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/187/2026 31October 2026

My dear Fathers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

As you are well aware, on 11 November 1996, Pope St John Paul II, by the Papal Bull *Apud Indorum*, established the Eparchy of Thuckalay, separating its territory in Tamil Nadu from the Archeparchy of Changanacherry. On 11 November 2026, we mark thirty years as a particular Church. With the Psalmist, we say, "The Lord has done great things for us" (Ps 126:3). This anniversary is a time to give thanks, to remember, and to recommit ourselves to the mission entrusted to us.

Our story began on 29 April 1955, when Pope Pius XII, through the Bull *Multorum Fidelium*, extended the Syro-Malabar Church's pastoral care to Kanyakumari for families who had migrated from Central Keralam. On Christmas Day that year, Fr Joseph Maliparampil celebrated the first liturgy at Arukani in a temporary shed. The first communities took shape at Arukani, Pathukani, Netta, Penu and Anamukham.

Organised missionary work gained momentum in 1960 under Archbishop Mar Mathew Kavukatt, beginning in September at Nithiravilai. Fr Zacharias Kaithara, the first missionary in our official history, served from 1960 to 1976 and again from 1985 to 1987. He founded twelve missions in the Vilavancode and Kalkulam taluks, which gradually grew into full-fledged parishes.

The early missionaries visited families, celebrated the Holy Qurbana, taught the faith to children and adults, and built communities rooted in prayer and mutual support. The CMI Fathers joined the mission in 1967, and their monastery and school at Kaliyal became a centre of faith and learning. The Sacred Heart Sisters came to Manjalummood in 1965, followed by the CMC, FCC, SDS and SABS Sisters, who served through catechesis, education, family visits and care for the vulnerable. The Kanyakumari Social Service Society, registered in 1972, gave organised shape to our service of all people, irrespective of caste or creed.

We remember with gratitude Archbishops Mar Mathew Kavukatt, Mar Antony Padiyara and Mar Joseph Powathil, who guided and nurtured the mission before 1996. We remember our first Bishop, Mar George Alencherry, who laid the foundations of the Eparchy from 1997 until 2011, when he was called to lead the Syro-Malabar Church as Major Archbishop. We remember Mgr Philip Kodiyanthara, who served as Administrator from 2011 to 2012, and all the priests, religious and lay faithful who have gone to their eternal reward. The seeds they sowed with tears have become a living Church.

Today our Eparchy is a family of some 30,795 faithful, and its growth has always followed our people wherever they have gone. The Thenkasi Mission, formerly the Shenkottai Mission, began on 10 August 1997 in a rented house at Puliyarai and now has ten mission stations served by diocesan and MCBS priests. After Pope Francis extended our territory on 9 October 2017, the Madurai Mission became a mission parish in 2018, and communities took root in Theni, Chinnamanoor, Cumbum, and Tirunelveli. Our presence now reaches Thirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram and Thoothukudi.

These missions carry a clear responsibility: Ad gentes mission, to accompany migrant families, provide regular Holy Qurbana and catechesis, establish stable and accessible mission centres, and strengthen the faith of Catholics who live far from their home parishes. I ask our priests in the extended territories to work closely with the religious, lay leaders, and local institutions, and to adapt our common priorities to each place's needs. Our Eparchy, once a mission received, is now a mission sent.

As we enter our fourth decade, our pastoral plan calls us to renewal in several areas. The first concern is the life of faith itself. Catechesis must lead children, youth and adults to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, supported by trained teachers, Bible study and digital resources. Our people should deepen their sacramental life through active participation in the Holy Qurbana, regular confession and careful preparation, with special attention to migrant families. Our parishes must become vibrant communities, with active associations, personal visits to distant families, and compassionate care for widows and those struggling with addiction.

The plan also turns our attention to families and young people. Families are called to be domestic churches, rooted in prayer and responsible parenting, and those in difficulty deserve sensitive accompaniment. Young people should have a real place in leadership, the liturgy, service, and decision-making. Vocations must be fostered through prayer, vocation camps, spiritual guidance and the joyful witness of priests and religious. Men, too, should be encouraged to take a more active part in family prayer, catechesis, parish associations and charitable works.

Finally, the plan calls us outward. We must reach those who have drifted away and those who have not yet encountered Christ, using the media responsibly to share the Gospel. Our young people need career guidance, vocational training and preparation for competitive examinations. We are to build Christian unity and religious harmony through cooperation for human dignity and peace. Our administration must be marked by transparency, accountable finances, effective communication and functioning parish councils. Families need awareness, counselling and guidance on addiction, parenting, adolescence and social media, and our social service must reach the poor, widows, persons with disabilities and all who are vulnerable.

