Appearance and Gestures	10
Content and Memorisation/Spontaneity	20



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2.3. Colour Painting

ITEM CODE: CP

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years, and 14-17 years

DURATION: 30 minute (Amended in 2026)

2.3.1. Colouring – Rules for Age Group: Up to 7 years (Amended in 2026)

- a. Participants will colour a given Biblical-themed colouring sheet.
- b. Each participant will be provided with an A4 sheet to colour.
- c. Participants must bring their own materials (crayons, coloured pencils, sketch pens, etc.). Only crayons, coloured pencils and sketch pens are allowed.
- d. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks will be deducted out of 150 for up to 3 minutes over time.
- e. Participants will be disqualified if they are more than 5 minutes late, unless the delay is due to a clash with another competition and has been notified in advance to the Stage Coordinator.
- f. Do not write the participant's name anywhere on your submission. Only write your registration number.

2.3.2. Colouring – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Creativity and Originality	15
Skill	25
Overall artistic impression	10



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2.3.3. **Colour Painting – Rules for AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11-13 and 14-17 years.** (Amended in 2026)

- a. Participants will create a painting based on a given Biblical theme. The topic will be announced at the start of the competition.
- b. Only water-based paints are allowed, including Watercolours, Acrylic paints and Watercolour pens. Oil paints are not permitted.
- c. An A3 sheet of art paper will be provided.
- d. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks will be deducted out of 150 for up to 3 minutes over time. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 3 minutes over the time limit.
- e. Participants will be disqualified if they are more than 5 minutes late, unless the delay is due to a clash with another competition and has been notified in advance to the Stage Coordinator.
- f. Do not write the participant's name anywhere on your submission. Only write your registration number.

2.3.4. **Colour Painting – Judging Rubric**

Criteria	Max Marks
Creativity and Originality	10
Skill	20
Content	15
Overall artistic impression	5



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2.4. Pencil Sketching

ITEM CODE: PS

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7 years, 8-10 years, 11-13 years, and 14-17 years

DURATION: 30 minute (Amended in 2026)

2.4.1. Pencil Sketching – Rules for age group: Up to 7 years (Amended in 2026)

- a. Participants will create a sketch based on a model or object displayed.
- b. An A4 sheet of art paper will be provided.
- c. Participants must bring their own materials (pencils, erasers, sharpeners, etc.).
- d. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks will be deducted out of 150 for up to 3 minutes over time. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 3 minutes over the time limit.
- e. Participants will be disqualified if they are more than 5 minutes late, unless the delay is due to a clash with another competition and has been notified in advance to the Stage Coordinator.
- f. Do not write the participant's name anywhere on your submission. Only write your registration number.

2.4.2. Pencil Sketching (Up to 7 years) – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Creativity and Originality	15
Skill	25
Overall artistic impression	10



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2.4.3. **Pencil Sketching – Rules for Age Groups: 8-10, 11-13 and 14-17 Years (Amended in 2026)**

- a. Participants will create a sketch based on a given Biblical theme. The topic will be announced just before the competition starts.
- b. An A3 sheet of art paper will be provided. Participants must bring all other materials (pencils, erasers, sharpeners, etc.).
- c. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks will be deducted out of 150 for up to 3 minutes over time. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 3 minutes over the time limit.
- d. Participants will be disqualified if they are more than 5 minutes late, unless the delay is due to a clash with another competition and has been notified in advance to the Stage Coordinator.
- e. Do not write the participant's name anywhere on your submission. Only write your registration number.

2.4.4. **Pencil Sketching (8-10, 11-13 and 14-17 Years) – Judging Rubric**

Criteria	Max Marks
Creativity and Originality	10
Skill	20
Content	15
Overall artistic impression	5



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2.5. Essay Writing (Amended in 2026)

ITEM CODE: EW

AGE GROUPS: 8-10 years, 11-13 years, 14-17 years, 18-24 years and Adults.

2.5.1. Essay Writing- Rules

- a. Duration: 30 mins.
- b. The topic will be given at the beginning of the competition.
- c. Competitions for 8-10, 11-13, 14-17 and 18-24 age groups will only be in English.
- d. For the Adults age group, separate competitions will be held in Malayalam and English. Participants may enter either the English or the Malayalam essay competition, but not both. (Amended in 2026).
- e. Essay word limit
 - Group 8-10 years: maximum of 300 words.
 - Group 11-13 years: maximum of 500 words.
 - Group 14-17 years: maximum of 700 words.
 - Group 18-24 years: maximum of 900 words.
 - Group Adults: maximum of 1100 words.
- f. Only A4 lined paper will be provided. Participants should bring all other required materials/equipment (writing board, ruler, pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, etc.).
- g. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks will be deducted out of 150 for up to 3 minutes over time. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 3 minutes over the time limit. (Amended in 2026).
- h. Participants will be disqualified if they are more than 5 minutes late, unless the delay is due to a clash with another competition and has been notified in advance to the Stage Coordinator. (Amended in 2026).
- i. Do not write the participant's name anywhere on your submission. Only write your registration number. (Amended in 2026).

