



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

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31 October 2021

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

All of us are aware of the Synod of Bishops to be held in 2023. Its theme is "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission". Prior to the Synod Pope has invited the entire Church to reflect on the theme that is decisive for its life and mission. For him, it is precisely this path of synodality which God expects of the Church of the third millennium.

Synodality means "journeying together," all the baptised by virtue of their baptism and confirmation are recipients of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Thus, they have the rights and duties to speak and to listen. Through this, Christian community not only receives the services but becomes reliable partner in the mission of the Church.

The rationale behind the idea of synodality is that by virtue of the anointing of the Holy Spirit received in baptism, the totality of the faithful cannot err in matters of belief. It is also the possible solution to the problems plaguing the Church.

This does not mean that the Church is going to function in a democratic way in the coming days. Synodality is an ecclesial process that can only take place at the heart of a hierarchically structured community. Every Synodal process, in which the Bishops are called upon to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church, not by themselves but by listening to the people of God, who "shares also in Christ's prophetic office" (LG, no. 12)

Through this exercise the Pope wants to rediscover and establish the fact that in the Church every one has to learn as everyone has to teach. To experience the synodality within the Church, Pope wants everyone to recall their experiences of being the Church, re-read and deepen these experiences in greater depths by asking certain questions. What joys did they bring? What difficulties and obstacles have they encountered? What wounds did they reveal? What insights have they elicited? Gather the fruits to share: Where in these experiences does the voice of the Holy Spirit resound? What is the spirit asking of us? What are the points to be conformed, the prospects for change, the steps taken? Where do we register consensus? What paths are opening up for our local Church?

The Synodality as a way of being the Church and as the procedure for functioning as the Church, the following ten themes and the questions based on them can be used as a starting point or helpful guidelines:

- a. **Companions on the Journey:** Who are those who “walk together”? Who are those who seem further apart? How are we called to grow as companions? What groups or individuals are left on the margins?
- b. **Listening:** How are the laity listened to, especially women and young people? What facilitates or inhibits our listening? How well do we listen to those on the peripheries? What space is there for the voice of minorities, especially people who experience poverty, marginalization, or social exclusion?
- c. **Speaking Out:** What enables or hinders speaking up courageously, candidly, and responsibly in our local Church and in society? When and how do we manage to say what is important to us?
- d. **Celebration:** How do prayer and liturgical celebrations actually inspire and guide our common life and mission in our community? How do we promote the active participation of all the faithful in the liturgy? What space is given to participating in the ministries of lector and acolyte?
- e. **Sharing Responsibility for our Common Mission:** Since we are all missionary disciples, how is every baptised person called to participate in the mission of the Church? What hinders the baptised from being active in mission?
- f. **Dialogue in Church and Society:** What are the places and means of dialogue within our local Church? How do we promote collaboration with neighbouring dioceses, religious communities in the area, lay associations and movements, etc.? What particular issues in the Church and society do we need to pay more attention to?
- g. **Ecumenism:** What fruits have we drawn from walking together? What are the difficulties? How can we take the next step in walking forward with each other?
- h. **Authority and Participation:** A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. How is authority or governance exercised within our local Church? How are teamwork and co-responsibility put into practice? Have we had fruitful experiences of synodality on a local level? How do synodal bodies function at the level of the local Church (Pastoral Councils in parishes and dioceses, Presbyteral Council, etc.)? How can we foster a more synodal approach in our participation and leadership?
- i. **Discerning and Deciding:** What methods and processes do we use in decision-making? How can they be improved? How do we promote participation in decision-making within hierarchical structures?
- j. **Forming Ourselves in Synodality:** Synodality entails receptivity to change, formation, and on-going learning. How does our church community form people to be more capable of “walking together,” listening to one another, participating in mission, and engaging in dialogue? What formation is offered to foster discernment and the exercise of authority in a synodal way?

