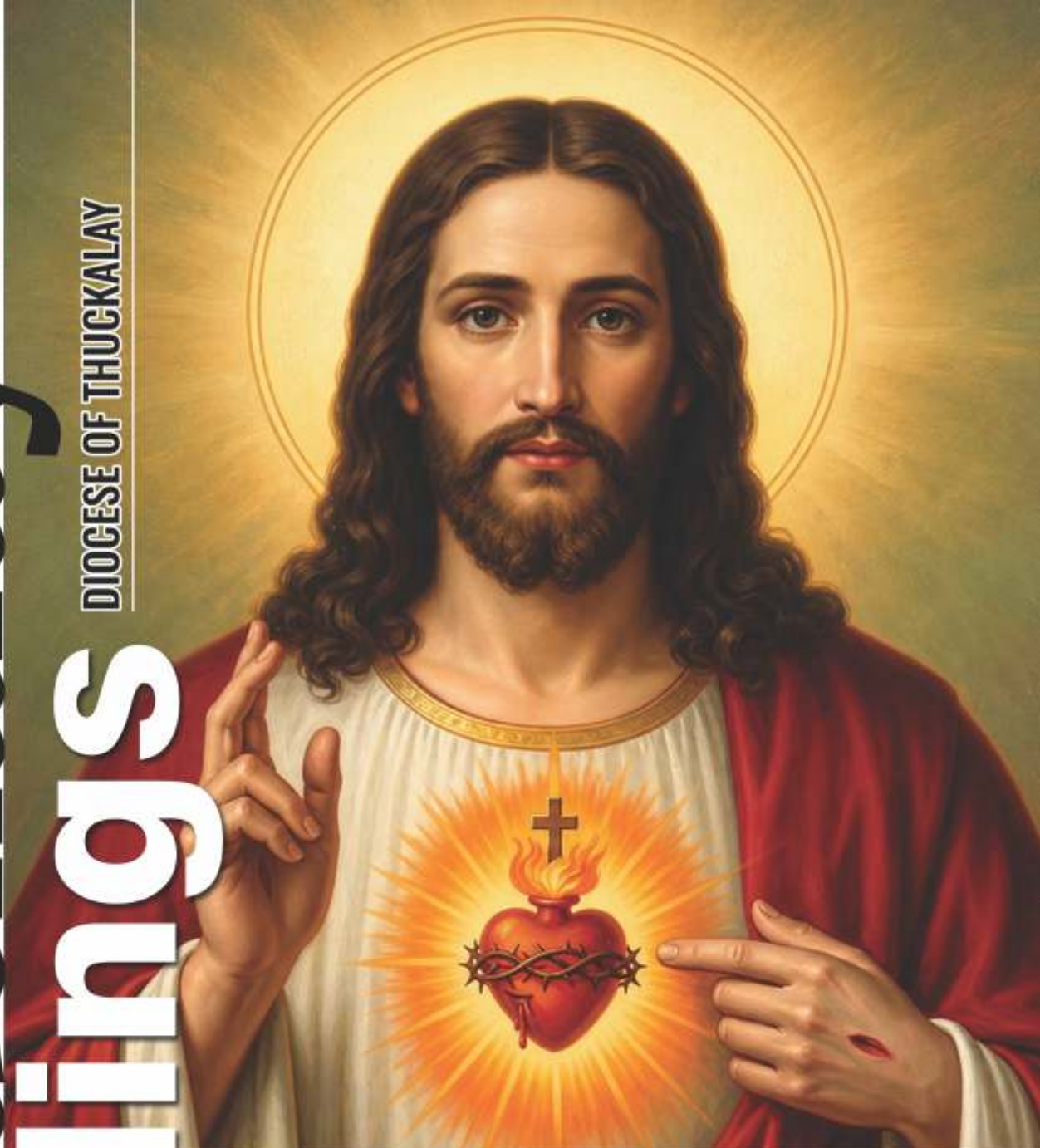


JUNE 2026
VOL. 6 | ISSUE 6

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

Thuckalay Tidings



IN THE
SACRED HEART

EVERY MAN FINDS EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR
HIS SALVATION AND FULFILLMENT.



