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# Thuckalay Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**"Habemus Papam"**



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## THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Mr. S Shajan

Mr. S M Antony Justus

### BISHOP'S HOUSE

P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175

### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Mr. Y. R. Dominic  
Guwahati, Assam

# INSIDE STORY

➔ Message from the Bishop . . . . .	3
➔ A Dream Fulfilled: St. Michael's Church Consecrated After 40 Years . . . . .	4
➔ From Servant to Shepherd: Ordination Day Blessings . . . . .	5
➔ Chosen by God, Ordained for His People. . . . .	6
➔ Stepping into Sacred Ministry: Diaconate Ordination Highlights . . . . .	7
➔ Robed in Commitment, Rooted in Christ . . . . .	8
➔ Discerning Together: A Spirit-Filled Gathering . . . . .	9
➔ Sanctified and Sent Forth: A Sacred Day in Kayathar . . . . .	10
➔ Work, Witness, Worship: A Seminarians' Camp of Commitment. . . . .	11
➔ Called to Listen, Dared to Follow: Vocation Camps . . . . .	12
➔ A Night of Grace: Church Blessing and Maundy Thursday at Sundarapandyapuram . . . . .	13
➔ From the Upper Room to the Empty Tomb: Holy Week celebrations . . . . .	14
➔ Reflecting, Rejoicing, and Renewing: A Day of Spiritual Growth . . . . .	15
➔ Faith in Action: Equipping VPV teachers' for Effective Ministry . . . . .	16
➔ From Grace to Vows: Sr. Jeniba's Journey Begins . . . . .	17





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**Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175**

## Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord!

On this World Nurses Day, we pause with deep gratitude to honor the noble vocation of nurses – those remarkable individuals whose daily work often goes unseen but whose impact is immeasurable. Nursing is far more than a profession; it is a sacred calling, a life of service rooted in compassion, empathy, and unwavering commitment to the dignity of every human person. A nurse's presence is felt in the most critical moments of human life. They are there at the dawn of life, welcoming newborns with gentle hands and steady hearts. They are by the side of the suffering, managing pain, wiping tears, and offering not just medical care, but human connection. They are present at the threshold of death, offering comfort, peace, and dignity in the final moments. In each of these sacred encounters, nurses become co-workers in God's ongoing act of creation – sustaining, nurturing, and honoring the gift of life. Nurses embody the healing love of God. Through their quiet strength and tireless devotion, they

proclaim the message, "We care, God cures." Their vocation is a visible expression of divine mercy – a ministry of presence that communicates love even when words fail. In their hands, compassion becomes action; in their hearts, hope becomes a steady flame that lights the way for those who are suffering. Too often, their contributions are overlooked, their sacrifices unnoticed. Yet behind every recovery, every life saved, every moment of peace given to a frightened patient, stands a nurse who has given of themselves. Their long hours, emotional resilience, and willingness to serve in the most challenging circumstances reveal a profound sense of vocation rooted in service and love. Their care extends beyond physical healing. Nurses are often the emotional and spiritual anchors in hospitals, hospices, clinics, and homes. They listen to stories, offer prayers, provide reassurance, and sometimes, simply sit in silence with someone who feels alone. In doing so, they affirm the sacredness of every person, reminding us that to care for the body is also to care for the soul. In our Christian faith, we hold firmly that all human life is sacred and worthy of reverence. Nurses uphold this truth with every act of care they provide. They remind us of the face of Christ in the suffering and call us to respond with the same compassion and humility that He showed. As we celebrate our nurses today, let us not only express our gratitude with words but also with our prayers, support, and recognition. May God bless their healing hands, fortify their caring hearts, and fill their lives with the deep joy that comes from knowing they are a vital part of the Kingdom of God on earth. To all nurses: "Thank you for answering the call. You are a blessing to our world".



+ **George Rajendran sdb**  
*Bishop of Thuckalay*

## A Dream Fulfilled

### St. Michael's Church Consecrated after 40 Years



The consecration of St. Michael's Church, Thettivilai, took place on 4 May 2025 at 2:30 p.m., marking a deeply memorable and long-awaited occasion for the parish community. After nearly 40 years of anticipation, the new church was solemnly blessed by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran. The parish priest, Rev. Fr. Augustine Thalodil, along with his assistant, Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil, played a key role in preparing for and organizing this joyful celebration. The event was a profound moment of gratitude and spiritual fulfilment for the faithful of Thettivilai.