The website of the Synod provides suggestions on how to pose these questions to various groups of people in simple and engaging ways. Each diocese, parish or ecclesial group should not aim to cover all the questions but should discern and focus on those aspects of synodality most pertinent to its context. Participants are encouraged to share with honesty and openness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect together on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing through what they share with one another.

As an Eparchy we need to be part of this process. Fortunately, we have already begun this process. Vatican has issued a handbook, which gives guidelines to the Bishops and those who facilitate the synodal process on how best to listen and consult the Catholics and those within the margins of the Church and society. It suggests some questions to prompt reflection, input and ideas. They fall under ten general themes and people can discuss what is most pertinent to them and share with honesty and openness about their real experiences and reflect together what the Holy Spirit might be revealing through what they share with one another.

However, the most basic question is: how does this journeying together, which takes place in different levels like village, parish, religious community diocese and in the universal level, allow the Church to

proclaim the Gospel in accordance to the mission entrusted to her? And what steps the Spirit invites us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church?

This synod is a spiritual process that requires us to listen to the Holy Spirit and to one another. The synod involves the entire people of God to find a common ground by dialoguing, conversing and discerning with the possibility of reaching a harmony.

Each diocese is asked to spend six months dialoguing intensely with as many people as possible, including those in the peripheries, those who left the Church or hardly ever practice, those who are poor, migrants, refugees and the voiceless discerning what God is saying in the signs of the times.

The whole process requires creativity. All the feedback that is generated from village, parish and religious community level is gathered and synthesized by each diocese and sent the Bishops' Conference. The findings from conferences and oriental churches will reach the Synod of Bishops' office who will write the working document for the synod proper in 2023. This synthesis will reflect the common trends and points of convergence that will inspire an original point of view or open a new horizon. The Bishops, who with their charism of discernment will be authentic guardians, interpreters and witnesses to the faith of the Church, will lead the process of the synod.

A timeline is also provided for the synodal procedure to take place in the coming days within the dioceses and the Episcopal Conferences before the actual commencement of the Synod:

- 09 October 2021, Saturday – Inauguration of the preparatory phase in Rome
- 17 October 2021, Sunday – Beginning of the Eparchial Phase
- April 2022 – The report from the Eparchy to be sent to Episcopal Conferences
- October 2023 – Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome

NEWS AND EVENTS

Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana: The Eparchy is fast approaching its conclusion of Silver Jubilee, which is scheduled to be held on 14 November. In order to prepare spiritually, we have chalked out one month of spiritual activities to be observed in the Eparchy. The one-month celebrations began on 30 September. All parishes and mission stations in the Eparchy celebrated Holy Qurbana and organised one-hour adoration. This was to thank the Lord for his blessing upon the Eparchy during the past 25 years. I offered the Holy Qurbana on that day at Holy Family Church, Arukani. It was also the occasion of months' mind of late Rev. Sr Canciamma SH. All the faithful were informed well ahead of time and prepared them well for this event. I am sure the Lord will continue to bless the Eparchy for the efforts we are making to deepen our love for Him during this Jubilee year.

Jubilee Celebrations: The Priests and Religious Sangamam was organised on 2 October 2021 at St Joseph Forane Church, Soosaipuram. It was a happy and memorable moment for all the Fathers and Sisters working in the Eparchy to come together and to experience the communion of love and togetherness. It was an occasion to thank God and to celebrate the jubilees of Priests and Religious who serve in the Eparchy. This year Rev. Fr Christudas M and Rev. Fr Benny Thattamparambily celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their priestly ordination. Rev. Sr Lizet FCC and Rev. Sr Stella Mary S H celebrate the Golden Jubilee of their Religious Profession. Rev. Sr Jain Mary SABS, Rev. Sr Leena Rose CMC, Rev. Sr Ansit SABS, Rev. Sr Maria James CMC, Rev. Sr Alphonse SABS, Rev. Sr Ann Maria CMC, Rev. Sr Rani Maria SABS, Rev. Sr Liz Tom SABS, Rev. Sr Maria Mathew CMC, Rev. Sr Bindu Chacko MMM, Rev. Sr Lins SABS celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their Religious Profession. The Holy Qurbana began at

10.00 am. It was followed by felicitation of the Jubilerians. All the Jubilerians were honoured. Some representatives expressed their joy and appreciation to the Jubilerians. The programme came to an end with a sumptuous meal. The event was well planned. The preparation of venue was excellent. I gratefully appreciate Fr Antony Jose and his team for their hard work.

