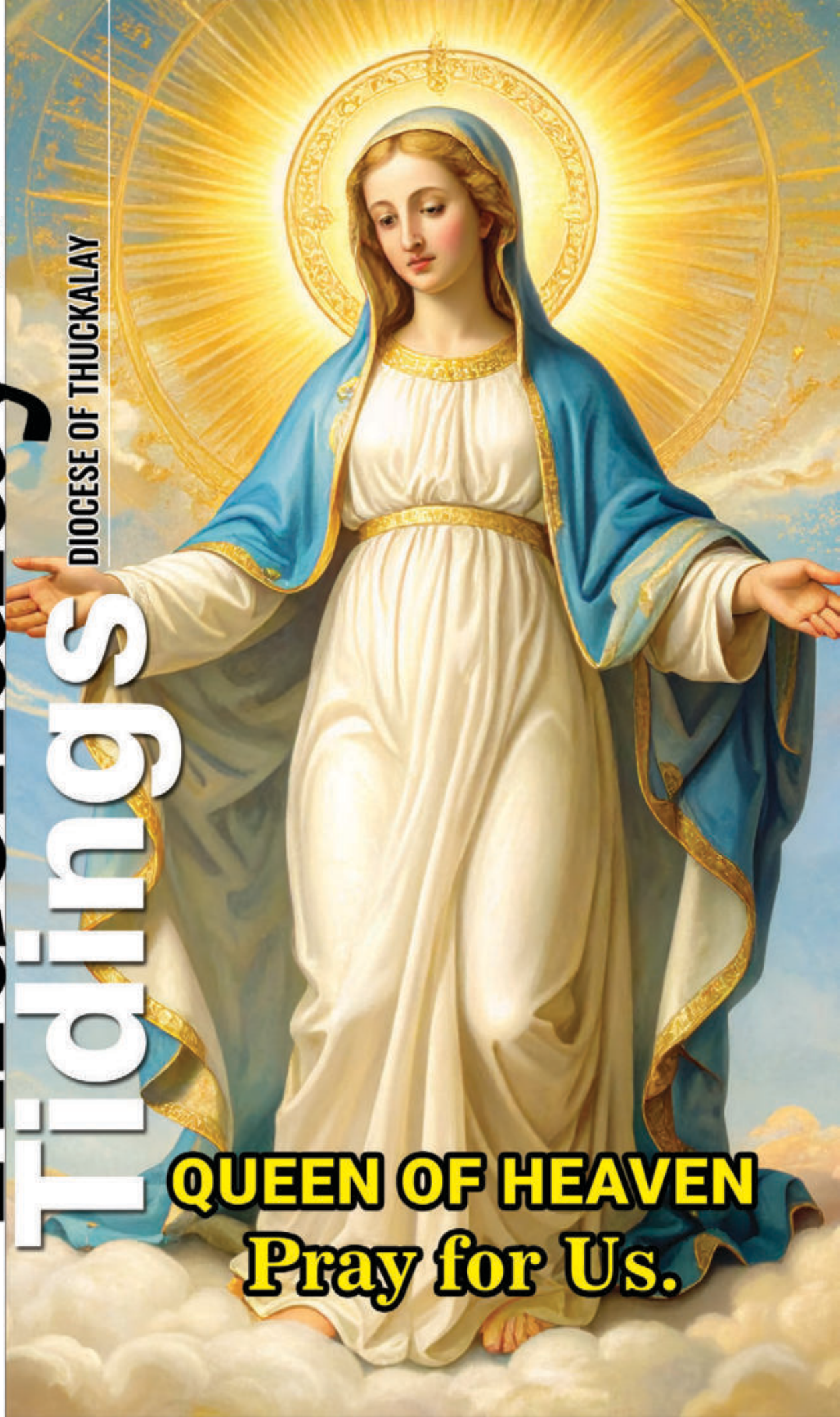


AUGUST 2025
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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

Thuckalay Tidings

QUEEN OF HEAVEN
Pray for Us.





