



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/144/2023

31 March 2023

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings and prayerful wishes Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

In this circular I would like to reflect with you HOLY WEEK, the last and the agonising days of Jesus who died for our salvation. I am sure, this will help us spiritually and also to prepare our faithful to enter into this Holy Week in a prayerful manner.

Fifty days of our Lenten campaign, which we commenced on Ash Monday, are coming to an end. We are about to enter the final week of Lent, the Holy Week. In Jesus' own time, these seven days were called the Passover. For us Christians, these seven days include the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, followed by the betrayal, condemnation, and death of Jesus, climaxing on Easter Sunday with the resurrection of Jesus. These seven days have been the subject of thousands of sermons, numerous books, plays, and films. They have inspired great painters, artists, sculptors, and musicians. To fathom the cultural and historical impact of these seven days is impossible. It is also arduous to account for the scores of men and women whose lives have been transformed by the events of Holy Week.

The first day is known as Palm Sunday, which recalls Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. On Palm Sunday, the faithful hold the blessed palm branches and re-enact Christ's entry into the eternal city of Jerusalem, accompanied by a huge crowd. People lined up the streets and waved palm branches as he rode on a donkey. They spread their cloaks too on the road to soften his path and show reverence to the "Son of David." It was a time of great jubilation.

The Gospels narrated that Jesus rode triumphantly to Jerusalem on a donkey to the shouts of "Hosanna," fulfilling an old prophecy that we read in Zechariah 9:9: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." The crowd was excited. The man they knew as Jesus was arriving in Jerusalem, coming to celebrate Passover, and they hoped that he would save them from the persecution and tyranny of Roman rule. In the Gospel of St Luke, we read how they shouted: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38). Little did they know that what they waited for was not what they would get. God's ways are not our ways.

On Monday, the second day, Jesus walked into the temple and found the tables of money changers and the stalls of animals. This was the great temple of Jerusalem – the place of the Ark of the Covenant, the house of God. The temple authorities had been using the Second Commandment about "no graven images" to cheat the people by making them exchange their Roman money for Jewish shekels. They

made the temple a place of business and profit rather than a place of prayer. Zeal for his Father's house made Jesus overturn the tables and drive all the animal sellers out of the temple. On Tuesday, Jesus taught in parables, warning the people against the religious authorities who cheated them. In his preaching, Jesus has been strong against those who did not live and practise what they preach. As is given in the Gospel of John, Jesus also predicted his own death and resurrection when he said, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (Jn 2:19).

Wednesday of the Holy Week is sometimes also known as "betrayal day." This is the day when Judas met the Jewish religious leaders, made a deal with them to identify Jesus the following night with a kiss, and betrayed his master for thirty pieces of silver. The thirty pieces of silver were the price for the purchase of a slave at that time. On Maundy Thursday, in the Upper Room, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. He gave it a new meaning for the entire Jewish celebration. The breaking of the bread is no longer a remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt. Instead, it became a reminder of his broken body and blood-shedding. The meal came to be known as "The Last Supper" or "the Eucharist." He commissioned the Apostles to keep celebrating this memorial when he said: "Do this in remembrance of me." He made a passionate prayer for unity, washed the feet of his disciples, and gave them a new commandment of love.

Soon after the last supper, Jesus and his disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to "watch and pray." It was while he was in the garden of Gethsemane that the Jewish officials and Roman soldiers, led by Judas Iscariot, came and arrested Jesus. Judas kissed him and addressed him as "Master." Jesus had also foretold that he would not only be betrayed but also denied by his close friends. Peter, on whom he would establish his church, denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed, just as Jesus had foretold.

