



Bishop's *Circular*

For Priests / Sisters

Bishop George Rajendran sdb
Diocese of Thuckalay

Bishop's House, P B No: 12, Thuckalay PO,
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Ref. No. Priests/GR/179/2026

28 February 2026

Dear Rev. Fathers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

As we enter the month of March and draw near to the solemn celebration of the Paschal Mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ, I write to you with a heart full of gratitude and pastoral affection.

With joy and heartfelt gratitude to God, on Tuesday, 17 February 2026, the Foundation Stone of our St Joseph Cathedral Church was solemnly blessed and laid at Soosaipuram. We begin this sacred construction not with an abundance of material resources but with an abundance of faith, trusting entirely in Divine Providence. As the Psalmist reminds us, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" (Ps 127:1). It is God who wills this Cathedral, and it is God who will bring it to completion through our prayers, generosity, and willing co-operation. I invite each of you to make this project known to your faithful, to encourage their spiritual and material contributions, and to unite your prayers with ours so that this House of God may rise as a lasting sign of our Eparchy's living faith.

Site preparations are presently in progress at Soosaipuram. The construction of the cathedral is scheduled to commence on March 19th, coinciding with the Feast of St. Joseph. I am grateful for your help. The 'One Day's Salary' collection for the Cathedral was a huge success because of your leadership. This shows the true spirit and love of our community. Thank you.

St Joseph: Patron, Protector, and Mirror of the Priestly Heart

March holds a special place for St Joseph, whose Solemnity we celebrate on the 19th. Yet St Joseph is not merely a date on our liturgical calendar — he is the Patron of the Universal Church, the silent guardian of the Body of Christ, and, in a most personal way, the model and companion of every priest. Pope Francis beautifully described him as "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet, and hidden presence," yet one who played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." In this description, we recognise something of our own priestly calling. The Holy Scriptures, though sparing in words about St Joseph, paint a portrait of extraordinary virtue through his actions alone. Not a single word of his is recorded in the Gospels, yet his life speaks volumes about faith, obedience, courage, and selfless love. It is in this wordless eloquence that the priest finds his deepest vocation reflected.

Humble Obedience: St Joseph's foremost virtue was his prompt and unconditional obedience to God's will. St Matthew records four divine interventions in his life, each demanding an immediate and costly response. "When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Mt 1:24). This phrase, repeated in various forms throughout the narrative, reveals a man who never questioned, delayed, or negotiated with God. When commanded to flee to Egypt, leaving his livelihood and security, he "rose and took the child and his mother by night" (Mt 2:14) — unhesitatingly, in the darkness. Each act of obedience required surrender: of his reputation, his plans, his comfort, and his security. For the priest, this quality is

not merely admirable — it is constitutive. The priest is a man under obedience: to the Gospel, to the Church, to his bishop, and to the pastoral needs of his people. How often, like Joseph, are we called to respond promptly when the hour is inconvenient, the directive unexpected, and the cost real? St Joseph teaches us that authentic priestly obedience flows not from the suppression of the will but from its transformation — from a will that has learnt, through prayer and surrender, to trust utterly in God’s Providence even when it cannot see the full picture.

Faithful Guardianship. St Joseph was entrusted with the two greatest treasures of heaven — Jesus and Mary. His primary mission was to protect, provide for, and create the conditions in which the Son of God could grow, be formed, and fulfil His salvific mission. He shielded the Holy Family from danger, secured their safety in Egypt, guided their return to Nazareth, and maintained the sacred order of the household of Nazareth. Every priest has been given an analogous charge. The faithful entrusted to him are not his audience but his family — souls whom the Father has placed under his pastoral care. Like Joseph, the priest is called to protect them: to guard the integrity of their faith, shield them from errors that threaten the life of grace, and create within the parish community a sanctuary where Christ can truly dwell.

Custodian of Sacred Tradition. St Joseph was also the guardian of Israel’s sacred traditions. He brought the child Jesus to be presented in the Temple, observed the prescriptions of the Law with faithful devotion, and led the Holy Family on the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover. He did not reinvent the faith he had received — he transmitted it with reverence and love. In this, he is a perfect icon of what the priest is called to be in relation to the Church’s liturgical and sacramental life. The priest does not possess the liturgy as something personal; he receives it from the Church, celebrates it with devotion, and hands it on faithfully to those in his care. Every Mass offered with reverence, every sacrament celebrated with integrity, and every liturgical tradition preserved and lovingly taught — all of this is the priestly echo of Joseph’s faithful custodianship of Israel’s holy heritage.