## From Servant to Shepherd Ordination Day Blessings



Every priest is a cherished blessing to the Church, and the Eparchy had much reason to rejoice and give thanks to God for the gift of a new priest. On 30 April 2025, at Devamatha Church, Deacon Sunil Antony was ordained to the priesthood. The ceremony was marked by a profound homily delivered by Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, which deeply moved all those in attendance. Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan served as the Archdeacon for the Ordination. As an Eparchy, a warm and heartfelt welcome was extended to Rev. Fr. Sunil Antony, with prayers that he may be abundantly blessed by God in his pastoral ministry.



## Chosen by God, Ordained for His People



On 3 May 2025, the Eparchy rejoiced in the ordination of Deacon Anoop Augustine to the priesthood, a moment of immense grace celebrated at St. Sebastian's Church, Kaduthuruthy. The solemn liturgy was enhanced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Protosyncellus, who served as the Archdeacon for the celebration. A moving homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Joji Marangattu, former Rector of the Minor Seminary of Thuckalay, which deeply touched the hearts of those present. With heartfelt prayers, the Eparchy welcomed Rev. Fr. Anoop Augustine into the presbyteral ministry, asking the Lord to guide and strengthen him in his pastoral mission.





## Stepping into Sacred Ministry Diaconate Ordination Highlights



On 15 April 2025, at Christ the King Church, Paraicode, the Major Order of Diaconate was conferred upon Bro. Varghese (Bibin) Koyickakudiyil, Bro. Joseph (Bibin) Vettakonam, and Bro. Mathew (Tony) Kallamparambil. The liturgical celebration began at 5:30 p.m., with Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil serving as the Archdeacon and Rev. Fr. Aby Poovathummoottil concelebrating the Holy Qurbana. Following the Qurbana, a brief felicitation meeting was held inside the church. Dn. Tony expressed

words of gratitude on behalf of the group, thanking all those who contributed to the organization of the event.

The celebration concluded with a joyful dinner, marking the occasion with warmth and fellowship. Sincere appreciation was extended to Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil, the Parish Priest, and to the parishioners of Christ the King Church for their meticulous planning and wholehearted involvement in making the day a truly memorable one for all present.



## Robed in Commitment, Rooted in Christ

On 14 April 2025, the Minor Orders were administered at Sangamam at 7:00 a.m. During the ceremony, Bro. Antony Raj, Bro. Sebastian (Sibin C.K.), and Bro. Sebastian (Melvin) received the Cassock. Bro. Solomon (Godwin Christudhas) received the Minor Order of Karoyusa, and Bro. Denis (Divin Raj) received the Minor Order of Heupadiyagnusa.

The parents and family members of the brothers who received the Cassock, along with members of the Curia, were present for the celebration. The Holy Qurbana was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam CMI. Bro. Antony Raj expressed words of gratitude on behalf of all the brothers.





## Discerning Together A Spirit-Filled Gathering

On 14 April 2025, following the Minor Orders ceremony, a meeting of the major seminary brothers was held at Sangamam with the participation of the Curia members. All major seminarians except those from Ujjain were present for the gathering. During the meeting, the brothers shared their academic and pastoral experiences from the past year, drawn from their respective seminaries and parish assignments. The Curia members used the occasion to clearly communicate the Diocese's expectations regarding the consistent observance of formative values, both during seminary life and throughout vacation periods. As part of the proceedings, new leaders were elected to take on leadership roles among the brothers. Bro. Divin Raj was elected as the Common leader, and Bro. Tebin as the leader for the Philosophy Section.





## Sanctified and Sent Forth A Sacred Day in Kayathar

The Kayathar mission officially commenced on 13 June 2019 in the presence of 500 villagers. This initiative was undertaken by the FCC Sisters of San Joe Province, Thuckalay. The Sisters began their mission by operating a tuition centre, conducting house visits, and organizing healthcare programmes, all while residing in a rented house until their convent was established on 23 March 2023. Since 2022, Rev. Fr. Jomon Mangalamadam has been entrusted with overseeing and coordinating the mission activities in the Thoothukudi district, with special attention to Kayathar. In collaboration with the Sisters, he actively engaged in village visits and implemented a variety of social service initiatives, while also residing in a rented house.

Through his dedicated efforts, the Diocese acquired one acre of land in Rajapudhukudi,

Kayathar, in January 2023. The foundation stone for the new church and presbytery was laid on 03 October 2023. Owing to the tireless work of Rev. Fr. Jomon Mangalamadam, the construction of both the church and presbytery was brought to completion. The newly constructed church and presbytery were blessed on 13 April 2025 at 5:00 p.m., in the presence of Mrs. Mercy Jose Kappen from Thodupuzha, as well as priests, religious sisters, lay faithful from Thuckalay, and numerous villagers from the surrounding areas. The church has been dedicated to St. Sebastian, making it the first church in the Diocese under his patronage, and the presbytery has been named Divine Mercy Presbytery.