Friday is known as "Good Friday." It is termed "good" to mean not so much pleasant or fun but to refer to "holy" or "pious." Deserted by his disciples, Jesus suffered malicious and false accusations and a trial in the court of Pontius Pilate. He was condemned to be crucified due to the instigation of the religious leaders. The Bible tells us that Pilate was warned by his wife, who was influenced by a dream that Jesus was innocent. The crowd, however, wanted Jesus to be crucified, and succumbing to the pressure, Pilate condemned Jesus to death. The innocent lamb suffered silently from the scourges, the sharp thorns of the crown, spittle, and violent slaps. He was made to carry his own cross to "The Place of the Skull" and was crucified. After three hours of agony on the cross, he breathed his last and was later buried in a tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea.

Holy Saturday remembers the day when Jesus lay in the tomb. The women had hurriedly anointed his body before the burial with oils and spices, as was the Jewish custom. Evidently, they wanted to anoint it again early on Sunday morning. No one understood at that moment his words, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days" (Jn 2:19). He was talking about himself and his resurrection.

On Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, as he had said many times earlier. The stone rolled away, and inside the tomb, only the linen, that was used to wrap his body, was left behind. The soldiers deserted the tomb, shocked and in disbelief at what they saw, and reported the events that unfolded to the authorities. Before sunrise, a group of women had come with oil to anoint the body but could not find him. The angels appeared to announce his resurrection and directed the disciples to gather in Galilee.

The resurrection of Jesus tells us that the tomb is not the end. Instead, it is the beginning. Jesus has risen, never to die again. His mission of telling the world that evil can be conquered by good is accomplished. God, who loves the world so much, empowers human beings to overcome the evil within and around us. Human beings can be good and prove worthy of heaven. The message of the angel early on Easter Sunday

morning can be good news for us too. “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day he will rise again’” (Lk 24: 5-7).

The lives of the apostles underwent a radical change after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus appeared to them and prepared them to continue his mission. The crowd, too, changed, when the apostles preached to them about Jesus and his resurrection. They were cut to the heart. “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37). Down through the centuries, life, death, and resurrection, and the preaching of Jesus’ principles, gave so much meaning and relevance to the people.

The celebration of Easter should encourage us to begin our lives anew. We need to live our lives afresh, positively and re-energised in order to do good and avoid evil, to contribute towards the progress and not stagnation or regression. Let us not look for the dead among the living. Let us look for life and promote life. Let us stop being dead while being alive. Let us be fully alive.

One of the often repeated gifts of the risen Lord was peace. He would say: “Peace be with you.” Peace is the need of the hour for individuals and for the entire world. We need to work for peace and promote peace. A peaceful man is serene and will not cause trouble for others. We are expected to be people who are symbols of peace, serenity, and joy.

Jesus forgave Peter. “I have prayed for you, Simon,” said Jesus, “that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” In return, Jesus received loyalty, deep commitment, and love from Peter. “Yes, Lord, you know I love you” was what Peter replied to Jesus after his resurrection. He then entrusted him with the responsibility of looking after and tending his sheep. He condescended to show his wounded side and allow it to be touched by Thomas just to strengthen his faith. Finally, he not only commissioned every disciple to go and preach repentance, love, and forgiveness to all creation but also promised to be with everyone who called on him till the end of time.

I wish every one of you a very happy celebration of Easter. May the risen Lord fill you with his peace, love, and passion! Let us pray for one another. Let us earnestly ask the risen Lord for the grace that we will all be faithful to the mission that he gave to us. I pray for greater fidelity and enthusiasm in our priestly ministries. Let us also ask the risen Lord to bless all the faithful in our Eparchy so that they may be beheld under his loving care.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Spiritual Enrichment Programme for Youth: On March 4th, 2023, the Jesus Youth movement of Tamil Nadu region organized a one-day spiritual enrichment programme for the youth of the parishes where the FCC sisters are serving. The event was expertly coordinated by the Reverend Sisters of FCC San Joe Province, Thuckalay, and was hosted at St. Michael's Matriculation School in Kattathurai. It is heartening to learn that seventy enthusiastic youth participated in the programme, and I express my sincere appreciation for the FCC Sisters' commitment and initiative in making this event a success.