Righteous Mercy. There is yet another dimension of St Joseph’s greatness that speaks powerfully to the priest: his righteous mercy. When faced with a situation he could not understand, St Joseph refused the path of harsh judgment. Though the Law permitted him to expose Mary, he, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly (Mt 1:19). His righteousness was not the cold application of a rule but the warm exercise of love. Dear Fathers, how often do our faithful come to us precisely in moments of shame, confusion, and vulnerability? The priest who has contemplated St Joseph knows that justice and mercy are not opposites — they are the two hands of the one pastoral heart. We are called to protect the dignity of every person who crosses the threshold of the confessional, the sacristy, or the presbytery, offering them not condemnation but the possibility of redemption.

Contemplative Silence. Perhaps St Joseph’s most arresting characteristic is his silence. In a world that prizes noise, self-promotion, and constant communication, his wordless witness challenges us profoundly. He received God’s messages in dreams, in the silence of the night, when the world was still, and his heart was attentive. His entire life was one of contemplative action — working with his hands while pondering divine mysteries in his heart. Living with the Incarnate Word Himself, St Joseph maintained a reverent interior stillness, allowing the Word to teach, transform, and work through him. His silence was not emptiness but fullness — filled with wonder, adoration, trust, and love. “Be still and know that I am God” (Ps 46:10) was St Joseph’s daily practice. For the priest, this quality is of immense importance. We live in an age of relentless activity, when the pressure to produce, speak, and be seen can quietly hollow out the priestly heart. St Joseph reminds us that our words must flow from silence, our actions must be rooted in contemplation, and that the most transformative ministry often happens not in the pulpit but in the quiet of prayer, when we allow God to form us before He sends us to form others.

The Fruitfulness of Hiddenness. St Joseph performed no public miracles, left no writings, and preached no sermons. Yet he fulfilled the most essential mission — raising the Saviour of the world. The carpenter’s workshop in Nazareth was his pulpit; his daily faithfulness was his eloquence. In our age that prizes visibility and measurable impact, St Joseph stands as a quiet rebuke and a quiet consolation. The priest who celebrates Mass faithfully before a small congregation, visits the sick without fanfare, spends long hours in the confessional, and prepares his homilies with care for people who may never offer a word of thanks — this priest is living the vocation of Joseph. His reward is not in human recognition, but in the words he will one day hear: “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Mt 25:21).

The Great Lent: An Exhortation to Deeper Conversion

“Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning” (Joel 2:12). As we cross the threshold of Great Lent, the Church calls us once again to the threefold discipline of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving — not as burdens imposed from without but as graces offered to those who hunger for God. I exhort you, dear Fathers, to enter this season with renewed personal fervour, for only the priest who thirsts for God can truly lead his faithful to the springs of living water.

Let your prayer deepen during these fifty days: lengthen your time before the Blessed Sacrament, pray the Stations of the Cross with your communities, celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours with greater faithfulness, and encourage your people to frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let your fasting be genuine — a discipline that truly costs something and opens the heart to solidarity with the poor. And let your almsgiving be generous, teaching your faithful by example that our possessions are not our own but held in trust for those in need. Above all, dear Fathers, be available, patient, and merciful during this season. Provide ample opportunities for Confession and be the face of the Father who runs to meet the returning son. This is our Lenten mission as priests — not merely to observe the season but to become, ever more deeply, ministers of the mercy that alone can transform the human heart.

I commend each of you to the loving intercession of St Joseph. May he, who was silent yet faithful, hidden yet indispensable, teach us the beauty of a priesthood wholly given to God and to those entrusted to our care! May this Lent bring each of us — and the whole Eparchy of Thuckalay — ever closer to the Risen Lord we serve!

