



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/171/2025

30 June 2025

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

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

I write this circular to you today as a fellow priest and co-worker in the vineyard of the Lord, with a heart filled with hope and determination regarding a sacred mission that has been close to my heart since I was appointed the Bishop of our beloved Eparchy of Thuckalay in 2012.

Our Historical Journey

As you are well aware, the Eparchy of Thuckalay was canonically established on 11 November 1996 as a testament to the growing faith community of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. For nearly three decades, we have flourished as an Eparchial family, witnessing countless baptisms, confirmations, ordinations, and marriages. Our parishes have grown, our faithful have multiplied, and our spiritual life has deepened.

Yet, in all these years of grace and growth, we have remained without the most visible symbol of our episcopal identity and unity—our cathedral church. A cathedral is not merely a building; it is the *Ecclesia Mater* (Mother Church) of our Eparchy, the seat of the Bishop, and the spiritual heart from which episcopal authority and pastoral care flow to all corners of our territory.

The Sacred Significance of a Cathedral

The word “cathedral” derives from the Latin *cathedra*, meaning the Bishop's chair or throne. It represents:

- **The Centre of Unity:** The cathedral serves as the focal point where all parishes and faithful find their common identity and purpose under the Bishop's pastoral leadership.
- **The House of Prayer:** It stands as the principal place of worship for the entire Eparchy, where the most solemn liturgical celebrations take place, especially during the great feasts of our Syro-Malabar tradition.
- **The Symbol of Permanence:** A cathedral declares to the world the enduring presence of the Church in our region, serving future generations as a beacon of faith, hope, and charity.
- **The Centre of Episcopal Ministry:** From the cathedral, the Bishop exercises his threefold ministry of teaching, sanctifying, and governing, making it the nerve centre of diocesan administration and pastoral outreach.

Our Present Need and Opportunity

After careful prayer, consultation with our Presbyterium, and extensive dialogue with our core planning groups the time has come to transform our long-cherished dream into reality and these days the sub-committees are being formed. The construction of our cathedral church is not merely an architectural project—it is a spiritual pilgrimage that will unite our entire diocesan family in common purpose and sacrifice. and sub-committees

Our current circumstances present us with unprecedented opportunities:

- A mature and committed faithful community ready to accept and contribute
- Experienced priests and lay leaders are prepared to guide this mission
- Technical expertise available within our Eparchy
- A growing recognition of our need for a proper episcopal centre

A Call to Unity and Action

This sacred undertaking requires the wholehearted participation of every priest in our Eparchy. As we have already discussed this matter in our Presbyterium and established our organisational structure through various specialised committees, each with distinct roles and responsibilities, I now call upon each of you to embrace this mission with renewed vigour and dedication.

- **Your Pastoral Leadership:** You are called to be the spiritual animators and primary advocates of this project in your parishes. Through your preaching, teaching, and personal witness, inspire the faithful to see this cathedral not as a burden, but as a privilege—an opportunity to participate in building God’s house. Your enthusiasm and commitment will determine the success of this endeavour in your pastoral care.
- **Your Role in the Committees:** Many of you will serve as coordinators and key members in the various committees we have established. Whether in spiritual animation, parish coordination, or forane leadership, your priestly ministry is essential to ensuring that this project remains deeply rooted in prayer and pastoral care.
- **Your Unity with the Bishop:** This cathedral project is an expression of our priestly unity around the episcopal chair. As my co-workers in the apostolic ministry, your support and collaboration make this dream achievable. Together, we will demonstrate to our faithful the power of priestly brotherhood working toward a common sacred goal.

The Path Forward

Our comprehensive committee structure ensures that every aspect of this monumental undertaking will receive proper attention from spiritual animation to technical supervision, from fundraising to media communications, from donor relations to construction site support—every detail has been carefully planned to ensure transparency, efficiency, and spiritual authenticity in our approach.

We commit ourselves to regular updates, transparent financial reporting, and inclusive decision-making throughout this journey. This cathedral belongs to all of us, and we will all contribute to its completion.

A Sacred Investment in Future Generations

When we build our cathedral, we make not just for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren. We create a spiritual heritage that will serve the Syro-Malabar faithful of Tamil Nadu for centuries to come. Every brick laid is a prayer for the future, every sacrifice made is an investment in the eternal.

Imagine the joy of celebrating our first Christmas midnight Mass in our own cathedral. Picture the solemnity of ordinations, the beauty of confirmations, and the grace of special liturgical celebrations in a space designed specifically for our ancient and beautiful Syro-Malabar liturgical traditions.

