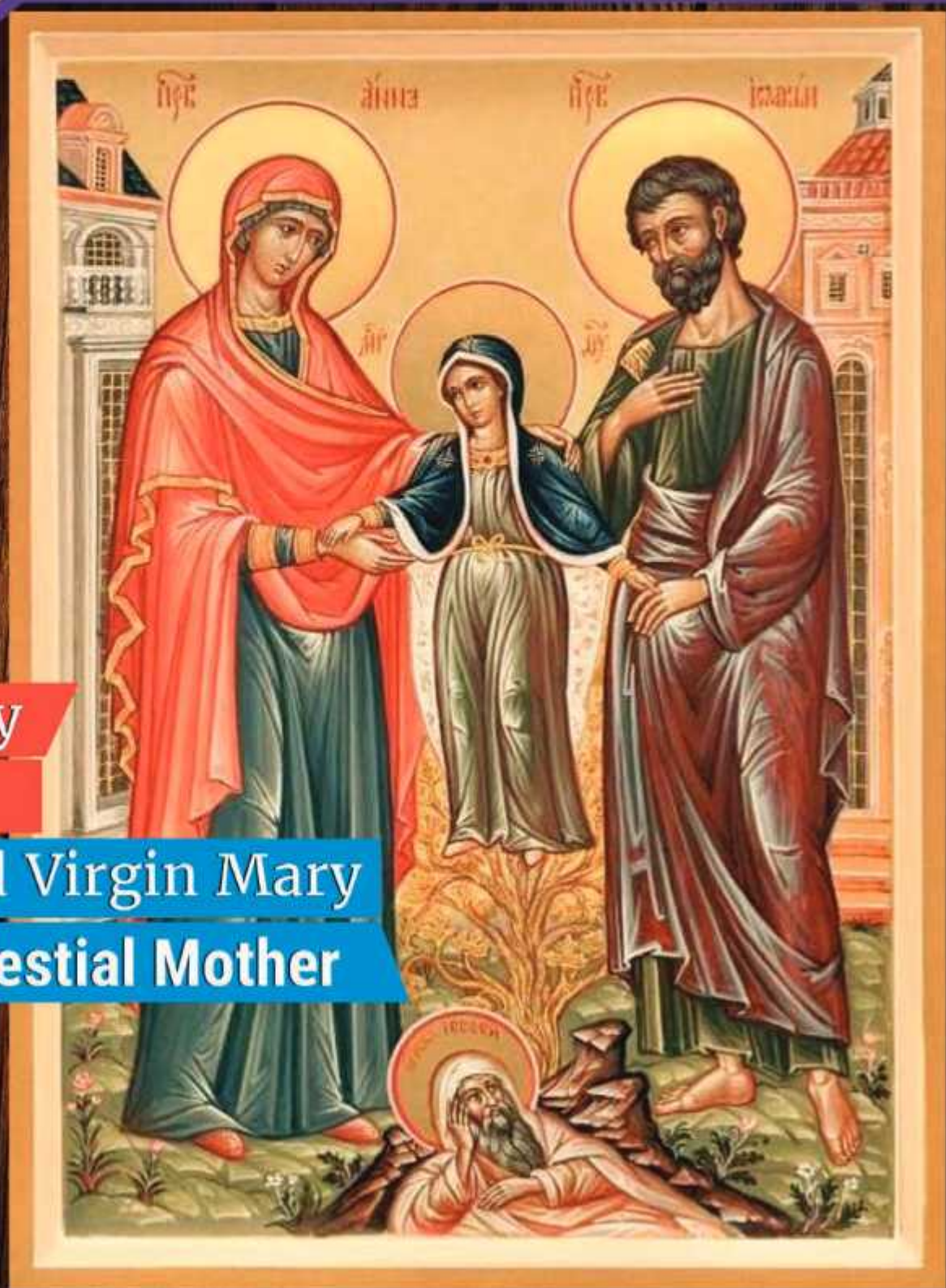


# THUCKALAY TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2021 | VOL. 1 | ISSUE 7

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



Nativity  
of

Blessed Virgin Mary  
Our Celestial Mother



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### THUCKALAY TIDINGS

September 2021 | Vol. 1 | Issue 7

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Mr. S Shajan  
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P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
Kanyakumari District,  
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#### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Mr. Y. R. Dominic  
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# INSIDE STORY

