



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/186/2026

30 September 2026

My dear Fathers,

Greetings from Houston, Texas!

I write to you as I conclude a month-long visit to the United States of America, where I met the benefactors, friends, and well-wishers of our Eparchy.

Everyone received me with great warmth. Many of our own Syro-malabar people from Kerala, now settled in America, welcomed me into their homes. More than once, they asked about the priest who baptised them, prepared them for First Holy Communion, or blessed their marriage. They remember the priests who formed them. It reminded me how deep and lasting a priest's influence can be, often far beyond what we see in our daily ministry.

I also met benefactors who support our seminarians, our schools, our care for the poor, and our mission works, many of whom have never seen Thuckalay. I thanked them on behalf of each of you and assured them of our prayers. I ask each of you to remember our benefactors, living and departed, at the Holy Qurbana this month, and to keep alive in your parishes a spirit of gratitude toward those who help us.

In particular, I met many benefactors and friends who are helping us build our new Cathedral. They have embraced this project as their own, and several expressed their joy at sharing in the mother church of our Eparchy. The Cathedral will be a sign of the unity of our local Church around the altar and a home of prayer for generations to come. I ask you to remember these benefactors and friends by name in your prayers, to offer the Holy Qurbana for their intentions, and to keep our people informed and involved, so that every parish may feel that the Cathedral is truly theirs.

Pope Leo XIV and the Month of the Holy Rosary

The Church dedicates October to the Holy Rosary, and on 7 October we keep the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. This year the month comes to us with a special call from the Successor of Peter himself.

From 25 to 28 September 2026, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, made an Apostolic Journey to France. He prayed at the restored Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris, spoke at UNESCO on human dignity in the age of artificial intelligence, and concluded his visit in Metz. The heart of the journey, however, was his pilgrimage on Sunday, 27 September, to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, where the Immaculate Virgin appeared eighteen times in 1858 to the poor fourteen-year-old girl Saint Bernadette Soubirous at the Grotto of Massabielle.

At Lourdes, the Holy Father met the bishops of France, celebrated the Holy Eucharist with about 150,000 pilgrims, met about 5,000 sick people and their caregivers, and, in the evening, led the great candlelight Rosary procession. He came, as he said, "a pilgrim among pilgrims." I wish to share with you the heart of what he taught there, because it speaks directly to us as priests and shepherds of our people.

Mary, Mother of priests. In the candlelight procession, the Pope walked behind the statue of Our Lady, a candle in one hand and a rosary in the other, as the Glorious Mysteries were prayed. He noted that the pilgrims had come in response to Our Lady's request, conveyed to the priests of Lourdes through Bernadette, that people should come there in procession. It is worth pausing on this: Mary addressed her request to priests. She still asks us to lead our people to her Son. Contemplating her Immaculate Conception, the Holy Father described her as glorious and powerful, yet humble and very close to us: "She is the mother of Jesus, and she is our mother." A priest who loves Mary and prays her Rosary faithfully will rarely lose his way.

Conversion begins with the shepherds. In his homily, the Pope said that the message Mary entrusted to Bernadette is a call to conversion, both tender and urgent. "It is today, not tomorrow, that we must repent," he said. He recalled Our Lady's words that she did not promise Bernadette happiness in this world but in the next, and he warned that a culture absorbed in comfort and progress easily forgets eternal life. The only obstacle to God's love, he said, is sin.

He then turned this call to the Church herself, saying she must have the courage to begin with her own conversion and to place herself humbly under the Lord's purifying gaze, so that her wounds, infidelities and failures may be healed. In France he also met privately with victims of abuse by clergy. Dear Fathers, this word is addressed first of all to us. Our people have a right to holy priests. Let us honestly examine our prayer, our use of time and money, our relationships, and our availability to the people, and let us not delay what the Lord asks of us.

The sick at the centre of our ministry. At Lourdes, the Pope met some 5,000 sick people and carers. He told them that suffering offered in love shares in Christ's redemptive work and that their place in the Church is irreplaceable. Against current trends that treat the sick and the elderly as a burden, he said that at the Grotto no one is turned away because of frailty, and he praised the French bishops for opposing the legalisation of assisted dying. Our own people are not untouched by these attitudes. The sick, the elderly and the dying must remain the first concern of every parish priest: regular visits, Holy Communion for the housebound, and the Anointing of the Sick administered in good time, not at the last moment.