Published by:
THUCKALAY MISSION
Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

June 2026 | Vol. 6 | Issue 6

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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BISHOP'S HOUSE

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Message

Greetings from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

June offers us two of the most luminous solemnities in the Church's calendar: the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Together, these feasts reveal the inner life of our faith.

The Sacred Heart

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is not a pious addition to the Gospel — it is the very centre of the Good News. When the soldier pierced the side of Jesus on the Cross and blood and water flowed forth (Jn 19:34), the Fathers of the Church saw in this the birth of the Church and the outpouring of all grace. From this open Heart, the sacraments flow, love is born anew, and mission finds its source. Pope Pius XI, in *Miserentissimus Redemptor* (1928), described this devotion as “the foundation of Christian perfection and the summary of all religion.” Pope Francis, in *Dilexit Nos* (2024), has renewed its urgency, reminding us that the Heart of Christ is a living reality — the Heart of the Son of God who loved us and gave himself up for us (Gal 2:20).

St Margaret Mary Alacoque, to whom Christ revealed the devotion at Paray-le-Monial, heard the Lord say: “I need hearts that are generous and on fire to make reparation for the coldness and ingratitude of men.” The Sacred Heart is also, pre-eminently, the heart of the Good Shepherd who goes out in search of the one who is lost (Lk 15:4).

As Christians we inherit a rich patrimony of devotion to the Sacred Heart, which has shaped the liturgical and spiritual life of our forebears. Since the great missionary renewal of the nineteenth century, our Church has embraced this devotion as a cornerstone of Christian piety and parish renewal. The numerous Sacred Heart

parishes, shrines, and institutions that dot our landscape are not mere historical artefacts; they are calls to fidelity. May this June be an occasion for each of us to rediscover, personally and as family, the centrality of the Sacred Heart in our Christian vocation!

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

The day after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, the Church celebrates the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary — a proximity rich in meaning, for the Mother's Heart is always close to the Son's Heart. The theological relationship between these two Hearts is not incidental but constitutive. Mary's Heart is Immaculate precisely because it is wholly ordered to Christ: conceived without sin, it was prepared from the first moment of her existence to be the vessel and school of God's love. Her Immaculate Heart is the human response most perfectly conformed to the Sacred Heart of her Son.

She stood at the foot of the Cross (Jn 19:25) as the sword foretold by Simeon pierced her soul (Lk 2:35). Her Immaculate Heart is not one spared from suffering but entirely surrendered to God, and therefore capable of bearing all suffering with love. The Immaculate Heart is also the heart of the intercessor. Throughout salvation history, Mary prays for us and with us. At Cana, she noticed what others had not yet perceived — that the wine had run out (Jn 2:3) — and brought it to Christ without fuss or drama, with the quiet confidence of one who knows her Son's Heart. This is her perpetual ministry: she sees the hidden poverty of her children and presents it to the Sacred Heart.

Dear Friends, devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart is not a nostalgic spirituality but a fiery one. It is a call to love as Jesus loved — without measure or reserve. Let us ask, this June, for the grace to be good individuals and responsible family members whose life be the witnesses to the love of the Heart of Christ.

With my prayers and blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



United for a higher purpose.

Pastoral Council @ Sangamam

The fifth meeting of the Seventh Pastoral Council was held at Sangamam on May 1, 2026, under the presidency of the Bishop. The session commenced with a prayer by Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurackal, a welcome address by Mrs. Baby Juliet Saroja, and the minutes presented by Joint Secretary Mr. Shonic Regan, followed by an introductory session where author Mr. John Kumari Thozhan was honoured for his book Indeevaram. In his presidential address, the Bishop called for authentic evangelization through action and care for the marginalized, which was complemented by Rev. Fr. Darbello Christudas's keynote on "Life of Faith and Sharing," outlining the Council's duty to investigate, reflect, and propose solutions for the Diocese. Through fruitful group discussions, the Council recommended prioritizing daily



family prayer, encouraging parents to be faith role models, and actively engaging youth and catechism students. The meeting concluded with an open Q&A session, future directions from Director Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathyanesan, a vote of thanks by Mr. Augustine, and a final expression of gratitude from the Bishop to the organizing team for their excellent coordination.



