



Bishop's *Circular*

For Priests / Sisters

Bishop George Rajendran sdb

Diocese of Thuckalay

Bishop's House, P B No: 12, Thuckalay PO,
Kanya kumari Dt- 629 175, Tamil Nadu, India

Ref. No. Priests/GR/139/2022

31 October 2022

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings and prayerful wishes Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

The entire Catholic Church, except some of the eastern churches, dedicates the month of November to its deceased members. We in our church the remembrance of all Departed Faithful is over served on the last Friday of *Denha*. Through the offering of Holy Eucharist and performing various forms of prayers, the members of the Catholic Church spend the entire month praying for the eternal repose of their dead. In the Latin Church 2 November is a day specially dedicated for this purpose. On this day, the priests are allowed to celebrate three masses so that they can assist the faithful pastorally in praying for the dead. The faithful, on their part, devoutly attend the holy Eucharist and visit the graves of their beloved, earnestly praying to God to forgive their sins and to take them to His own abode. As we are approaching the month of November, let us reflect upon the reality of death and how as priests we can assist our faithful in their last moments on the earth before they surrender their souls to their creator.

When we think of death, we realise that it happens in time. In the Scriptures, the book of Ecclesiastes speaks of life within a framework of time. It says: "There is a right time for everything" (Ecc. 3:1). It, then, gives us a long list of events for which there is an appropriate time. At the top of the list is this statement: "A time to be born, a time to die" (Ecc. 3:2). This is what confuses us now. We expect everyone to die in their old age. But strangely, we find some dying very young. Such deaths seem to be utterly inappropriate. It violates our sense of order. In our view of life, death and childhood are poles apart, and childhood or adolescents simply does not seem the right time to die - it does not seem to add up. Further, death brings tears. There are many things in life that become so much a part of a home that their absence leaves a void. It may be a picture that hangs on the wall, a familiar footstep or a cute pet. But nothing becomes as indispensable as a human being. From the outset he/ she tangles his/her tiny fingers in our heart strings and when they are pulled away the hurt is indescribable. It is an hour of heartache, a time of tears. However, as Christians we need to accept this reality with great faith. St Paul speaks of times in life when "we must walk by faith because we cannot walk by sight" (2 Cor 5:7). This is one of those times. There is no way for us to see and think our way through an hour such as we now face. Within the scope of human reason, a tragedy such as this simply does not make sense. Therefore, we either despair or find our strength in faith.

Let us now briefly examine the mystery of death. Of all the fears that plague the heart of man, none is greater than the fear of death. It is our greatest fear, the sum of all other fears. We are afraid to die. We are afraid of what happens when we die. Death is the fundamental human problem.

Life is short and so uncertain. “What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes” (James 4:14b). The Psalmist writes: “You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning—though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered” (Ps 90:5-6). It is sometimes said that nothing is certain in life except death and taxes. But that is not wholly true. A clever man with a good lawyer can find a way around most if not all of his taxes, but no one escapes death. As George Bernard Shaw remarked, “The statistics on death have not changed. One out of one person dies.”

Worldwide, there are approximately 56,600,000 deaths each year. That works out to 4.7 million per month, 155,000 per day, 6,500 per hour, 107 per minute, and 1.8 per second. The Greek playwright Sophocles said it this way: “Of all the great wonders, none is greater than man. Only for death can he find no cure.”

But then, death is not the end of the story for those who know the Lord. The Bible tells us what lies ahead for those who know Jesus. In 2 Corinthians 5:1, we discover the wonderful truths that give us hope as we face death with all its dark fears. St Paul writes: “Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands” (2 Cor 5:1).

Our bodies are like tents. They wear out, they sag, they expand and they wrinkle. The joints get creaky, the arteries harden, gravity pulls everything downward, the heart slows down, the eyes grow dim, the teeth fall out, the back is stooped, and the arms grow weary. Our bones break and our muscles weaken. The body bulges in the wrong places. We brag about our strength but a tiny microbe can kill us. Sooner or later, we grow old and our bodies begin to break down. Eventually, they stop working altogether.

Hence, we will have to trade in our tent for a building. Think about the difference between a tent and a building. Tents are temporary and flimsy, easily torn, and meant to be replaced. A building is strong, built on a foundation, and not meant to be moved. Someday we will give up our tent and replace it with a building made by God himself. That one fact tells us something important about death.