NEWS AND EVENTS

Extended Territory Mission Meet at Kayathar: The Extended Territory Mission Get-together of the missionaries was convened on 02 February 2026 at the FCC Convent in Kayathar, presided over by me. The gathering began with the Holy Qurbana, followed by a meeting of eleven members where Fr. Thomas Jebanesh, the Secretary presented the previous report and Sr. Vineetha FCC welcomed all present. A significant portion of the gathering was dedicated to the sharing from various mission territories. In the Kayathar Mission, a new ‘Edu-care’ initiative was launched for village children with the support of KKSSS. The Tirunelveli Mission reported a major milestone in securing funds for a new church through community efforts like selling homemade pickles, while also maintaining a fruitful palliative care ministry and working toward establishing a jail ministry for the Juvenile Home. The Cumbum and Theni Missions highlighted their charitable outreach to tribal communities and proposed a collaborative ‘dream project’ to establish a Home for the Destitute in partnership with the Diocese of Kanjirapally. In the Virudhunagar Mission, updates included a successful career guidance programme for senior students led by diocesan youth and the announcement of a ‘Mobile Convent’ project by the Sacred Heart Sisters to support areas without permanent convents. I concluded the session by urging the missionaries to embody commitment, communion, and

continuity, and the meeting came to end with an agape meal. I thank Fr. Tobin Alapurackal for organizing the meeting and all the missionaries for their active participation.

Bible Quiz for Sunday School Students: Diocesan level Bible Quiz for Sunday School Students was held on 08 February 2026 at Padanthalumoodu at 2.30 pm. 487 students from classes Fifth to Class twelfth participated in the Bible Quiz. The students were classified into class wise. My appreciation to the participants and the organizers of the programme.

13th Death Anniversary of Rev. Fr. Philip Kodiyanthara: On 9 February 2026, the 13th death anniversary of Rev. Fr. Philip Kodiyanthara was commemorated at St. Joseph's Church, Kayalpuram. The *Requiem* Holy Qurbana began at 11:00 AM, with Rev. Fr. Jithin Kodiyanthara, as the main celebrant. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Rev. Fr. Josy Puthenpurackal and Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil concelebrated the Holy Qurbana. Fr. Josy delivered homily remembering Fr. Kodiyanthara. The memorial service was attended by some parishioners from Manjalumoodu Forane Parish. Following the Holy Qurbana, the Office for the Dead was recited at his tomb. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the priests who personally took the initiative to participate in this remembrance Holy Qurbana. Let us continue to pray for the repose of the soul of our former Diocesan Administrator.

On-going formation Programme for Priests: 'The on-going formation of priests is the natural and absolutely necessary continuation of the process of building priestly personality which began and developed in the seminary with the training programme which aimed at ordination' (PDV no.71). The Presbyterium of our Diocese convened for a two-day gathering at Sangamam on the 10th and 11th of February 2026. The programme began at 10.00 am with the welcome note by Very Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam. I inaugurated the programme and introduced the resource person of the day: Rev. Fr. Mani Puthiyidam from the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. He animated the formation programme in three sessions, two sessions in the morning and one session in the afternoon. Based on his pastoral experience, he focused on theme work among the priests, mission orientation, evangelization, importance of Word of God etc. All sessions proved to be highly informative and pastorally enriching for the priestly ministry in the diocese. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil expressed the gratitude of the Presbyterium to the resource person. In the evening, priests came together for evening prayer followed by an hour of Adoration of Blessed Sacrament animated by Fr. Printo Kurias.

The following day, 11th February, was dedicated to the evaluation and presentation of the reports of activities from various departments and pious associations of the Diocese. This marked the fifth time that the diocese allocated half day for this exercise. Directors of departments came well-prepared with PowerPoint presentations, beautifully outlining the year's activities. The Presbyterium engaged in discussions and provided valuable suggestions. The comprehensive overview left everyone feeling happy and proud to be informed of the enormous work being carried out in the various departments. Special thanks are extended to Very Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General and Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil who assisted him. Gratitude is expressed to all the Fathers for their attendance and active participation, benefiting from this two-day formative programme.

Handing over of TNBC Health Commission Chairmanship: It has been a great privilege for me to serve as the Chairman of the Health Commission at the Tamil Nadu level for the past six years. This responsibility was truly a recognition and honour for our Diocese, as Thuckalay was entrusted with leadership in strengthening the Church's health ministry across the state. During this period, the work of the Health Commission was extended to all the parishes of our Diocese. Each parish formed an active volunteer group, and through their dedicated involvement, the health ministry reached the grassroots, promoting awareness, care, and compassionate service to the sick and the needy. I sincerely thank the Rev Fathers who served as Directors of the Health Commission Rev. Fr. Thomas Poovathummoottil, Rev. Fr. Jimmy, Rev. Fr. Ajin C.

