



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/174/2025

30 September 2025

Dear Rev. Fathers,

Greetings and Prayerful wishes from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

As we continue our pastoral mission in service to God's people, I write to you with a heart full of devotion to our Blessed Mother, recognising her unique role in the mystery of salvation and her maternal care for all priests and the faithful. The Church has always held Mary in special veneration, and it is appropriate that we, as shepherds of souls, should lead by example in nurturing genuine Marian devotion both in our personal spiritual lives and in the parishes under our care.

The theological foundation for priestly devotion to Mary rests upon three pillars: the mystery of the Incarnation, the unity of the Paschal Mystery, and the ecclesial nature of the priesthood.

Mary and the Incarnation: The Word became flesh in Mary's womb through her *fiat* - "Let it be done unto me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). This moment of perfect obedience to the Father's will establishes Mary as the first and most perfect disciple. For priests, who are called to be *alter Christus*, Mary becomes the exemplar of total surrender to God's plan. Just as Christ was physically formed in Mary's womb, so must Christ be continually formed spiritually in the priest through his conformity to Mary's obedience and humility.

The Council of Ephesus (431) declared Mary to be *Theotokos*, the God-bearer. This dogmatic truth highlights that Mary's motherhood is not merely biological but profoundly theological. She is the Mother of God precisely because the One she bore is the eternal Son of the Father. For priests, this mystery sheds light on our own calling: we too are called to bear Christ to the world, to be instruments through which Christ is present in the Eucharist and other sacraments. Mary's divine maternity becomes the model for our priestly fruitfulness.

Mary and the Paschal Mystery: The Second Vatican Council teaches that Mary is "inseparably linked with Christ" in the work of salvation (Lumen Gentium, 61). Her presence at Calvary is not accidental but essential to the redemptive sacrifice. Standing at the foot of the cross, Mary participates in her Son's offering as the perfect example of how the Church - and especially her priests - should unite themselves to Christ's sacrifice. Saint John Paul II in *Redemptoris Mater* explains that Mary's "yes" at the Annunciation found its full expression in her "yes" at Calvary, where she offered her maternal heart for the salvation of all humanity.

For priests who daily offer the Eucharistic sacrifice, Mary's participation in the Paschal Mystery provides the ideal model. We learn from her how to unite our own sufferings and sacrifices to Christ's redemptive offering. Her *Stabat Mater* (the Mother standing at the foot of the cross) becomes our *Stabat Sacerdos* (the priest standing at the altar) - standing with unwavering faith even when the mystery of redemptive suffering challenges our understanding.

Mary and the Ecclesial Nature of Priesthood: The priest does not minister alone but as part of the college of priests in unity with the bishop. Likewise, Mary's role in salvation history is profoundly ecclesial. At Pentecost, she was present with the apostles in the upper room, praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14). Tradition views this scene as Mary being the Mother of the Church, interceding for the apostolic mission and the birth of the Christian community.

This aspect of Mary's mission in the church aligns with the community nature of the priesthood. Just as Mary's intercession caused the Holy Spirit to be poured out on the first apostolic college, her ongoing intercession continues to obtain graces for the priestly community today. The priest who develops devotion to Mary finds in her not only a personal mother but also the Mother of his priestly brotherhood.

Furthermore, Mary's perpetual virginity, as defined by the Church, demonstrates her complete devotion to God. This forms the theological foundation for priestly celibacy. Mary's virginal motherhood illustrates that total self-giving to God does not diminish but rather enhances one's capacity to be fruitful in the realm of grace. Priests, through their celibate commitment, participate in this mystery of virginal fruitfulness.

St Louis de Montfort's insight that "it is through Mary that Jesus came into the world, and it is through Mary that he must reign in the world" applies particularly to priests. Our priestly ministry becomes most effective when carried out in union with Mary. She, who formed Christ in her womb, continues to form Christ in priests who entrust themselves to her maternal care.

The priest united to Christ through ordination finds in Mary the one who most perfectly demonstrates how to live this union. Her Immaculate Heart, fully conformed to the Sacred Heart of her Son, becomes the school where priests learn the attitudes of mind and heart necessary for effective ministry: humility, obedience, purity of intention, and total trust in Divine Providence.