Completion of the Translation of New Taksa: I am pleased to announce that the translation of the newly revised Holy Qurbana Taksa into Tamil has been completed as of 09 March 2023. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Fr. Justin and Fr. Santhosh,

who worked diligently to translate the entire Taksa into Tamil. After the initial translation works, myself and a dedicated group of twelve members, including Frs. Thomas Powathuparampil, Joshy, Santhosh, Sathianesan, Antony Jose, Justin, Jose Muttathupadam, Dency, John Paul, Toji Parambilparambil, as well as Mr. Mariadas and Mr. Wilson, gathered for twelve full days at Sangamam to meticulously review and make necessary corrections to every word. With the approval of the Major Archbishop, the new Taksa will take effect by the feast of Pentecost. I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who offered their unwavering support and cooperation, without which this achievement would not have been possible.

Recollection of Religious at Sangamam: On the 11th of March 2023, a spiritually uplifting half-day recollection was held at Sangamam, under the auspices of the Conference of Religious India (CRI), for the religious sisters of our eparchy. The retreat was led by Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, who adeptly guided the sisters in their Lenten journey towards spiritual rejuvenation. The retreat provided a sacred space for the sisters to reflect, meditate, and connect with their inner selves, with the Fathers on hand to offer the sacrament of confession during the solemn adoration. The retreat culminated in a solemn celebration of Holy Qurbana, which served as a poignant reminder of the immense love and grace of the Almighty. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the coordinators of the retreat, whose tireless efforts ensured the success of this spiritually enriching experience for our Rev. Sisters.

Online Meeting of Forane Vicars: On March 13th, 2023, a significant online meeting was held via Google Meet for the Forane Vicars of the Eparchy, which commenced at 08:30 pm. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil warmly welcomed all attendees, while Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal delivered an enlightening presentation on the rights and obligations of Forane Vicars from a canonical perspective, which proved to be an enriching experience for all. Throughout the meeting, each Forane Vicar generously shared their unique experiences, challenges, and expectations concerning their respective foranes. In an effort to ensure greater accountability and oversight, I implored the Forane Vicars to conduct official visits to each parish under their Forane and submit annual reports to me. I am pleased to express my heartfelt appreciation to all Forane Vicars and curia members for their enthusiastic participation and valuable contributions during the meeting.

House visits of deacons and major seminarians: On the 12th of March 2023, Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and I had the pleasure of visiting the home of Dn. Georgekutty at Lalam, Palai. It was a wonderful experience to be able to spend time with the family and offer our prayers. The following day, I had the opportunity to visit the family of Dn. Prince, and I took advantage of the occasion to visit the homes of our brothers from Idukki - Bros. Amanto, Linto, Sanjo, Bibin KJ, and Josbin Joseph. The visits were a great way to connect with their families and offer our prayers for their well-being. During the visits, I was deeply moved by the warmth and hospitality of the families. It was heartening to see how much they valued their faith, and it was a privilege to be able to share in their experiences. I pray that God will continue to bless these families and guide them in their journeys.

Training for trainers: On March 14, 2023, an update program for the Youth Resource Team was successfully conducted at the SMYM Office in Kalluvilai. The morning session was graced by the presence of Mr. Michael Raja, the esteemed coordinator of Don Bosco Vazhikatti in Trichy, who shared his valuable insights on the current job market and the various opportunities available for higher studies. Later in the afternoon, the program continued with a class conducted by the director, Fr. Joseph Santhosh, who touched upon important themes discussed in the YOUCAT book. I express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the dedicated coordinators for their unwavering efforts in organizing such a beneficial program for the youth.