## Work, Witness, Worship A Seminarians' Camp of Commitment

The annual work camp for major seminarians was held this year at Nankuneri in the Tirunelveli mission from 21 to 25 April 2025. Twelve brothers, including three deacons, arrived on Monday morning and promptly began their work. The entire camp was thoughtfully organized under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Tobin Alapurackal. During the camp, the seminarians engaged in cleaning activities at Nirmala Home, a residence for destitute women currently under construction and planted vegetables on the surrounding land. Their accommodation was arranged in a rented house located nearby.



**You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminarian in his formation:**

Please write / mail to us for any enquiry / details. We shall contact you with all further details soliciting your generous support:

**Postal Address:**

Bishop's House, P.B. 12, Thuckalay,  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

**Contact Mission Procure:**

Fr. Liju Marattukalam  
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;  
Email: [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)



## Called to Listen, Dared to Follow: Vocation Camps

A Vocation Orientation Camp was held on through the diocese for students from Classes 8 to 12. The programme commenced at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m., drawing the participation of 47 students, both boys and girls. Rev. Fr. Mijo Sebastian led the sessions, while Rev. Fr. George Kandathil engaged the students through personal interactions, fostering a reflective atmosphere. The camp also featured presentations by the SABS and FCC Sisters, who shared about their religious life and service in the diocese, encouraging the girls to consider a life dedicated to God. Alongside the spiritual and formative inputs, the day included games and interactive activities, making it both meaningful and enjoyable for the participants.





# A Night of Grace

## Church Blessing and Maundy Thursday at Sundarapandyapuram



On Maundy Thursday, a day commemorating the institution of the Lord's Supper and the Priesthood, two of the most profound and foundational events in the Christian faith a special liturgy was celebrated at Sundarapandyapuram, in the Tenkasi mission. The Sundarapandyapuram mission began in 2015, and for many years, the liturgical celebrations were held in front of the house of a dedicated parishioner. However, by the grace of God, a plot of land with an existing church building was acquired. On 17 April 2025, at 6:00 p.m., and Rev. Bishop blessed the newly established Sahaya Matha Church. Faithful from both Mekkarai Parish and Sundarapandyapuram participated in the occasion. After the blessing, the Holy Qurbana was celebrated, which included the traditional Washing of the Feet ceremony and the sharing of Pesaha Appam in keeping with the Maundy Thursday customs.



## NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

Please write the following and send SMS



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Name: .....

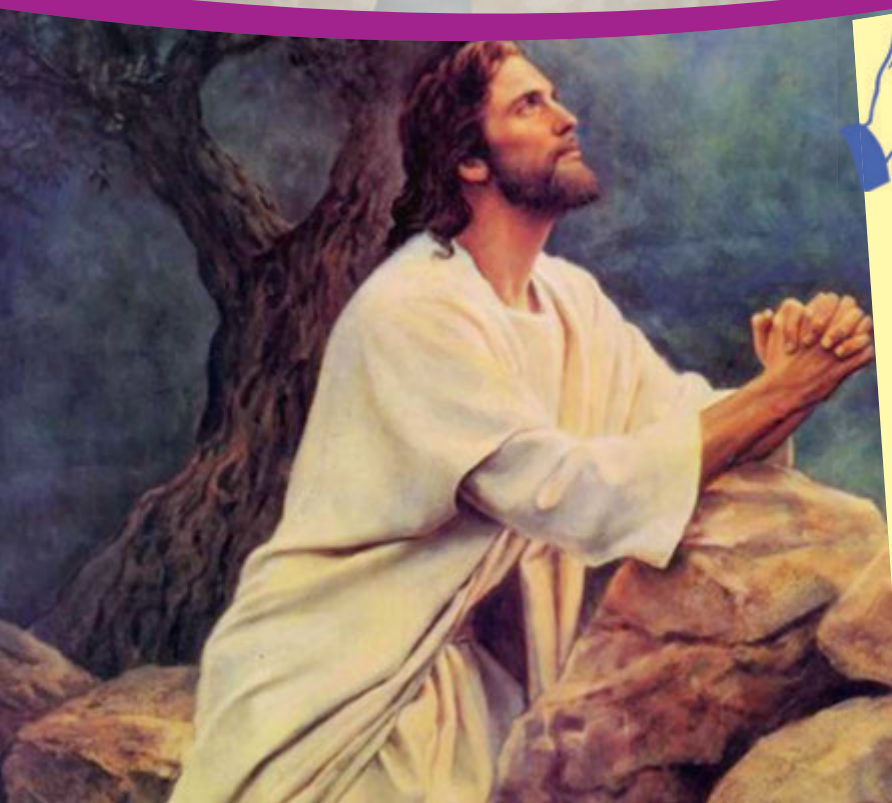
Place: .....