This plan is not a document to be filed away. I ask the parish councils to take it up at their next meetings, and the forane gatherings to review its progress every year. Let each parish choose two or three priorities for the coming year, set simple and concrete goals, and share its experience with the others. In this way, all will own our renewal and carry it forward together.

Dear Fathers, the Eparchy's mission rests largely on your shoulders. You continue the work that Fr Kaithara and the pioneers began. I thank each of you for your generosity, your journeys to distant mission stations and the quiet sacrifices that only God sees.

I am grateful for the life of formation and fraternity we share: our recollections, priests' conferences, annual retreats, the study of Church documents, and gatherings such as our Christmas celebration. I am glad that several of our priests are pursuing higher ecclesiastical and secular studies to serve the Eparchy in the future. It's our pride that two of our priests serve in the Major seminaries as professors and formators, we are glad to send a few priests for overseas mission in Rome, Germany, Great Britan and Irland. Through the Thuckalay Priests Welfare Association (TPWA), we continue to care for our sick and ailing brothers. Let none of them feels forgotten.

Our systematic vocation programme, guided by the Vocation Director and the Forane directors and supported by regular prayer and the Mission League in our parishes, must remain a priority. I ask every parish priest to accompany young people who show signs of a call.

In this jubilee year, I invite you to renew three commitments. Let prayer, above all the daily Holy Qurbana and the Divine Office, remain the source of your ministry. Be present among your people, visiting their homes and knowing the sick and the poor by name. Live in communion as one presbyterium, in fraternity, transparency and mutual support. My episcopal motto reminds us: "With God, all things are possible" (Mt 19:26).

I thank the members of the Curia and the Forane Vicars for their dedicated service. I thank all our priests, especially those from other eparchies and religious congregations who serve generously in Thuckalay. I thank the religious sisters and brothers and all our faithful, whose faith and sacrifice sustain this Eparchy. I also thank our benefactors, at home and abroad, who have supported our missions, schools, and works of charity over these thirty years.

We will celebrate the 30th Eparchial Day on Sunday, 15 November 2026, at Padanthalumoodu. The celebration will begin with the solemn Holy Qurbana, followed by a public meeting. I am happy to announce that Mar Thomas Tharayil, our Metropolitan Archbishop, will be the main celebrant. This will be his first official visit to our Eparchy since he became Archbishop. We extend to him a warm and filial welcome, and we thank him for his closeness to our young Church.

The celebration falls in the Season of the Dedication of the Church, a fitting time to thank God for the Church he has built among us and to dedicate ourselves anew as living stones. I warmly invite all of you, together with the religious and the faithful of your parishes and institutions, to gather at Padanthalumoodu. Let us come as one family to give thanks and to begin our fourth decade with renewed missionary zeal.

Let us entrust our Eparchy to our Heavenly Patroness, Holy Mary, Mother of Christ and Image of the Church, and to our second patron, St Geevarghese Sahada. May they intercede for us as we continue our journey of faith and mission.

NEWS AND EVENTS

A Day with the Nation – St. Vicent de Paul Society: The annual hospital cleanliness drive, organised by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul of the Eparchy of Thuckalay, was held on Friday, 2 October 2026, at 9:30 a.m. on the premises of the Government Hospital, Idaicode. This noble initiative has been carried out for the past 25 years as a service to society. Bro. Edwinson, President of the Thuckalay Central Council, warmly welcomed the gathering. Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil, Parish Priest of Manjalumoodu Forane, delivered the inaugural address and formally inaugurated the programme. Bro. Vijayarajan, Secretary of the Central Council, proposed the vote of thanks. Around 100 Vincentian brothers and sisters participated enthusiastically in the cleanliness drive. The participants included former Central Council Presidents Brothers Ayyathurai and Roby, former and present Regional Council Presidents, Central Council office-bearers, branch council presidents, and members. Dr. Manisha and Dr. Sivasankari, representing the Government Hospital, also participated in the inaugural programme and extended their support to this commendable initiative.The programme reflected the Vincentian spirit of charity, service, and social responsibility, contributing to a cleaner and healthier environment for the community.