Practical Expressions of Marian Devotion

Given this theological foundation, I strongly urge each of you to adopt concrete devotional practices. The daily recitation of the Holy Rosary should be our non-negotiable commitment. The Rosary is both a Christocentric and Marian prayer, guiding us through the mysteries of our redemption while teaching us to view them through Mary's contemplative gaze.

Begin each day with a morning act of consecration to Mary, placing your priestly ministry under her maternal protection. Incorporate Marian antiphons into your daily prayer, especially the *Angelus*. This brief prayer throughout the day helps keep your awareness of Mary's presence and intercession.

Study Mariology diligently as part of your ongoing theological development. The Church's teaching on Mary is not secondary but central to comprehending the mystery of Christ and the Church. Familiarise yourselves with conciliar and papal documents on Mary, especially Chapter VIII of *Lumen Gentium* and St John Paul II's *Redemptoris Mater*.

Fostering Marian Devotion in Parishes in October

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, which is considered the pinnacle of Marian devotions. St John Paul II describes it as "a compendium of the entire Gospel" in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. Through the Rosary, we reflect on the mysteries of Christ's life in communion with Mary, who "kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19).

For Pope Francis, the Rosary is a School of Prayer that teaches us to pray like Mary. He emphasises that it is not just repetitive recitation, but a contemplative prayer that draws us deeper into the mysteries of Christ's life. He frequently encouraged families to pray the Rosary together, describing it as a powerful method to strengthen family bonds and transmit faith to children. He has stated that the Rosary can bring peace to homes and help families confront difficulties. He emphasised that through the rosary, we learn from Mary how to be disciples of Jesus. He often discussed Mary's role as our spiritual mother who guides us closer to her son.

The Pope has consistently promoted the Rosary as a prayer for peace - both personal peace and world peace. He has organised special Rosary events for global intentions, including prayers for peace in various conflict zones. He appreciated that the Rosary is a prayer accessible to everyone - the learned and unlearned, young and old. He values its simplicity while recognising its profound spiritual depth.

Pope Francis has also promoted special Rosary campaigns, including dedicating the month of May to praying the Rosary for the end of the pandemic, and encouraging Rosary prayers for peace in Ukraine and other troubled regions. The Pope saw the Rosary not as an outdated practice, but as a living, relevant prayer that can transform hearts and bring God's grace into our daily lives.

Therefore, dear Fathers, I exhort you to implement daily Parish Rosaries whenever possible, either before or after Mass. Arrange Rosary processions during appropriate seasons and promote the practice of the Living Rosary, where groups of people each take responsibility for specific decades, fostering bonds of spiritual communion while ensuring consistent prayer for Parish intentions.

The Rosary has particular power for peace, family unity, and vocations. Parishes with strong Rosary devotion consistently experience greater spiritual vitality and produce more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Mary, as Mother of Priests, is the primary advocate for priestly vocations.

Each Parish should embody the Church's Marian character. Establish regular First Saturday devotions in response to Our Lady's request at Fatima. These should include Mass, Eucharistic adoration, communal Rosary, and opportunities for confession. During May and October, organise special Marian celebrations, including daily Rosary, processions where appropriate, and catechetical programmes on Mary's role in salvation.

Promote the family Rosary as a means of sanctifying domestic life. The family that prays the Rosary together experiences Mary's maternal protection and grows in unity and holiness. Organise periodic family Rosary nights and encourage Rosary groups that meet in homes especially for *Uraviam*, bringing Mary's presence into our domestic churches.

Pay special attention to engaging young people in Marian devotion. Form youth Rosary groups and teach children the Rosary not as a burden but as a beautiful conversation with Mary about her Son. Use age-appropriate methods, including stories, songs, and visual aids, to help young minds grasp Mary's importance in God's plan.

Eparchial Celebration of the Holy Rosary and Annual Retreat for the Priests

I am pleased to announce our upcoming Diocese-level Rosary Rally on Saturday, 26 October 2025, organised by Marian Senai. This gathering should unite faithful from across our Eparchy for an afternoon of prayer, worship, and Marian devotion. All parishes should organise transportation and encourage maximum participation as a strong witness to our diocesan commitment to Marian devotion.