Archbishop Antony Cardinal Padiyara Remembered: During the Priests and Religious Sangamam on 2 October, the Eparchy of Thuckalay remembered Archbishop Antony Cardinal Padiyara who played an important role in the growth of the then Kanyakumari Mission and now the Eparchy of Thuckalay. This year is the birth Centenary of the Cardinal. We remember with gratitude his vision and contribution in initiating the mission work in Kanyakumari. As a sign of our gratitude, we have named the APJM School, Soosaipuram after his name.

Meeting with Nuncio: Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India, visited the diocese of Kottar on 2 October. The Bishops of the four Catholic dioceses of Kanyakumari district gathered around him for lunch. It was a friendly visit and we had some time for interaction with the Nuncio. We could feel his concern and involvement for all the dioceses in India especially those dioceses which need special attention. We had some private time to discuss about the religious and political situation in Tamil Nadu. He exchanged the greetings and love of the Holy Father. I am grateful to the Bishop of Kottar for arranging the meeting with the Nuncio.

Meeting with Provincial Team: On 3 October 2021, the newly elected Provincial of CMC Chavara Province, Thuckalay, Rev. Sr Vinayamma CMC with her counsellors Rev. Sr Pavana CMC, Rev. Sr Ann Maria CMC, Rev. Sr Philo CMC and Rev. Sr Jessey Therese CMC paid a visit to the Bishop's House. It was a good meeting in which I was able to express my thanks to the new team. The Sisters, in their turn, expressed their happiness and satisfaction for the mission that the congregation is undertaking in the Eparchy of Thuckalay. We wish the team God's blessings!

Priests' Annual Retreat: As the Eparchy is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, the annual retreat this year 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. The annual retreat was held from 3-8 October 2021 at Sangamam. Rev. Fr Dominic Valamnal and his team from Marian Retreat Centre, Anakara, animated the retreat. It was a hallowed opportunity for us to have a saintly person like Rev. Fr Dominic Valamnal as the preacher. He guided the Priests to acknowledge and to appreciate the shared priesthood of Jesus and to lead a holy life. Opportunities were given to all the Priests for personal counselling by professional counsellors from Anakara Retreat Centre. All the Priests met Fr Valamnal personally and received his special blessing. 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.

Celebration of World Mental Health Day: 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 9 October 2021 at Devasahayam Nalvalu Nilayam (DNN). It was organised by the Eparchial Health Unit whose secretary is Rev. Fr Abin Poovathumoottil. Nearly sixty teachers from seven special schools of the Eparchy were invited to take part in the programme. The programme began at 10.00 am with a brief inauguration. There was an input session on the importance of nurturing good mental health in one's life. The resource person was Rev. Sr Josephene Mary CTC, Secretary, TNBC Health Commission. After a short break, the teachers and inmates of DNN had the concelebrated Holy Qurbana. After the lunch the inmates of DNN

put up an entertainment programme highlighting the importance of mental health. I am grateful to Rev. Fr Ajeesh Attiyil, Sisters and the inmates of DNN for making all the arrangements and giving everyone an experience of good health.