Answering *the call at* Mukkoottukal *VocationCamp*

The Vocation Department organized a three-day vocation camp from 5–7 May 2026 at St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal. Six candidates participated in the camp, which provided them with a closer experience of seminary life through prayer, sharing, and guidance. The Bishop personally met the candidates and interacted with them. The participants were addressed by the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST, and Rev. Fr. George Kandathil. Major seminarians also took an active role in the camp by assisting in the animation and guidance of the sessions. The Bishop expressed his appreciation to Rev. Fr. George Kandathil, the former Director of Vocations, for organizing the camp effectively and efficiently.





Modern Medium

Advanced Media Training for Religious

From April 23 to May 9, 2026, the Department of Media and Communication conducted a highly successful media training initiative for Religious Sisters from various congregations. The initiative began with a three-day Basic Media Training Programme from April 23–25, which saw eighteen Sisters participate as preparation for the main event. Following this, twenty-three Sisters attended the Advanced Media Training Programme held from April 26 to May 9. Inaugurated by the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the overall programme provided hands-on training in

essential skills such as camera operation, video editing, graphic design, and content creation. The Sisters actively engaged in every session and benefited greatly from the practical knowledge shared. During the concluding session, the Bishop distributed certificates to the participants and expressed his sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Director of Pulari Communications, who organized the entire programme exceptionally well and served as its principal resource person.



Strengthening Faith:

VPV in Parishes



The Visuvasa Payirchi Vizha (VPV), traditionally organized during the month of May, was successfully conducted across various parishes from April 26 to May 10, 2026. Recognizing the significant role of VPV in the faith formation of children, all the priests collaborated wholeheartedly to ensure its smooth and effective implementation. The programme was conducted with equal enthusiasm and dedication in the extended mission territories as well. The Bishop

expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Narcheythinilayam for its timely support in providing textbooks and facilitating the necessary training programmes for VPV. He also commended the dedication and commitment demonstrated by all the priests in organizing the programme, noting that such collaborative efforts make a meaningful contribution to the spiritual growth and faith formation of children throughout the Diocese.



You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminararian in his formation:

Please write / mail to us for any enquiry / details. We shall contact you with all further details soliciting your generous support:

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 Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

Contact Mission Procure:

Fr. Sunil Antony
 +91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
 Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

Skill Development — Programme — for Major Seminarians

From May 11 to 15, 2026, an intensive one-week Skill Development Programme was held at Sangamam for thirteen major diocesan seminarians to equip them with practical and pastoral skills for contemporary ministry. Organized by the then Director of Major Seminarians, Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil, the comprehensive curriculum included Tamil language and public speaking sessions by Mr. John Kumari Thozhan, and evening liturgy and "Vin Pathayil" prayers led by Rev. Fr. Ajin Jose. Training also featured youth ministry and leadership sessions by Sr. Margarita SCB, a lecture on serving the marginalized by Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony, a three-part psycho-spiritual integration workshop by Sr. Jeslet CMC, and a six-session media and AI applications course by Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil. The successful initiative significantly enriched the seminarians' personal and pastoral formation, earning high praise and gratitude from the Bishop for both the resource persons and Fr. Kochuparampil's leadership.



SPARK 2026

at Kalluvilai



From May 10–16, 2026, the Kanyakumari District Social Service Society (KKSSS) successfully hosted its annual Educare Residential Camp, SPARK 2026, benefiting 50 Tamil-medium school students.

Directed by Rev. Fr. Antony Mahesh, the camp focused on enhancing English language fluency and fostering student talents through public speaking, theatre, and creative activities. The sessions were animated by Prof. Amal Raj and Prof. Jerome.

The program concluded with an inspiring address by Chancellor Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, who encouraged the students to be future agents of change, followed by a prize distribution. The Bishop highly commended Rev. Fr. Antony Mahesh for his excellent organization and leadership.



Joy, culture, and togetherness: **Mathru Jyothis Annual Day @ Thettiode**

The Annual Day celebrations of Mathru Jyothis were held at Asir Vidyalaya Hall, Thettiode, on 16 May 2026. Presided over by the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the event was attended by numerous priests, religious sisters, and approximately 400 mothers. The celebration featured vibrant cultural programmes performed by over 100 mothers from twelve parishes, and concluded with the distribution of more than 1,500 competition prizes. Highlighting the event, the Bishop expressed heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Jimmy, honoring his seven years of dedicated service in guiding the Family Apostolate and successfully organizing this memorable gathering.