2.5.2. Essay writing Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Originality and creative interpretation of the topic	10
Skill	10
Content	25
Presentation and overall appeal	5



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2.6. **Bible Citation Competition (New for 2026)**

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11- 13, 14-17, 18-24 and 25+ Adults

ITEM CODE: BCC

2.6.1. **Bible Citation Rules**

- a. Duration: 15 minutes. Bell on time.
- b. A4 sheet containing 40 quotations from the selected Bible passages for each age group will be provided to participants.
- c. Contestants must correctly write the Book, chapter, and verse for each quotation in the space provided on the sheet.
- d. Example:
 - Question: "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."
 - Answer must be Genesis 1:3
- e. Each question carries 1 mark. Marks will be awarded only if the Book, chapter, and verse are all correct. No half marks will be awarded.
- f. All Bible quotations will be taken from the NRSVCE or POC editions only.
- g. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 2 marks out of 30 will be deducted for up to 3 minutes over time. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 3 minutes over the time limit.
- h. Participants will be disqualified if they are more than 5 minutes late, unless the delay is due to a clash with another competition and has been notified in advance to the Stage Coordinator.
- i. Do not write the participant's name anywhere on your submission. Only write your registration number.

2.6.2. **Bible Citation Competition Topics**

Age Group	Topics for Bible Citation
8-10 Years	Gospel of Mark (English)
11-13 Years	Gospel of Luke (English)
14-17 Years	Gospel of Matthew (English)
18-24 Years	Gospel of John (English)
Adults	Gospel of Mark & Gospel of John (Malayalam)



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2.7. **Bible Mono Act**

ITEM CODE: MA

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11- 13 and 14-17 years

2.7.1. **Bible Mono Act – Rules (Amended in 2026)**

- a. **Duration: 5 Minutes. Bell on time.**
- b. **Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks out of 150 will be deducted for up to 30 seconds over time.**
- c. **Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.**
- d. **The act should be based on a Bible story.**
- e. **Mono act performances in Malayalam and English will be marked equally. No additional marks will be awarded for performing in Malayalam. (Amended in 2026).**
- f. **No microphones will be provided (Amended in 2026).**

2.7.2. **Bible Mono Act – Judging Rubric**

Criteria	Max Marks
Creativity and Originality	5
Skill	15
Voice	15
Content	10
Presentation and overall appeal	5



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2.8. Bible Costume

ITEM CODE: BC

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7, 8-10 and 11- 13 years

2.8.1. Bible Costume – Rules

- a. Duration: 30 seconds on stage. Bell on time.
- b. 30 seconds is allowed to set up and 20 seconds to clear the stage, if required. (Amended in 2026)
- c. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted up to 15 seconds over the time limit.
- d. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 15 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- e. Only individual participant is allowed.
- f. The costume should be based on a Bible story or a Christian theme.
- g. The character must be clearly recognisable through costume, make-up, and facial and physical expression alone, without reliance on background or elaborate props. (Amended 2026)
- h. The participant must not speak or make any sound during the performance.
- i. Background scenes, background sound/music & light effects are not permitted (Amended in 2026).
- j. Participants in the “Up to 7” and “8–10” age groups may be assisted by one helper to set up essential props that form part of the costume on stage. However, assistance must be limited to essential props only and must not include any background or decorative items. Background or decorative items are not permitted on stage. (Amended 2026)
- k. For the 11–13 age group, only essential props that form part of the costume on stage and that the participant can carry and manage independently are permitted. No external assistance is allowed. Any external involvement will result in disqualification. Background or decorative items are not permitted on stage. (Amended 2026)

2.8.2. Bible Costume – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Costume	35
Presentation	5
Expression	5
Overall	5



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2.9. Syriac Song Solo (New for 2026)

ITEM CODE: SSS

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11- 13, 14-17, 18-24 and Adults (25+)

2.9.1. Syriac Song Solo – Rules

- a. Duration: Maximum 3 minutes. Bell on time.
- b. Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks out of 150 will be deducted for up to 30 seconds over time.
- c. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- d. Participants must sing the full song listed below without omitting any verses or lines. Failure to sing the complete song will result in disqualification.
- e. Participants must not include any sections from other songs.
- f. Karaoke will not be allowed.
- g. No microphone will be provided.

2.9.2. Syriac Song Solo Topic

Age Group	Song	Link to listen the song:
8-10, 11-13, 14-17, 18-24, Adults (25+)	Ennaana Lahma (East Syriac)	Ennaana Lahma Syro Malabar East Syriac Liturgical Hymn Rooha Media - YouTube

2.9.3. Syriac Song Solo - Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Complete and accurate rendering of the Song	5
Vocal Technique	20
Musicality & Interpretation	15
Diction, Clarity & Memorisation	10



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2.10. Song-Solo

ITEM CODE: SS

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7, 8-10, 11- 13, 14-17, 18-24 and Adults

2.10.1. Song-Solo – Rules

- Duration: Minimum 3 minutes (**amended in 2026**), maximum 5 minutes. Bell on time.
- Marks will be deducted for exceeding the time limit: 6 marks out of 150 will be deducted for up to 30 seconds over time.
- Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- Only Christian devotional songs will be allowed.
- Karaoke will not be allowed.
- No additional marks will be awarded for singing in Malayalam. (Amended in 2026)**
- No microphone will be provided. (Amended in 2026)**