Hence, for Christians, death is not the end. It is not reincarnation. It is not evaporation. It is not annihilation. Instead, it is a trade-in. One day we will trade in our broken down bodies for a new body. Look what St Paul says about that new body. It is from God. It is not made with hands. It is eternal. It is heavenly and not earthly. That is what St Paul meant when he said, “We know.” Lots of things we do not know about the future, but this much is certain. We won’t have to live in tents forever. Someday our “tent” will be replaced with a “building” made by God.

With these reflections on death, let us now as pastors entrusted with the task of leading our people to God, examine how we can assist our people in their moment of death. We need to understand that spiritual and religious support systems are extremely important to people facing death. In the Catholic tradition, the most powerful resources are prayers and rituals, especially the thoughtful celebration of the sacraments. Prayer makes explicit and personal the community’s relationship to dying persons. It brings to consciousness God’s presence and allows patients to express anguish and fear, as well as hope and love.

The Catholic tradition has long affirmed that Sacraments are of great importance in a life of faith; they are a privileged means of heightening our experience with God’s love. The Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life as a profound encounter with the Risen Lord. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, which restores harmony with self, others, the environment, and God, can help patients: repair broken relationships, heal the soul, become reintegrated into the community of faith and feel a sense of

forgiveness often needed to face the crisis of dying. The Anointing of the Sick reflects God's compassion to strengthen the body and soul so that the sick will not lose faith or hope but be at peace with God, others, and themselves during their illness.

Further, it must be borne in mind that lack of support for those who have to spend endless hours caring for terminally ill patients is a factor that makes euthanasia an attractive way to bring relief not only to the dying but to those who care for the dying as well. Hence, it is also the duty of pastors to assist not only the dying but also help the care-givers in dealing with the psychological reverberations that they experience while looking after the dying especially those who are terminally ill.

Finally, in our ministry of assisting the dying, terminally ill patients and the care-givers, we need to keep in mind the following principles:

- Death can be something that does not just happen to us but that arises from within to bring to fulfillment all that is valuable to us. In this spirit, Catholic healthcare providers and pastors must establish practices to help a patient transform the experience of dying from a mere ending of life to its personal completion.
- Suffering is personal and has no objective measurement. The pastors and care givers must make a special effort to pay attention to patients' claims of suffering and provide the medical, social, psychological, and spiritual resources that will help them bear their suffering.
- Suffering and death are not absolute evils to be avoided at all costs but can be transformed by identifying with Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. We need to include the resources of Christian faith - its stories, symbols, and rituals - in our total care of the dying.
- Catholic moral principles regarding the conservation of health and life do not promote physical life as the absolute good to be prolonged 'at any cost.' Catholic healthcare providers should advocate for specific policies that guide us in respecting a patient's limits as to what he/she can accept as beneficial treatment to avoid the burdens of overtreatment or undertreatment.
- The moral character of our communities gives true witness to our theological and moral convictions. Through our actions, we must give witness to being a virtuous community of interdependence, care, and hospitality.
- The ethos of individualism asserts that independence, not interdependence, is the key to human dignity. As pastors and Catholic healthcare providers, we must ensure we are committed to interdependent partnerships sustained by trust and honesty. We need to be catalysts for collaboration with other communities that care for the dying.
- The paradigm of curing has dominated the delivery of healthcare so that caring is reduced to the consolation prize for a cure that could not be attained. The pastors with the help of catholic healthcare providers need to examine their overall style, plan, and goals of treatment to see whether the whole person is being treated and respected.
- Hospice care admirably embodies the virtue of hospitality. We must ensure we respect the multiple dimensions of a patient's total good, improve the conditions of dying, and reach beyond a patient to his or her network of support.

As we enter the month of November, let us meaningfully spend the month in helping our people to pray for their dead and in assisting our dying members with whatever consolations that our religion enjoins through the exercise of our priestly prerogatives. It is also an appropriate time for us to reflect upon the temporality of human life and get ourselves of all unnecessary baggage that we carry which can distract from our goal, namely, the heavenly Jerusalem, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal (Mt 6:19).