Bishop Meets the Faithful: One of the action plans for the preparation for the Silver Jubilee of the Eparchy is that the Bishop visits all the parishes and meets the faithful and interact with them. The Covid-19 lock down restricted the physical movements to parishes. Hence, before the final celebration it was decided to organise the meeting online. A proper schedule was drawn from 13-19 October, 2021 according to the Foranes. All the Parish Priests prepared the faithful and helped them to attend the meeting online. In many parishes, the faithful gathered in the parish church and through TV or Video Projector participated in the meeting. Special attention was given to Malayalam speaking communities and to the faithful in the extended territories. The general timetable for these programme was 6.45 pm people come online, 7.00pm Rosary, 7.35 pm welcome, 7.40 pm Bishop's address, 8.05 pm interaction with the Bishop. The programme concluded with a blessing. I was happy to note the enthusiasm of the faithful to attend this meeting. I am grateful to all the parish priests and parish teams for preparing the logistics for the meeting.

Youth Camp: A two-day youth camp was organised by TCYM at Sangamam from 14-15 October 2021. Nearly 50 youth took part in the camp. The main theme of the camp was "We, the youth, are the NOW of the Church." Many classes were held on the theme. Fr Stan Swami's unfinished mission, need of forming a youth movement, a goal-oriented youth according to Pope Francis, the importance of youth movements, etc. were some of topics. Many resource persons were invited to take classes. All the sessions were interactive and time was given to the youth for intermingling with one another. I celebrated the Holy Qurbana for the youth on 15 October and interacted with them. I am grateful to the Director of TCYM and the young volunteers for taking initiatives to organise the event.

Inauguration of Synod on Synodality: The Holy Father Pope Francis convoked a synod in the Church to be held in 2023. He opened the process of preparing for the Synod in Rome on 10 October 2021 and requested all the dioceses to open the processes on 17 October 2021. Our Eparchy inaugurated the Diocesan level preparation for the Synod on 17 October 2021 at Sacred Heart Church, Padanthalumoodu. We had already formed a Synodal committee in the Eparchy. Rev. Fr Sathianesan heads the team. The inaugural Holy Qurbana began at 9.00 am. The Vicar General and some Fathers concelebrated. Some Sisters from various congregations represented at the inaugural programme. Soon after the Holy Qurbana, the official inauguration of the diocesan preparations for the Synod was held. Rev. Fr Sathianesan gave an introduction on the Synod and its need. Representatives from priests, religious and laity lit the lamp. The special prayer for Synod was recited.

Rt Rev. Sam Yesudas Passes away: Bishop Emeritus of Evangelical Church of India, Kerala and Kanyakumari diocese, passed away on 15 October 2021 and the funeral ceremony was held on 17 October 2021. He was an active member in UCC and would often raise his voice for the minority rights in the district of Kanyakumari. He retired last year and was remaining with his family. The Executive members of UCC including the president Most Rev. Nazarene Soosai paid visit to the mortal remains of Bishop Sam Yesudas and prayed for the departed Soul. Mr Raj, secretary of UCC, expressed sentiments of condolences on behalf of the UCC members. Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord!

Commission Meetings: On 19 October 2021, the Eparchial Financial Council met at Bishop's House. The secretary of the Council, Rev. Fr Johnsilal presented the report of the previous meeting. He also presented the financial situation of the Eparchy. On the same day, the Liturgy Commission of the Eparchy

met together to discuss and to evaluate the liturgical texts that are being translated. It also discussed how to implement the revised Holy Qurbana of the Syro-Malabar Church. It was decided that since all the translation of Propria is not completed, it will not be wise to print the revised Missal in Tamil. Hence, all the changes in the new Taksa should be translated into Tamil and be used with the present *Taksa* as the revised Holy Qurbana will come to effect on 28 November 2021 in the entire Syro-Malabar Church. Since the hymn book and the history of the Eparchy will not be ready for release on the day of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, it was decided to release a dummy copy of the same.

Meeting of School Principals and Correspondents: The Education Commission of the Eparchy decided to conduct a teachers' appraisal programme in all our schools and college. In order to implement this programme, a set of questionnaire was prepared for the self-assessment of teachers and another set for the assessment by the Principal and the Correspondent. This exercise will help the teachers to know their areas of weaknesses and strengths. An online meeting of all the Principals and Correspondents of our educational institutions was held on 19 October 2021 in which Fr Thomas Pawathuparambil, Manager of all English medium schools, presented the Commission's programmes to them and asked them to follow strictly. All of them welcomed the idea of teachers' appraisal and it will be executed in the coming days.