2.10.2. Solo Song – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Song Choice & Difficulty	10
Vocal Technique	15
Musicality & Interpretation	15
Diction, Clarity & Memorisation	10



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2.11. Song-Group

ITEM CODE: SG

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11- 13, 14-17, 18-24 and Adults

2.11.1. **Song-Group – Rules**

- a. Group Size: Minimum of 4 participants. Not to exceed eight singers. Teams with less than four or more than 8 participants on the stage will be disqualified.
- b. Duration: Minimum 3 minutes and maximum 5 minutes. Bell on time.
- c. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- d. The team will be disqualified if it exceeds 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- e. Only Christian devotional songs will be allowed.
- f. Karaoke will not be allowed.
- g. **No additional marks will be awarded for singing in Malayalam. (Amended in 2026)**
- h. **No microphone will be provided. (Amended in 2026)**

2.11.2. **Song Group – Judging Rubric**

Criteria	Max Marks
Poise, Appearance and Gestures	5
Vocal Technique	15
Musicality & Interpretation	15
Diction, Clarity & Memorisation	10



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2.12. Instrumental Keyboard

ITEM CODE: IMK

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11-13 and 14- 17 years.

2.12.1. Instrumental Keyboard – Rules

- a. Duration: 3 minutes. Bell on time.
- b. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- c. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- d. The list of songs to be prepared is given in Table 2.13.2 below, according to the age category. Participants should familiarise themselves with the songs for their category. (Amended in 2026)
- e. On the day of the competition, each participant will be required to perform one piece from their age category. When called to the stage, they will be given the title of a song from their category, preselected by the organising team, and must then perform that piece. (Amended 2026).
- f. Participants must perform only the assigned piece; no substitutions, additions, or alternative selections will be permitted. (amended in 2026).
- g. Participants must perform the given song and must not include any sections from other songs.
- h. Participants must not share or reveal the chosen song to others to ensure fairness.
- i. The lead instrument must be set to strings on the keyboard. This refers to the sound of a string ensemble (such as violins) as commonly labelled on keyboards (e.g. “Strings” or “String Ensemble”). This setting is generally consistent across different keyboard brands and models, helping to ensure a fair and level playing field for all participants. (Amended in 2026).
- j. Participants may use additional tones in their arrangement. However, when playing the main melody of the song, the lead sound must be set to strings on the keyboard. For instrumental sections, other tones may be used to enhance the performance. (Amended in 2026).
- k. Participants may perform either from memory or by referring to musical notation; this will not affect the judging. Please note that musical notation will not be provided.



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Performing from memory may help maintain a stronger stage presence. (Amended in 2026).

- l. Participants must bring their own electronic keyboard. Acoustic or digital pianos are not permitted for this competition.
- m. Only manually played chords are allowed. Participants cannot use any original inbuilt/pre-recorded accompaniment or rhythm on the keyboard.
- n. any additional effects such as reverb, delay, or other sound modulations, including flat equalisers, are not permitted during the performance.
- o. Karaoke will not be allowed.
- p. Participants are not permitted to sing along or vocalise during their performance.
- q. Microphone connections will be provided if required (subject to venue constraints).

Instrumental Keyboard Topics – Songs List

Age Group	List of songs	Link to listen the song
8-10	Nandiyode njan sthuthi padidum (നന്ദിയോടെ ഞാൻ സ്തുതി പാടിടും)	Nandiyode njan sthuthi padidum (നന്ദിയോടെ ഞാൻ സ്തുതി പാടിടും)
11-13	Mele Manathe Eeshoye (മേലേ മാനത്തെ ഞുശോയേ) or Mazhayilum Veyililum (മഴയിലും വെയിലിലും)	Mele Manathe Eeshoye (മേലേ മാനത്തെ ഞുശോയേ) or Mazhayilum Veyililum (മഴയിലും വെയിലിലും)
14-17	Tam Tam Tararam ...Paarum Puzhakalum (റ്റം റ്റം റ്റരരം... പാറും പുഴകളും) or Aaltharayil Thiri Thelinju (അൾത്താരയിൽ തിരി തെളിഞ്ഞു)	Tam Tam Tararam ...Paarum Puzhakalum (റ്റം റ്റം റ്റരരം... പാറും പുഴകളും) or Aaltharayil Thiri Thelinju (അൾത്താരയിൽ തിരി തെളിഞ്ഞു)

2.12.1. Instrumental Keyboard – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Technical Proficiency	15
Musical Interpretation	15
Rhythm & Timing Accuracy	10
Stage Presence & Confidence	5
Overall Musicality	5



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2.13. Instrumental Guitar

ITEM CODE: IMG

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11-13 and 14- 17 years.