NEWS AND EVENTS

Cleaning camp at Utharamcode: Thuckalay Central Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society organizes a one day cleaning camp every year under the title '*deshathoduorunaal*' on the day of Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October to promote social cleanliness and to engage its members in social charity. This year the cleaning camp was conducted on 1 October 2022 at Osanam Higher Education Centre, Utharamcode. The one day camp was inaugurated by the Vicar General Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Spiritual Director of St. Vincent de Paul Society in our diocese. During the day time Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the chancellor and Fr. Anto, the Parish Priest of Muzhucode Parish visited them. Almost 50 members from different area councils and conferences of Thuckalay central council participated in the cleaning camp. I appreciate the Central Council leaders for organizing well the cleaning camp.

Golden Jubilee celebration of Pilankalai Church and Blessing of Cemetery and Kalkurishu: Little Flower Forane Church, Pilankalai was established in the 1971 as a small mission station by the initiatives taken by Rev. Fathers of CMI congregation. Rev. Fr. James Joseph Kozhimattam was appointed as the first parish priest of this community. The primary school was started in 1972 and later it was upgraded as a high school. The old church was built on 1977 and the new Church was built and consecrated on 29 December 2017. On 01 October 2022, the Golden Jubilee Celebration started at 03.30 pm with Solemn Rosary recitation followed by *Thirunallatheenju*. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General blessed the new Church Cemetery and *Kalkurishu*. With a grand and solemn procession, the Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana began at 05.00pm. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Chamathara CMI, the Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, Trivandrum was the main celebrant and Rev. Fathers who served in the parish for the past years were the con celebrants for the Holy Qurbana. It was followed by the Jubilee concluding gathering and agape. I congratulate Rev. Fr. Thomas Thekkethalackal CMI, the Parish Priest and the parishioners for organizing the concluding ceremony of the Jubilee year in a fruitful manner.

Educare Retreat at Kalluvilai: Kanyakumari Social Service Society organized a three days residential retreat for the Educare students at Kalluvilai from 02 to 05 October 2022. 50 students from various parishes participated in the retreat. Rev. Fr. Daniel VC and his team led the retreat. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil- the Vicar General and Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the Chancellor visited the students during the retreat. The retreat was a great success. I appreciate the initiatives taken by Fr. Aby, the director of KKSSS.

Popular Mission Retreat at palappallam: The popular mission retreat was conducted at Christ the King Church Palappallam on 02 – 07 October 2022. The retreat was animated by Fr. Edward VC and Fr. Lijo VC. It created a spiritual renewal and helped to deepen the faith of the people through house visit, Adoration of Blessed Sacraments, Confession and various pious activities. At the concluding ceremony, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil celebrated the Holy Qurbana and felicitated the retreat team and the faithful. I thank Fr. Johnpaul the Vicar for preparing well the parish for the retreat.

Life orientation camp at Padanthalumoodu: Two days life orientation residential camp was conducted for Sunday school students on 03 – 04 October 2022 at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu. The Theme selected for the Camp was "*let it be with me according to your Word*". The Objective of the camp was to make the students understand about the God's Plan personally and make them sure of one God who speaks to them personally as a friend. From different parishes, 191 students including boys and girls, participated in the camp. A team from SMYM of the eparchy animated the camp. Fr. Joshy, Fr. John Paul, Fr. Antony Mahesh, Fr. Santhosh, Fr. Printo, Fr. Anto CMI, Mrs. Jeyarani have led the students through various topics. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil concluded the two days camp with a

motivational talk. I congratulate all the Fathers who took efforts to send the students for the camp and especially I thank Fr. Abilash and all the Forane vocation promoters who actively involved for the success of the camp.

Catechesis Teachers' Seminar at Kalluvilai: One day seminar for Sunday School Teachers was held on 05 October 2022 at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. The Seminar was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General. The First session of the seminar was led by Vincent Mar Paulos, Bishop of the Diocese of Marthandam. He mainly focused on the various issues that our students face today, and the role of catechists to guide them to the person of Jesus. The next session was animated by Mrs. Jacquin from Palliydi. She defined the role of a catechist and the need of God's Grace in the life of a catechist to be a living witness to the gospel he/she preaches. The seminar was arranged for all the Catechists of diocese. More than 400 teachers participated in it. The seminar came to end at 04.15 pm. I thank Fr. Abilash, Fr. Jacob Aiyamathra and the staff of the catechesis department for organizing it well.