Our Annual Priests Retreat will be held from 5 to 10 October 2025, with Rev. Fr Jilson Mathew VC as the preacher. The spiritual retreat provides us, priests, with essential time for deep prayer, reflection, and renewal away from the constant demands of pastoral work, allowing us to reconnect with our core identity as men called to holiness and service. These periods of retreat reflect Christ's own practice of seeking solitude for prayer and enable priests to honestly assess their spiritual lives, receive the sacraments with greater devotion, and rekindle their original love for God and His people. Through silence, contemplation, and fraternal support during the retreat, priests emerge spiritually revitalised and pastorally energised, better prepared to serve generously within the Church while maintaining the inner life that underpins authentic ministry.

Dear Fathers, sincere devotion to Mary will bear fruit in our spiritual lives and pastoral effectiveness. We will find in Mary a model of humility, purity, and complete surrender to God's will. Her intercession grants the graces needed for faithful priestly service, teaching us to say "yes" to God's will even in sacrifice and suffering.

Parishes embracing authentic Marian devotion experience renewed spiritual vitality. Mary draws souls to her Son, and her maternal care fosters communities of faith, hope, and charity. Through her school, we learn the attitudes of heart that make us effective ministers of the Gospel.

I request each of you to carry out these directives with pastoral wisdom, tailoring them to your Parish communities' specific needs while keeping their core elements intact. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary be our refuge and the path that leads us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus! Through her intercession, may our priestly ministry yield abundant fruit for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Consecration of the Church at Sundarapandyapuram: The Sundarapandyapuram mission in Tenkasi district began in 2015. Until recently, the liturgical celebrations were conducted in front of the house of a parishioner. By the grace of God, we were able to acquire a plot of land with an existing church building. On 17 April 2025, I blessed this church with the title Sahaya Matha Church and initiated the celebration of the Holy Qurbana there. Subsequently, the Altar and Madhubaha were renovated, and on 07 September 2025, I consecrated it. The consecration ceremony and the Holy Qurbana were presided over by me, followed by a public meeting. I presided over the meeting, while Rev. Sr. Tess Maria FCC, the Provincial Superior of FCC Province, Kanjirappally, was the special guest. Leaders of other Christian denominations, along with local leaders, also graced the occasion. The Tenkasi mission coordinator, Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, together with other Fathers and Sisters serving in the Tenkasi mission, were also present. The event concluded with a solemn agape meal. I extend my sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. John Joseph, the parish priest, for his wholehearted efforts in renovating the church and for coordinating the entire event.

Priest Conference at Sangamam: The Priests' Conference for the month was held at Sangamam on 11 September 2025, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The gathering commenced with adoration, led by Rev. Fr. Ajin Jose, followed by the sacrament of reconciliation, which created a prayerful atmosphere for the event. The meeting officially began at 11:00 a.m. In the absence of the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor, coordinated the proceedings, while I presided over the conference. Rev. Fr. Antony Mahesh welcomed all present, and Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil presented the report of the previous conference. He also extended greetings to those who celebrated their birthdays and feast days during the month. A cordial welcome was given to Rev. Fr. Prince Maliyil, our overseas missionary in Ireland, who was on a one-month vacation. He shared his pastoral experiences from Ireland with the gathering. Following the introductions, a thirty-minute session was allotted as "zero hour" for general discussions and sharing. During this time, many priests expressed their views and insights on various pastoral issues in parishes, the challenges of

mission areas, and the need for greater fraternal communion among ourselves. After the general discussion, the heads of important departments and associations presented updates on their upcoming events. The Mission Coordinators from Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, and Rameswaram shared their mission experiences and highlighted developments in their respective stations.

Subsequently, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal gave an introduction to the Syro-Malabar Community Empowerment Year 2026 and outlined the matters to be implemented in the near future, including the action plans of the Major Archiepiscopal and Episcopal Assemblies, as well as the final document of the Synod on Synodality. In my address, I provided an overview of the Synodal news and shared updates on the present situation of our diocese. The conference concluded with a festive Onam Sadhya organized by the Director of Sangamam. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Fathers who actively participated in the conference and contributed to its success through fruitful discussions and meaningful engagement. I extend my special thanks for the warm felicitations on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of my episcopal ordination, particularly through the touching felicitation speech delivered by Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam CMI. Your presence, support, and fraternal communion are deeply appreciated as we continue to strengthen our bonds and serve our eparchy with renewed zeal and dedication.