Extended territory mission visit: From 13th to 14th March 2023, I had the privilege, along with Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal to visit Rev. Fathers and Sisters in extended mission territories. On the 13th of March, I had the honour of visiting the SH Sisters of Kanjirapally Province who were residing in a rented house in Cumbum. On the same day, I visited Theni and met with Fr. Benny Thattampampil, the coordinator of the Theni mission, and Fr. Shan, the assistant priest. Additionally, I had the opportunity to interact with the FCC Sisters from the Idukki Province who were also serving in Theni. The following day, on the 14th of March, I visited the Madurai mission located in Ariyur, where I had a fruitful meeting with Fr. Jebaneesh and the SABS Sisters who were dedicatedly serving the community. Later, I had the privilege of visiting the Virudunagar mission and meeting with Fr. Peter Kizhakkeyil and the FCC Sisters from the Idukki Province, who were rendering valuable service in the region. Additionally, I had the pleasure of visiting the Kayathar Mission and meeting with Fr. Jomon and the FCC Sisters from the Tuckalay Province. During my visit to Thirunelveli, I met with the SABS Sisters from the Thuckalay Province, and accompanied by Fr. Tobin, we visited the land at Nankuneri. On 18th March, I had a meeting at Madurai (Vilangudi) with Fr. Babu CMI and some representatives from the parish, which was highly enlightening. I could witness the missionary works that our Priests and Religious are undertaking with sacrifice and I appreciate their committed and dedicated service. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the missionaries for their selfless efforts.

Presbytery blessing at Kozhipporvilai: Over the past few years, the directors of Sychar Farm at Kozhipporvilai have been residing in a cramped and inadequate room, without even a proper space for private liturgical celebrations. However, I am delighted to announce that a new priest's residence has been constructed, providing a comfortable and spacious abode for the directors. It gives me great pleasure to express my profound gratitude towards Fr. Geo Choozhikunnel for spearheading this remarkable construction project. His tireless efforts and unwavering dedication have resulted in the creation of a truly stunning presbytery, which was blessed by me on 15 March 2023, in the esteemed presence of curia members and the director of KKSSS.

Foundation stone laid for Marthandam Presbytery: The Marthandam mission commenced on the 8th of September 2007 with a solemn prayer gathering held at the residence of Mr. Mariadas Sir. Subsequently, after a year, the community began to celebrate Holy Qurbana on Sundays at Stephen Complex in Marthandam. However, in 2017, the community was relocated to the serene retreat center of Yesuve Kanpom. Later, when the SABS convent was consecrated, the community shifted to the convent chapel for their Sunday worship services. With the acquisition of land for the church, I had the esteemed honor of laying the foundation stone for the presbytery and community hall on the 15th of March 2023. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, the parish priest, for his meticulous coordination of the construction works.

Foundation Stone laid for St. Joseph Mission Home, Rameswaram: The Eparchy of Palai has been granted the districts of Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai to undertake missionary activities. To this end, the eminent missionary, Rev. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil, was dispatched to Rameswaram in the district of Ramanathapuram on 19th February 2020 to identify suitable locations for the mission. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic causing the suspension of the mission along with the Snehagiri Missionary Sisters (SMS) from the Eparchy of Palai, Fr. Mathew demonstrated a deep trust in God's grace and resumed his ministry with great fervour upon his return to Rameswaram. Recently, he procured a 12-cent land in Vethalai, Rameswaram, further demonstrating his commitment to the mission. On 17th March 2023, Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Palai, arrived in Rameswaram with his curia members and other Fathers. I, along with Fr. Joshy and Justin, from our eparchy, had the privilege of joining them, and we celebrated Holy Qurbana at the residence of Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil. Subsequently, we proceeded to the

purchased land, where Mar Joseph Kallarangattu sanctified and laid the foundation for St. Joseph Mission Home. The mission coordinator, Fr. Peter Kizhakkeyil, was also present for the momentous occasion. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Mathew and Christudas for organizing the event impeccably.