Our Commitment and Invitation

As your Bishop and fellow priest, I pledge my total commitment to this sacred mission. I will lead by example in personal sacrifice and dedication. But this cathedral must be built through our collective priestly witness and shared pastoral commitment. This is our pilgrimage as a presbyterium, our shared spiritual journey, our common witness to the faithful we serve.

I invite each of you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to participate in this historic endeavour. Your leadership in your parishes, your participation in the committees, your personal prayers and sacrifices—every priestly contribution matters, every pastoral effort counts, every Mass offered for this intention is heard.

Let us begin this journey together with the same priestly zeal that inspired the great cathedral builders of our tradition. Let us work with the dedication of those who labour for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, knowing that our priestly ministry finds its fullest expression when centred around the Bishop's chair in our cathedral.

A prayer for our mission that we can pray every day in our churches.

Almighty God, You who inspired King David to prepare for the building of Your temple and blessed King Solomon with wisdom to complete it, look with favour upon our desire to build a cathedral church for Your glory. Grant us the resources we need, the unity of purpose we seek, and the perseverance to complete what we begin. Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and Saint Thomas the Apostle, may this cathedral rise as a monument to Your love and a beacon of hope for all generations. Amen.

May God bless our endeavour, and may Our Blessed Mother and St Thomas, intercede for us in this sacred mission!

NEWS AND EVENTS

Orientation Programme for the newly arrived priests: An orientation programme was held at Bishop's House on 5 June 2025 for the newly arrived priests to the Diocese this year. The participants were Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST, Fr. Joe Angelo SDB, Fr. Jiji Puthenpurackal, Fr. Jobin Vettukallel, and Fr. John Ooroth. The meeting began at 10:00 am with a welcome note from Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, followed by three enlightening sessions: Fr. Antony Jose introduced the cultural context of Thuckalay and highlighted essential considerations for beginning ministry here. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal detailed diocesan policies and best practices related to priestly and parish administration. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil explained the unity of liturgical celebrations in our diocese, along with specific liturgical rituals observed locally. In my concluding remarks, I extended a warm welcome and emphasized the importance of learning Tamil for more effective proclamation of the Gospel. Fr. Joe Angelo, on behalf of the newly arrived priests, expressed their sincere gratitude. The programme concluded with an agape meal at 1:30 pm. We wish them a blessed and fruitful ministry in the Diocese.

Chapel Blessing of Malaicode Convent: The renovated chapel at SH Convent, Malaicode, was blessed on 5 June 2025 at 6:30 pm and I presided over the ceremony. Curia members and the priests from the parish

associated with the SH Convent were present for this special occasion. Following the blessing, the congregation enjoyed an agape meal during which Sr. Anitha SH, the Mission Superior, offered her heartfelt gratitude to everyone present. I also expressed my sincere thanks to the Rev. Sisters whose initiative and dedication brought about the chapel's renovation and enhanced its overall beauty.

Jubilee of Missionaries at Madurai: Christ Jubilee celebration of the missionaries of our diocese was held on 12 June 2025 at St. Mary's Church, Ariyur – Madurai. Seventeen missionaries, including seven priests, attended. All Curia members were present. I presided over the meeting. Fr. Tobin Alapurackal, Mission Coordinator for the extended territories, skilfully organized the event. The gathering opened with a prayer song, followed by a formal welcome from Fr. Tobin. Sr. Vineetha FCC presented the minutes from the previous meeting, and newly appointed priests and sisters were formally welcomed. The participants unanimously elected Fr. Jebanesh as Secretary for future mission meetings. Coordinators from each mission territory—Tirunelveli, Theni, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Thoothukkudi, and Ramanathapuram—each presented a historical overview of their respective missions. This enriched understanding of the founding efforts and inspired further ministry. Sisters performed the Jubilee Anthem, and Curia members—including the Vicar General, Chancellor, and Procurator—honoured the occasion with felicitations. A proposal to organize a pilgrimage to Mailapur, Chennai, for all extended-territory missionaries was approved; coordinators were tasked with finalizing the date and logistics. In my address, I thanked the missionaries for their dedicated service and encouraged them to continue their mission work with collaboration and patience. The meeting concluded with a solemn Holy Qurbana, which I presided over. I extend heartfelt thanks to Fr. Tobin for his excellent coordination and to all fathers and sisters who participated fully in this meaningful celebration.