Catechetical Seminar & Inauguration of Academic Year

On May 23, 2026, the Aseer Auditorium in Kalluvilai hosted the Catechetical Seminar and academic year inauguration for the Catechetical Department and Kuzhanthai Isso Iyakkam (KII). The morning session gathered 320 teachers for workshops on "The Role of Catechists in the Salvation of Souls," led by Sr. Soona CMC, Mr. Antony Pradeep, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, and Rev. Fr. Christudas. Following a communal lunch, the Bishop presided over the 2:00 PM inauguration, which featured the release of a new Class XI Tamil textbook translated by Rev. Fr. Anil Raj, and the distribution of youth attendance prizes for the Holy Qurbana. The gathering also marked a transition in diocesan leadership. The Bishop welcomed newly appointed directors Rev. Fr. Antony Jose (Coordinator of Departments), Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil (Catechetical Director), and Rev. Fr. Jose Paul Purayidathilkunnel (Director of KII). He offered parting gratitude to outgoing directors Rev. Fr. Abilash Xavier and Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil for their years of vibrant, dedicated ministry. To close the event, the Catechetical Department issued standardized guidelines for upcoming parish-level ceremonies, and the Bishop invoked blessings for the continued spiritual growth of the Diocese's children.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

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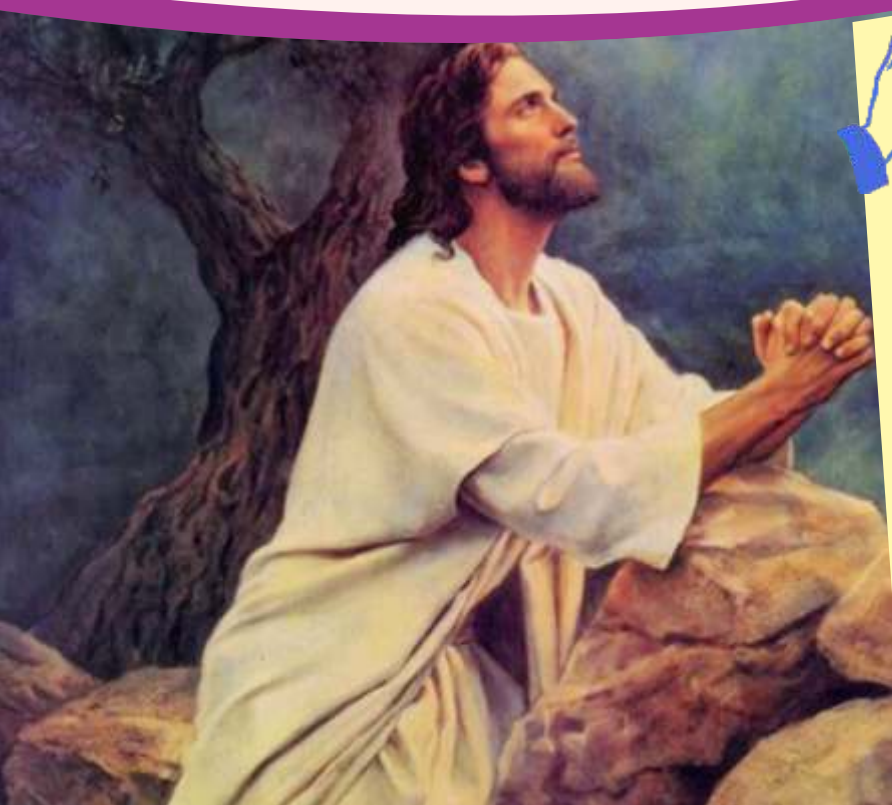
Place:

Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,



: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com





Priests'

CONFERENCE

The Priests' Conference was held at Sangamam on May 26, 2026, opening at 11:15 AM following an hour of Adoration led by Rev. Fr. Lijo Thekkel. Coordinated by Chancellor Rev. Fr. Antony Jose and presided over by the Bishop, the assembly approved the previous minutes presented by Secretary Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil and officially welcomed seven new priests into the Diocese. Following ministry updates from various department directors, the "Zero Hour" session focused on two major projects: tasking the TPWA Executive Body with researching health insurance options for priests, and forming a committee to study the feasibility of building a new Priests' Home at Kozhipporvilai. In his presidential address, the Bishop highlighted the role of the new Coordinator of Departments and emphasized the responsibility of diocesan bodies in addressing pastoral concerns. The conference concluded at 1:45 PM with a vote of thanks by Rev. Fr. Prince Cherippanattu and a final blessing from the Bishop.