Forane level KuzhanthaiIssolyakkam Seminar: A half day forane animation programme was conducted for the children of KuzhanthaiIssolyakkam on 6 – 8 October 2022 in different places. On 6th morning it was conducted at Palappallam for Soosaipuram forane and afternoon at Kaliyal for Kaliyal Forane. On 7th morning session was held at Padanthalumoodu for Padanthalumoodu Forane and afternoon it was held at Munchirai for Nithiravilaiforane. On 8th the animation programme was conducted at Manjalumoodu and Kattathurai for Manjalumoodu and Thuckalay Pilankalai Forane respectively. Altogether 430 children participated in the animation programme. I congratulate Fr. Anil Raj and all the forane animators for coordinating successfully this new venture for the spiritual good of our children.

Commemoration Holy Qurbana of Mar Mathew Kavukattu at Changanacherry: The diocese of Thuckalay is always indebted to the Servant of God Mar Mathew Kavukattu, the first Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry for his contributions to the mission work in Kanyakumari district. Every year we are invited to celebrate the commemoration Holy Qurbana at his tomb. On 08 October 2022, six priests, as representatives from our diocese celebrated Holy Qurbana at the tomb of Mar Mathew Kavukattu at 10.30 am. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the chancellor was the main celebrant and Fr. Josy Puthenpurayil delivered homily. It was followed by the office for the dead in Tamil language. I appreciate the Fathers who took initiative to participate in the ceremony.

Priests' Conference: The Eparchial Priests' conference for the month of October was held at Sangamam on 09 October 2022. The conference began at 05 pm and ended at 06.30 pm. The various departments presented their programmes during the meeting, especially time was given to mission league to discuss and plan on upcoming platinum Jubilee programme.

The Annual Retreat: The annual retreat was held from 09-14 October 2022 at Sangamam. It became a significant event for all the Priests. It was a moment to thank the Lord for the blessings that he lavished upon the Eparchy and to prepare for the continued ministry in the Eparchy. Rev. Fr. Daniel Poovannathil and his team from Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Trivandrum, animated the retreat. It was a hallowed opportunity for us to have a saintly person like Rev. Fr. Daniel Poovannathil as the preacher. He guided the Priests to acknowledge and to appreciate the shared priesthood of Jesus and to lead a holy life. The retreat preacher focused on the themes of Evangelisation, Mission, its challenges and the power of Word of God in our mission. They are relevant topics for us, as ours is a mission Eparchy. All priests who participated in the retreat experienced and renewed the enthusiasm for the missionary work. Opportunities were given to all the Priests for personal counselling by professional counsellors from Mount Carmel Retreat Centre. It was a great spiritual renewal for all the Priests and we thank the Lord for

giving us such a heavenly experience. I thank our Vicar General and his team for making the needed arrangements for the retreat.

NAAC Visit at St. Alphonsa College, Soosaipuram: The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has conducted the assessment and accreditation exercise at St. Alphonsa College, Soosaipuram and the peer team visit was held on 12-13 October 2022. After the examination of the reports of the peer team by the Executive committee, the council has declared the accreditation results. Our college has been accredited with a CGPA of 2.96 on a seven point scale at B++ Grade valid for a period of 5 years from 18 October 2022. It is really a great achievement for the college. I congratulate Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Fr. Michael Arokyasamysdb, Dr. Isias, staff and students of the college. It's a moment of pride for every one of us in our diocese that the college has been highly placed and quality education and infrastructure have been provided.

CRI Retreat at Kalluvilai: A one day retreat for Religious Sisters of the diocese was conducted by the CRI at St. Mother Teresa Church, Kalluvilai on 14 October 2022. The retreat began at 09.00 am. Rev. Fr. Daniel Poovannathil was the preacher in the morning session. Afternoon, the sacrament of confession was administered and at 03.00 pm Fr. Aby, the Parish Priest, celebrated Holy Qurbana. Almost 120 religious sisters participated in the retreat. I congratulate the CRI leaders for organizing it very well.