Palliative Care Unit Blessing at Moolamattam: A new building for the Palliative Care Unit—another testament to Mrs. Mercy Jose's generosity—was blessed on 13 June 2025 at 5:00 pm. The ceremony was presided over by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church in the presence of myself, Curia members, diocesan priests, the religious community of Moolamattam Forane, relatives and friends of Mrs. Mercy Jose, children from Geetha Village, Snehavilla residents, and nearly 200 neighbouring guests. Immediately following the blessing, a public meeting was held. Chief guest Mr. Roshy Augustine, Kerala's Minister of Irrigation, spoke along with Mar Raphael Thattil, who commended Mrs. Mercy Jose as a "Good Samaritan" and a model for compassionate service toward the poor and the needy. The minister also praised her contributions to the integral development of local communities. The occasion was further enlivened by a cultural performance from the children of Geetha Village. During the meeting, Mrs. Mercy Jose was honoured by Mar Raphael Thattil. In my address, I expressed profound gratitude to Mrs. Mercy Jose for her kindness, her readiness to serve the Church, and her active participation in its mission. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal offered vote of Thanks. The event was skilfully coordinated by Fr. Jinoy Thottiyil, Director of Snehavilla, to whom I extend special appreciation for organizing this beautiful celebration.

Jubilee of Religious at Kalluvilai: On 14 June 2025 at 2:00 pm, the Christ Jubilee celebration of the religious was held at Asser Auditorium in Kalluvilai. Prior to the official start at 3:00 pm, Fr. Cijo Chennad CMI—Director of Sargashekthra Radio, Kottayam—led a one-hour reflection on how religious communities can remain relevant in modern times. At the meeting, Sr. Anie MMM welcomed the guests, Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal offered felicitations, and I presided over the gathering. Sisters from various congregations enlivened the celebration with a rich variety of entertainment, including a tableau, action song, and group song. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Sr. Jessy Therese, President of CRI, for her effective organization of this spiritually enriching Christ Jubilee.

Priests' Conference: The Priests' Conference for the month of June was held at Sangamam on 17 June 2025. The gathering commenced with one hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayerfully

animated by Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST. The official session of the conference began at 11:00 AM, coordinated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and presided over by myself. Following the opening prayer, Rev. Fr. Jimmy Thekkekadumathil extended a warm welcome to all participants. The minutes of the previous conference were presented by the Presbyterium Secretary, Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil, and were unanimously approved by the assembly. The presbyterium extended a warm welcome to the newly arrived priests in the diocese: Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST, Rev. Fr. John Ooroth, Rev. Fr. Jiji Puthenpurackal, and Rev. Fr. Jobin Vettukallel. On behalf of the presbyterium, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose expressed heartfelt words of welcome to the new members. After the first session, time was given for the Directors of various diocesan departments to share updates and communicate important matters related to their respective ministries.

In my presidential address, I introduced the main agenda of the conference: the construction of a cathedral church for the diocese. The theme was presented in five stages: Rationale – A reflection on why the diocese needs a cathedral; Structural Plan – Presented by Fr. Vicar General, outlining the proposed design and layout; Group Discussion – Priests were divided into six groups and invited to reflect on three key questions concerning the project; Preparation of the Faithful – Emphasis was placed on pastoral preparation of the laity for the undertaking; Implementation and Oversight – A Core Committee was proposed to finalise the draft plan and move the project forward. Following the group discussions, representatives from each group shared the key points raised. Based on the discussions, the following priests were elected to serve as members of the Core Committee: Rev. Fr. Jacob Iyyamathara, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Rev. Fr. Dency Mundunadackal, Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam CMI, Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil and the Curia Members. The conference concluded with a final blessing at 2:15 PM. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the priests for their active participation, valuable insights, and meaningful contributions that greatly enriched the discussions and ensured the success of the conference.

Jubilee of KII (Kuzhanthai Issa Iyakkam) at Kalluvilai: The Department of Kuzahanthai Issa Iyakkam (KII) hosted its Christ Jubilee celebration and KII anniversary on 22 June 2025 at 2:30 pm, with me presiding over the gathering. The programme was launched by its Director, Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, with a warm welcome to all attendees, followed by felicitations from Fr. Antony Mahesh. In my address, I emphasized to the children the importance of loving Jesus and celebrating our faith through various engaging activities. Curia members and several fathers joined the audience of over 600 participants, including children, teachers, and parents. Children from different foranes showcased their talents through a rich cultural programme featuring song, dance, skits, and more. Prizes were presented to standout performers throughout the year. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil for his excellent leadership and dedication in organizing this joyful and meaningful celebration.

Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam: The Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam, joyfully celebrated its Golden Jubilee in conjunction with the Parish Feast from 22 to 29 June 2025. The occasion was a moment of grace and gratitude, as the community came together to thank God for His abundant blessings over the past fifty years. The mission in Pallikonam began with various social service activities. In 1975, the first Christian community was officially formed, and the first church structure was built under the guidance of Fr. Antony Titus Chempathara CMI, the pioneering missionary. Missionary priests from Kaliyal and CMC Sisters from Netta supported the initial missionary efforts. The nascent community began with just four families. In 1976, a nursery school was established in Pallikonam, marking the beginning of a strong educational and social apostolate. Over the years, multiple initiatives for the socio-economic upliftment of the local population were introduced. The construction of the present church began in 2010 and was solemnly consecrated by me on 15 January 2013. Today, the parish comprises 80 families, actively participating in the spiritual and social life of the Church.

The Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana was celebrated on 22 June 2025 and was presided over by Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop Emeritus of the Syro-Malabar Church and the first Bishop of our Diocese. The liturgy was concelebrated by several priests, including Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, our Vicar General. On 29 June 2025, I celebrated the concluding Holy Qurbana of the Jubilee. The celebration also featured an interreligious and political public meeting, during which various religious and political leaders addressed the gathering. They appreciated the significant role Christian institutions play in fostering the integral development of society. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Luka Kollamparampil CMI and the parishioners of Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam, for their dedicated efforts in organizing and coordinating the Golden Jubilee celebrations in a meaningful and vibrant manner.

New Priests' Day celebration at Kattathurai: A solemn and joyful reception was organized on 27 June 2025 at St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai, to honour the newly ordained priests of the year: Rev. Fr. Amanto Edakkoottathil, Rev. Fr. Sunil Antony, and Rev. Fr. Anoop Thathappally. The event began at 6:30 pm with a grand reception and the celebration of the Holy Qurbana by the newly ordained priests. The Holy Qurbana was attended by a large number of faithful from the parish. Rev. Fr. Amanto served as the main celebrant, while Rev. Fr. Anoop delivered an inspiring homily. Rev. Fr. Sunil concluded the celebration by expressing heartfelt words of gratitude to all gathered. The occasion was further enriched by the presence of Forane Vicars, priests from the Thuckalay–Pilankalai Forane, Provincial Superiors, and religious sisters from nearby convents, marking the celebration with spiritual significance and ecclesial unity. At the end of the Holy Qurbana, the parishioners felicitated the newly ordained priests through a speech and a song, recognizing their dedication and commitment to the Church. As a mark of honour, I also felicitated the new priests and presented them with a traditional shawl, symbolizing the diocese's joy and gratitude. Following the celebration, a festive agape meal was shared with all priests and religious who participated. We extend our sincere prayers and best wishes to Rev. Fr. Amanto, Rev. Fr. Sunil, and Rev. Fr. Anoop, entrusting their priestly ministry to the loving care of the Lord. I thank Rev. Fr. Abilash Xavier, the Parish Priest of Kattathurai, for his dedicated efforts in coordinating this meaningful event.

Tenkasi Mission Meet: A meeting of the Fathers and Sisters serving in the Tenkasi Mission was held on 28 June 2025 at the convent of the Dorethy Sisters in Panpoli. The gathering began with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayerfully led by Rev. Fr. John Joseph, followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The official session of the meeting commenced with a warm welcome by Rev. Fr. Dency Mundunadackal. During his address, he also felicitated Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, the newly appointed Mission Coordinator for the Tenkasi Mission. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and duly approved by the assembly. The meeting also welcomed newly arrived Fathers and Sisters to the missionary community of Tenkasi. Following this, representatives from various mission centres and apostolic initiatives shared their pastoral experiences, challenges faced, and the opportunities they encountered in their respective fields of ministry. To assist the departmental directors and leaders of Pious Associations in their mission efforts, new animators were elected during the meeting. A total of 30 members took part in the gathering, reflecting a strong spirit of collaboration and fraternity. The meeting concluded with a fraternal agape meal, fostering mutual encouragement and fellowship among all participants. I extend my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil for coordinating this first meeting of the Tenkasi missionaries effectively and meaningfully.