Called to Eternal Rest: Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil



Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil (1961–2026) was a highly esteemed priest, educator, and administrator who served as a pillar of his Diocese for nearly four decades. Following his ordination for the Archdiocese of Changanacherry in 1988, he began his ministry in Nedumkunnam and the Kanyakumari Mission. His most enduring legacy was forged during 26 years of dedicated service (1993–2019) as the Parish Priest of St. Alphonsa Shrine Church and Correspondent of St. Alphonsa Matric Higher Secondary School in Nagercoil, where his fatherly leadership shaped generations of students and parishioners. In his later years, Fr. Thomas took

on major administrative responsibilities, serving as the Vicar General of the Diocese from 2019 to 2025. During this period, he also managed key educational and charitable entities, including St. Alphonsa College, the Diocesan Education Commission, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and the Kanyakumari Social Service Society. Following a final year of medical treatment, Fr. Thomas passed away peacefully at the age of 65 on 28 May 2026 at St. Thomas Hospital in Chethipuzha, Kerala, leaving behind a profound legacy of transformative pastoral care and selfless service.



Vestition & Final Profession Celebration

Bro. Albin Vettukattil has completed the regency ministry received cassock on 06 May 2026 at St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal. The Final Profession Celebration of Sr. Sam Priya FCC, Sr. Anuja FCC, Sr. Sophia Jose FCC, and Sr. Shiny Alphonsa FCC were solemnly held on 22 May 2026 at the FCC San Jose Province in Azhakiyamandapam. This sacred milestone, marking their lifelong commitment and perpetual vows to the Franciscan Clarist Congregation, was celebrated alongside the holy sacrifice of the Qurbana. Surrounded by the prayerful presence of the religious community, family, and well-wishers, the occasion was a beautiful testament to their devotion, faith, and grace-filled journey of service to Christ and the Church.



In Memoriam Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil

- **Missionary Service:** Answered the call to serve the Tamil people, notably working as an assistant parish priest and as the Director of *Karunai Illam*, a home for underprivileged children.
- **Educational Visionary:** Played a foundational role in establishing leading schools and colleges within the diocese, leading with humility and personal example.
- **Spiritual Legacy:** Characterized by a profound prayer life, a deep devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a great love for the Holy Qurbana, he dedicated his life to serving the poor and spreading the love of Jesus Christ.



A Word on Our Dream:

St. Joseph Cathedral

The foundation work for St. Joseph's Cathedral in Soosaipuram is proceeding smoothly, with the mass excavation and trenching phases now successfully concluded across the entire site. The structural substructure is beginning to materialize, characterized by precisely cast, reinforced concrete stepped footings and pedestal columns, which currently display exposed vertical rebar in preparation for the subsequent construction phase. To safeguard these structures from subterranean moisture, a black bituminous waterproofing membrane is being meticulously applied to the concrete surfaces. The immediate focus for the site team is to efficiently remove the substantial accumulation of muddy water from the excavation pits, thereby enabling the completion of the remaining waterproofing and the safe commencement of backfilling operations.



In Memoriam



Sr. Alice Kattakkayam SABS

Sr. Alice Kattakkayam SABS (78) he served in our diocese for almost 21 years. Let us thank God for her selfless sacrifices for the good of our diocese.

Sr. Luis Mary Kodakkallil SDS

Sr. Luis Mary Kodakkallil SDS (83) was a native of Kavakad Parish in the diocese of Kothamangalam. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese almost 12 years at: Manjalumoodu (1981 - 1991; 2026) and Karode (1994-1995).



Sr. Lizy Sebastian Vettukallel SDS

Sr. Lizy Sebastian Vettukallel SDS (65) was a native of St. Mary's Church, Kanjiyar in the diocese of Kanjirappally. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese at Manjalumoodu (1994) and Karode (2025-2026)

In Memory of a Life Well-Lived



Mr. Joseph Kuruvila (60)
the beloved father of Fr. Sanjo Theneplackal.



THUCKALAY
MISSION

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made poetry the
medium of his
theology... He stands
at the intersection of
Christian thought and
Semitic poetry.



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