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Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

August 2025 | Vol. 5 | Issue 8

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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BISHOP'S HOUSE

P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.
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INSIDE STORY

➔ Message from the Bishop	3
➔ Alphonsa Feast Begins & "Nadaipayanam", Pilgrimage on foot	4
➔ Vianney Day Celebration at Minor Seminary	5
➔ Junior Priests' On-going Formation Programme	6
➔ Vincent De Paul Anniversary	7
➔ Catechism Anniversary at Kalluvilai	8
➔ Soosaipuram welcomes the New Shepherd of Jalandhar	9
➔ Grandparents' Day Celebration Across the Diocese	10
➔ In protest against the unjust imprisonment of nuns in Chhattisgarh	11
➔ Training Session for Major Seminarians at Sacred Heart Seminary	12
➔ Called to Eternal Rest	13
➔ Last Respects to Rev. Sr. Mary Joseph OMMI	14
➔ With Heartfelt condolences	15



DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

BISHOP'S HOUSE

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Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175

Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In the heart of our pastoral mission beats a deep and abiding love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Your generous support enables us not only to serve the people entrusted to our care but also to spread devotion to Our Lady—she who leads all souls to her Son, Jesus Christ. Our love for Mary cannot remain hidden. It must overflow into our preaching, teaching, and ministry. With your help, we strive to foster a vibrant Marian spirituality in our parishes, forming hearts that are tender, trusting, and true—hearts that echo Mary's own "yes" to God. Through catechesis and homilies, we help the faithful understand Mary's role in salvation history and her continuing maternal care for the Church. Marian feasts—especially the Annunciation, Assumption, and Immaculate Conception—are celebrated with solemnity and joy, thanks in part to your contributions, which make these celebrations beautiful and accessible to all.

In families, we encourage consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, promoting practices like the family rosary and household altars dedicated to Our Lady. With your continued support, we visit homes during May, bringing blessings and hope to countless families.

Our youth, too, are drawn to Mary through pilgrimages, devotions, and small but powerful symbols like the miraculous medal or brown scapular. You help us plant seeds of vocation by nurturing Marian devotion in young hearts—vocations that often begin in childhood under Mary's mantle. To the suffering, we bring the gentle presence of Our Lady of Sorrows. In hospitals and homes, we place Marian images and lead prayers, reminding the sick and lonely that Mary stands beside them, just as she stood beneath the Cross. Mary, the Mother of the Poor, also inspires us to a Marian approach to social justice. Through her Magnificat, she teaches us to lift up the lowly and serve the forgotten. Your gifts allow us to embody this mission and bring her love to the margins.

This August, we celebrate the Assumption and the Queenship of Mary. These feasts remind us of her glory and maternal power—her intercession for priests, for the Church, and for all her children. She is Queen of Heaven and Earth, and her reign is one of mercy, protection, and peace. Beloved benefactors, we thank you. Your partnership allows us to be apostles of Mary, carrying her message of love, conversion, and hope to the world. In her maternal embrace, may you find peace. Through her intercession, may your generosity bear fruit in the lives of many.

Let us continue walking together, inspired by Our Lady, towards the heart of Christ



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



Alphonsa Feast Begins & “Nadaipayanam”, Pilgrimage on foot

As part of the annual celebration of the Feast of St. Alphonsa, the Diocese of Thuckalay organized the Nadai Payanam (Pilgrimage on Foot) to the St. Alphonsa Shrine in Nagercoil, under the leadership of the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM). This year, the pilgrimage was held on 26 July 2025, with the journey beginning at 6:30 a.m. from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay.

The participants were served breakfast at the Bishop's House before setting out. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Protosyncellus, inaugurated the pilgrimage with a prayer and blessing. Approximately 750 youth and faithful took part in this spiritually enriching pilgrimage.



Vianney Day Celebration at Minor Seminary

The Minor Seminary celebrated Vianney Day on August 4 with great enthusiasm and fraternity. The day's activities commenced at 9:00 a.m. with a friendly volleyball match between the brothers and the fathers. This spirited game, filled with energy, set the tone for the day's celebrations.

At 11:00 a.m., the formal celebration began with a prayer service. The meeting was presided over by the Bishop, and the Vicar General was also present for the occasion. The Rector, Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil, addressed the gathering and appreciated the efforts of all who contributed to the event.

The brothers presented a variety of cultural and recreational programs, which were well-received and added joy to the celebration. The Bishop, in his message, highlighted the exemplary life and pastoral zeal of St. John Mary Vianney, encouraging everyone to emulate his dedication to priestly service.

The program concluded with a festive lunch, which provided an opportunity for further fellowship and joyful interaction among the community members. The day was marked by a spirit of unity, gratitude, and renewal of priestly commitment.



Junior Priests' On-going Formation Programme

A two-day on-going formation programme for the junior priests of the Diocese of Thuckalay was held at Sangamam on 15 and 16 July 2025. The programme aimed to offer spiritual, pastoral, and personal enrichment to priests in the early years of their ministry.