Christ for GenZ, SMYM Camp at Sangamam: A three-day residential leadership camp for youth was organized by the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) of the Diocese of Thuckalay from 27 to 29 June 2025 at Sangamam. The objective of the camp was to instil and nurture leadership qualities in young people, inspired by the leadership model of Jesus Christ. The camp commenced at 10:00 am on 27 June with an inaugural session presided over by Rev. Fr. George Kalangara SDB. Over the course of three days, various resource persons animated the participants through insightful sessions, discussions, and group activities. The speakers included Rev. Fr. Justin Sutheesh, Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Rev. Fr.

Joseph Santhosh, Sr. Reema FCC, and Sr. Celia FCC. Each day was enriched with liturgical celebrations, spiritual moments, and prayer experiences that helped the participants deepen their relationship with God and develop a spiritually grounded approach to leadership. On the final day, I celebrated the Holy Qurbana for the youth. In my address, I shared with them the importance of building a Cathedral Church for the diocese and emphasized the need to organize a Diocesan Youth Assembly to strengthen the youth apostolate. A total of 66 young people from various parishes of the diocese participated in the camp with great enthusiasm and commitment. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Rev. Fr. Anil Raj, the Director of SMYM, for organizing this meaningful and successful youth camp—his first major initiative since taking charge of the diocesan youth apostolate.

Kaikkars and Accountants Meeting at Kalluvilai: The Diocese of Thuckalay organized its annual meeting and orientation programme for all Kaikkars and parish accountants on Sunday, 29 June 2025, at Kalluvilai. The day-long event, which drew around 60 participants, aimed to equip lay leaders with pastoral, administrative, and spiritual insights to enhance their service in parish communities. The programme commenced with a solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana at 10:00 AM, presided over by me. The inaugural session followed, with a warm welcome delivered by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor. In my keynote address, I emphasized the vital role of Kaikkars in the mission of evangelization, urging them to work diligently to strengthen the faith and ensure that no member is lost from parish life. I also released the second edition of Palliyogam – Procedure Rules, which will serve as a helpful guide for parish administration. The second session was animated by Rev. Fr. Dominic Dhas, Cooperative Manager of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai. Drawing from Scripture and pastoral experience, he spoke on the qualities of Christian leadership and the challenges faced by lay leaders in the Church. In the afternoon, two resource sessions were conducted by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal. They offered practical instructions and canonical insights on the role of the laity, the rights and responsibilities of Kaikkars, the structure and function of Pothumantram and Panku Peravai, and the accounting systems implemented in our parishes. The programme concluded with a discussion session, allowing participants to clarify doubts and share feedback. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the parish priests for encouraging the active participation of their Kaikkars and accountants. My special appreciation goes to the organizing team—Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, Rev. Fr. Vinu, and Rev. Fr. Mahesh—for their dedication, coordination, and efficient execution of the event.

Inter-Eparchial Meet at Kanyakumari: The Diocese of Thuckalay had the honour of hosting the Inter-Eparchial Meeting at Thriveni Sangamam on 30 June 2025. The event was held at the Stella Maris Auditorium of the DM Sisters in Kanyakumari. This historic gathering brought together bishops and priests from the Eparchies of Palai, Kanjirappally, Thuckalay, and Changanacherry. The meeting was held under the presidency of His Grace Mar Thomas Tharayil, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Changanacherry, marking his first visit to our diocese since his appointment. I had the privilege of welcoming all the bishops and priestly representatives, especially extending a heartfelt welcome to the Archbishop. A total of 80 participants, including 22 priests from our diocese, took part in the meeting. The attendees included department directors and heads of institutions from the participating eparchies. The meeting officially began at 10:30 AM.

After opening addresses by all the bishops, the meeting focused on two key areas: Collaborative Mission Activities in the extended territories of the Diocese of Thuckalay, with support—both pastoral and financial—from the other three eparchies; Remote Preparation for the Year of Community Empowerment – 2026, aimed at equipping communities for more active participation in the life and mission of the Church. From our diocese, Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil presented a video overview of current mission initiatives in our extended territories. Following this, the coordinators of each mission district briefly shared the challenges and opportunities encountered in their respective areas. In my concluding remarks, I once again emphasized the urgent need for a comprehensive and coordinated plan for mission outreach, and I earnestly

appealed for continued support—both financial and in terms of personnel—from the sister eparchies. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal is elected as representative from our diocese to the Committee for forming guidelines for the observance of Community Empowerment Year. The meeting concluded with a fraternal agape meal at 1:45 PM, providing an opportunity for informal interaction and fellowship. I express my sincere appreciation to Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal for their excellent coordination of the event. A special word of thanks goes to the DM Sisters for their gracious hospitality and for making all the necessary arrangements that ensured the smooth and successful conduct of the meeting.