2.13.1. Instrumental **Guitar** – Rules

- a. Duration: 3 minutes. Bell on time.
- b. 6 marks out of 150 will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- c. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- d. Only Malayalam Christian music is allowed. (Amended in 2026).
- e. Participants must bring their equipment.
- f. **Participants may perform any Malayalam Christian song of their choice; no prescribed list will be issued. Before beginning their performance, participants must inform the judges of the song title.**
- g. During the performance, the use of any additional effects such as reverb, delay, or other sound modulations, including flat equalizers, is not permitted. Other instrumental effects are not permitted.
- h. Karaoke will not be allowed.
- i. Participants are not permitted to sing along or vocalise during their performance.
- j. **Participants may perform either from memory or by referring to musical notation; this will not affect the judging. Performing from memory may help maintain a stronger stage presence.** (Amended in 2026).
- k. **Microphone connections will be provided if required** (Amended in 2026)

2.13.2. Instrumental Guitar – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Technical Proficiency	15
Musical Interpretation	15
Rhythm & Timing Accuracy	10
Stage Presence & Confidence	5
Overall Musicality	5



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2.14. Instrumental Violin

ITEM CODE: **IMV**

AGE GROUPS: 8-10, 11-13 and 14- 17 years.

2.14.1. Instrumental **Violin** – Rules

- a. Duration: 3 minutes. Bell on time.
- b. 6 marks out of 150 will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- c. Participants will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- d. Only Malayalam Christian music is allowed. (Amended in 2026).
- e. Participants must bring their equipment.
- f. Participants may perform any Malayalam Christian song of their choice; no prescribed list will be issued. Before beginning their performance, participants must inform the judges of the song title.
- g. During the performance, the use of any additional effects such as reverb, delay, or other sound modulations, including flat equalizers, is not permitted. Other instrumental effects are not permitted.
- h. Karaoke will not be allowed.
- i. Participants are not permitted to sing along or vocalise during their performance.
- j. Participants may perform either from memory or by referring to musical notation; this will not affect the judging. Performing from memory may help maintain a stronger stage presence. (Amended in 2026).
- k. Microphone connections will be provided if required (Amended in 2026)

2.14.2. Instrumental Violin – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Technical Proficiency	15
Musical Interpretation	15
Rhythm & Timing Accuracy	10
Stage Presence & Confidence	5
Overall Musicality	5



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2.15. Dance-Solo

ITEM CODE: DS

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7, 8-10. 11- 13 and 14-17 years.

2.15.1. Dance-Solo – Rules

- a. Duration: 5 minutes. Bell on time.
- b. Maximum stage set-up time 1 minute and clearance time 1 minute.
- c. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 30 seconds over the time limit. Additionally, 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 15 seconds over the set-up time limit. An additional 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 15 seconds over the clearance time limit.
- d. The participant will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). Participants may finish the item.
- e. **All dance music should be based on Bible/Christian themes. Christian songs in any language are permitted for solo dance performances. However, choosing a language that is not familiar to the judges may affect scoring. Participants must ensure that the selected song is appropriate and does not conflict with Christian values in its lyrics, theme or presentation. (Amended in 2026)**
- f. **Audio tracks must be submitted to the respective organising team at least one week before the competition. (Amended 2026)**
- g. Please ensure that the music track is named in the following format: **Age group, item, region, and name of the participant**. Please also bring a USB stick with a copy of the music track on the day of the competition.
- h. The participant may be disqualified if a song is deemed inappropriate by the committee/judges.
- i. All dance forms will be judged in the same manner. No preference/extra points will be given for the type of dance, i.e. classical/folk/modern forms.
- j. To assist the team in setting up or clearing the stage, a maximum of two persons other than the participants are allowed. Exceeding this limit will result in disqualification.



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- k. The use of Alta or similar dyes (including mylanji, red dyes or marker pens) on the hands or feet is strictly prohibited. This rule is necessary as such substances have previously caused damage to the venue and dressing rooms, resulting in significant fines. To protect the venue and ensure fairness, all participants must have completely clean hands and feet. Participants will not be allowed to perform if there is any trace of colour on the hands or feet. This applies even if the colour was applied for another event and is only partially visible. Any trace of prohibited dyes will result in disqualification. It is the participant's responsibility to comply fully with these rules and guidelines. (Amended in 2026).

2.15.1. Dance Solo – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Performance	15
Choreography	15
Costumes and props	10
Music and theme	5
Overall impact	5



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2.16. Dance-Group

ITEM CODE: DG

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7, 8-10, 11- 13, and 14-17 years.