Home for the Homeless: As we know, one of the Silver Jubilee memorial projects of the Eparchy is to build 25 houses for the homeless in our Eparchy. KKSSS has identified these houses with the help of the parish priests and the construction works are going on. We hope to complete the work before the Jubilee celebrations. Bad weather is delaying the work. I already blessed and inaugurated a house in Chenamcodu parish on 20 October, 2021. I appreciate the involvement of KKSSS and of the parish priest of Chenamcodu parish in coming to the aid of this family.

Welcome Fr Biju Michael SDB: Rev. Fr Biju Michael SDB, General Counsellor for South Asia of the Salesian congregation, visited the Eparchy from 20-22 October 2021. Fr Biju Michael represents the Rector Major of the congregation as he is making the extra-ordinary canonical visitation of the Salesian Province of Trichy under whose territory Thuckalay falls. The Bishop's House community welcomed him on 20 October at 7.30 pm. The next day, Fr Robin Jose and I accompanied him to some of our parishes and communities. We wanted him to have a first-hand experience of the types of ministries we are doing in the Eparchy. In the morning of 21 October, we visited CMC Provincial House and celebrated Mass. We, then, visited Arappalli and DNN, Karodu. We had Lunch in the Minor Seminary. We, then, proceeded to SABS Regional House at Soosaipuram. At 2.45pm Fr Biju Michael visited St Alphonsa College and gave a talk to the staff members. After his visit to Kanyakumari, we accorded him a solemn reception and dinner at the Bishop's House. Neighbouring religious communities and Forane Fathers were invited. On 22 October, Fr Biju Michael celebrated Holy Qurbanan at FCC Provincial House and then made a visit to my parents at Padanthalumoodu. At 10.30 am, Fr Biju Michael had an interactive session with the youth of our Eparchy. He also inaugurated the Vazhikatti. Fr Biju Michael left the Eparchy at 1.30 pm. I am grateful to all the Fathers who have made all the arrangements to honour Fr Biju Michael on his maiden visit to various communities.

Inauguration of Don Bosco Vazhikatti: It was a long cherished dream of the Eparchy to set up a Students' Help Desk at TCYM office Kalluvilai, in order to give information to the youth about higher studies, Students scholarships and job opportunities. In collaboration with the Salesian Province of Trichy Vazhikatti, the Eparchy inaugurated the office on 22 October 2021 at Kalluvilai. I blessed the office and Fr Biju Michael SDB inaugurated the project by cutting the ribbon in the presence of Rev. Fr Agilan SDB, Provincial of Trichy, Fr Thomas Pawathuparampil, Fr Joseph Santhosh, Director of TCYM, Fr Arul Antony SDB, Director of Vazhikatti and several priests and young people. This office will cater to the

needs of the young people in the Eparchy in Career Guidance, Job Placement and procuringscholarships. Don Bosco Vazhikatti has appointed a staff in order to carry out this project in the Eparchy. A short public meeting was organised in order to felicitate Fr Biju Michael and Fr Agilan. I am grateful to the youth department of our Eparchy for working hard to realise this new project.

Blessing of FCC community at Thenkasi Mission: FCC Sisters have been working in Thenkasi Mission for the last six years. The Sisters are serving in our Pulari School and carrying out pastoral ministry in Pudur Mission and Sunderapandiyapuram Mission. All these years, the Sisters were staying in a rented house with minimum convenience. They were looking for a plot of land to build a convent. The Lord has been very good to them and the Sisters finally found a place near to the Pulari School. The newly built convent was blessed on 22 October 2021. I inaugurated and blessed the house in the presence of the Vice-Provincial of FCC, Kanjirapalli Province, Fr Thomas Pawathuparmpil, all the Priests, religious and some invited faithful of Thenkasi Mission. The convent chapel was blessed and the first holy Qurbana was offered in the chapel. Let us thank the Lord together with the Sisters for strengthening our mission in Thenkasi.