- ➔ Message from the Bishop 3
- ➔ Vianney Day Celebration 4
- ➔ Vianney Day Competition 5
- ➔ Commencement of Academic Year  
- Sinai Theological Centre 6
- ➔ Blessing of Fathima Matha Church Kudukachivilai 6
- ➔ Thenkasi Mission and Palliative Care 7
- ➔ Eternal Bliss for Rev. Sr Canicia SH 8
- ➔ Bishop's Meeting with SH Sisters 9
- ➔ UCC Meeting with District Collector 9
- ➔ Eye Care Camp at Vayalinkarai 10
- ➔ Medical Kit Distribution 10
- ➔ Syro-Malabar Synod 11
- ➔ TNBC Health Care Commission's Training 11
- ➔ Today's Prophet - Fr Stan Swamy 12
- ➔ Eparchial Level Cricket Tournament 12
- ➔ Blessing of the Door Step of St. Joseph's Church,  
Kunnuvilai 13
- ➔ Silver Jubilee Housing Project: Home for the  
Homeless 13
- ➔ Recollection for Seminarians 14
- ➔ Mathrujyothis and Our Blessed Mother 15
- ➔ Vocation and Mission 16
- ➔ Knowing A Mission This Month 18
- ➔ Celebrating the Anointment and Vows 20



**DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**  
**BISHOP'S HOUSE**  
P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175



## Message

**Dear Friends and Well-wishers of Thuckalay Diocese,**

We Catholics have a wonderful occasion to celebrate every year on 8th September, an important day for our lives as children who wish to meet the Mother of the Universal Church with hearts full of joy to wish her Happy Birthday. It is our privilege to have a Mother in whom we can find refuge especially at times of trials and difficulties. Mother Mary awaits for us and welcomes us together with her Son Jesus to show us the way to the full realization of our human and Christian existence which consists in reaching the goal of the journey of faith - holiness. It is a journey lived with faith and the image of the journey is the most suitable to signify the existential condition of man on earth, the continuous evolution of one's life just as a path to advance towards God, but also towards oneself.

We live in a time marked by strong contradictions and we need sure references that indicate the route of the journey. Man, sure of one's own existential path, has today been replaced by the temporary man, uncertain and disoriented, prey to the crisis of values. There are few, and often isolated, voices that indicate the route, the meaning of life, which question about good and evil, about right and wrong, about true and false, about living and dying.

The Virgin Mary is the star who guides our human and Christian journey and leads it, day after day, to its full

maturity. On special days dedicated as the feast of our Celestial Mother, we have a special dialogue with her in our prayer; let us open our hearts to her as earthly children to perceive the true joy and our Mother shall surely assist us in the journey of life with her maternal tenderness. When we are true, she does not let us fall; we remain steadily on the ground and often she carries us in her arms. Conversing with her consoles us, frees us and sanctifies us.

Our Heavenly Mother does not need many words; we need not try too hard to explain to her what is happening to us. It is enough to whisper Ave, O Maria (Hail Mary), she will hold us in her caressing arms. Mary, the sublime image of God's paternal and maternal love, invites us not to be discouraged by our frailties, not to interrupt our journey, but to proceed with ever more decisive steps for the construction of the Kingdom of God, aided and supported by her grace.

I sincerely wish many blessings through Blessed Virgin Mary and Happy Feast of the Nativity of our Mother.

May God continue to bless us all through the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

Yours affectionately,

+ **George Rajendran sdb**  
*Bishop of Thuckalay*





## Vianney Day Celebration

The feast of St. John Maria Vianney, patron of all the priests, especially the Diocesan priests, was observed in the Diocese in a meaningful way. As in other years, this year too all the priests and seminarians gathered in St. Mary's Minor Seminary on 4 August, 2021. The program began at 9.30 am with a prayer service. The minor seminarians took the initiative to conduct the entire program of the day. They welcomed all the priests and organised various events for them including the cultural program.





## Vianney Day Competition

Vianney Day is a wonderful moment for all priests to get together and feel one as a Diocesan Fraternity and entertain each other with competitions and events. A volley ball match between the priests and the minor seminarians was organised to commemorate the day. Although both teams played the match well, the seminarians overcame the stiff challenge from their role models and won the trophy.