2.16.1. **Dance-Group – Rules**

- a. Group Size: Minimum of 4 participants. Not to exceed 8 dancers. Teams with less than 4 or more than 8 participants on the stage will be disqualified.
- b. Duration: 5 minutes. Bell on time.
- c. Maximum stage set-up time 2 minutes and clearance time 1 minute.
- d. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 30 seconds over the time limit. Additionally, 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 15 seconds over the set-up time limit. An additional 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 15 seconds over the clearance time limit.
- e. The team will be disqualified if they exceed 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). The team may finish the item.
- f. **All dance music should be based on Bible/Christian themes. Christian songs in any language are permitted for group dance performances. However, choosing a language that is not familiar to the judges may affect scoring. Participants must ensure that the selected song is appropriate and does not conflict with Christian values in its lyrics, theme or presentation. (Amended in 2026)**
- g. **Audio tracks must be submitted to the respective organising team at least one week before the competition. (Amended 2026)**
- h. Please ensure that the music track is named in the following format: Age group, item, region, and name of the team leader. Please also bring a USB stick with a copy of the song track on the day of the competition.
- i. The team may be disqualified if a song is deemed inappropriate by the committee/judges.
- j. All dance forms will be judged in the same manner. No preference/extra points will be given for the type of dance i.e. classical/folk/modern forms.
- k. A maximum of two persons is allowed, other than the participants, to assist the team in setting up or clearing the stage. Exceeding this limit will result in disqualification.
- l. **The use of Alta or similar dyes (including mylanji, red dyes or marker pens) on the hands or feet is strictly prohibited. This rule is necessary as such substances have previously caused damage to the venue and dressing rooms, resulting in significant**



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fines. To protect the venue and ensure fairness, all participants must have completely clean hands and feet. Participants will not be allowed to perform if there is any trace of colour on the hands or feet. This applies even if the colour was applied for another event and is only partially visible. Any trace of prohibited dyes will result in disqualification. It is the participant's responsibility to comply fully with these rules and guidelines. (Amended in 2026).

2.16.2. Dance Group – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Performance	20
Choreography	15
Costumes and props	5
Music and theme	5
Overall impact	5



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2.17. Margam Kali

ITEM CODE: MK

AGE GROUPS: Under 30 Years and 30 years and above. (Amended in 2026)

2.17.1. Margam Kali – Rules

- a. Duration: 9 minutes.
- b. Group size: 6-8 dancers and up to 2 singers. Maximum 10 participants, including singers. Teams with more than 10 participants on stage will be disqualified.
- c. Only traditional Margam Kali performances will be considered for the competition.
- d. For detailed information and guidelines for Margam Kali, please refer the following web page: [CSMEGB Bible Kalotsavam 2026](#)
- e. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted up to 30 seconds over the time limit.
- f. The team will be disqualified if it exceeds 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). The team may finish the item.
- g. Nilavilakku will be provided.
- h. Pre-recorded music is permitted. **However, it is important to note that points for song quality will only be awarded for live renditions.** Any pre-recorded audio tracks must be submitted to the respective organising team at least one week before the competition. (Amended 2026).
- i. Please ensure that the music track is named in the following format: Age group, item, region, and name of the team leader. Please also bring a USB stick with a copy of the music track on the day of the competition.
- j. The use of Alta or similar dyes (including mylanji, red dyes or marker pens) on the hands or feet is strictly prohibited. This rule is necessary as such substances have previously caused damage to the venue and dressing rooms, resulting in significant fines. To protect the venue and ensure fairness, all participants must have completely clean hands and feet. Participants will not be allowed to perform if there is any trace of colour on the hands or feet. This applies even if the colour was applied for another event and is only partially visible. Any trace of prohibited dyes will result in disqualification. It is the participant's responsibility to comply fully with these rules and guidelines. (Amended in 2026).



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- k. For Margam Kali, participants in the lower age category should not compete in the higher age category, and participants in the higher age category should not compete in the lower age category under any circumstances.

2.17.2. Margam Kali – Judging Rubric

Criteria		Max Marks
Performance		20
Synchronisation		10
Song Quality	Pre-recorded	0
	Live rendition	10
Costumes and Makeup		5
Overall Effect		5



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2.18. Bible Tableau

ITEM CODE: BT

AGE GROUPS: All ages

2.18.1. Bible Tableau – Rules

- a. Group Size: Minimum of 4 participants. Not to exceed 8 participants. Teams with more than 8 participants on the stage will be disqualified.
- b. Duration: 1 Minute on stage after curtain raising. Bell on time.
- c. The maximum stage set-up time is 5 minutes. Maximum stage clearance time 3 minutes. **The stage refers to the designated performance area where participants present their item before the judges and audience. (amended in 2026).**
- d. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 20 seconds over the time limit. Additionally, 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 20 seconds over the set-up time limit. An additional 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 20 seconds over the clearance time limit.
- e. The team will be disqualified if it exceeds 20 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). The team may finish the item.
- f. The tableau must be based on a Biblical event.
- g. Playing audio/narration during setup time will lead to disqualification.
- h. Up to four additional individuals, excluding the eight participants, may assist with stage setup or clearing. These additional helpers will be provided with a special identification/high-vis. During the setup time, only these additional helpers and the eight participants will be allowed to assist on stage.
- i. Only the same four additional individuals may assist with lighting adjustments, background adjustments, or playing audio files/live background music. Exceeding this limit will result in disqualification.
- j. **Any pre-recorded audio must be submitted to the respective organising team at least one week in advance (amended in 2026).**
- k. The audio/narration track must be named in the following format: Age group, item, region, and name of the team leader. Please also bring a USB stick with a copy of the song/track on the day of the competition. Negative marks may be awarded for even the slightest movement on stage.
- l. Humidifiers, smoke/fog machines, or smoke emitters are not allowed on the stage or within the venue.