Intentions: .....

In detail you wish to express,



: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com





# From the Upper Room to the Empty Tomb

## Holy Week celebrations

On 13 April 2025, the Bishop presided over the Palm Sunday liturgy at St. James Church, Mankarai. The procession began at 8:00 a.m. from the convent and concluded at 10:30 a.m. Thanks were given to Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil and the parishioners for their preparation and participation in the celebration. On Good Friday, 18 April 2025, the faithful commemorated the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ with the Way of the Cross at Holy Family Church, Mukkoottukal. The procession proceeded toward Manjalumoodu Junction, where three parishes united for the seventh station, and the Bishop delivered the Good Friday message. Appreciation was extended to Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal and the other Fathers for their dedication in organizing the services. On 19 April 2025, the Bishop celebrated the Easter Vigil Holy Qurbana at St. George Church, Anayadi, which began at 10:45 p.m. Solemn Holy Communion was also administered to children.







## Reflecting, Rejoicing, and Renewing A Day of Spiritual Growth

On 16 April 2025, a day of recollection for all priests and religious of the diocese was held at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai, just before Maundy Thursday. The event offered a spiritually enriching experience, where priests and sisters gathered for prayer, adoration, and confession. The day began with the Way of the

Cross, followed by a profound reflection led by Fr. Ubald, Parish Priest of Kanyakumari. His message set the tone for deep contemplation and spiritual renewal. The highlight was the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, during which the Bishop consecrated the Holy Oil (Myron).







## Faith in Action Equipping VPV teachers' for Effective Ministry

On 26 April 2025, a VPV training course for catechism teachers was held at the Parish Auditorium in Padanthalumoodu. After the inaugural prayer, the teachers were divided into four groups, where they received practical tips on conducting VPV sessions. Sessions were facilitated by Mr. Selvakumar, Mr. Vijayarajan, Mr. Shonic Reegan, and Mr. Vincent Raj, with major seminarians animating the teachers through action songs and games. Over 150 teachers participated, and the event concluded with a remembrance prayer and office for the dead for Pope Francis, led by Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan. Gratitude was extended to Fr. Abilash Xavier, the director, and the catechetical team for organizing the course efficiently.







## From Grace to Vows: Sr. Jeniba's Journey Begins

On 8 May 2025, at 2:00 p.m., the Vestition and First Profession of Sr. Jeniba, belonging to the Sacred Heart Congregation (SH), was held at St. Joseph's Church, Marappady. The ceremony was a significant moment of joy and spiritual depth, marking her official entry into consecrated life. Surrounded by her family, the SH Sisters, parishioners, and clergy, Sr. Jeniba received the religious habit and professed her first vows in a spirit of dedication and gratitude to God. The liturgy was reverently celebrated, reflecting the solemnity of the occasion and the joy of the community in witnessing one of their own offer her life to the service of God and the Church.

This memorable celebration was Solemnized by Mar George Rajendran and the delivered homily will be served as a strong reminder of the enduring value and witness of religious life. The presence and active participation of the faithful, together with the encouragement of the priests and religious present, made the event all the more meaningful. The Sacred Heart Sisters expressed their joy and gratitude for Sr. Jeniba's generous response to God's call, and prayed for her continued perseverance and fidelity in the path she has chosen.

As a diocese, we give thanks to God for this beautiful vocation and entrust Sr. Jeniba to the loving care of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May her life be a radiant witness to God's love and a source of inspiration for other young people discerning their vocation. Heartfelt thanks were extended to all who contributed to the organization of the day.





**Rev. Fr. George Thevalakkara CMI (88)**  
Former Missionary in Kaliyal



**Rev. Fr. Sebastian Pinel CMI (85)**  
Former Missionary in Kaliyal



**Mr. Tomy Thakadiyel**  
Beloved Father of Rev. Fr. Linto





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MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

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Caring for nurses strengthens economies"**

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**BISHOP'S HOUSE** | P.B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O, Kanyakumari District - 629 175

TAMIL NADU, South India | Tel : +91 4651250633.

Email : Office - [thuckalaymission@gmail.com](mailto:thuckalaymission@gmail.com)

Mission Procure - [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com) | Mob +91 9487165903

Website : [www.thuckalaydiocese.org](http://www.thuckalaydiocese.org)