The light of hope. As the pilgrims lifted their candles, the Holy Father said that the light guiding them is the light of hope, which never abandons us, even when life is full of trials. He recalled how Pope Pius XII marvelled that nowhere on earth was there such a procession of suffering, yet such radiance of peace and joy. People come to us carrying burdens. Our task is to give them that light.

The Rosary for peace. At the Angelus after Holy Mass, the Pope made an appeal he said was particularly close to his heart. Since Our Lady appeared to Bernadette with a rosary and guided her in prayer, he invited all the faithful and Christian communities to pray the Rosary throughout October "that wars may cease and that peace may be established among peoples in conflict." He asked that this prayer be accompanied by concrete acts of penance and mercy and by a commitment to dialogue and reconciliation. A worldwide week of prayer, begun with children at the Lourdes Grotto in the Vatican Gardens on 1 October, culminates on 7 October, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Our Marian Devotions

Dear Fathers, I ask you to make the Holy Father's appeal known in your parishes and institutions, and to lead your people in answering it. In particular:

1. **Your own Rosary first.** Before we ask our people to pray, let us pray. I request each priest to pray the full Rosary daily this month, for peace in the world and for the sanctification of the clergy of our Eparchy. Where possible, pray it with your assistant priests or the religious community near you.

2. **The Rosary in the parish.** Arrange the Rosary before the Holy Qurbana each day in October. Encourage every family unit to pray it together at least once a week and visit some of these gatherings yourself.
3. **Promote the Family Rosary.** In your Sunday homilies, explain the Pope's appeal and urge families to return to the evening Rosary. Encourage parents and grandparents to teach children the mysteries.
4. **Children for Peace.** Through the catechism teachers and school managers, let children offer a Rosary for peace during the week of 1 to 7 October, in union with the children who prayed with the Holy Father in Rome.
5. **Penance and mercy.** Make the Sacrament of Reconciliation more available this month, with extra hours of confession, especially before the feast of 7 October. Propose simple acts of penance and works of mercy and help heal quarrels in families and among neighbours.
6. **A day for the Sick.** Set aside one day in October to pray the Rosary with the sick of your parish, take Holy Communion to the housebound, and administer the Anointing of the Sick where needed.

Annual Retreat

Our annual priests' retreat will be held from 4 to 9 October 2026, and I will join you as I am returning from America. I thank all of you who used our thirty days of spiritual preparation well, as well as the religious and contemplative sisters and the sick who prayed for us. Providentially, the retreat falls during the week the Holy Father has set apart for the Rosary for peace, including the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. As Pope Leo reminded us at Lourdes, conversion must begin with the Church herself. Let us place ourselves under the Lord's purifying gaze and seek renewal in our first love for Christ and His people. Every priest is expected to attend, and anyone unable to attend for a serious reason should inform me in advance. Please give the phone number of Vicar General for emergency such as funerals and sick calls in your parish so that no one is left without pastoral care, and let us keep the silence of the retreat faithfully.

Eparchial Rosary Procession

This October our Eparchy will hold its 25th Eparchy-level Rosary procession, led by the Legion of Mary (Marian Senai). In this silver jubilee year, we thank God for the Legion's faithful apostolate and thank the priests who have served as their Spiritual Directors. As the Holy Father led a procession of light with Mary at Lourdes, let our procession be our own answer to the same invitation. I ask every parish priest to announce it in advance and encourage families, youth, children, religious, and associations to take part. Please support the Legion with transport and banners, and accompany your people yourself as far as possible, as we pray for peace in the world, for our families, our youth and the holiness of our priests.

Dear brother priests, the Holy Father went to Lourdes as a pilgrim among pilgrims, and he reminded the Church that Mary always leads us to her Son. Let us take the rosary into our own hands each day, so that we may lead our people with credibility. May this month, and our retreat, renew us in holiness, in joy and in closeness to the people entrusted to us.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Theological and Pastoral Formation of Catechists: The month of September 2026 witnessed a number of meaningful initiatives undertaken by Narcheithi Nilayam, for the ongoing formation and strengthening of catechism teachers. Particular emphasis was given to the effective implementation of the newly introduced Std. XI Catechism textbook and the systematic theological and pastoral formation of catechists through the Basic Training Programme – XI Batch. A special formation programme was organised for the catechism teachers of Std. XI on 6 September 2026. Since the newly introduced Std. XI Catechism textbook had been translated from Malayalam into Tamil and was being used for the first time, the programme aimed at familiarising the teachers with its content, structure, and methodology. Nearly 35 catechism teachers