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- m. Basic lighting effects will be provided on the stage. Participants can use their lighting effects if required. Lights should only be set up during the stage set-up time. Only PAT-tested lighting equipment will be allowed to be used. **The participant must also carry a valid PAT certificate for the equipment. (Amended in 2026)**

2.18.2. Bible Tableau – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Accuracy and Content	10
Creativity and Presentation	15
Effectiveness and Impact	15
Performance	10



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2.19. Bible Skit

ITEM CODE: BS

AGE GROUPS: Open to all age groups

2.19.1. **Bible Skit – Rules**

- a. Group Size: Minimum of 4, not to exceed 8 participants. Teams with less than four or more than 8 participants on the stage will be disqualified.
- b. Duration: 10 Minutes on stage after curtain raising, including scene changes. Bell on time.
- c. The maximum stage set-up time is 5 minutes. Maximum stage clearance time 3 minutes. **The stage refers to the designated performance area where participants present their item before the judges and audience. (amended in 2026).**
- d. 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 30 seconds over the time limit. Additionally, 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 20 seconds over the set-up time limit. An additional 6 out of 150 marks will be deducted for up to 20 seconds over the clearance time limit.
- e. The team will be disqualified if it exceeds 30 seconds over the time limit (Double bell to indicate disqualification). The team may finish the item.
- f. The skit should be based on a Biblical event or a Christian theme.
- g. Playing audio/narration during setup time will lead to disqualification.
- h. Participants can deliver the live dialogue on stage or play pre-recorded dialogues.
- i. **Extra 9 points will be added to the total marks for live dialogues (Amended in 2026).** Microphones will be provided on the stage for those delivering live dialogues on stage
- j. **Any pre-recorded audio must be submitted to the respective organising team at least one week before the competition. (Amended 2026).**
- k. The track must be named in the following format: Age group, item, region, and name of the team leader. Please also bring a USB stick with a copy of the song/track on the day of the competition.
- l. **Basic lighting effects will be provided on the stage. Participants can use their lighting effects if required. Lights should be set up during the stage set-up time. Only PAT-tested equipment will be allowed to be used. The participant must also carry a valid PAT certificate for the equipment. (Amended in 2026).**



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- m. Up to four additional individuals, excluding the eight participants, may assist with stage setup or clearing. These additional helpers will be provided with a special identification/high-vis. During the setup time, only these additional helpers and the eight participants will be allowed to assist in setting up.
- n. Only the same four additional individuals may assist with lighting adjustments, background adjustments, or playing audio files/live background music. Exceeding this limit will result in disqualification.
- o. External audio devices/equipment, including any type of microphones or speakers, **will NOT be** allowed.
- p. Humidifiers, smoke/fog machines, or smoke emitters are prohibited on the stage or in the venue.

2.19.2. Bible Skit – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Theme	5
Accuracy and Content	10
Performance	15
Creativity and Presentation	10
Effectiveness and Impact	10
Live Dialogue delivery	3



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2.20. Short Film (Eparchy Level Only)

- ITEM CODE:** SF
- AGE GROUPS:** Open to all age groups
- TOPIC:** “സ്നേഹശাসനം” (Loving Reproof)

2.20.1. **Short Film – Rules**

- a. Group Size: Unlimited. However, only a maximum of 15 participants will be awarded the certificates for winning entries.
- b. Duration: 11 Minutes, including title and credits.
- c. Language – Malayalam/ English
- d. Format – MP4, MOV
- e. Registration for the Short Film competition must be completed by sending an email to biblekalotsavam@csmegb.org by **10-OCT-2026**. Please include your Region, Mission, and Short Film title in the email. A OneDrive folder will be allocated to each registered team, and the video must be uploaded to this folder by **18-OCT-2026**.
- f. The short film must aim to encourage Christian faith and uphold Christian values.
- g. The submission must identify the principal director and/or producer of the short film who will be the (joint) copyright owners.
- h. The Bible Apostolate aims to develop, nurture and promote the skills and talents of the members of CSMEGB. Therefore, **all aspects** of the production of the Short Film must be carried out by **registered members** of a Parish, Mission, or Proposed Mission of CSMEGB.
- i. The **main actors** of the short film must be **registered members** of a Parish, Mission, or proposed Mission. of CSMEGB. The only exemption to this is for individuals appearing in any stock videos (royalty and copyright free) used or those in minor supporting roles relevant to the narrative.
- j. The **technical team** (all aspects e.g., but not limited to camera, sound editing, mixing, video editing, colour grading etc.) must be **registered members** of a Parish, Mission, or proposed Mission of CSMEGB.
- k. The team must print, fill, sign and send the certificate of authenticity, found in Appendix 3.3 of this document, along with your submission. Your entry will not be valid without this certification.



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- l. Contemporary church events and suitable materials and clips from other videos of your choice may be used subject to written copyright authorisation is provided along with your material, as well as meeting GDPR requirements.
- m. The copyright of all the content in your short film, or they must be royalty-free and/or fall under the Creative Commons (CC) license.
- n. Please get in touch with the Kalotsavam committee for any clarifications.
- o. Each winning team will be honoured with one trophy, symbolising their collective achievement. Additionally, a maximum of 15 registered participants from the winning team will receive certificates acknowledging their valuable contribution to the success.