Joseph, Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, and Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony for their committed leadership and valuable support. Their cooperation and unity have greatly strengthened this mission. I remain deeply grateful to all who have walked with me in this journey. May God bless your generous service and continue to make you instruments of healing and hope.

Kalaivizha for KII Kids: The KII department conducted the KALAI VIZHA, competition for Kulanthai Isho Iyakkam kids on 8 February 2026, Sunday afternoon at Kaliyal school for Kaliyal and Arukani Foranes . Rev Fr. Varghese Kottoor CMI, the Kaliyal Forane Vicar inaugurated the competition. All the parishes actively participated in competitions. And for the rest of the Foranes, it was conducted on 14 February 2026, Saturday at St. Michael's School, Kattathurai. Rev. Fr Joshy Thevelekara CMI inaugurated the competition. Rev Fr Abilash Xavier Raj, catechism department director felicitated the event. All the parishes actively participated in the competition. I thank Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, the Director of KII for organizing well the competitions.

Visit of Mr. & Mrs. Dominique Blétry to our Diocese: The Diocese was graced with the distinguished presence of Mr. Dominique Blétry, Secretary General of L'Œuvre d'Orient, Paris — one of our principal funding agencies — and his beloved wife, Mrs. Isabelle Blétry, on an official two-day visit on 17 February 2026. Accompanied by Rev. Fr. George Kalangara SDB, and me, the guests embarked on a purposeful journey across the diocese to witness firsthand the fruits of their generous patronage. From the church construction site at Cheenivilai to the vibrant parishes of Kazhuvanthittai, Marthandum, Kalluvilai and Paraicode, the guests were warmly received by parish priests and faithful communities alike. The genuine warmth, deep faith, and remarkable enthusiasm of the people left a lasting impression upon them. The missionary zeal of the clergy and the flourishing development of the Church moved them profoundly. The visit reached its crowning moment at Soosaipuram, where a magnificent gathering assembled for the laying of the foundation stone of St. Joseph Cathedral. The generous financial contributions offered by the faithful on that solemn occasion deeply touched their hearts. Though wearied by an eventful day, the guests retired with hearts full of gratitude. The following day, they departed, bidding farewell to Thuckalay, and were graciously seen off at the Bishop's House of the Diocese of Marthandam. I thank Fr. George Kalangara, the Mission Procure for taking care of them and organizing their entire programme meticulously.

Blessing of the Foundation Stone for our Cathedral at Soosaipuram: The Cathedral stands as the visible sign and identity of a Diocese, the Bishop's seat, and the mother church of all the parishes. It will be a place where the faithful gather to celebrate the sacred liturgy, where the Word of God is proclaimed, and where the sacraments are administered. It will be a house of prayer, a centre of formation, and a beacon of hope for future generations. With great joy we all witnessed the historic moment of the laying of the foundation stone for our Cathedral in the name of St. Joseph at Soosaipuram on 17 February 2026.

Preparatory Phase: The road to this historic day was paved with diligent spiritual and organizational preparation. Through my circular letter read in all parishes on 01 February 2026, the recitation of the Cathedral prayer, the prominent display of poster with the picture of the cathedral, and distribution of notice, our community was united in purpose. A vital aspect of this phase was the 'One Day's Wage' offering, collected on February 15. This initiative was not merely a fundraising effort but a spiritual exercise, inviting every member of the faithful to contribute a portion of their labour toward the 'mother church' of our Diocese. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Parish Priests who prepared the hearts of the people so well, and to the faithful whose generous contributions served as the first tangible sign of their love and collaboration for this project.

Adoration, Blessing, and the Laying of the Foundation Stone: On February 17, 2026, we gathered at Soosaipuram for the historic ceremony. The event commenced with a solemn reception in front of the church at 04.00 PM. I was joined by our distinguished chief guests from France, Mr. Dominic and Mrs.