School/College Staff Meeting: It was a unique event in which the Vicar General and I held a virtual staff meeting with all the English Medium Schools and St Alphonsa College. It was meant to implement the teachers' appraisal exercise in all the Schools and College. On 23 October 2021, all the schools organised offline staff meeting in which Vicar General and I joined using Google meet. The Vicar General explained to the teachers the need and importance of teachers' appraisal programme in the Schools and College. While thanking all the staff members of our Schools for their commitment to education during the days of the pandemic, I exhorted everyone to give whole-hearted cooperation in implementing the project in the Schools and College.

Chain Rosary: Month of October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The pious practice of praying the Holy Rosary takes on a special emphasis in this month in our families and parishes. 24 October was observed as Chain Rosary day in the Eparchy. It became more meaningful as the Eparchy is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year. All the parish priests planned well and organised the chain rosary in all the parishes. In some parishes it was organised *uravium* wise. Every *uravium* would come to the church and prayed the rosary continuously and in some other parishes the rosary prayer was said family wise from morning till evening. I appreciate and thank all the Fathers and the Faithful.

Chain Adoration: As part of the immediate spiritual preparation for the Jubilee Celebrations, the Eparchy organised four days of chain adoration in all the parishes. It was held from 25-28 October, 2021. All the parishes and mission stations were given 2 hours each from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm. The date and time schedule was prepared prior to the Chain adoration and was given to all the parishes. Every parish and mission station took this spiritual exercise very seriously. All the people came to their parishes at the allotted time to take part in the adoration. The main intention was to thank the Lord for the 25 years of blessing and to pray for the Eparchy. I appreciate all the Fathers who have prepared the faithful to organise the adoration in their respective parishes. I was glad to attend some of the prayer sessions in which I could experience the wonderful family spirit that exist among our faithful.

Psycho-[Spiritual Refreshment Program: The family apostolate organised a two day camp on 29-30 October, 2021 for the mothers on the topic Spyco-Spiritual Refreshment. This is an initiative taken by the department to bring together and empower them on living the family life with enriched mind and heart. The program was mainly focussed on detoxification, then refilling of positive thoughts, for this the resource persons provided many techniques, therapy, yoga, meditation etc. There were 20 mothers from

various parishes took part in the program and enriched themselves. They were also taught to follow traditional methods in farming and cooking food with needed nutrients to the body. Though it is two days program, there would be a follow up program after 90 days to confirm the changes. The department is planning to conduct such program for others too. I appreciate and thank Rev. Fr Jimmy, the director of Family Apostolate and the team for this initiative.

Golden Jubilee of Rev. Sr Nirmala Mathew: Sr Nirmala Mathew, one who is sponsoring the Nirmala Home: A home for the destitute women at Nangunery in our Eparchy, is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of her Religious Profession this year. Fr Robin Jose and I attended the celebration at her school and residence at Barpetta Road, Assam on 30 October 2021. Most Rev. Thomas Pullupillil, Bishop of Bongaigoan, was the main celebrant. I preached the homily. After the Holy Mass, a short public meeting was organised in which many dignitaries, friends and well-wishers of Sr Nirmala Mathew attended and wished her. I thanked Sr Nirmala, on behalf of the Eparchy, for her great support to us.