Eucharistic Adoration in all the Parishes: In response to the invitation of the Major Archbishop, Mar Raphael Thattil, to the entire Syro-Malabar Church to spend one hour in Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, 12 September 2025, in order to deepen our devotion to the Holy Qurbana and to make reparation for the offences committed against it in our Church, an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was conducted in all the parishes, religious houses, and institutions of our diocese on the same day. I sincerely thank all the Fathers and Sisters who took special initiative to organize the adoration effectively and to ensure the active participation of the faithful.

Blessing of renovated Kurissadi and Chapel at Kattathurai: On the way from Kattathurai to Maruthoorkurichi, a small private hut-chapel in the name of St. Michael was established in 1935. After some years, the landowner entrusted it to two devout women who continued to pray there faithfully for many years. In 1979, the landowner sold the property to the CMI community at Pilankalai. Rev. Fr. James Joseph CMI, the pioneer missionary, began celebrating the Holy Qurbana and the St. Michael Navanaal every Friday. Later, the chapel was entrusted to the Diocese of Thuckalay. Subsequently, a new church was constructed in a nearby location for regular worship. The existing small hut-chapel was later reconstructed as a Kurissadi and blessed by Mar George Alencherry, the then Bishop of Thuckalay, on 21 September 2008. Over the years, additional plots of land were also purchased. Most recently, a new chapel was built near the Kurissadi and was blessed by me on 14 September 2025. I thank Fr. Abilash Xavier, the parish priest for his hard work and dedication to construct the chapel and renovate the Kurissadi.

Consecration of St. Benedict's Church, Bengiri: The faithful of Bengiri Parish originally belonged to Mukkoottukal and Karode Parishes. Realizing their hardship in walking long distances to attend the Holy Qurbana, the then Parish Priest of Karode, Rev. Fr. James Pannamkuzhy OSB, together with the Parish Priest of Mukkoottukal, Rev. Fr. Mathew Thekkekutt, began visiting the families in the Bengiri area. With the permission of the then Bishop, Mar George Alencherry, the first Holy Qurbana was celebrated in the house of Mr. Devadas on 12 November 2000. About 40 members from 18 families participated in this initial celebration. Meanwhile, through the intervention of Rev. Fr. James Pannamkuzhy OSB, his Order purchased 3.12 acres of land in the area and named it Bengiri. A small shed with coconut leaves was erected there, and by the end of 2000, the celebration of the Holy Qurbana was shifted to this shed, which was dedicated as St. Benedict Mission. Rev. Fr. James Pannamkuzhy was appointed as the first pastor. In 2001, the FCC Sisters also began their mission at Bengiri.

A new church was constructed in place of the shed and was consecrated on 15 August 2003. At present, the parish has 49 families with 214 members. When the existing church became insufficient for the growing community, the need arose to renovate it, along with modifications to the Madhubaha. Under the leadership of Rev. Fr. George Kandathil, the renovation works were undertaken, and the newly renovated church was consecrated by me on 16 September 2025. The liturgical ceremony began at 3:00 p.m. and was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Mathew Thekkekutt and Rev. Fr. Shijo Aikkarakunnel. Along with the church consecration, the parish feast was also inaugurated. Parishioners, priests, sisters, and faithful from neighbouring parishes participated in large numbers, offering prayers of thanksgiving and sharing in the joy of the occasion. I wholeheartedly congratulate and thank Rev. Fr. George Kandathil, Priest-in-Charge of Bengiri Parish, for his commitment and dedication in renovating the church and for coordinating the entire event so well.