participated in the programme. Rev. Fr. Dr. Christudas served as the resource person and guided the teachers through the various aspects of the new textbook. Particular attention was given to the effective presentation of the lessons and the catechetical approach required for the faith formation of the students. The programme proved to be a valuable opportunity for the teachers to gain greater confidence and clarity in undertaking their catechetical ministry. The XI Batch of the Basic Training Programme for Catechists was conducted at Soosaipuram on 14 September 2026. Nearly 30 catechism teachers participated in the day-long programme. The programme was jointly inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparambil, Forane Vicar, and Rev. Fr. Kuriyan Karuthedam, Forane Director. The participants were offered systematic formation through the following sessions: Introduction to Catechesis – Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, Initial Sacraments and Liturgy – Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvelil, Moral Theology: Ten Commandments, Virtue, Sin and Conscience – Rev. Fr. Shijo Aikkarakunnel. The sessions sought to deepen the participants' understanding of the Church's catechetical mission and to strengthen their theological, liturgical, and moral foundations. The active participation of the catechists contributed greatly to the fruitful conduct of the programme. The fourth session of the Basic Training Programme for Catechists – XI Batch was conducted at Soosaipuram on 27 September 2026, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The session was devoted to the theme "Sacraments of Healing", with Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathyanesan serving as the resource person. The session helped the catechists to deepen their understanding of the theological and pastoral significance of the Sacraments of Healing and to reflect on effective ways of communicating their meaning and grace to the faithful, particularly to children and young people entrusted to their catechetical care. The various programmes conducted during September reflect the continuing commitment of Narcheithi Nilayam to the integral formation of catechists who are called to participate in the Church's mission of transmitting and nurturing the faith. Through systematic biblical, theological, liturgical, moral, and pedagogical formation, the catechists are being better equipped to serve as faithful witnesses of Christ and committed collaborators in the evangelising mission of the Church. I thank Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, Catechism Director, for his dedicated efforts in successfully completing the Basic Training Programme.

Forane-Level Seminars for Uraviyam Leaders: Under the direction of the Diocesan Uraviyam Department, half-day retreat and orientation programmes were conducted at the Forane level for Uraviyam animators, leaders, and organizers from each parish. For Thuckalay Pilankalai Forane, the programme was held at Pilankalai Parish on 13 September 2026, with around 50 leaders in attendance. For Soosaipuram Forane, the seminar was held at Soosaipuram Forane Parish on 20 September 2026, with approximately 70 leaders participating. Rev Fr Antony Jose, the Coordinator of all pious associations participated and inaugurated the seminar. The Uraviyam handbook was introduced and explained well in the Seminar. Rev Fr Mijo Sebastian explained everything properly regarding the conduct of Uraviyams in a meaningful way. I extend my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurackal and the respective Forane Directors for organizing these programmes effectively and with great commitment.

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration at SABS Provincial House, Soosaipuram: With great joy and gratitude to God, it is reported that the SABS Sisters at their Provincial House, Soosaipuram, commenced Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration on 8 September 2026. The initiative has been progressing smoothly and has become a meaningful spiritual ministry within the Eparchy. Through this continuous Eucharistic Adoration, the Sisters offer themselves in prayer before Jesus Christ, truly present in the Most Holy Eucharist. Their prayer is offered in a particular spirit of reparation for the sins committed against the infinite love of God, as well as for the conversion of hearts, healing of families, sanctification of priests and religious, and the needs of the Church and the whole world. The Eucharistic Lord continues to invite us: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28) In the silence and sacred presence of the Eucharistic Lord, priests, religious and faithful are given a precious opportunity to deepen their relationship with Christ, entrust their intentions to Him, seek His mercy, and experience His peace and transforming

love. I request all the priests, religious and faithful of the Eparchy to make use of this grace-filled opportunity and spend some time in Eucharistic adoration. The faithful may contact Rev. Sr. Rose Martin SABS, Provincial Superior, to participate in this spiritual ministry according to their convenience. May this Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration deepen our Eucharistic faith, strengthen our prayer life, sanctify our families and communities, and make our Eparchy increasingly Eucharistic, prayerful and missionary. May the Eucharistic Lord abundantly bless our priests, religious, families and all the faithful.