2.20.2. Short Film – Judging Rubric

Criteria	Max Marks
Adherence to Given Theme	10
Narrative and Script	10
Technical Execution	10
Performance	10
Impact and Originality	10



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3. Souvenir Publication Initiative (Non-Competitive Categories)

(New in 2026)

The best submission in both Short Story Writing and Poetry Writing from each age category will be selected for publication in the Bible Kalotsavam Souvenir 2026. Please note that this is a non-competitive initiative, and no prizes will be awarded.

3.1. Short Story Writing Inspired by the Bible

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7, 8-10, 11- 13, 14-17, 18-24 and Adults

3.1.1. Short Story Writing – Guidelines

- a. Participants are invited to compose a short story of no more than 1,000 words, in either English or Malayalam. The story should be based on an event or passage from any one of the four Gospels, interpreted with due creativity and imagination.
- b. The essential meaning and sanctity of the chosen passage must be always preserved.
- c. The passage must not be distorted or misrepresented in any manner.
- d. The narrative must not bring disrepute to any individuals or events referred to in the passage.
- e. The content must remain consistent with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.
- f. The specific Gospel passage on which the story is based must be clearly cited.
- g. The short story must be submitted electronically as either a Word document or a PDF to bibleapostolate@csmegeb.org by **22 September 2026**.
 - Please use the subject line: “**Short Story – [age group]**”.
 - For example: “**Short Story – 8-10**” for participants in the 8-10 age group.
- h. Participants must include their name, age category, region, and Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission in the body of the email when submitting their entry.



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3.2. Poetry Writing Inspired by the Bible

AGE GROUPS: Up to 7, 8–10, 11–13, 14–17, 18–24, and Adults

3.2.1. **Poetry Writing – Guidelines**

- a. Participants are invited to compose a poem in either English or Malayalam. The poem should consist of **3 to 5 stanzas**, with **3 to 6 lines per stanza**, and must be based on an event or passage from any one of the four Gospels, interpreted with due creativity and imagination.
- b. The essential meaning and sanctity of the chosen passage must be always preserved.
- c. The passage must not be distorted or misrepresented in any manner.
- d. The poem must not bring disrepute to any individuals or events referred to in the passage.
- e. The content must remain consistent with the teachings and doctrines of the Catholic Church.
- f. The specific Gospel passage on which the poem is based must be clearly cited.
- g. The poem must be submitted electronically as either a Word document or a PDF to bibleapostolate@csmegb.org by **22 September 2026**.
 - Please use the subject line: **“Poem – [age group]”**.
 - For example: **“Poem - 8–10”** for participants in the 8–10 age group.
- h. Participants must include their name, age category, region, and Parish/Mission/Proposed Mission in the body of the email when submitting their entry.



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4. Appendix

4.1. Appendix 1: Key Amendments to the Rules and Guidelines for 2026

4.1.1. Key Amendments List

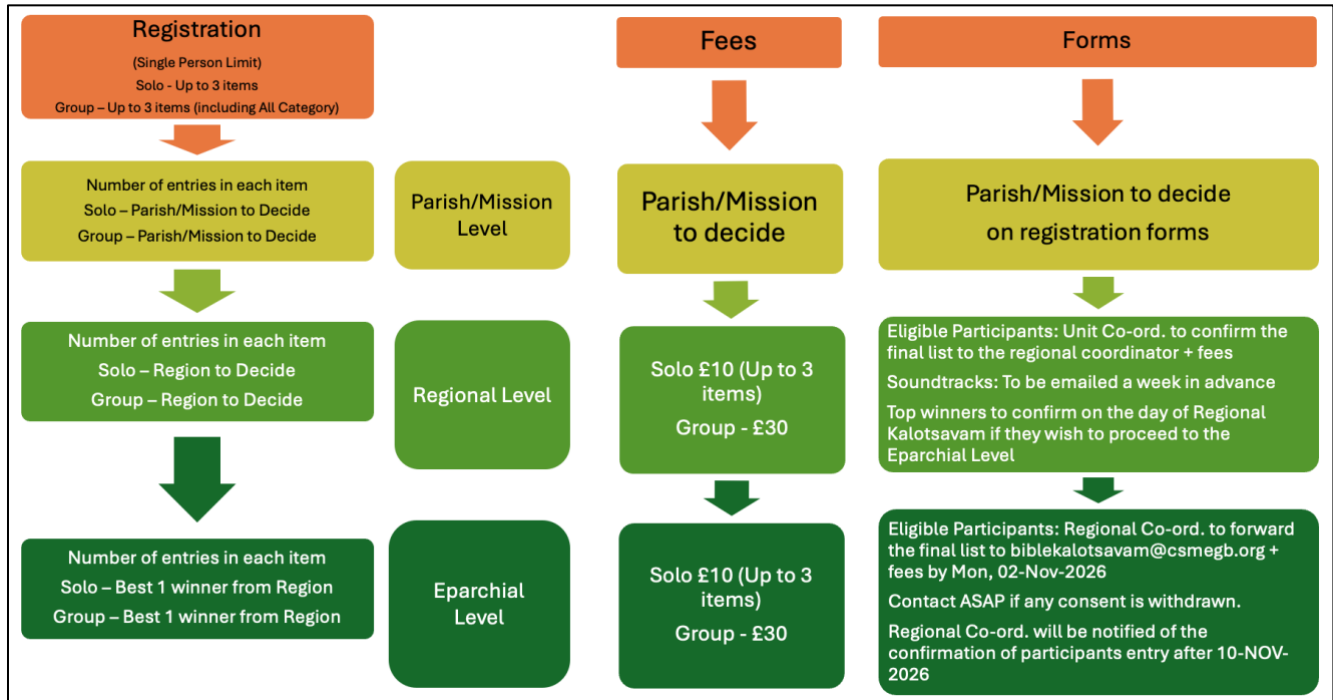
- a. Introduction of a Solo Syriac Song category.
- b. Introduction of Bible Citation.
- c. Introduction of Margam Kali into two distinct age categories.
- d. Reintroduction of the Instrumental Guitar.
- e. Reintroduction of the Instrumental Violin.
- f. Additional marks for the use of Malayalam in Mono Act, Solo Song and Group Song categories have been removed this year.
- g. Microphones will not be provided for Solo Song, Group Song or Mono Act performances.
- h. The registration fee for group items has been increased to £30 per item.
- i. Introduction of Souvenir Publication Initiative (Non-Competitive Categories) – Short story and Poetry.
- j. Updated appeal process.