Tenkasi Mission Meet: On the 18th of March 2023, a significant gathering of missionary priests and religious was held at the Anbu Illam in Panpoli. The event commenced at 09.30 am with a solemn session of adoration and confession, which was ardently facilitated by Fr. Rocky Kulangara MCBS, the esteemed assistant director of Anbu Illam. Following this, I presided over the meeting, during which I had the pleasure of introducing the new prayer and song book of the Eparchy, aptly named 'Vin Pathayil'. I stressed the paramount importance of the Tamil language for fostering a fruitful and effective ministry. The session also witnessed Fr. Justin Cheruvilil's presentation, elucidating the modifications made in the new text of the Liturgy of Hours. Moreover, Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal provided invaluable information regarding vocations, major seminarians, and the work camp. Furthermore, esteemed Rev. Fathers and Sisters shared their diverse and enriching mission experiences, which led to a captivating and thought-provoking discussion on various departmental activities. The gathering culminated with an agape feast, which was a fitting conclusion to the fruitful meeting. I would like to express my gratitude to Fr. Thomas Koippuram for meticulously organizing this event and Fr. Rajesh MCBS for ensuring that everything was arranged seamlessly at Anbu Illam. The success of this gathering is a testament to their unwavering dedication and efforts.

Forane Priests' Conferences: On the 20th of March 2023, the Forane level Priests' conference for Soosaipuram-Plankalai Forane was successfully convened at St. James Church, Mankarai, commencing at 10:00 am. The distinguished Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, graced the occasion with his presence as the curia representative. Presiding over the meeting was the illustrious Soosaipuram Forane Vicar, Fr. Antony Jose. During the meeting, Fr. Justin Cheruvilil, the director of the liturgical commission, introduced the revised text of Liturgy of the Hours as well as the new Hymn Book, Vin Pathayil. Furthermore, the attendees engaged in discussions concerning pastoral coordination among the parishes, the pivotal role of the forane vicar, the subject of vocation, and the behaviour of major seminarians. Due to the smaller number of participants and the generous amount of time allotted, the atmosphere was lively and engaging, with numerous suggestions emerging for the betterment of pastoral activities. As such, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Forane vicars of Soosaipuram-Plankalai for their effective coordination of this remarkable meeting. It is with deep regret, however, that I must note the cancellation of the scheduled forane meetings in other foranes, as they were unfortunately pre-empted by the sudden demise of Archbishop Emeritus Mar Joseph Powathil.

Last respects to Archbishop Emeritus Mar Joseph Powathil: With profound sadness, we received the heartbreaking news of the demise of our beloved Archbishop Emeritus Mar Joseph Powathil on March 18, 2023. As an eparchy deeply indebted to the Archeparchy of Changanacherry, we express our heartfelt condolences and offer prayers to our Archbishop Mar Joseph Perumthottam. We were privileged to pay our last respects to this great soul of the Church, as his body was brought to the Bishop's House of the archdiocese at 6:30 am on March 21, Tuesday. From that moment onwards until the conclusion of the funeral, I had the honour of participating in the entire event. Some Fathers and Sisters from our eparchy joined the funeral procession that commenced on March 21. Later that day, in the afternoon at 3:00 pm, our eparchy had the opportunity to pay our last respects to Mar Joseph Powathil. Forane Vicars organized the travel arrangements from each Forane, and a large number of Priests, Sisters, and lay faithful came to attend the prayer service that we conducted in Tamil language at St. Mary's Cathedral Church, Changanacherry. The funeral was held on March 22, 2023, Wednesday, and some Fathers and Sisters from our Eparchy participated in the Funeral Mass as well. We witnessed a sea of humanity converging at

the St. Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral to bid adieu to the Archbishop Emeritus. On March 24, 2023, I concelebrated the remembrance Holy Qurbana along with other bishops and recited oppees at his tomb.

Archbishop Mar Joseph Powathil played an instrumental role in the development of the then Kanyakumari mission during his episcopal ministry. His regular visits and establishment of new mission stations instilled a missionary zeal in the hearts of the priests and religious who worked in the Kanyakumari mission. It was his earnest desire and untiring effort that helped raise the Kanyakumari mission to the Eparchy of Thuckalay, and we are truly grateful to him for his selfless sacrifice.