## Commencement of Academic Year Sinai Theological Centre

The Sinai Theological Centre in the Diocese gives doctrinal and spiritual training to the religious sisters, religious candidates and lay leaders. The classes for the degree and diploma courses resumed with inauguration of the academic year on 1 August 2021. There are 18 new students who have joined for the two-year diploma course. The simple inaugural ceremony was held at Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) campus in the presence of all the students and professors. Rev. Fr Sathianesan, Director of Sinai Theological Centre, welcomed the gathering and presented a detailed report of the activities. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb inaugurated the new academic year and encouraged the students to listen to the voice of the Lord and become defenders of faith and morals of the Church.



## Blessing of Fathima Matha Church Kudukachivilai

The Fathima Matha Church Kudukachivilai mission had its humble beginning in 2015 in a make-shift house. Fr Subin Scaria, Parish Priest of the Mission, with the help of the parishioners and some generous benefactors, began the work of renovation of the church. A beautiful Mondolam was built and a well-designed Madubaha with new altar were constructed. The Church was consecrated by Mar George Rajendran sdb on 12 August, 2021 in the presence of many priests, religious and faithful of the Parish.





## Thenkasi Mission and Palliative Care

Our Thenkasi Mission has been actively involved in the healing mission for last 20 years through its dispensaries. There are a number of bed ridden patients in the area and the Diocese felt the need for extending our services through palliative care in an organized manner with a mobile palliative care unit. The nurse Rev. Sr Helen DSHS and Rev. Sr Libia FCC have been entrusted with the task of carrying out this mission. On 28 August 2021, after the meeting with the missionaries, Mar George Rajendran sdb blessed and inaugurated the mobile palliative care unit. It has been planned to visit the families in the villages twice a week and provide the service.


On this day a monthly recollection was being organized for the missionaries of Thenkasi Mission. During the meeting that followed the recollection, the new religious sisters, Rev. Sr Anchu DSHS, Rev. Sr Alphonsa FCC and Rev. Sr Clare FCC were formally welcomed. Rev. Fr Thomas Thuckalay, coordinator of the mission, gave a comprehensive overview of the activities in the mission and urged the members to plan well for the silver jubilee of the inauguration of Thenkasi Mission. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb encouraged the missionaries, especially urged upon the new missionaries to learn Tamil language and to inculturate with the people of the area.



### NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

Please write the following and send SMS


 +91 94871 65903:

Name: .....

Place: .....

Intentions: .....

In detail you wish to express,

 : [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)

## Eternal Bliss for Rev. Sr Canicia SH

The Diocese of Thuckalay is grieved to announce the passing away of our dear Rev. Sr. Canicia from the Sacred Heart Congregation on 20 August 2021. Rev. Sr. Canicia has been one of our pioneer missionaries. She was admitted at the Medical Centre Hospital, Kottayam and was undergoing treatment for some days.

Rev. Sr Canicia SH reached our mission territory in 1969 and worked with great zeal and enthusiasm for 52 years. She loved the then Kanyakumari Mission and now the Thuckalay Diocese. All of us are aware that the early life in the mission was rather very tough. But with great commitment she visited families and prepared the faithful for the reception of the sacraments. The salvation of souls was her only concern and whenever she met people she would speak about spiritual matters. Rev. Sr Canicia had a kind heart and felt one with the poor and the needy. She learnt Tamil well and became a teacher at Holy Family School, Mukkoottukal. She was the first Headmistress of the school and served in that post for 13 years. Rev. Sr Canicia used to visit the families and encourage the parents to send their children to school.

Rev. Sr Canicia was a very happy religious and would make sure that everyone in her company was happy too. She was a person without guile. She loved priests and helped them in their pastoral and spiritual ministries.

The funeral of Rev. Sr Canicia SH was held at Parel, Changanacherry on 21 August 2021. Many priests and sisters from Thuckalay accompanied His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb, who presided over the funeral ceremony and bid farewell to the departed soul. The Diocese of Thuckalay is grateful to the Sacred Heart Congregation and family of Rev. Sr Canicia for sending her to the Thuckalay Mission.