World Mental Health day celebration at Kalluvilai: 10 October is observed as the World Mental Health Day and the TNBC Health Commission took this opportunity to promote mental health in all the dioceses of Tamil Nadu. As part of the programme, the Eparchy of Thuckalay observed it on 15 October 2022. KKSSS and Association of Institution of Differently Abled Children at Thuckalay (AIDACT) jointly celebrated world mental health day at Kalluvilai on 15 October 2022. Teachers from seven special schools participated in the programme. Rev. Fr. Benher, the director of *Puthuvasantham* Rehabilitation Centre animated the gathering and he emphasized the important role of teachers in the formation of differently abled children. I appreciate Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the director of AIDACT and Rev. Fr. Thomas Poovathummootti, Director of KKSSS for conducting it very well.

Writing competitions by Catechesis department: Bible Fest Forane Level Writing Competition was held on 16 October 2022. It was conducted under the guidance of forane Catechesis directors in different centres of each forane (Arukany Forane: Holy family HSS, Arukany; Kaliyal Forane: St Mary's HSS, Kaliyal; Manjalumoodu forane: Holy Family HSS, Mukkoottukkal; Nithiravilai Forane: Jayamatha HSS, Chriturajapuram; Padanthalumoodu forane: Sacred heart HSS, Padanthalumoodu; Soosaipuram forane: APJM HSS, Soosaipuram; Thuckalay-Pilankalaiforane: St. Micheal's HSS, Kattathurai). Competitions were held on colouring, pencil drawing, easy writing and poetry writing. I appreciate the forane catechesis directors and the team behind.

Sirumalar Platinum Jubilee Ezhuchipayanam: Sirumalar Mission League is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee in the year 2021-2022. The global level conclusion will be hosted by our diocese on 29 January 2023. The Major Archbishop, Bishops and representatives from all the dioceses of the Syro Malabar Church will be participating in the concluding ceremony. As the preparation for that, we are conducting SIRUMALAR EZHUCHIPAYANAM in all the foranes. A memento is taken to all the parishes and a programme to be followed is given by the department of Mission League. It began on 16 October 2022 in all the Forane centers. The Forane directors are co-coordinating the programme. This is an occasion for our diocese to renew the spirit of unity and love in Sirumalar members. I congratulate and appreciate Fr. Printo Kurias for this new venture in view of upcoming Platinum Jubilee of Mission League.

Meeting of Self Financing Schools' Principals and Correspondents: Meeting of the Correspondents and Principals of Self Finance Schools was conducted on 18 October 2022, 02.30 pm at Sangamam. 18 members from 13 schools were present for the Meeting. The participants shared the present situation of the schools and challenges to be faced. They suggested common orientation and retreat for entire teachers. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Protosyncellus and Manager of self-finance schools, presided over the meeting and motivated them on the need of catholic value education today. Rev. Fr. Roy Kannamchirayil CMI, the *deepikakochettan*, Dr.SijuAlencherry, the Win Life Institute Director and Mr. Noble were the chief guests of the programme. Fr. Roy spoke about the mission of catholic schools and he introduced Deepika publications for school children on moral values and general knowledge. Dr.Siju addressed the gathering focusing on the impact of modern digital world on teachers and students. I thank Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil for organizing the meeting effectively with good resource team.

Jesus Dreams Music Band Launch at Thettiyodu: It was a long-cherished dream of the youth wing of the Diocese of Thuckalay, SMYM, to set up a music band for the youth. The dream was realised on 19.10.2022. The band is named as Jesus Dreamz, meaning, realising the dreams of Jesus about today's youth and to seek and realise the dream of Jesus about every youth. The launching event was held at Thettiyode, AseerVidyalaya Auditorium on 19 October 2022 at 6.30 pm. The director Fr. Joseph Santhosh introducing the event to the audience explained about the meaning of the Title Jesus Dreamz and its objectives. The protosyncellus of the Diocese, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil invoked God's blessings on the band and prayed for them. There were three dances in between the songs. The central team of the Youth Apostolate organised the whole event. I appreciate Fr. Joseph Santhosh for this new venture.