On the first day, Rev. Fr. Devadas, Procurator of the Diocese of Marthandam, led two sessions on the commitments of priestly life—towards God, the Bishop, fellow priests, and the faithful. In the afternoon, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal addressed the canonical

dimensions of pastoral ministry, followed by Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, who clarified finance- and account-related queries. In the evening, the junior priests engaged in an open discussion with the Bishop and Curia members, sharing their experiences and concerns.

On 16 July, Rev. Fr. Stephen, Correspondent of Nanjil College from the Diocese of Kuzhithurai, delivered two sessions on Psycho-sexual Integration in Priestly Life and Ministry, which were deeply appreciated by the participants.



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

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Contact Mission Procure:

Fr. Liju Marattukalam
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Vincent De Paul Anniversary

The 28th Annual Day of the Thuckalay Central Council was held on 20 July 2025 at St. Little Flower Church, Manjalummoodu. The celebration commenced at 9:00 a.m. with the Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Mahesh. At 11:00 a.m., the official programme began with the lighting of the lamp by Most Rev. Bishop George Rajendran SDB, who presided over the function. Vincentians completing 25 and 40 years of dedicated service were honoured by the Bishop with commemorative gifts. Cultural performances by Vincentians added vibrancy to the celebration.





Catechism Anniversary at Kalluvilai



The Catechism Anniversary was celebrated on 10 August at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The event was graced by the presence of Most Rev. Bishop as the Chief Guest. The celebration featured prayer, cultural programmes, and recognition of outstanding contributions in catechetical formation. The Bishop, in his address, encouraged all catechism students and teachers to deepen their faith and commitment to the mission of the Church.



Soosaipuram welcomes the New Shepherd of Jalandhar



Pope Leo XIV appointed Rev. Msgr. Jose Sebastian Thekkumcherikunnel as the new Bishop of Jalandhar, Punjab, with the official announcement made on Saturday, 7 June 2025. This appointment was received with great joy by the Diocese of Thuckalay, as Bishop Jose Sebastian is the brother of Rev. Sr. Rose Martin SABS, the Provincial Superior of the SABSThuckalay Province.

In honour of this special bond, a delegation of sisters from the SABS Thuckalay Province, along with the Bishop Mar George Rajendran,

took part in the Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the bishop-elect. The solemn ceremony was held on 12 July 2025 at the Trinity College Campus, Jalandhar, and was attended by bishops, priests, religious, and faithful from across the country.

The Diocese of Thuckalay extends heartfelt congratulations to Bishop Jose Sebastian and offers prayers for his fruitful ministry in shepherding the faithful of the Diocese of Jalandhar.



Grandparents' Day Celebration Across the Diocese



World Grandparents' Day was meaningfully observed in all parishes of the Diocese of Thuckalay on Sunday, 27 July 2025, following the guidelines issued by the TNBC Health Commission. Special liturgical texts, including the introduction to the Holy Qurbana and Karosusa prayers, were prepared and used to mark the occasion with reverence. An early celebration was held at KKSSS, Kalluvilai, on 19 July 2025, with the participation of a large number of elderly faithful, particularly members of various women's Self Help Groups.





In protest against the unjust imprisonment of nuns in Chhattisgarh

In protest against the unjust imprisonment of nuns in Chhattisgarh, a protest meeting was organized under the leadership of the Kanyakumari District Christian Ecumenical Front. The meeting was held on Friday, 1 August, at 4:00 p.m. in Nagercoil Town. The event was attended by the Bishops of Thuckalay, Kottar, Kuzhithurai, and Marthandam dioceses, leaders of various other Christian communities, many priests, sisters, and thousands of faithful.

The meeting was presided over by Mar George Rajendran, Bishop of Thuckalay. Most Rev. Nazarene Soosai, Bishop of Kottar; Most Rev. Albert Anastas, Bishop of Kuzhithurai; and Rev. Mariaraj, head of the Anglican Church, also led the programme. Rev. Fr. John Bright delivered the words of welcome. Speeches were given by Fr. Anand, Dr. M.C. Rajan, Mrs. Tharakai (MLA), Mr. Raj, Mr. Gnanadasan, Major Arulkumar, and Mr. Titus Mohan. Mr. Darwin proposed the vote of thanks. Arrangements for the meeting were coordinated under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Vaislin Xavier