An attitude of Gratitude on the completion of 13th year of my Episcopal ministry: I thank and praise our Lord Almighty for the abundant blessings and graces I have received over the past 13 years of my episcopacy and ministry in the Diocese of Thuckalay. My motto has been “With God, All Things Are Possible”, and I have experienced God’s benevolence from the time of my call to the Catholic faith, through the gift of priestly vocation with the Salesians of Don Bosco, to being chosen to shepherd the Diocese of Thuckalay. I gratefully acknowledge the priests and religious serving in the diocese who have walked with me in fulfilling my mission as the second bishop of this local Church. Every encounter with you has been a lesson in fidelity to our mission. I have learned much from your love for the Church and for our people, and I continue to be inspired by your life and service. Each of you has shared in the mission of the diocese with generous dedication. I earnestly implore you to continue your selfless assistance in carrying forward the mission entrusted to us by Our Lord Jesus in our diocese. Your support has been immense and is deeply appreciated. I sincerely thank you for your prayers, greetings, and affectionate wishes on 16 September 2025, the day of my episcopal ordination anniversary.

Last respects to Rev. Sr. Josia SDS (84): It is with deep sorrow that we received the news of the passing of Rev. Sr. Josia SDS on 17 September 2025. Sr. Josia, a native of Kangazha in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, rendered almost 35 years of dedicated service in our diocese. She served in various places, including Manjalumoodu (1973–1978; 1989–1994; 2013–2025), Padanthalumoodu (1998–2003; 2011–2013), and Karode, where she was Superior (2006–2011). She was also actively engaged in the Family Apostolate through counselling, family visits, and service at the de-addiction centre (1998–2002; 2006–2014). The funeral service was held on 19 September 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at the SDS Convent Chapel, Manjalumoodu. The first two parts of the ceremony were presided over by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, while I presided over the Holy Qurbana and the concluding rites. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the SDS Sisters. Let us thank the Lord for her faithful service in our diocese and commend her soul to the infinite mercy of God, praying that He may grant her eternal peace and joy.

Silver Jubilee Celebration at Vattakottai: St. Mary’s Health Mission Service Centre celebrated 25 years of service and existence at Vattakottai. The mission was first started in 1989 at Ramanputhoor by Rev. Sr. Mary Kodiyan. In the early years, the Diocese of Kottar undertook the spiritual and other fundamental needs of this institution. Later, on 1 May 2000, the institution was shifted from Ramanputhoor to Vattakottai with the help of Rev. Fr. Thomas Kodiyan, the brother of Sr. Mary Kodiyan. Initially, priests from the Diocese of Kottar supported its development, and in 2017 the institution was officially handed over to the Diocese of Thuckalay. The Silver Jubilee celebration was held on 21 September 2025, in conjunction with the parish feast. I presided over the solemn Holy Qurbana and the Silver Jubilee public meeting. The parish priest, sisters, and parishioners from Nagercoil parish were also present for the programme. Cultural programmes were presented by the catechism students of St. Alphonsa Church, Nagercoil. The celebration concluded with a festive agape. I sincerely thank Rev. Fr. Sanjo Thenepalackal, Priest-in-Charge of Vattakottai Mission, for coordinating the event so well, and I warmly congratulate Rev. Sr. Mary Kodiyan for her commitment and dedication to health care ministry over the past years.

Christ Jubilee Celebration of Uraviyams at Kalluvilai: The Christ Jubilee Celebration of Uraviyams at the diocesan level was held on 21 September 2025 at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The public meeting began at 2:00 p.m., and I presided over it. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam was the chief guest. The programme commenced with a solemn reception followed by a prayer service led by Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil. Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil, the Diocesan Director of Uraviyam, welcomed the gathering, after which a variety of cultural programmes were presented Forane-wise. In my presidential address, I emphasized the importance of recognizing and nurturing the talents given to us by God. About 300 participants, including Uraviyam animators, organizers, and leaders, took part in the programme. Many priests also graced the occasion with their presence. This was the first time that Uraviyam organized a diocesan-level celebration. The event concluded with the Papal Anthem at 4:00 p.m. I sincerely thank Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil, the Director, for coordinating the entire programme so well.