Priests' Conference: The Priests' Conference of the Eparchy of Thuckalay was held on 16 September 2026 at Sangamam, bringing together the priests of the Eparchy for prayer, fraternity, reflection, and pastoral deliberation. The programme commenced with Holy Eucharistic Adoration, conducted by Rev. Fr. Sanjo Thenepackal. The time of adoration provided the priests with a grace-filled opportunity to remain in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord, renew their priestly commitment, and entrust the pastoral mission of the Eparchy to the Lord. The official meeting began at 11.00 a.m. with the invocation of the Holy Spirit, seeking His guidance and wisdom for the deliberations of the day. Rev. Fr. Antony Jose warmly welcomed the Vicar General and all the priests present. Following the welcome address, the Presbyterium Secretary, Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil, presented the minutes of the previous Priests' Conference. The minutes were duly approved by the members. Subsequently, the Directors of various diocesan departments presented reports on the activities undertaken in their respective departments, along with details of their forthcoming programmes and pastoral initiatives. These presentations enabled the members to review the ongoing pastoral activities of the Eparchy and to coordinate future programmes more effectively. As I was unable to be present, the meeting was presided over by the Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam. He also presented the important events and immediate pastoral programmes to be undertaken in the Eparchy and invited the priests to extend their wholehearted cooperation for their successful implementation. A significant part of the meeting was devoted to the preparations for the 30th Diocesan Day. The members discussed the proposed programme and the various arrangements required for its successful celebration. A team of priests was elected and entrusted with the responsibility of planning, coordinating, and proceeding with the preparations at the earliest. At the conclusion of the meeting, Rev. Fr. Thomas Jebanish expressed words of gratitude to the Vicar General and all the priests for their active participation, valuable contributions, and fraternal spirit. The meeting concluded with the blessing imparted by the Vicar General. The Priests' Conference served as a valuable occasion for prayer, fraternity, pastoral reflection, and collaborative planning, strengthening the spirit of communion among the priests and renewing their shared commitment to the mission of the Eparchy of Thuckalay.

Vocation Promotion Programme: A Vocation Promotion Programme was held at St. Mary's Church, Kaliyal, on Wednesday, 30 September 2026, with the aim of encouraging young people to prayerfully discern and respond to God's call to priestly and religious vocations. The programme commenced with registration at 9.15 a.m., followed by the inauguration at 9.30 a.m. by Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam CMI. The participants were actively engaged through action songs, talks, sharing sessions and recreational activities. Rev. Fr. Bright of Kuzhithurai Diocese delivered the first talk, followed by a second talk by another resource person. After lunch, Rev. Fr. Sanjo Thenepackal, Diocesan Vocation Promoter, shared his experiences and encouraged the participants to remain open to God's call and to discern their vocation with faith and courage. The programme also included games and fellowship, which created a joyful and fraternal atmosphere among the participants. At the conclusion of the programme, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose delivered the concluding message. He encouraged the participants to listen attentively to God's voice, to cultivate a life of prayer and to generously respond to the vocation to which the Lord calls each one. The entire programme was organised and coordinated by Rev. Fr. Mijo Sebastian, Forane Vocation Director, with the collaboration and support of Rev. Fr. Sanjo Thenepackal, Diocesan Vocation Director. Their dedicated efforts contributed greatly to the successful and meaningful conduct of the programme. I sincerely express my gratitude to Rev. Fr. Mijo Sebastian, Forane Vocation Director, and Rev. Fr. Sanjo Thenepackal, Diocesan Vocation Director, for their commitment, initiative and dedicated service in organising this vocation promotion programme. May

the Lord bless their ministry and use their efforts to inspire many young people to generously discern and respond to His call.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

In Memoriam – Mrs. Mariyamma Joseph: Mrs. Mariyamma Joseph, aged 68, the beloved sister of Sr. Deepthi FCC, presently a member of Kattathurai Convent, slept in the Lord on 11 September 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Deepthi and her family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant her eternal joy and everlasting peace.

Cathedral Fund Raising Meeting: Cathedral Fund-Raising Meeting was held on 14 September 2026 at Padanthalumoodu, with the participation of the members of the Curia. The meeting was convened to review the present status of the construction of the Cathedral and to discuss ways and means of mobilising the necessary financial resources for its continuation. The meeting commenced with a prayer led by Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, who also extended a warm welcome to all the members gathered for the meeting. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam and Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpuraikal presented a detailed report of the current status of the Cathedral construction, highlighting the progress already made and the financial requirements for carrying forward the remaining works. The members attentively considered the report and discussed various possibilities for raising funds for the timely completion of the Cathedral. After a fruitful and active discussion, it was decided to organise a lottery prize event as one of the fund-raising initiatives. The members suggested that lottery coupons could be distributed among the faithful and that the proceeds from the coupons could contribute significantly towards the Cathedral construction. Accordingly, the prizes and the amount to be collected through the coupons were discussed and finalised. It was further decided that the lottery books would be printed and published during October 2026, immediately after the Priests' Retreat. The lottery books would then be distributed to all the parishes of the Eparchy according to the respective number of parishioners. The collected coupon amounts and the corresponding details are to be returned by 30 November 2026. The lottery draw is scheduled to be held on 20 December 2026. The initiative is intended not merely as a fund-raising programme but also as a collective expression of the love, ownership and commitment of the faithful towards the Cathedral, which is being built as the spiritual heart and visible symbol of the Eparchy. The meeting concluded with a spirit of unity and shared responsibility.