Vocation Promotion Programmes at Padanthalumoodu and Soosaipuram: Vocation Promotion Programmes were organised at Padanthalumoodu and Soosaipuram to help young people discover God's call and discern their personal vocation with faith and courage. The first programme was held at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu, on 3 October 2026, for the Padanthalumoodu and Nithiravilai Foranes. Inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, the programme included inspiring talks by Rev. Fr. Jebin John and Rev. Fr. Mijo Sebastian, sharing by Rev. Fr. Pronto Kurias, action songs, recreational activities, and fellowship. Rev. Fr. Jomy Kamukumattathil, Forane Vocation Promoter, organised the

programme, which encouraged participants to remain open to God's call. The Soosaipuram Forane organised the follow-up programme of Emmaus 2026 on 19 October 2026 for catechism students of Standards IX to XII. Rev. Fr. Printo Kurias, Director of CML, inaugurated the programme. Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil and Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurackal animated the students on the theme "Vocation in Today's World" through short videos and interactive sessions. Rev. Fr. Prince Cherippanattu, Rev. Fr. Aby Poovathummoottil, and Rev. Fr. Johns ilal Arackaparambil encouraged the participants through their presence, while Br. Bibin and Br. Vincilin organised group games and engaging activities. Both programmes provided valuable opportunities for young people to deepen their spiritual lives, strengthen fellowship, and discern God's call in the contemporary world. I sincerely thank all the dear Fathers and Brothers who organised these programmes and guided the students in their vocational discernment. May the Lord bless their ministry and use their dedicated efforts to inspire many young people to generously discern and respond to His call.

Annual Retreat for Priests at Sangamam: The annual retreat for priests was held at Sangamam from 4 to 9 October 2026, with Rev. Fr. Joseph Kaduppil as the preacher. Through his inspiring reflections and spiritual guidance, he helped the priests recognize and appreciate their participation in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ and deepen their commitment to a holy and dedicated life. The retreat focused on several key themes, including the mystical nature of priestly life, holiness, priestly communion, the importance of prayer, and evangelization. A total of 38 priests, including myself, took part. All who attended experienced a renewed spiritual fervour and enthusiasm for their priestly vocation. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for this grace-filled and enriching experience. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Vicar General, for coordinating the retreat, and to his team—especially the two Regent Brothers, Vincilin and Bibin—for their diligent work in making all the necessary arrangements at Sangamam.

The Blessing of the New FBA ASHRAM at Sindhalachery: The new Velankanni Matha FBA Ashram at Sindhalachery, Theni District, under the Cumbum Mission area, was blessed on 12 October 2026. This new initiative of the MCBS Fathers, undertaken through the Friends and Birds of the Air (FBA) movement, is a commendable step towards serving the poor, the homeless, and those in need of care and support. The proposed psychosocial rehabilitation centre for men will provide food, shelter, medical care, counselling, spiritual support, and rehabilitation, restoring dignity and hope to the lives of the marginalized. I sincerely thank the MCBS Fathers for taking this compassionate initiative in the Cumbum Mission area. Their commitment to reaching out to the needy reflects the love and mercy of Christ and the Church's mission of service. I wish the MCBS Fathers and the FBA team abundant blessings and assure them of my prayers for the successful functioning of this noble mission. May Our Lady of Velankanni intercede for them, and may this Ashram become a beacon of hope, healing, and new life for many who are in need. May God bless this new mission and all those who dedicate themselves to this service of love.

Mission Month 2026: In accordance with the guidelines of the Syro-Malabar Mission Commission, Mission Month was observed in all the parishes of the Eparchy of Thuckalay during October 2026 with special missionary intentions for each Sunday. The faithful reflected upon the mission of the Universal Church, the Syro-Malabar Church, the Eparchies, and the missionary responsibilities of parishes, families and individuals. The celebrations aimed to renew the missionary spirit of the faithful, encourage prayer and charitable outreach, and promote the formation of Missionaries Groups in every parish. Special emphasis was placed on making every Christian a joyful witness to Christ through daily life and service to those in need. I sincerely thank all the Parish Priests for their wholehearted cooperation and for organising the Mission Month activities effectively in their respective parishes. I warmly encourage them to continue promoting and strengthening Lay Missionaries Groups in every parish, fostering a vibrant missionary spirit and greater participation of the faithful in evangelisation and charitable activities. May the Lord bless our

missionary endeavours and help our Eparchy grow as a community that joyfully proclaims the Gospel and reaches out to all with the love and compassion of Christ.

Priests Conference: The Priests' Conference of the Eparchy of Thuckalay was held on 9 October 2026 at Sangamam, immediately following the Annual Retreat of the priests. At the conference, I expressed my sincere gratitude to all the Fathers for their dedicated pastoral ministry and for their tireless efforts in promoting the spiritual growth of the faithful in their respective parishes and mission stations. I also conveyed my heartfelt thanks to all the faithful who remembered our Annual Retreat in their prayers, seeking God's blessings upon our priests and their ministries. During the meeting, I shared the important events and pastoral activities planned for the month of October, with particular emphasis on the celebration of Mission Month in the Syro-Malabar Church. I encouraged all the parish priests to observe Mission Month meaningfully in their respective parishes, following the guidelines of the Syro-Malabar Mission Commission, and to promote missionary awareness and participation among the faithful. I particularly stressed the importance of establishing and strengthening missionary groups in every parish. Furthermore, I insisted that the Holy Rosary be prayed in all families and parishes during the month of October, encouraging the faithful to deepen their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to seek her maternal intercession for the Church and the world. Finally, I invited all the priests, religious and faithful to participate wholeheartedly in the Diocesan Rosary Procession on 25 October 2026, from St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai, to Sinai Retreat Center Kalluvilai, as a visible expression of our diocesan unity, faith and devotion to Our Lady. The conference served as an opportunity to express gratitude, strengthen our pastoral commitment and renew our missionary zeal as we journey together in faith and service to the people of God.

Rev. Sr. Selma Joseph SDS – A Life of Dedicated Service: The Eparchy of Thuckalay fondly remembers Rev. Sr. Selma Joseph SDS, a member of the Sisters of the Divine Saviour (SDS), who entered into eternal rest on 17 October 2026 at the age of 84. Born on 27 November 1942 at Chennamkary, Alappuzha District, Kerala, to the late Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Aleyamma, she belonged to St. Joseph's Church, Chennamkary, in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. She made her First Profession on 19 March 1970 and her Final Profession on 28 October 1980. Professionally trained as a staff nurse, she dedicated her life to religious commitment, compassionate service and the care of others. Sr. Selma rendered her valuable services in various communities, serving at Pulluvila from July 1979 to January 1982, Manjalumoodu from January 1982 to February 2003, Nanjankulam from February 2003 to November 2012, Karodu from November 2012 to May 2022, and once again at Manjalumoodu from May 2022 until her demise. Her long years of dedicated service, especially in the communities of the Eparchy of Thuckalay, stand as a beautiful witness to her religious vocation, commitment and love for the people she served. Through her nursing profession and religious life, she touched many lives with her care, kindness and selfless dedication. The Eparchy of Thuckalay gratefully acknowledges and deeply appreciates her devoted services to the Church and the people of God. We express our heartfelt condolences to the Sisters of the Divine Saviour (SDS) and assure them of our prayers during this time of grief. May the Lord, whom she faithfully served throughout her life, welcome her into His eternal kingdom and grant her the reward of everlasting life.

Mission Exhibition Competition 2026: As part of the observance of October as Mission Month, the Mission Exhibition Competition at the eparchial level was organised by CML Thuckalay to promote missionary awareness and enthusiasm among the faithful. In most of the parishes, the mission exhibition was conducted along with the various Mission Month activities, providing opportunities for the faithful, especially the CML members, to deepen their understanding of the Church's missionary spirit and express their commitment to evangelisation through creative presentations and displays. I express my sincere appreciation to Rev. Fr. Printo Kurias and Rev. Fr. Shijo Aikkarakunnel for their dedicated efforts in nurturing the CML members and fostering a strong missionary spirit among them. I also thank all the parish priests, animators, and CML members who actively participated in organising and conducting the

exhibitions. May these initiatives continue to inspire our faithful to become enthusiastic witnesses of Christ and committed missionaries in their families, parishes, and society.

Rosary Procession in Thenkasi Mission: A Rosary Procession was held in the Thenkasi Mission on 18 October 2026, bringing together the faithful in a spirit of prayer and devotion to Mother Mary. The programme began at 3:30 p.m. at Little Flower Church, Puliyarai, from where the faithful proceeded towards Pulari Matriculation School, Pudur, prayerfully reciting the Holy Rosary. Nearly 250 faithful, including priests, Religious sisters, and MCBS Fathers and Brothers serving in the Thenkasi Mission, participated in the procession. The participants reached the Pudur campus at 5:30 p.m., where the concluding ceremony was held. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Vicar General, participated throughout the event and, in his concluding address, highlighted the importance of Mother Mary in Christian life as a model of faith, obedience, and discipleship. The programme concluded at 7:00 p.m. with an Agape meal, fostering a spirit of fellowship, unity, and joy among all the participants. I take this opportunity to congratulate Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, Mission Coordinator, and all the Fathers and Sisters serving in the mission for their dedicated efforts in organizing this meaningful and spiritually enriching event. May the maternal intercession of Our Blessed Mother continue to strengthen the faith and unity of the Tenkasi Mission community.

The Patron's Day of SMYM: The Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) of the Eparchy of Thuckalay celebrated its Patron's Day in honour of St John Paul II on Sunday, 25 October 2026, in all the parishes of the eparchy. The celebration aimed to inspire young people to deepen their faith, strengthen their commitment to the Church, and follow the example of St John Paul II in their lives. The celebrations included active participation in the Holy Qurbana, quizzes on the life and teachings of St John Paul II, visits to elderly people, drug awareness programmes, and medical camps. These activities helped the youth grow spiritually, develop social responsibility, promote healthy living, and express their love and care for the elderly and the needy. I express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr Jomy Kamukummattathil, the Eparchial Director of SMYM, for his dedicated leadership and for organising these meaningful programmes. I also thank all the parish priests, youth animators, and SMYM members for their enthusiastic participation and cooperation in making the celebration fruitful in every parish. May the intercession of St John Paul II continue to guide and inspire our youth to become committed Christians and responsible citizens.

Rosary Procession of Mariyayin Senai: The annual Diocesan Rosary Procession, organized under the leadership of the Legion of Mary (Mariyayin Senai), was held on 25 October 2026, from St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai, to the Seenai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. This year's celebration was particularly significant as it also marked the Silver Jubilee celebrations of Mariyayin Senai. The procession was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General. Rev. Fr. Renny Kalathil CMI, Forane Vicar of Thuckalay Pilankalai, delivered a felicitation message highlighting the significance of St. Mary in the life of the Church. Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Coordinator of all Pious Associations, shared an inspiring message on the importance of praying the Holy Rosary with Mother Mary and following her example of faith and devotion. More than 1,000 faithful, including priests, religious sisters, and lay members, participated enthusiastically in the procession, prayerfully reciting the Holy Rosary throughout the journey. The event was a beautiful expression of faith, unity, and filial love for our Blessed Mother. The entire programme concluded at 4:30 p.m. with an Agape meal shared by all the participants. I wholeheartedly congratulate and express my sincere gratitude to all the members of Mariyayin Senai, especially Br. Thomas Paneerselvam, President, and Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil, Spiritual Director, for their dedicated leadership and tireless efforts in organizing this spiritually enriching event. May the Silver Jubilee celebrations inspire all the members to renew their commitment to prayer, service, and devotion to Mother Mary.

Orientation Programme for Headmasters of the Catechism Department: An Orientation Programme for all the Headmasters of the Catechism Department of the Eparchy of Thuckalay was held on Saturday, 31 October 2026, at 2:30 p.m. at the Catechetical Office. The programme was led by Rev. Fr. John Paul, who delivered a fruitful presentation on the topic "Intergenerational Catechesis and Catechists." The session highlighted the importance of intergenerational catechesis in today's changing society, where the faith gap between generations is becoming increasingly evident. It emphasised the need to bring children, youth, parents and senior members of families together in sharing, learning and living the Christian faith. The programme also underlined the vital role of catechists in nurturing faith, fostering family-based faith formation and building a vibrant Christian community where faith is transmitted from one generation to the next. At the beginning of the programme, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Coordinator of all the Pious Associations, introduced and warmly welcomed the resource person. Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, Director of Catechism, gave additional instructions regarding the forthcoming catechism examinations and competitions. I sincerely thank Rev. Fr. John Paul for his meaningful and enriching presentation, Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil for organising the programme, and all the Headmasters for their active participation and commitment to strengthening catechetical formation in our Eparchy.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

- **FCC Mezhacode Prayer Bhavan** celebrated its Silver Jubilee on Saturday, 10 October 2026. I celebrated the thanksgiving Holy Qurbana together with the entire congregation.
- **The blessing of the CMC Vanchinager** Convent Chapel was held on Sunday, 11 October 2026. I had the privilege of blessing the new chapel.
- **I met with the priests** serving in the extended territories of Madurai, Virudhunagar, Kayathar, Tirunelveli, and Nanguneri on 12 and 13 October 2026.
- **The Forane-level and diocesan-level catechism competitions** were held on 11 and 20 October 2026, respectively, under the guidance of the Director, Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil.
- **Rev. Fr. John Paul successfully completed** his licentiate thesis, titled *Empowerment through Renewal: Catechetical Implications of the Post-Synodal Exhortation of the Syro-Malabar Church*, with a high score. Congratulations to Rev. Fr. John Paul on this remarkable achievement. He will continue his doctoral studies at the same university.
- **The Arukany Forane Uraviya Leaders' Meeting** was conducted at Arukany on 11 October 2026 under the guidance of its Director, Rev. Fr. Mijo Sebastian.
- **Mr. Kaspar Raj**, aged 70, the beloved father of Rev. Sr. Kripa Rose CMC and Rev. Sr. Amala Blessy CMC, presently members of Thuckalay Convent and Kanyakumari Convent, respectively, slept in the Lord on 14 October 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the Sisters and their family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant him eternal joy and everlasting peace.
- **Rev. Fr. Antony Makesh** was appointed Director of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue with effect from 1 October 2026.
- **The Family Apostolate Bible Sentence Writing Competition** was conducted on 18 October 2026 under the guidance of its Director, Rev. Fr. Robin Koorumullil.

- **The Uraviyam Executive Meeting and Core Committee Election** were held at Padanthalumoodu on 18 October 2026. The programme was conducted by its Director, Rev. Fr. Mijo Sebastian, and its Animator, Rev. Sr. Liza SH, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Coordinator of all pious associations.

- **Dn. Divin Raj** has completed his pastoral courses and is presently carrying out his ministry in our diocese.

- **The diocesan-level youth election** was held at the SMYM Office, Kalluvilai, on 18 October 2026. It was conducted under the guidance of its Director, Rev. Fr. Jomy Kamukumattathil, together with the Forane Directors, Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Rev. Fr. Renny Kalathil CMI, and Rev. Fr. Kurian Karuthedam, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Coordinator of all pious associations. Rev. Sr. Jeena FCC will continue to serve as the Animator at the diocesan level.

- **A leadership training programme** was conducted at Padanthalumoodu on 18 October 2026 under the leadership of its President, Mr. Edwinson. In his inaugural address, Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan emphasised that the members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society should carry out their mission with the support and participation of all the faithful.

- **A joint meeting of the Laity and Labour Commissions** was conducted online on 25 October 2026 under the guidance of their Director, Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil. The meeting discussed ways to strengthen the commissions and help them reach out more effectively to people in need. Rev. Fr. Antony Jose and the members of both commissions participated in the meeting.

- **Mr. Varkey Mathew Pazhayamadam**, aged 88, the beloved father of Sr. Litty SABS, presently a member of Kulasekharam Convent, slept in the Lord on 25 October 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Litty and her family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant him eternal joy and everlasting peace.

- A **meeting of the extended territories** was held at Rameswaram on 26 October 2026. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Vicar General, presided over the meeting. All the priests and Sisters participated actively.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

06 November	-	Adoration in Preparation for 30th Diocesan Day
15 November	-	30th Diocesan Day

30th DIOCESAN DAY – 2026

Date: 15.11.2026, Sunday at 2.30 pm
Place: Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu

CONCLUSION

Dear Fathers, we are concluding October, a month that reminded us of our missionary call. The Syro-Malabar Church observed October as the Mission Month at the call of our Major Archbishop, inspired by Pope Leo XIV's message for World Mission Day: "We must proclaim Jesus Christ." Through prayer, mission-awareness programmes, and generous support on World Mission Sunday, 18 October, our parishes, families, and institutions renewed our missionary commitment.

October is also a beautiful month in which we manifest our devotion to Mother Mary, especially by praying the Rosary. It is also a grace-filled time to receive showers of blessings from our heavenly Mother. Just like blooming roses that beautify our gardens and refresh the air with their sweet fragrance, the presence of our Blessed Mother beautifies our parish communities, removes every element of evil, and spreads the fragrance of her maternal love, peace, serenity, and harmony. Our Blessed Lord wants every priest's heart to be a home for Mother Mary, where she is the mother, guide, and help. Let us give her the rightful place and honour her with profound love and devotion, especially on the feast of the Holy Rosary.

With my prayers and blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+ George Rajendran SDB
Bishop of Thuckalay

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

Chancery : diocesethuckalay@gmail.com
Mission Procure : thuckalaymission@gmail.com
: www.thuckalaydiocese.org

Reception +91 94426 14118
Bishop's Secretary +91 90036 06855