Last respects to Rev. Sr. Sophia SDS (84): It is with deep sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing of Sr. Sophia Chacko SDS on 24 September 2025. Sr. Sophia was a native of St. Sebastin's Church, Nedumudy in the archdiocese of Changanacherry. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese for almost 21 years at Manjalumoodu (1973 – 1978; 2009 – 2025). During her second term of service, she was the Superior from 2009 to 2012. The funeral service took place on 25 September 2025 at 10:00 am at the SDS Convent Chapel, Manjalumoodu. The first two parts of the ceremony were presided over by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, and I presided over the Holy Qurbana and the remainder of the funeral rites. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil delivered the funeral homily. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the SDS Sisters. Let us thank God for her service in our diocese and pray that the Merciful Lord may grant her eternal joy.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Assisi Vidyalaya, Chenamcode: Assisi Vidyalaya, established on 30 September 2000, has successfully completed 25 years of its mission of empowering students with intellectual disabilities. Over the years, the institution has educated 235 students, with 60 students currently under its care. To mark this milestone, the concluding Jubilee Celebration was held at Assisi Vidyalaya, Chenamcode, on 27 September 2025. The public meeting began at 4:30 p.m. and was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jose Kanachikuzhiyil, Parish Priest of Chenamcode Parish. I inaugurated the concluding Jubilee Celebration. The guests of honour included Rev. Mother Litty FCC, Superior General of the FCC Congregation, Mr. Mano Thankaraj MLA, and Rev. Sr. Brigy FCC, Provincial Superior of Changanacherry FCC Province. On this occasion, the Jubilee Souvenir was also released. Many priests and sisters graced the celebration with their presence. Along with the felicitation speeches, a number of vibrant cultural and entertainment programmes were presented by the school students. The entire event concluded at 9:30 p.m. with a festive agape meal for all participants. I express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Sr. Celia FCC, the Provincial Superior, and Rev. Sr. Anupa FCC, Principal of Assisi Vidyalaya, for their dedicated efforts in coordinating the concluding Jubilee Celebration so well.

INFORMATION

- **Bro. Jubin Joseph** who returned from Rome in June, went back on 04 September 2025 after completing his one-month pastoral experience in Manjalumoodu Forane Parish. From October, he will pursue a Licentiate in Dogmatic Theology at the Urbaniana University, Rome. We wish him God's blessings for his higher studies.
- **Mar Joseph Kollamparampil**, the auxiliary bishop of Shamshabad visited me at Bishop's House on 12 September 2025.
- **Feast of Holy Cross Sisters** was celebrated at Mekkarai HC Convent on 14 September 2025 in the presence of all the missionary fathers and sisters of Tenkasi mission.
- **Rev. Sr. Usha Maria**, the Superior General of SH Congregation visited me at Bishop's House on 18 September 2025.