Grateful for God's Abundant Blessings: I joyfully thank and praise Almighty God for the abundant blessings, graces, and mercies that I have received throughout the past fourteen years of my episcopal ministry and service in the Diocese of Thuckalay. My episcopal motto, "With God, All Things Are Possible," has been a constant source of strength and hope. I have truly experienced the loving providence of God from the time of my call to the Catholic faith, through the precious gift of my priestly vocation with the Salesians of Don Bosco, and ultimately to my being called to shepherd the Diocese of Thuckalay as its second Bishop. With a grateful heart, I acknowledge and sincerely thank all the priests and religious who serve in our diocese and who have journeyed with me in fulfilling the mission entrusted to me as the second shepherd of this local Church. Every encounter and every experience shared with you has been an opportunity for me to learn, grow, and remain faithful to our common mission. I have learned much from your love for the Church, your concern for our people, and your generous commitment to the mission entrusted to us. Your dedicated lives and selfless service continue to inspire and encourage me. Each one of you has contributed generously to the growth and mission of our Diocese through your faithful service and wholehearted dedication. I earnestly appeal to you to continue offering your prayerful and selfless support as we carry forward the mission entrusted to us by Our Lord Jesus Christ in our diocese. Your constant cooperation, encouragement, and support have been invaluable to me, and I deeply appreciate them. On the occasion of my Episcopal Ordination Anniversary on 16 September 2026, I express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your prayers, greetings, affectionate wishes, and fraternal love. May Almighty God

continue to bless you abundantly and strengthen all of us to serve His Church and His people with renewed faith, love, and dedication.

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul: The Feast of St. Vincent de Paul was celebrated with devotion in all the parishes of the Diocese on 27 September 2026. The celebration highlighted the saint's deep love for the poor and his spirit of compassionate service. The St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to carry out numerous charitable and social activities in our Diocese, reaching out to the poor, the sick, and those in need with love and concern. We sincerely thank all the members for their dedicated and compassionate service. As an expression of our commitment to social responsibility, all those who wish to join in this charitable mission are invited to participate in the cleaning service at Government Hospital, Edaicode, on 2 October 2026. May the example of St. Vincent de Paul inspire us to see Christ in every person in need and to serve with love and humility.

In Memoriam – Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew Kurikilottil: Mrs. Aleyamma Mathew, aged 92, the beloved Mother of Sr. Anupa FCC, presently a member of Chenamcode Convent, slept in the Lord on 19 September 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Anupa FCC and her family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant her eternal joy and everlasting peace.

Palliyogam – Procedure Rules: The Second Edition of the Palliyogam – Procedure Rules, incorporating the latest amendments of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, was released in our Diocese on 22 September 2026. All Parish Priests and concerned members are kindly requested to obtain copies of the revised Palliyogam – Procedure Rules and carefully follow the prescribed instructions, procedures, and norms. Adherence to these updated rules will greatly contribute to the proper, transparent, and smooth administration of our parishes, in accordance with the ecclesial norms of the Syro-Malabar Church.

October – The Month of the Holy Rosary: The month of October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a beautiful prayer through which we contemplate the mysteries of the life, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, together with Mother Mary. The Rosary is a prayer of faith, hope and love that draws us closer to Christ and opens our hearts to God's grace. Through the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we entrust our families, our Diocese, the Church and the whole world to the loving mercy of God. I earnestly invite every member of our Diocese to make the Holy Rosary a daily prayer during this month and to offer it especially for the well-being, peace and sanctification of all people, for our families, the sick and suffering, vocations, the Church and the needs of our Diocese. Let us rediscover the power of this simple yet profound prayer and experience the peace and grace that flow from praying with Mary and contemplating the life of Jesus. As we do every year, we shall have our Diocesan Rosary Procession this year on Sunday, 25 October 2026, at 2.00 p.m., beginning from St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai, and proceeding to Seenai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. I warmly invite all priests, religious, families, youth, children and faithful of our Diocese to participate in this prayerful procession. Let us walk together with Mary, united in faith and prayer, seeking her maternal intercession and the abundant grace of her Son, Jesus Christ. "Hail Mary, full of grace..." Let these words resound throughout our Diocese and become a source of blessing, peace and hope for every family. May Our Blessed Mother, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, intercede for us and lead us ever closer to Jesus.