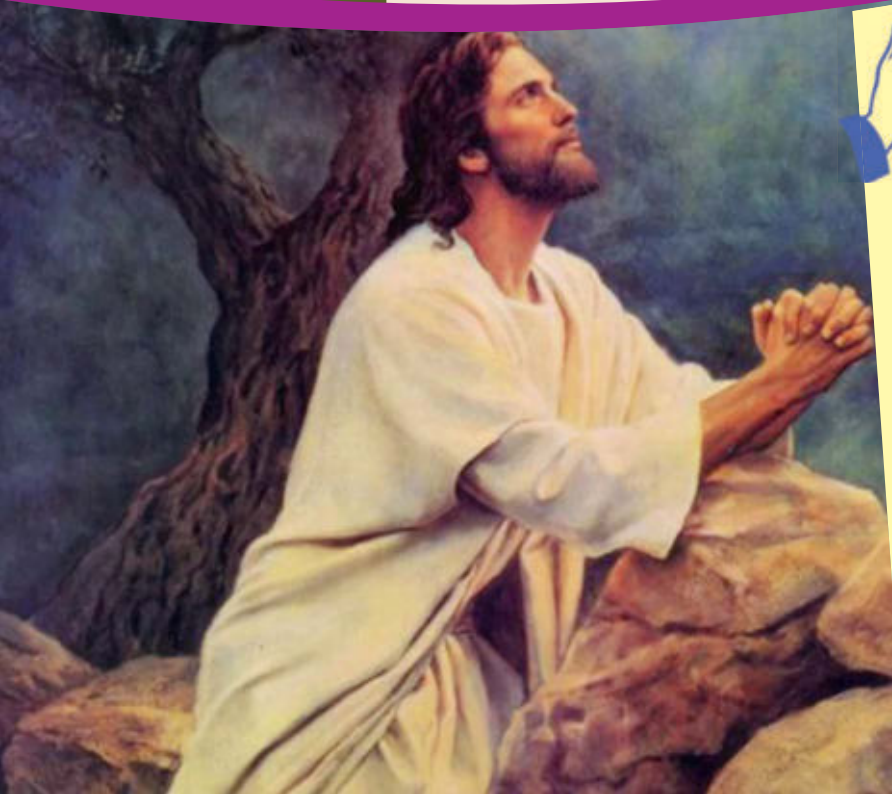




Training Session for Major Seminarians at Sacred Heart Seminary



On 10 July 2025, SMYM Central Executive Committee Members – Mr. Manoj, Ms. Anjana, and Ms. Merin Sujith – facilitated a one-day training session for the major seminarians at Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonammallee. The programme included discussions on the ongoing youth ministry activities in the Diocese of Thuckalay, challenges encountered in the mission field, and responses to questions concerning the present mindset and aspirations of young people.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

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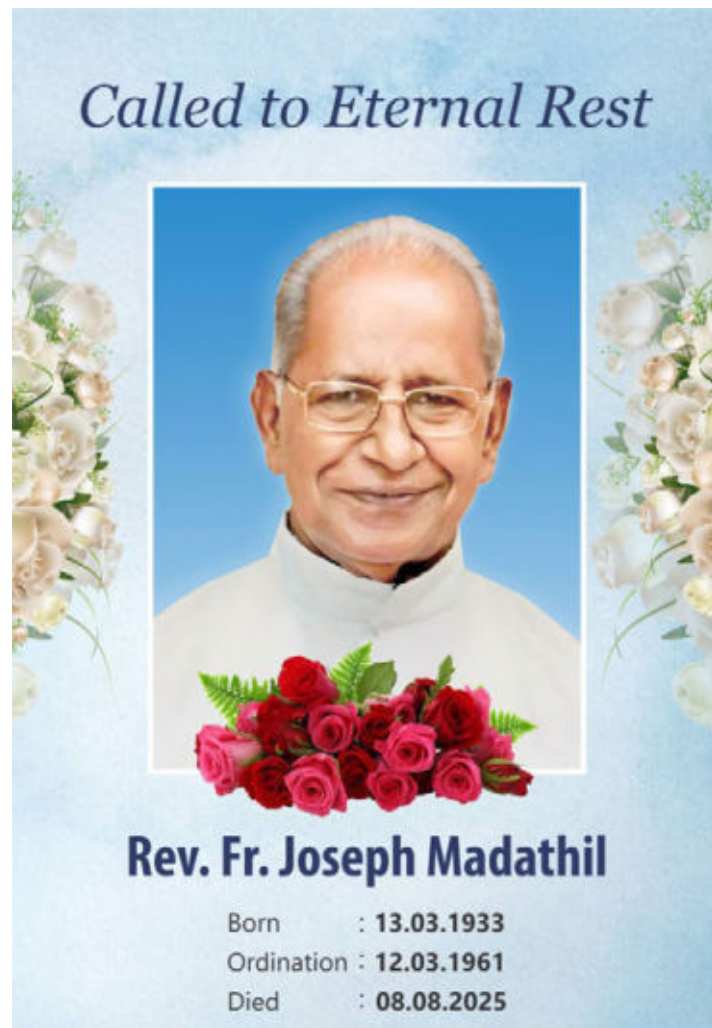
Place:

Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,



: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



Rev. Fr. Joseph Madathil dedicated 16 years of his life to the Thuckalay Mission, leaving an indelible mark on its growth and development. Born on 13 March 1933 in St. Thomas Church, Muttar, he was ordained on 12 March 1961 by Mar Mathew Kavukattu. Just two years after his ordination, he began his missionary journey in Kanyakumari in 1963, starting at Manjalumoodu. At that time, the region lacked basic necessities like transportation, drinking water, and electricity, and the people lived in poverty. Moved by compassion, Fr. Madathil worked tirelessly for their spiritual and social upliftment.

He founded mission stations at Mukkoottukal, Thettivilai, Marappady, and Malaicode, and established institutions like Holy Family School in Mukkoottukal and St. Mathew's School in Annikkarai. He also initiated a dispensary in Manjalumoodu and invited the first women religious, the Sacred Heart Sisters, to the Kanyakumari Mission. His efforts led to

the formation of new Christian communities and the foundation of almost all parishes in the Manjalumoodu Forane.

Fr. Madathil's contributions extended beyond pastoral care. He introduced small saving schemes, supported agricultural development, and created job opportunities for women. Recognizing the need for education, he started nurseries and founded the Holy Family Primary School in 1969, offering free education and meals to students.

After 16 years of dedicated service, Fr. Madathil returned to his home diocese in 1977. His pioneering efforts laid the foundation for the Diocese of Thuckalay, which remains deeply indebted to him. His selfless service transformed the lives of countless people, and his legacy continues to inspire. May the Lord grant him eternal rest and reward him abundantly for his contributions.



Last Respects to Rev. Sr. Mary Joseph OMMI

Rev. Sr. Mary Joseph OMMI (87) was called to eternal rest on 14 July 2025. A dedicated missionary and pioneer, she served in the Kanyakumari Mission and later in the Diocese of Thuckalay for over 28 years, making significant contributions to the spiritual, educational, and social development of the region.

Sr. Mary Joseph arrived in 1970 and served in various missions and institutions, including:

- Sacred Heart Mission, Padanthalumoodu (from 1970)
- St. George Mission, Munchirai (1971)
- St. Paul Mission, Thettiyode (1972)
- St. Maria Goretti Mission, Athecode (1980)
- Little Flower Mission, Puliয়ারai (1997–1999)
- First Headmistress, Primary School, Padanthalumoodu (7 years)

- Teacher, Sacred Heart Matriculation School, Padanthalumoodu (12 years)
- Several Mother and Child Health Centres under the Kanyakumari Mission

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, 15 July 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Chapel of Vimala Matha House, OMMI, Changanacherry, followed by the burial at the Cathedral Church cemetery, Changanacherry. The Bishop Mar George Rajendran presided over the Holy Qurbana and delivered the homily, expressing deep gratitude for her remarkable life of service.

The Diocese of Thuckalay extends heartfelt condolences to the OMMI Sisters and joins in prayer that the Merciful Lord may grant Sr. Mary Joseph eternal peace and joy. Her legacy of dedication and missionary zeal will always be remembered with reverence and gratitude.

With Heartfelt condolences...



Fr. Cyriac Thekkekkutt MCBS (90),
Elder brother of Fr. Mathew Thekkekkutt



Mrs. Soosi Cheriyan (82),
Elder sister of Sr. Rosamma CHF



Mrs. Eliyamma Devasya (92),
Mother of Sr. Treesa SABS



Mr. Sukumaran (73),
former Lay Missionary of the Diocese of Thuckalay



Mrs. Cicly Devasya (84),
Mother of Sr. Vineetha FCC



Mr. Varghese (84),
Grandfather of Dn. Bibin Kouickakudiyil



THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



Unity in Diversity, Strong in Unity
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



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