INFORMATION

- **Diocesan Retreat:** This year the annual retreat for the faithful will be held on 5, 6 and 7 November online from 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm. This is the final preparation for the celebration of our Silver Jubilee. Let us make this retreat a real God-experience for our faithful.
- **Episcopal Ordination Silver Jubilee:** Our beloved Major Archbishop Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, first bishop of our Eparchy, is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination this year. As he is coming to our Eparchy for the concluding ceremony of the Jubilee of our Eparchy, let us make use of this occasion to felicitate him. Our Eparchy was established with his episcopal ordination and it is fitting that we celebrate this great event in our Eparchy with due solemnity. On 13 November the Eparchy will organise a Solemn Holy Qurbana and felicitation programme at Sinai Retreat centre, Kalluvilai. I am requesting, you dear Fathers and Religious of the Eparchy, to take part in this programmewithout fail. This is a golden opportunity for us to gather around our beloved Major Archbishop. The Programme will be as follows:
 - 09.00 am - Arrival
 - 09.30 am - Holy Qurbana
 - 11.00 am - Coffee break
 - 11.30 am - Public Meeting
 - 01.00 pm - Lunch and departure
- **Silver Jubilee of the Eparchy:** Finally, we are going to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the Eparchy on 14 November 2021. We spent two years to prepare for this event. We have invited the Major Archbishop, Bishops from our province and Bishops from the four Catholic dioceses of Kanyakumari district. The Holy Qurbana and the public meeting will be held at Little Flower Church, Manjalumoodu. The parish priest with all the faithful are getting ready for this great event. I am requesting two members from every parish, mission stations and extended territories to attend the concluding programme at Manjalumoodu. On that day, as we have planned, all the parishes will have Jubilee Holy Qurbana in their own parish churches and only the public meeting from Manjalumoodu will be telecasted via You Tube channel to all the parishes. I am requesting all the parish priests to make arrangements to view the programme comfortably for the people either in the church or in the hall. At the end of the public meeting, one Holy Family photo and a Seed link will be distributed to every family in all the parishes. All the parish priests are requested to get these two items from the Eparchy before the 14 November. Kindly end the meeting with Lunch for all the faithful.

- **Pilgrimage to Velankanni:** As we have planned all the Fathers will go on a pilgrimage to Velankanni on 22 and 23 November. The first pickup point will be at Padanthalumoodu at 5.00 am and the second pickup point will be at the Bishop's House at 5.30 am. I request the organisers to make the necessary arrangements.
- **Rev. Fr Shoji Puthenpuakal** returned to Ireland on 23 October. We are grateful to him for visiting and spending some days with us in the Eparchy.
- **Fr Vinod** is receiving treatment at the Ayurvedic Hospital, Chengannor for spine-related diseases. In his absence Rev Fr Jomy Kamukumattathil is temporarily appointed as priest in charge of Marapady and Thettiode parishes. Let us continue to pray for Fr Vinod.
- **Fr Tobin Alupurakal** was admitted to Holy Cross Hospital due to viral fever. He is getting better now.
- **Fr Josy Puthenpurakal**, serving in Germany, will come to India on 7 November 2021 for his holidays. He will come to the Eparchy on 12 November and attend the Jubilee programmes
- Next year **KKSSS** will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee. The inauguration of the Jubilee will be held on 26 November 2021.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

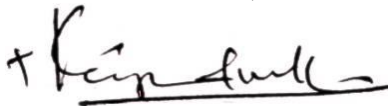
5-7 November	-	Retreat for the Faithful
12 November	-	Online Quiz and cultural program
13 November	-	Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination of Major Archbishop
14 November	-	Silver Jubilee celebration of the Eparchy
22-23 November	-	Priests pilgrimage to Velankanni

CONCLUSION

Jubilee time is a time for reflection and celebration, and a time for gratefulness, gratefulness not only for our priests and religious Sisters and Brothers but also for our laity. We need to continue the legacy that we have received twenty-five years ago. We need good vocations to take forward our Eparchy. Hence, we must also recognize that it is our responsibility to pray for vocations and to support vocations as we see them growing in the life of those who are called by Christ. We can never give a vocation, but we can certainly pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He gives us the vocations that we need to reap the harvest that He has sown. May the celebration of the Jubilee of our Eparchy inspire many young boys and girls to follow Christ more closely and serve him in our Eparchy!

May our Blessed Mother intercede for each one of us!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ George Rajendran SDB
Bishop of Thuckalay