Isabella, whose presence added a beautiful dimension of universal ecclesial fellowship to our local celebration. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Vicar General extended a warm welcome to all in attendance, which transitioned into an hour of adoration animated by Fr. Vinu D. Joseph. During the adoration, the Parish Priests along with Kaikkars and representatives came forward in procession in Forane wase and offered to me their collection made on 15 February. Followed by the Adoration, the entire congregation moved in a prayerful procession to the construction site led by the Forane Vicars carrying the stones. I presided over the liturgical ceremony. Following my homily, I blessed of the stones. Significantly, alongside the foundation stone for our new Cathedral, we also blessed the stone for the new church in the Thirunelveli mission. Accompanied by our guests from France, I officially laid the blessed stone. This act symbolized the beginning of a structure built not just of brick, but of living stones—our people. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil, followed by an agape meal.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Fr. Vicar General, the Core Committee, and the various sub-committees for their meticulous planning and coordination. A special word of appreciation goes to the Parish Priest and the parishioners of Soosaipuram for their exceptional hospitality and organization. Finally, I thank all the Priests, Kaikkars, Religious Sisters, and the faithful whose presence and prayers made this day a true encounter with the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work bring it to completion.

World Sick Day Celebrations: The World Day of the Sick is observed annually on February 11, calling upon people to offer prayers and support for those suffering from illness and for their caregivers. This day was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II and coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. In our Diocese, for a more meaningful observance, the World Day of the Sick was celebrated on Sunday, 22 February 2026, in all parishes. The Diocesan Health Commission, in collaboration with the Liturgical Commission, provided special prayers and guidelines for the Sunday liturgy. The liturgy began with an introduction, explaining the significance of the day. Special prayers were incorporated into the Karosoosa prayer. On behalf of various departments and pious associations, many visited bedridden patients at home, offering prayers and Rev. Fathers in administering Holy Communion. Some parishes extended their charitable outreach by providing food for the abandoned and homeless. In every family, special prayers were recited for the sick, fostering a spirit of compassion and solidarity. I extend my sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. Antony Mahesh for his dedicated efforts in providing instructions and guidance, ensuring the fruitful celebration of the World Day of the Sick at the parish level.

Bible Quiz Competition for Mothers: Mathru Jyothis organized a Bible Quiz Competition for its members in forane level on 22 February 2026. A total of 256 participants took part in the event, including 50 from Manjalumoodu, 40 from Nithiravilai, 37 from Kaliyal, 36 from Soosaipuram, 33 from Thuckalay-Pilankalai, 30 from Padanthalumoodu, and 20 from Arukani. The participants expressed great enthusiasm, noting that the Bible Quiz was highly beneficial as it encouraged them to engage deeply with the scriptures. Many mothers shared that they found joy in the process, as the competition format allowed them to read and reflect on the biblical passages multiple times, making it a meaningful spiritual experience. I appreciate Fr. Jimmy Thekkekadumathil for organizing Bible quiz for the faith formation of our mothers.

SMYM Central Executive Meeting and Parish Visits: Thuckalay SMYM conducted a series of visits and meetings throughout February 2026 to strengthen the youth in various forane. Following a central executive meeting in January, the team visited parishes in the Soosaipuram and Nithiravilai foranes, including Soosaipuram, Palapallam, and Varuthattu, to interact directly with the youth. In addition to these visits, the Central Executive Committee convened at Varuthattu Church to finalize a spiritual roadmap for the Lenten season. The committee successfully planned a series of collaborative Taize Prayer services to be held in the month of March. I thank Fr. Anil Raj for animating the youth through various programmes.

Blessing of the Stations of the Way of the Cross, Kalluvilai: To deepen the devotional life of our faithful and to provide a sacred space for reflecting on the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, the stations of the Way of the Cross have been permanently installed in the serene surroundings of Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. On Saturday, 28 February 2026, the community gathered for a day of intense prayer and dedication. The day began with the Holy Rosary, followed by an uplifting session of Praise and Worship and the proclamation of the Word of God. At Noon, we entered into an hour of Adoration, which culminated in the celebration of the Holy Qurbana at 1:00 PM presided by me. Following the Holy Qurbana I blessed the Stations of the Way of the Cross. The event concluded with a fraternal lunch. I invite all the faithful of our diocese to utilize this mountain-like setting for their Lenten sacrifices and Friday devotions instead of traveling to distant shrines or including it in your traditional visit of 14 churches during the Lenten season. The retreat centre has also made provisions for spiritual counselling and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, available daily from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to Fr. Vinu D. Joseph, the director of Sinai Retreat Centre for his vision and hard work in completing this project. I encourage all Parish Priests to inform their parishioners of this new spiritual resource. Let us make use of this 'Sinai' in our midst to draw closer to the suffering and triumphant Christ.