Interdepartmental Meeting: A meeting for the directors of some of the departments of the eparchy was held on 19-20 October 2022 at Bishop's House. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, met the directors personally and evaluated the activities of each department and gave necessary guidelines to strengthen it. On 19 October 2022, the Vicar General met personally the directors of *KuzhanthaiIsoIyakkam*, Mission League, Family Apostolate, Uravians and Migrants. On 20 October 2022, along with Fr. Chancellor, Fr. Vicar General met the directors of Catechism, Aided Schools, Sinai Retreat Centre, and Laity Council. In the meeting the directors submitted the year plan of their respective departments.

Rosary Procession: Every year under the leadership of MariyayinSenai, the Eparchy organises Rosary procession. This year it was held on 23 October 2022 from Christ the King Church, Palappallam to St. Joseph Forane Church, Soosaipuram at 02.30 pm. More than one thousand faithful participated. Though I was absent, I came to know that the procession was well organized. All the people along with the Fathers, Sisters and lay people prayerfully recited the holy rosary. In the concluding meeting, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal delivered the presidential address and Bro. Eugene, MariyayinSenai representative from the diocese of Kottar, delivered key note address. I congratulate and express my gratitude to the MariainSenai members and especially to its President Br. Benjamine Bose, Vice President Br. Thomas Pannerselvam and the Spiritual director, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose for having organised it well.

Rosary Procession and Jubilee Exhibition at Tenkasi Mission: Rosary procession and Jubilee exhibition of Tenkasi mission has been conducted on 23 october 2022. The whole of mission gathered at Little Flower Church, Puliyarai at 02.30pm and the day's programme was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil by hoisting the Mission League flag to commemorate the Mission Sunday. Sr. Libiya CMC recited the mission prayer. It was followed by the solemn rosary procession towards Pulari Metric. School, Pudur. There were almost 150 faithful including Fathers, Sisters and MCBS Brothers who

are rendering service in Tenkasi mission. After the concluding message and blessing, Vicar General inaugurated the mission jubilee exhibition in which every mission centre and institution depicted their works of the past years since its inception. I congratulate Fr. Thomas Thuckalay and all the Fathers and Sisters of the mission for coordinating the event in a fruitful manner.

Mission Sunday Cover Collection: We have celebrated the Mission Sunday on 23 October 2022 in all our parishes. The collection on that day is to be sent to Rome for the mission work around the globe. Hence, I request you, dear Fathers, kindly submit the Mission Sunday collections immediately to the Eparchial Procurator.

Little Flower Handicraft unit at Manjalumoodu: Under the skill training centre, a new unit, called Little Flower Handicraft unit, was started at Manjalumoodu on 25 October 2022. The unit inauguration was done by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the chancellor at 10.30 am. The new handicraft unit has begun its function in collaboration with Cedre – India, a volunteer social service organization in Tamil nadu. I congratulate Fr. Augustine Thalodil for his initiatives for the social uplifting of the women through various skill training units.

Sinai Residential Retreat at Sangamam: Four days residential retreat was conducted at Sangamam on 27-30 October 2022 by the Sinai Retreat centre of our diocese. The retreat began on 27th, Thursday evening. Fr. Augustine Menamkariyil VC was the main preacher of the retreat. Sinai retreat team also joined with the preacher through preaching and intercessory prayers. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil, the Vicar General and Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the Chancellor celebrated holy Qurbana during retreat days. Including people from Virudhunagar mission, 23 faithful participated in it. I congratulate Fr. Mijo and the entire Sinai team for making it very fruitful for our laity.

Online Rosary Recitation by the Migrant community: An online prayer meeting of the migrants of our diocese was held on 28 October 2022 at 7pm to celebrate the rosary month. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, by reciting the first mystery of the rosary, had started the prayer meeting. Then the participants recited each mystery. I could join in the meeting at the end and gave concluding message and blessing. Around 23 migrants from the different parts of the world participated in it. I thank Fr. Sumesh, the director of Migrants for organizing the prayer meeting well.