October – Mission Month in the Syro-Malabar Church: As we journey together as the family of the Syro-Malabar Church, the month of October is observed as Mission Month, in accordance with the decision of the Syro-Malabar Synod. This month offers us a precious opportunity to renew our missionary spirit and to rediscover the joy of sharing the love of Christ with those around us. During October 2026, each Sunday will be observed with a special missionary focus:

4 October 2026 – Mission of the Universal Church: Let us pray for the missionary mission of the Universal Church and remember with gratitude all those who proclaim the Gospel and serve God's people in different parts of the world.

11 October 2026 – Mission of the Syro-Malabar Church: Let us reflect upon the missionary vocation of our own Church and pray that every member of the Syro-Malabar community may grow in missionary zeal and become a joyful witness to Christ.

18 October 2026 – World Mission Sunday: Mission of the Eparchies: Let us pray especially for the missionary activities of our Eparchies and support them generously through our prayers, sacrifices and contributions. May our Eparchies continue to reach out with the compassion and mercy of Christ.

25 October 2026 – Mission of Parishes, Families and Individuals: Let us remember that the mission of the Church begins in our own homes and communities. May every parish, every family and every individual become a living presence of Christ, especially among those who are poor, suffering, lonely or in need.

As we celebrate this Mission Month, I warmly encourage every parish to form a Missionaries Group. Let this group become a prayerful and active missionary presence in the parish, bringing together those who are willing to serve, reach out to others and participate in various missionary and charitable activities. May our parishes become communities where no one feels forgotten, our families become places where faith is joyfully lived and shared, and each one of us becomes a missionary through our daily lives. Let us walk together in this missionary journey, trusting in the grace of God and inspired by the words of our Lord: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." (Mark 16:15). May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelization, accompany us and intercede for us, so that our Mission Month may bear abundant spiritual fruit and renew the missionary spirit of our entire Church.

Diocesan Legal Aid Centre: A Legal Aid Centre has been established in our Diocese, with its office situated opposite to the Kuzhithurai Court Complex. Rev. Fr. Printo Kurias has been appointed as its Director. The Centre seeks to extend legal advice, guidance and assistance to those who are in need, especially the poor and the vulnerable. I warmly encourage all our Fathers to make use of this service for our people whenever necessary. Kindly obtain the leaflet containing the details of the Centre's services from Rev Fr Printo Kurias and benefit from this pastoral initiative of our Diocese.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

4 – 9 October	-	Annual Retreat for Priests
18 October	-	World Mission Sunday Celebration
25 October	-	Diocesan Rosary Procession

Priests' Annual Retreat 2026

Date: 04 - 09 October 2026

Place: Sangamam, Thuckalay

Please prepare spiritually for the retreat and pray for the preacher and its success

DIOCESAN ROSARY PROCESSION – 2026

(Silver Jubilee Year of Legion of Mary)

Date: 25.10.2026

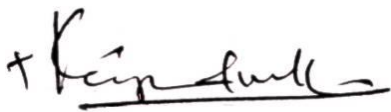
Place: Kattathurai to Kalluvilai

CONCLUSION

October is also the Mission Month, and this year, as you are aware, our Syro-Malabar Church joins the universal Church in celebrating the 100th World Mission Day on Sunday, 18 October 2026, a century after Pope Pius XI established it in 1926. In fact, we observe the entire month of October as the Mission Month. For his message, Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme “One in Christ, united in mission.” He reminds us that the more closely we are united to Christ, the better we can carry out together the mission He entrusts to us, and that “no baptised person is exempt from or indifferent to mission.” For our Church, born of the apostolic faith of St Thomas and sending missionaries across India and the world, this call to unity and mission is especially close to our hearts. Two days before Mission Sunday, we keep the feast of Bl. Kunjachan, a humble missionary of the poor and a model for every priest. Let us encourage our people to pray for our missionaries, priests, and religious working in mission territories, and to contribute generously to the Mission.

May our Blessed Mother intercede for each one of us!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ **George Rajendran SDB**

Bishop of Thuckalay



DIocese of Thuckalay

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