Tenkasi Mission Meet: A meeting of the Fathers and Sisters from the Tenkasi Mission was held on 28 February 2026 at 5:45 pm at St. Mary's Church, Vanchinagar. The meeting began with Eucharistic Adoration animated by Fr. Jiji Koippuram and Sisters from Ambur followed by the Sacrament of Confession. The meeting officially commenced with Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil extending a warm welcome to all those present. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General presided over the meeting. The report from the previous meeting was read and approved. Representatives from various missions and centres then shared their experiences, challenges, and opportunities encountered in their respective fields. During the discussion, Fr. John Joseph and Fr. Jiji Koippuram shared on the success of the spiritual initiatives in their respective missions, noting that the First Sunday retreat at Sundarapandyapuram and the Monthly Retreat in Ambur are proceeding smoothly and contributing effectively to the spiritual growth of the faithful. Several key decisions were finalized during the meeting, most notably the organization of a common Lenten Way of the Cross from Border to Vanjinagar Church. Furthermore, it was decided that spiritual retreats for the laity will now be scheduled on a rotating basis between Vanchinagar, Mekkarai, and Puliয়ারai, and immediate steps will be taken to activate the Mathru Jyothis in every parish. Very Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam addressed the participants, emphasizing the essential nature of missionary work, consistent house visits, and a dedicated prayer life. The meeting concluded with an agape meal, fostering fellowship among all participants. I thank Fr. Sumesh for coordinating the entire programme.

INFORMATION

- **Mrs. Thresiamma Joseph (89)**, beloved mother of Fr. Joshy Thevalakkara CMI, was called to the eternal rest on 02 February 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Fr. Joshy and his family members and pray for the departed soul.
- **Mrs. Lisamma (67)**, beloved mother of Sr. Tessiya Puthenchira SABS, was called to the eternal rest on 10 February 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Tessiya and her family members and pray for the departed soul.
- **Mr. Muthaiah (84)**, a parishioner of Marappady, was called to eternal rest on 16 February 2026. A dedicated lay missionary of our Diocese, Mr. Muthaiah played a pivotal role for many years in the Diocesan Department of Education. We remain deeply grateful to God for his decades of selfless service and his commitment to our mission. May the merciful Lord grant him eternal joy and peace in His heavenly kingdom.

- **Fr. Sunil Antony** has assumed charge as the Secretary to the Bishop on 17 February 2026. To schedule an appointment with me or other matters related to his office, please contact him at the following number: +91 9003606855 or mail: bpssecretarytkly@gmail.com
- **Holy Family Primary School, Arukani** celebrated its 57th annual day on 25 February 2026.
- **Mrs. Annam (87)**, beloved mother of Sr. Mary Koyikara SJSM, was called to the eternal rest on 25 February 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Mary and her family members and pray for the departed soul.
- The SH Province, Mananthavady has started a new outreach initiative titled 'Mobile Convent'. The programme involves sisters staying in a mission area for one year before rotating to a new location. In our diocese, they have begun this mobile convent at Virudhunagar Mission on 25 February 2026. We wish them a fruitful mission work at Virudhunagar.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

09 March	-	Forane Priests Conference
10 March	-	Forane Priests Conference
11 March	-	Forane Priests Conference
30 March	-	Vestition & Minor Orders at Minor Seminary
31 March	-	Diaconate Ordination at Manjalumoodu

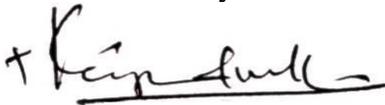
CONCLUSION

We are approaching the end of the academic year. Soon, our students will begin their examinations. The holiday season will then ensue. Let us help our children in whatever way possible to end the academic year on a happy note. I am sure you will plan some programmes, in addition to the ones the Eparchy has planned, during the holidays to keep our young boys and girls usefully occupied.

As we have already noted, we are preparing for the great solemnity of the Resurrection. On the 29th of this month, we will enter Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday. For us believers, death precedes resurrection. Our bodies will undoubtedly perish, but our faith affirms that we will participate in the resurrection of our Saviour. St Paul declares, "All of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death" (Rom 6:3). Even while living in our bodies, we are called to die. As disciples of the Lord, we are to take up our daily cross (Lk 9:23). Our former selves will be crucified with the Lord (Rom 6:6). We must live as if we have died to sin (Rom 6:2).

Assuring you of my prayers and fraternal closeness, I remain united with you in priestly charity.

Yours devotedly in Christ and St Joseph,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