Blessing of New FCC Convent at Kayathar: On 13 June 2019, the San Jose FCC Province of Thuckalay embarked on their community journey in Kayathar, beginning their missionary activities in a rented house. The Sisters initiated their ministry by establishing a tuition centre, making house visits, and providing care to the sick. Through divine intervention, the Sisters were able to acquire 2.85 acres of land in Kayathar in 2021, which paved the way for the foundation stone of a new convent to be laid on 18 April 2022. Within one year, the construction was completed, and the newly built convent was blessed on 23 March 2023. During the blessed event, Rev. Sr. Cilia FCC, Provincial Superior of San Joe Province, Curia members, and Rev. Fathers and Sisters from the extended mission territories and Thuckalay were present. I had the honour of blessing the chapel during the concelebrated Holy Qurbana at 03:00 pm and later the convent at 05:00 pm, in the presence of numerous people from nearby villages. A public meeting followed, where village leaders were also in attendance. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the Provincial, Rev. Sisters, and Fr. Jomon for their exceptional coordination in executing this momentous occasion. We fervently pray for God's blessings upon the Sisters who reside in the new convent and for their active participation in the Ad Gentes mission and Evangelisation.

HM Meet and Award Ceremony for the BTCT I Batch: The Catechesis department has brilliantly organized a momentous event on 25 March 2023 at 10 am, where an HM meeting and award ceremony for the BTCT I Batch catechists was held in high esteem. I, as the presiding authority, had the honour of felicitating these esteemed catechists who had completed the fundamental training programme for catechesis teachers. In the presence of Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the gathering was enlightened with the headmasters sharing their invaluable experiences of conducting catechesis on Sundays and organizing various programmes for the students. It was truly an enlightening moment for all present. I wholeheartedly congratulate and recognize the hard work of 55 catechists who completed the BTCT programme. Their diligence and perseverance in completing the training program deserves our deepest appreciation. I must express my gratitude and admiration for Fr. Abhilash and Fr. Jacob Ayyamathara for the exceptional organization of the meeting. Their efforts made the event a resounding success.

Foundation stone laid for Kulasekharam Community Hall: The Kulasekharam mission, which was initiated by the late Rev. Fr. Philip Kodiyanthara, was established to cater to the pastoral requirements of the Syro Malabar faithful residing in the area. Over time, the mission evolved and on March 27th, 2009, the very first Holy Qurbana was conducted in one of the classrooms, and the mission was christened the John Paul II mission. Subsequently, a piece of land was acquired to construct a church. Fast forward to March 27th, 2023, and a significant milestone was achieved as the foundation stone for a community hall was blessed and laid by Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, in order to fulfil the pastoral needs of the parishioners. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and the reverend sisters from the SABS congregation. I extend my gratitude to Fr. Jose Kanichakkuzhiyil, the parish priest, for his unwavering commitment towards overseeing the construction works.

Major Seminarians' Meet at Sangamam: On 30 March 2023, our major seminarians arrived at the Eparchy from their respective seminaries for their annual vacation, and will remain with us until 15

May 2023. The following day, on 31 March curia members convened with the seminarians at Sangamam, where the latter expounded on their academic, spiritual, human, and pastoral formative experiences from their respective seminaries. Likewise, the curia members conveyed their profound expectations for the formation and ministry of the seminarians within the Eparchy. During the Holy Week, the seminarians will be dispatched to various parishes for ministry and will be expected to offer their services for VPV as well. Following their priestly ordinations, the seminarians will embark on a work camp at Puliyarai from 16 to 23 April. Thereafter, in the final week of April, they will return to Sangamam for an intensive Tamil language course, which will be led by Fr. Santhosh and his team. I humbly request all the Fathers to visit and extend their support to the seminarians during the work camp. Additionally, if any of you require the assistance of major seminarians in your parish for VPV, kindly contact Rev. Fr Joshy. I extend a warm welcome to all our esteemed Brothers and pray that their time in the Eparchy is both fruitful and rewarding.