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4.2. Appendix 2: Registration, payment and registration forms (Overview)



4.3. Appendix 3: Important Dates to Remember

Kalotsavam Level		Registration Date	Fees to be Paid by	Competition / Submission Date
Unit Level				
Regional Level	Kalotsavam			
	Audio Track Submission			
Eparchial Level	Short Story writing	Registration not required	No registration fee	22 Sept 2026
	Poem writing	Registration not required	No registration fee	22 Sept 2026
	Short film (SF) Competition	10 OCT 2026	2 NOV 2026	Upload SF by 18 OCT 2026
	Audio Track Submission			Submit audio tracks by 12-NOV-2026
	Kalotsavam	2 NOV 2026	2 NOV 2026	21 NOV 2026

4.4. Appendix 4: Overview of Bible Kalotsavam competitions

BK 2026 Overview	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Competition Rules & Guidelines



Programme	Duration	Up to 7	8 to 10	11 to 13	14 to 17	18 to 24	Adults (25+)	All Ages	Under 30 Years	30 Years & Above
Bible Reading - English	2 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bible Reading - Malayalam	2 mins		✓	✓	✓					
Elocution - English	3 mins		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Elocution - Malayalam	3 mins		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Colour Painting	30 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Pencil Sketching	30 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Essay Writing - English	30 mins		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Essay Writing – Malayalam or English	30 mins						✓			
Bible Mono act	5 mins		✓	✓	✓					
Bible Citation	15 mins		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Bible Costume	30 secs	✓	✓	✓						
Syriac Song Solo	3 mins		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Song – Solo	3-5 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Song – Group (Max 8)	3-5 mins		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Instrumental – Keyboard	3 mins		✓	✓	✓					
Instrumental – Guitar	3 mins		✓	✓	✓					
Instrumental – Violin	3 mins		✓	✓	✓					
Dance – Solo	5 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Dance – Group (Max 8)	5 mins	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Margam Kali (6-8+2, Max 10)	9 mins								✓	✓
Bible Tableau (Max 8 + 4 Support)	1 min							✓		
Bible Skit (Max 8 + 4 Support)	10 mins							✓		
Short Film (Unlimited participants. Max 15 Certificates)	11 mins							✓		
Souvenir Publication Initiative (Non-Competitive Categories)										
Programme	Duration	Up to 7	8 to 10	11 to 13	14 to 17	18 to 24	Adults (25+)	All Ages	Under 30 Years	Above 30 Years
Short Story Writing Inspired by the Bible	1,000 words Max	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Poetry Writing Inspired by the Bible	3 to 5 stanzas and 3 to 6 lines per stanza	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			



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4.5. Appendix 5: Short Film Declaration Form for Authenticity of Production

(Please print, fill and submit with your submission)

Confirmation of Authenticity **Short Film/Production Declaration Form**

Production Title: _____

Group/Team Name: _____

Parish / Mission / Proposed Mission: _____

Region: _____

Declaration

The main actors, technicians, script writers, production team and any other persons involved in this production are registered members of a Parish, Mission, or Proposed Mission of CSMEGB and this production is solely their own works.

We confirm that:

- The dialogues, performances, and overall narrative reflect originality and are not plagiarised or copied from other works.
- The production adheres to the principles and rules established for the CSMEGB Eparchial Kalotsavam 2026 and meets the required standards of originality, creativity, and Christian values.
- No external elements have been used without proper authorisation.
- We understand that any violation of these rules and regulations may result in disqualification

Signatures

Parish / Mission / Proposed Mission Priest in Charge: _____

Signature: _____

Producer/Director: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____