- **Fr. Alex Puthettu** returned to Italy on 18 September 2025 after his one-month vacation in the diocese. We wish him good continuation of doctoral studies.
- **Foundation Stone** was laid by me to the newly constructing Church at Cheenivilai on 21 September 2025.
- **Holy Cross Sisters**, who celebrated their Silver Jubilee this year, were warmly welcomed at Bishop's House on 21 September 2025. The jubilarians were: Sr. Angel Cruz, Sr. Beena Paul, Sr. Emmanuel, Sr. Nimmy Varghese, Sr. Nithya George, and Sr. Pushpalatha. We are grateful to them for their dedicated care at Holy Cross Hospital, Nagercoil.
- **CML online meeting** of Directors was held on 24 September 2025 to discuss and plan the diocesan level rally.
- **Fr. Prince Maliyil** returned to Irland on 26 September 2025 after his one-month vacation in the diocese. We wish him a fruitful ministry ahead.
- **Hearty Congratulations to Rev. Sr. Jincy LSDP**, newly elected Superior General of the LSDP Congregation. She had been serving as Local Superior at the LSDP Convent, Perumchilambu, for the last three years. She was warmly welcomed at Bishop's House on 28 September 2025.
- **KII children** engaged in parish-based activities during September. Different parishes conducted various activities, including visiting the sick, charity homes, and, in connection with the Nativity of St. Mary, children in some parishes dressed and enacted the role of St. Mary.
- **Core Team for Diocesan Bible Convention:** Fr. Jose Muttathupadam (convener), Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil, Fr. Anil Raj, Fr. Vinu D Joseph, Fr. Printo Kurias and Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil
- **Diocesan Bible Convention 2025:** As part of the preparations for the Diocesan Bible Convention, it has been decided, as in the previous year, that each parish should hold a one-hour adoration along with the proclamation of the Gospel to spiritually prepare the faithful. To facilitate this, the committee has organized teams comprising priests and lay members. This programme is scheduled to be conducted during the months of October and November. Since multiple teams are available, the committee can send a team to your parish on a date of your choosing. Therefore, I kindly request all parish priests to inform the committee convener of the date on which you would like the programme to be held in your parish.
- **Core Committee for the Syro Malabar Community Empowerment Year 2026:** Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal (Director), Fr. Jose Vayalil, Fr. Anil Raj, Sr. Jessy Therese CMC (CRI), Mr. J. Lal (Convenor; laity), Mr. Shonic Regan (Catechism), Mrs. Chandramathi (Mathru Jyothis), Mr. Ajith (SMYM)).
- **Adoration in preparation for Diocesan Day:** In preparation for the 29th Diocesan Day celebration, I request that an hour of Eucharistic adoration be conducted in every parish and institution on 07 November 2025, with maximum participation of the faithful.
- **Year Plan 2026:** Directors of departments and Pious Associations are requested to submit the Year Plan of your respective department/pious association for the year 2026 to the Chancery on or before 15 October 2025.
- **Mission Sunday Collection:** The Church, by its very nature, is missionary (*AG 2*). As a true missionary, the Church always prioritizes mission work worldwide. Mission Sunday is an opportunity for all believers to show solidarity with the universal Church in her evangelization efforts. The celebration allows people to express their desire to become missionaries through prayers and financial support. This year, the Church will celebrate Mission Sunday on October 19, 2025. The collection on that day will be sent to Rome to support mission work globally. Therefore, I kindly request all the Fathers to raise awareness among the faithful about mission work and encourage them to generously support the Church's missionary efforts. Please submit the Mission Sunday Collection immediately after the celebration to the Diocesan Procurator.
- **Rosary Procession:** The Rosary Procession will take place on 26 October 2025 at 2:00 p.m., starting from Little Flower Forane Church, Manjalumoodu, and concluding at Holy Cross Pilgrim Church,

Malaicode. The Marian Senai will organize this procession as a public expression of our Christian faith and devotion to the Blessed Mother. All parishioners, especially from Arukani, Kaliyal, and Manjalumoodu Foranes, are encouraged to participate in large numbers.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

02 October	-	Priests and Religious Sangamam, Christurajapuram
03 October	-	Mar Kavukattu Memorial Holy Qurbana
05-10 October	-	Annual Retreat for Priests
19 October	-	Rosary Procession at Tenkasi Mission
19 October	-	Mission Sunday Celebrations
21-23 October	-	Forane Priests' Conferences
26 October	-	Diocesan Rosary Procession

Priests & Religious Sangamam

02 October 2025

@ Christurajapuram

Time: 09.30 AM

Priests' Annual Retreat

05 – 10 October 2025

@ Sangamam

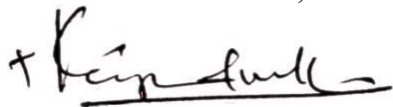
Preacher: Rev. Fr. Jilson Mathew VC

CONCLUSION

The Universal Church dedicates October to the mission. While our Syro-Malabar Church traditionally held its mission observances at the beginning of the year, starting in 2026 the Syro-Malabar Mission Month will align with the Universal Church by being observed in October, coinciding with World Mission Sunday. As we pray for all missionaries and support them financially through our collections, let us endeavour to be worthy servants of Christ. On the 2nd October, we all priests and religious will gather at Christurajapuram to celebrate our special calling as shepherds of the Church. May this gathering enrich our love for Christ and our ministry to the faithful. As mentioned earlier, it is also the month of the holy rosary. St John Paul II described the Rosary as his favourite prayer, during which we meditate with Mary on the mysteries she pondered in her heart as a mother. Throughout this October, let us make good use of this beautiful prayer to draw closer to Jesus and Mary.

May our Blessed Mother intercede for each one of us!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay