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Thuck'alay Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



“As the earth puts on its crown of blossoms, we crown Mary as our Mother and Queen, seeking her protection under her blue mantle”



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Message

Greetings from the diocese of Thuckalay!

The month of May is a season of grace, an annual invitation to draw nearer to the Mother of God and discover in her the perfect roadmap for a truly Eucharistic life. Mary is not a figure on the sidelines of faith; she stands at the very center. Long before there were tabernacles of gold and marble, there was a tabernacle of flesh and love. At the Annunciation, Mary's Fiat—her 'Yes'—allowed her womb to become the first dwelling of the Son of God. In this mystery, we see the foundation of all spiritual life: the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us. Every time we approach the Blessed Sacrament, we follow her example, making space in our hearts to become living vessels of the Lord.

This Eucharistic spirit was most profoundly visible at Calvary. While others fled, Mary remained steadfast at the foot of the Cross as her Son offered the ultimate sacrifice. Because the Holy Eucharist makes this sacrifice present across time and space, we are all called to stand where Mary stood, uniting our daily sufferings and joys with Jesus' eternal offering. This devotion continued in the Upper Room, where she stayed with the young Church, persevering in prayer

and awaiting the Holy Spirit. She reminds us that a life centered on Christ is never lived in isolation; she promotes communion and unity among all who follow her Son.

At the heart of this journey lies the 'Yes' Mary offered throughout her life—at Bethlehem, Cana, and the Cross. The Eucharist is fundamentally an act of self-offering, and Mary shows that through a faith-filled and selfless life, we become ever more conformed to the heart of God. To sustain this interior life, the Church offers the Rosary as a 'school of Mary'. It is not a mere private devotion to be squeezed into the margins of a busy schedule, but a contemplative window. Through its mysteries, we gaze upon the face of Christ, from the wonder of the Incarnation to the sacrificial heart of the Passion and the hope of the Resurrection.

This dedication to Our Lady is a sign of spiritual wisdom and strength, confirmed by generations of faithful witness. It is not a sign of weakness or sentimentality, but a constitutive part of a Christian identity. By receiving Mary into the interior sanctuary of our lives, we find a support that is at once maternal and supernatural. She is a present Mother and a powerful intercessor who asks nothing of us that she has not first experienced herself. As we embrace this month of renewal, let us ask her to shape us into souls who carry Christ to others with fervour and offer ourselves with Him in every act of service to the world.

With my prayers and blessings,



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay

Priests and Religious Unite in Prayerful Recollection at Kalluvilai



On 01 April 2026, a day of recollection was prayerfully organized for all the priests and religious of the diocese at Sinai Retreat Centre. The gathering became a spiritually enriching occasion as priests and sisters came together in an atmosphere of prayer, adoration, and reconciliation. The day began with the devotion of the Way of the Cross, helping the participants to meditate deeply on the passion of Christ. This was followed by a meaningful and inspiring reflection led by Fr. Amrtha Raj from the Diocese of Kottar, whose message encouraged spiritual renewal and deeper

commitment to priestly and religious life. Opportunities for adoration and confession added to the prayerful spirit of the recollection. The programme concluded with the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana presided over by the Bishop and concelebrated by all the priests present. The diocese expressed sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the successful organization of the recollection, especially Fr. Vinu D. Joseph, Director of the Retreat Centre, for his dedicated leadership and service.



Commemorating the Holy Pesaha at Kunnuvilai

Pesaha Thursday, which commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper and the Priesthood, remains one of the most significant celebrations in the Christian faith. Through the solemn remembrance of these sacred events, the faithful are reminded of the selfless sacrifice of Jesus Christ and are called to imitate His love and compassion toward others. During every Holy Qurbana, the Church re-enacts the profound words of Jesus: "This is my Body. This is my Blood. Do this in remembrance of me," inspiring believers to deepen their understanding of His immense love and to follow in His footsteps. This year, the Pesaha Thursday liturgy was celebrated on 02 April 2026 at St. Joseph's Church,



Kunnuvilai, where the Holy Qurbana commenced at 6.45 p.m. The foot-washing ceremony served as a moving reminder of Christ's humble service to humanity, while the sharing of the traditional Pesaha Appam symbolized the unity of the community of believers. Sincere appreciation is extended to Fr. Antony Madapurackal for organizing the celebration in a meaningful and prayerful manner.

JOURNEY TO CALVARY: *Passion Friday at Muzhucode Parish*



On the solemn occasion of Passion Friday, the faithful gathered together to commemorate the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, the greatest expression of divine love for humanity. On 03 April 2026, all parishes observed this holy day through liturgical ceremonies, the Way of the Cross, and deep reflection on the mystery of the Passion. At St. Thomas Church, Muzhucode, the Passion Friday liturgical ceremonies were attended by the Bishop. The Holy Hour commenced at 10.30 a.m., followed by the solemn liturgical celebration. Gratitude is extended to Fr. Santhosh CMI for organizing the ceremonies in a deeply prayerful manner and for fostering



the liturgical spirit among the faithful. The day became an occasion of profound spiritual reflection and contemplation for all gathered in the church. Later in the afternoon, participation was also made in the Way of the Cross organized by Karode Parish to the Kurissumala in Karode.

Sacred Easter Celebrations at Mathapuram Parish and Blessing of the Renovated Madbaha and Presbytery

The Easter Vigil, proclaiming the joyful truth "The Lord is Risen indeed," marked the culmination of Holy Week celebrations across all parishes on the night of 04 April 2026 and the early hours of 05 April 2026. At St. Thomas Church, Mathapuram, the Easter Vigil Holy Qurbana commenced at 11.00 p.m. on 04 April. Prior to the liturgy, the renovated Madbaha was blessed in the presence of the Forane Vicar, Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil, and following the Holy Qurbana, a renovated presbytery converted from an unused house was also blessed. The active participation of the faithful added great fervour to the



celebration. Gratitude is extended to Fr. Jose Paul Purayidathikunnel for his dedicated efforts in renovating the Madbaha and presbytery and for spiritually preparing the parish community for Easter.

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:

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Contact Mission Procure:
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 Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



Vocation Month of Prayer and Discernment

In preparation for World Vocation Sunday observed on 26 April 2026, the Vocation Commission of the Eparchy organized a Vocation Month from 05 April 2026 to 26 April 2026 with the aim of promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The observance was inaugurated on Easter Sunday, 05 April 2026, in every parish through the lighting of the lamp during the Holy Qurbana, while both inaugural and concluding celebrations were conducted across the eparchy. To foster greater awareness and participation, a special circular prepared by the Bishop was read in all parishes, and vocation prayers were recited daily throughout the month, uniting the faithful in prayer for vocations. Parish priests delivered inspiring sermons highlighting the importance of vocations within the eparchy and encouraged young people to discern this noble calling. Heartfelt appreciation is extended to all the priests who took personal



initiative in promoting vocations and effectively utilized the resources provided by the Vocation Commission. Special gratitude is also expressed to Fr. George Kandathil for his timely efforts and dedicated coordination, which greatly contributed to the successful observance of the Vocation Month.



Priestly Ordinations

Three deacons were ordained to the priesthood during solemn celebrations held in Thuckalay Diocese in April 2026. On 07 April 2026, at St. George Church, Venchembu in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, Deacon Joseph (Bibin) Vettakonam was ordained to the priesthood. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam served as the Archdeacon, while Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil concelebrated the ordination, and an inspiring homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Cyril Thomas Thayyil. Following the ordination, the Holy Qurbana was concelebrated by the newly ordained Fr. Bibin Vettakonam along with Fr. Linto Thakidiyel and Fr. Josin Kochuparampil. On 08 April 2026, at St. Mathew's Church, Thinkalkadu in the Diocese of Idukki, Deacon Varghese (Bibin) Koyickakudiyil was ordained to the priesthood with Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam serving as the Archdeacon and Rev. Fr. George Kuzhuppallil as

concelebrant and homilist. The first Holy Qurbana of the newly ordained Fr. Bibin Koyickakudiyil was concelebrated by Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Fr. Amanto Edakkoottathil, Fr. Ouseph Nedumpuram, and Fr. Joseph Thottoyil. Later, on 14 April 2026, at Infant Jesus Church, Sisumala in the Diocese of Mananthavady, Deacon Mathew (Tony) Kallamparambil was ordained to the priesthood with Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam as Archdeacon and Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal as concelebrant. The homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Jofin Kuruvummakkal CST, and the Holy Qurbana was concelebrated by the newly ordained Fr. Tony Kallamparambil along with Fr. Sanil Panthichirackal, Fr. Amanto Edakkoottathil, Fr. George Mampillil, and Fr. Sijo Nadackan. As an Eparchy, we extend a warm welcome to our new priests, praying that they may receive God's choicest blessings throughout their pastoral ministry.



Mission Meet @ Tenkasi



A meeting for the priests and religious of the Tenkasi Mission was held on 11 April 2026 at CMC Convent, Puliyarai. The gathering began with Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, creating a prayerful atmosphere for the meeting. Presided over by the Mission Coordinator, Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, the discussions focused on the pastoral and administrative activities of the mission, with special emphasis on the effective implementation of Faith Formation programmes such as VPV and the organized conduct of parish festivals. Missionaries also shared the various initiatives planned in their respective centres and mission stations. The meeting concluded with the final blessing and an Agape meal, fostering fellowship and collaboration among the members. Gratitude is extended to Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil for organizing the mission meeting effectively.

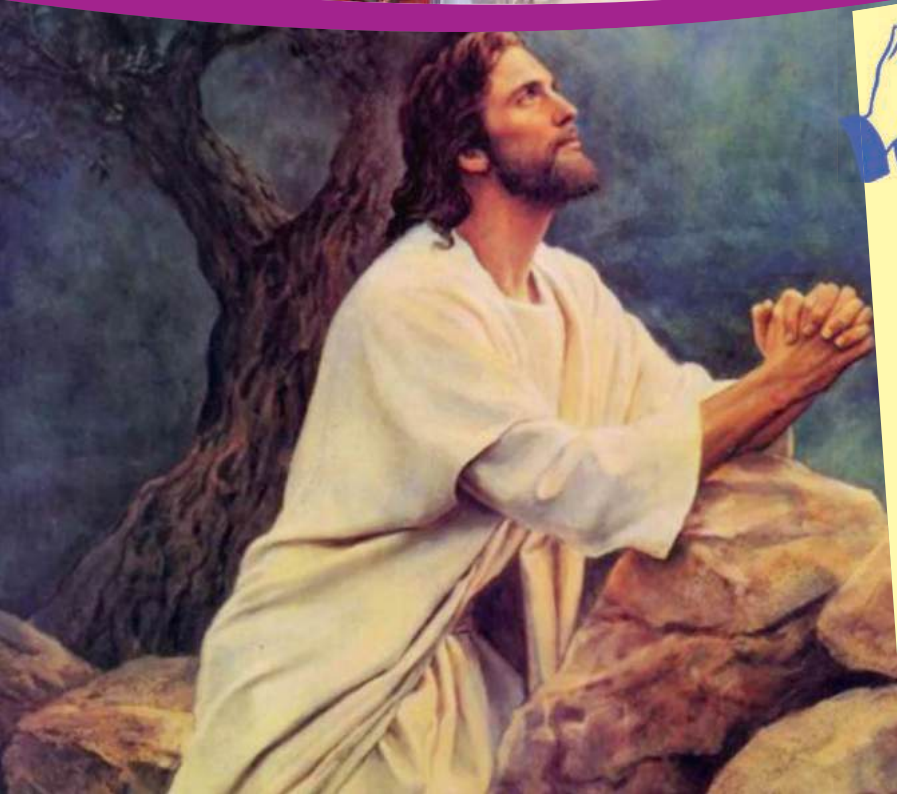


Sharing Faith and Formation with Seminarians

On 17 April 2026, a meeting of the major seminarians was held at St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal with the participation of the curia members. All major seminarians, except those from Ujjain, attended the gathering and shared their academic and pastoral experiences from various seminaries and parishes. During the meeting, the curia members emphasized the importance of adhering to formative values during seminary formation and vacation




periods, and new leaders were also elected among the brothers. Gratitude is extended to Rev. Fr. Bobby MST for effectively organizing the vacation programme for the major seminarians.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

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Name:

Place:

Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,

 : bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

Journey of Discernment: Come and See Camp at Mukkoottukal

Palm Sunday commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where He was joyfully welcomed by people waving palm branches, and it reminds us to open our hearts to Christ and faithfully follow His teachings. In this spirit, on 29 March 2026, Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB presided over the Hosanna Sunday liturgical celebrations at Fatima Matha Church, Fathimapuram (Kudukkachivilai), with the procession

beginning at 10:00 a.m. The celebration was marked by deep devotion and enthusiastic participation from the faithful. Bishop expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Johnsilal Arackapampil, the Parish Priest, Fr. Lijo Thekkel, and all the parishioners for their sincere spiritual preparation and active involvement, which made the celebration truly meaningful and prayerful.





Grace-Filled Moments at CMC Thuckalay - *Vestition and First Profession*

On 18 April 2026, at the CMC Chavara Provincial House, Thuckalay, Sr. Viji Therese CMC and Sr. Jeffy Clare CMC joyfully received their religious habits and made their First Profession in the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel during a solemn liturgical celebration held at 10.00 a.m. The Holy Qurbana was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Jose

Muttathupadam, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekkalam CMI, and Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, while the homily was delivered by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal. Following the liturgy, felicitations and prayerful wishes were extended to the newly professed Sisters as they began their religious journey.





Franciscan Year Inauguration and Pilgrim Centre Declaration at Mezhacode

In connection with the 800th anniversary of the Heavenly Birth of St. Francis of Assisi and the Special Jubilee Year declared by the Holy Father, St. Francis Assisi Church, Mezhacode was officially declared a Pilgrimage Centre of the Diocese on 19 April 2026. The celebrations began with Eucharistic Adoration, followed by a solemn procession, the blessing of the Jubilee Door, and the installation of the Sacred Relic of St. Francis of Assisi brought by Rev. Sr. Celia FCC. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal read the decree declaring the church a Pilgrim Centre until 10 January 2027 and announced the

granting of plenary indulgence to pilgrims. A concelebrated Holy Qurbana was then offered for the intentions of the universal Church and the Eparchy. The programme concluded with speeches by catechetical students, words of gratitude from Fr. Bibin Kocheethra, and an agape meal. Appreciation was extended to Fr. Bibin Kocheethra, the FCC Sisters, and the parishioners for their dedicated arrangements, while the faithful were encouraged to undertake pilgrimages to the sacred center during the Jubilee Year.



Priests' Conference, Farewell Gathering and Feast Day Celebration



The Priests' Conference for the month of April, together with the celebration of the Feast of St. George and a farewell gathering for departing priests, was held at Sangamam on 25 April 2026. The gathering began with Eucharistic Adoration led by Fr. Jogesh Polachira, followed by the conference presided over by the Bishop under the coordination of the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam. The meeting included the presentation of previous minutes, greetings for birthdays and feast days, departmental updates, and the official welcome of the newly ordained priests, Fr. Bibin Koyickakudiyil and Fr. Tony Kallamparambil, into the Presbyterium. A special farewell and thanksgiving session was organized for Rev. Fr. Jose Kanachikuzhiyil, Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST, and Rev. Fr.

Jiji Puthenpurackal in appreciation of their dedicated service to the Diocese. In his presidential address, the Bishop shared practical guidelines regarding priestly transfers and informed the assembly that the Minor Seminary would remain closed for one year due to the lack of candidates. Following the conference, festive celebrations in honour of St. George, the Bishop's patron saint and the second patron of the Diocese, were held in the refectory with felicitations, songs, and the presence of priests, religious, and representatives of various communities. Gratitude was expressed to all who contributed to the meaningful celebration, especially the Vicar General and his collaborators for organizing the event successfully.





VPV Animation and Training Programme at Padanthalumoodu

On 25 April 2026, VPV training programme for catechism teachers was conducted at the Parish Auditorium, Padanthalumoodu. Following the inaugural prayer, the participants were divided into groups for training sessions that focused on practical and effective methods of conducting VPV classes. The sessions were led by Mr. Edwinson and Mr. Shonic Reegan, while the major seminarians animated the gathering through action songs and games, creating an engaging atmosphere.

More than 159 teachers participated in the programme, which concluded at 4.00 p.m. A major highlight of the event was the official release and distribution of the VPV 2026 textbooks, marking a historic milestone for Narcheithi Nilayam as the textbooks were prepared and produced entirely in-house for the first time. Gratitude was expressed to Fr. Abilash Xavier and the catechetical team for effectively organizing the programme.



Empowering Young Minds: Edufair 2026 @ Kalluvilai



With the aim of empowering the next generation of professionals, Edufair 2026 was successfully conducted on 25 April 2026 at the Asir Auditorium, Kalluvilai, for Plus One and Plus Two students seeking guidance in academic and career planning. The programme was presided over by Fr. Mahesh Antony, while the keynote address was delivered by Mr. Anto Xavier, whose insightful session helped students gain a clearer understanding of emerging career opportunities and the importance of focused planning. A total of 189 students from various schools participated enthusiastically in the programme, and twelve prominent colleges set up stalls offering counselling and detailed information regarding courses, admissions, and campus facilities. Gratitude was expressed to Fr. Mahesh Antony and his team for successfully organizing and conducting Edufair 2026.



NEW MILESTONE: *Nidhi Limited Branch @ Utharamcode*



Thuckalay Nidhi Limited celebrated a significant milestone in its organizational growth with the successful inauguration of its newest branch at Utharamcode, Muzhucode, on 27 April 2026. The event was marked by a formal ceremony attended by distinguished guests, local leaders, and members of the administrative team. The function was presided over by the Bishop, who offered his blessings and guidance for the new venture. The branch was officially inaugurated by CA Amirtha Rajan, who addressed the gathering on the importance of financial inclusion. Rev. Fr. Saji Elambaseril delivered the felicitation address, commending the institution for its commitment to serving the regional community. Gratitude was also expressed to Fr. Mahesh Antony and his dedicated Nidhi team for their meticulous planning and logistical arrangements that contributed to the successful inauguration of the new branch.



Sacred Blessing Ceremony of Kurissadi at Karode



On 28 April 2025, the renovated Kurissadi dedicated to St. Mary, situated in front of St. Joseph's Church, Karode, was solemnly blessed during a prayerful ceremony presided over by the Bishop. The celebration included a Solemn Holy Qurbana, during which two children received their First Holy Communion, and was attended by priests from neighbouring parishes. Gratitude was expressed to Fr. Justin Sutheesh for his dedicated efforts and excellent organization of the meaningful celebration.



In Memoriam



Rev. Sr. Ambrosia SH

**was a member in Arukani convent
during the years 1998 – 2001**

In Memory of a Life Well-Lived



Mrs. Thankamma Thomas (74),
the beloved mother of Fr. Josy Puthenpurayil.



Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew (80),
the beloved mother of Sr. Maria Mathew CMC.



Mr. Thomas Cheruvelil (87),
the elder brother of the father of Fr. Justin Cheruvelil.



THUCKALAY
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**“Through the hands
of Saint Joseph,
ordinary work
became an
extraordinary
service to God.”**



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