Mission Quest Online Quiz Competition: Mission Quest Online Quiz Competition is a unique opportunity for each of the faithful to gain a deeper understanding of the apostolic mission that Christ entrusted, to grow in missionary zeal and learn about missionary activities. This Mission Quiz was conducted via online on 30 October 2022. It was organized jointly by the Syro Malabar Commission for Catechesis and the Syro Malabar Mission Office. The faithful from all parishes of our diocese participated in the mission Quiz Competition. In our Eparchy, 118 students and 234 adults participated in the programme. The Catechism department of the Eparchy translated all the questions into Tamil. Unfortunately due to technical errors, the mission quest could not be completed as per the prescribed criteria. Therefore it will be re conducted on 20 November 2022 at 6 pm. Encourage our faithful to participate the same. Last year we secured first position in the adult category and third position in student category. I appreciate the initiatives taken by the catechesis department for organizing it very well in our diocese.

INFORMATION

- **Bro. VibinVettuparambilputhenveedu**, a new regent from the archdiocese of Changanacherry began his regency ministry at Sangamam on 06 October 2022.
- **Mr. Varghese Varghese**(84), the beloved father of Sr. Ancil FCC (HM, St. Joseph's Primary School, Pilankalai), is called to eternal rest on 11 October 2022. We express our sincere condolences and prayer to Sr. Ancil and her family and pray for the departed soul.
- **Fr. JinuThekkethalackal**went back to Rome on 15 October 2022 after his medical treatment. We wish him a fruitful service at Communication dicastery.
- **Mr. James Mathew** (58), younger brother of Fr. Geo Choozhikunnel, is called to eternal abode on 18 October 2022. We express our sincere condolences and prayer to Fr. Geo and his family and pray for the departed soul.
- **Fr. Kochumon Madapurackal** had undergone a tonsils surgery on 21 October 2022 at Believers Church Medical College Hospital Thiruvalla. He needs voice rest. We pray for his speedy recovery.
- **Diaconate Ministry: Deacon Georgekutty**reached back in the eparchy for diaconate ministry on 23 October 2022. He is doing his ministry at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Soosaipuram. At the end of November, Deacons Ajin, Liju and Prince will be returning to the Eparchy after the completion of their theological studies. They will be doing their diaconate ministry in the parishes that will be assigned to them.
- **Rev. Sr. Lima Rose SD** (74), who was the local superior of Varuthattu SD convent for three years, is called to eternal rest on 25 October 2022. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil represented our diocese in the funeral service held on 27 October 2022 at SD Provincial House, Chethipuzha. We remember Sr. Lima rose with gratitude for her selfless service rendered at Varuthattu. We express our sincere condolences and prayer to the Provincial and to the SD community at Thuckalay diocese and pray for the departed soul.
- **Mr.DevasyaVarkey**(94), the beloved father of Rev. Sr. RosemartinThekkumcherikunnel SABS, Provincial Superior of St. Chantal Province Thuckalay, is called to eternal rest on 29 October 2022. We express our sincere condolences and prayer to the Provincial and her family and pray for the departed soul.
- **Fr. Josy Puthenpurayil**returned to Germany on 30 October 2022. We are grateful to him for visiting and spending some days with us in the Eparchy.
- **Fr. Prince Malyil** went to Ireland for overseas mission on 31 October 2022. We thank him for his service in the Eparchy and wish him a fruitful ministry ahead.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

01 November	-	Pastoral Council Meeting at Sangamam
13 November	-	Diocesan day celebration at Padanthalumoodu
16 November	-	Silver Jubilee of Providence Home, Perumchilambu
19 November	-	FCC: Vestition and First Profession at Karode
23 November	-	Blessing of Old Age Home at Moolamattam
26 November	-	Seminar on Eparchial Assembly at Sangamam

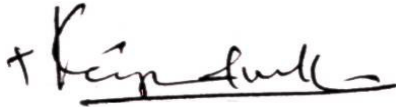
Diocesan Day Celebrations
Place: Sacred Heart Forane Church,
Padanthalumoodu
Date: 13 November 2022, Sunday
Concelebrated Holy Qurbana at 03.00 pm
Cultural Event at 05.30 pm

CONCLUSION

As we conclude the month of October, a month during which we honoured our Blessed Mother through the recitation of the Holy Rosary, let us ask her to intercede for all the intentions of our Eparchy. With the celebration of the 26th Foundation Day of our Eparchy coming near, let us now redouble our efforts at building up the kingdom of God with greater commitment and fervour especially in the extended territories of our Eparchy.

With my prayers and blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ George Rajendran SDB
Bishop of Thuckalay