INFORMATION

- **After my Europe visit**, I returned to the Bishop's House on 03 June 2025. I am grateful to all of you for the prayerful support you extended to me for the success of my meetings and travels. A big thanks to Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, for his committed service during my absence from the diocese.
- **World Environmental Day** was observed at KKSSS, Kalluvilai on 05 June 2025 with various programmes in the self-help groups. Seminars were conducted, plants and saplings were distributed, and saplings were planted.
- Please find below the appointments/relieving made in the month of June 2025:
Rev. Fr. Thomas Jebanesh is appointed as Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Mission Church, Virudhunagar with effect from 07 June 2025.
Rev. Fr. Shijo Aikkarakunnel is appointed as the Assistant Director of CML, Thuckalay with effect from 07 June 2025.
Rev. Fr. Jose Purayidathikunnel is appointed as Forane Director of SMYM in Soosaipuram Forane with effect from 07 June 2025.
Fr. Ajin Jose is relieved from the office of Forane Director of SMYM in Soosaipuram Forane with effect from 07 June 2025.
- **Sr. Selva Maria**, of the Holy Spirit Sisters, the new staff to the KKSSS, Kalluvilai took charge on 14 June 2025. We welcome her wholeheartedly and wish God's blessings in the new assignment.
- **CML activity year 2025-2026** was inaugurated in every parish on 15 June 2025, Sunday.
- **Our beloved Cardinal, Mar George Alencherry** visited the Diocese on 21-22 June 2025. On 21 June he was welcomed at Bishop's House during the dinner along with some representatives of priests, religious and laity. On 22 June he celebrated Holy Qurbana at Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam and went back afternoon. We thank our beloved former bishop for his loving presence in our diocese.
- **AIDACT Meeting** was held on 23 June 2025 at Kalluvilai to plan necessary steps to be taken to ensure the government aid and other benefits.
- **Mr. Jose Joseph (59)**, beloved father of Bro. Jubin Joseph slept in the Lord on 26 June 2025. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Bro. Jubin and his family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord grant him eternal joy.
- **Sinai Theological Institute**: Dear Fathers, I request you to promote the faithful to join in the theological classes conducted by the Sinai Theological Institute under the leadership of Fr. Shijo Aikkarakunnel. It is a very good opportunity for our people to learn Bible and other ecclesiastical subjects and make them efficient lay leaders for the spiritual good of our diocese. Please inform the parishioners and encourage them to attend.
- **Forane Priests' conferences** scheduled for July have been cancelled due to the Common Priests' Conference.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

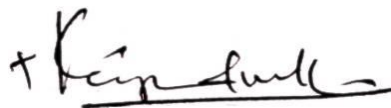
03 July	-	Dukhrana of St. Thomas the Apostle
10 July	-	Academic Year Inauguration at Minor Seminary
15-16 July	-	Ongoing formation for junior priests
16 July	-	Priests' Conference at Sangamam
25 July	-	Presbyteral Council
26 July	-	St. Alphonsa Feast Nadai Payanam

Priests' Conference Place: Sangamam Date: 16 July 2025 Time: 12.30 pm – 04.00 pm
Ongoing formation Programme for Junior Priests Place: Sangamam Date: 15-16 July 2025

CONCLUSION

On 3 July, we celebrate Dukhrana, the feast of St Thomas. The doubt of St Thomas after the resurrection of Jesus became a moment of solid belief: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). His encounter with Jesus teaches us how the right response to doubt, curiosity and searching can lead to deep belief. For us, Syro-Malabar Christians, Dukhrana represents not merely a liturgical celebration but a reaffirmation of our apostolic origins and unique identity within the global Christian community. The feast serves as a powerful reminder of our unbroken connection to the apostolic age, distinguishing us from later missionary activities and reinforcing our claim to an indigenous Christian tradition that predates European colonisation by over a millennium. The liturgies, processions, and cultural celebrations that we re-enact that day blend ancient Syriac traditions with local customs, creating a distinctive expression of faith that honours both our apostolic roots and our Indian cultural heritage. May we increase our faith in Jesus as we carry out the various ministries in which we are engaged. Let us lead our brothers and sisters entrusted to our care to have a deeper encounter with the Lord!

With my prayers and blessings,
Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