INFORMATION

- **Mrs. Leela. S** (68), the loving mother of Sr. Tresamaria ASMI from Cheenivilai, is called to eternal rest on 05 March 2023. We express our sincere condolences and prayers to Sr. Tresamaria and her family and pray for the departed souls.
- **Meeting with the parents of Rev. Deacons** Ajin, Georgekutty and Prince was held at Bishop's House on 7 March 2023.
- **Mrs. C. Mary** (64), the elder sister of Sr. Flowerlet ASMI, is called to eternal rest on 11 March 2023. We express our sincere condolences and prayers to Sr. Flowerlet and her family and pray for the departed souls.
- **Bro. Vibin**, who did regency at Sangamam for the last six months, completed his ministry and went back to the archeparchy of Changanacherry.
- **San Joe English Medium School, Anayadi** celebrated its annual day on 16 March 2023.
- **Online Fancy dress competition** was conducted by Migrant Apostolate on 19 March 2023.
- **Bro. Joseph Kutty** who belongs to the Dominican Missionaries for the deaf apostolate and completed his theological course at Dharmaram Bangalore (DVK) came to our eparchy for pastoral ministry on 19 March 2023. He is doing his ministry at Karode parish under the guidance of Fr. Ajeesh Attiyil till the end of May 2023. We wish him all the best.
- **Fr. Robin Koorumullil** came back to the eparchy after having successfully completed his term of ministry in Ireland. Wholeheartedly we welcome him back to the eparchy.
- **Karunai Illam**, Nithiravilai celebrated its 30th annual day on 29 March 2023.
- **Bro. Albin Jose and Bro. Akash** discontinued the priestly formation, effective 28 March 2023. Bro. Albin Jose belongs to Varuthattu Parish and completed III Year theology at Poonamallee seminary. Bro. Akash belongs to Perumchilambu Parish and completed I Year Philosophy at Trissur Seminary.
- **Rev. Sr. Mercy Maria**, the Mother General of ASMI congregation visited our Eparchy and had supper at Bishop's House on 28 March 2023.
- **Arukani Primary School** celebrated its annual day on 30 March 2023.
- **Online way of the cross** was conducted by Migrant Apostolate on 31 March 2023.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

01 April	-	Forane Priests' Conference at Annikkarai (Padanthalumoodu & Nithiravilai)
02 April	-	Palm Sunday

03 April	-	Vestition & Minor Orders at Sangamam
03 April	-	Forane Priests' Conference at Kaliyal (Manjalumoodu, Kaliyal & Arukani)
04 April	-	Diaconate Ordination at Kazhuvanthittai
05 April	-	Recollection for Priests and Religious at Sangamam
06 April	-	Holy Thursday
07 April	-	Good Friday
08 April	-	Holy Saturday
09 April	-	Easter Sunday
12 April	-	Ordination of Dn. Georgekutty at Lalam, Palai
13 April	-	Ordination of Dn. Prince at Thovarayar, Idukki
14 April	-	Nambikkai Alayam: Silver Jubilee conclusion
15 April	-	Ordination of Dn. Ajin at Nithiravilai
16 April	-	Inauguration of Vocation Weeks
16-23 April	-	Work camp of Major Seminarians at Puliyarai
30 April	-	Conclusion of Vocation Weeks
30 April	-	VPV Begins

**Recollection for Priests and Religious &
Celebration of Priesthood day 2023**

Place: Sangamam

Dates: 05 April 2023, Wednesday

Time: 09.15 am – 01.30 pm

CONCLUSION

On 16 April 2023, the Sunday after Easter, we will celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. It is originally based on the devotion to the Divine Mercy that St Faustina Kowalska reported as part of the vision that she had of Jesus. It is associated with special promises from Jesus and indulgences that the Church has issued. It also focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. St John Paul II reminds us: "Divine Mercy reaches human beings through the heart of Christ crucified." I invite you, dear Fathers, to make this day special for our people. Kindly organize special devotional practices on this day and propagate devotional practices to Divine Mercy, like the recitation of the chaplet of Divine Mercy, among the faithful. Let us ask the risen Lord to bless all our ventures in the extended territories of our eparchy and to make us missionary-minded in all the ministries that we carry out.

With my prayers and blessings,
Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