**Rev. Sr. Canicia SH**

Born	: 12-02-1946
First Profession	: 18-04-1966
Final Profession	: 31-05-1971
Died	: 20-08-2021





## Bishop's Meeting with SH Sisters

Rev. Sr Amala SH, Provincial of St. Mathew's Province Changanacherry of the Sacred Heart Congregation had been making her visitation in all the communities in the Diocese of Thuckalay. She completed her visitation on 30 August 2021. The provincial had organized a meeting with the leaders of communities at Kazhuvanthittai Convent. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb attended the meeting and participated in the sharing, evaluation and discussion on religious life and pastoral activities of SH Sisters in the Diocese.



## UCC Meeting with District Collector

In the wake of the arrest Rev. Fr George Ponnaiya, a priest from the Diocese of Kuzhithurai alleging him to have delivered a hate speech and subsequent denial of bail, the United Christian Council (UCC) of Kanyakumari District decided to present a memorandum to the District Collector for his intervention in getting the release of Rev. Fr George Ponnaiya. Although he was given bail by the High Court, the UCC members went ahead to meet the Collector in order to express our solidarity and oneness as Christians. The meeting was held on 10 August 2021. There were 15 Church leaders who handed over a memorandum to the District Collector. The members assured the District Collector that they would give full support and cooperation in maintaining peace and harmony in the district.



## Eye Care Camp at Vayalinkarai



An Eye Care camp was organised by Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese of Thuckalay at St. Antony's Church, Vayalinkarai on 17 September 2021. Adequate awareness had been created through the animators of Self Help Groups being managed by the Society. It was very encouraging to see that sixty-five persons, both young and old benefited from the eye care camp.

## Medical Kit Distribution

Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) has been taking initiatives to mitigate the suffering of the people during the pandemic. KKSSS had been involved in several activities at different levels such as the hospitals, families and communities. It has contributed 10 sets of medical kit which includes Pulse Oximeter, Vaporizer, Thermometer, Sanitizer and Vitamin Tablets to the Department of Social Work, Malankara Catholic College, Mariyagiri in Kanyakumari District.



## Syro-Malabar Synod

The Syro-Malabar Bishops' Synod was held online from 16-27 August 2021. For the success of the Synod our beloved Major Archbishop, His Eminence Mar George Cardinal Allenchery had earlier exhorted the entire Syro-Malabar Church to observe one-month of prayer from 27 July to 27 August. Among other important matters of discussion and decision, on the advice of the Holy Father and the Congregation of Oriental Churches, the Synod decided to make the celebration of the Holy Qurbana uniform in the entire Church. The uniformity in the Holy Qurbana is to be implemented in all the Dioceses from 28 November 2021. The Liturgical Commission of each Diocese would study the new text of the Holy Qurbana and take necessary steps following the direction of the Synod.



## TNBC Health Care Commission's Training

His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb is the Chairman of the TNBC Health Care Commission. He convened a training program for the secretaries of all Tamilnadu catholic dioceses on 24 and 25 August 2021 at Poondi. From Thuckalay diocese a team of 11 nurse Sisters and two lay people took part in the TNBC Health Care Commission's Training of Trainers' Programme at Poondi Matha Retreat Centre. Rev. Fr Abin Poovathumootil, Director, KKSSS and Secretary of DHU led the participations of three dioceses in Kanyakumari district to Poondi.



## Today's Prophet - Fr Stan Swamy



Thuckalay Catholic Youth Movement (TCYM), in collaboration with the Department of Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue of our Diocese, organized a social awareness seminar on Fr Stan Swamy - Today's Prophet on 7 August 2021 at Sangamam, pastoral centre of the Diocese. It was organized to create awareness among our people, particularly the youth, on the issues on Social Justice. The main resource persons were Rev. Fr Maria Alphonse, Rev. Fr Wilson, Mr Boss and Mrs Sankundala. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb welcomed the gathering. Fr Santhosh presented paper entitled "The Need of Prophets in Today's World. There were more than sixty participants, mostly youth and prominent personalities from our Diocese. There was a panel discussion on how to be prophets today by taking forward the mission left by Fr Stan Swamy.

## Eparchial Level Cricket Tournament

The Christ King Parish, Palapallam, on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee, in collaboration with Thuckalay Catholic Youth Movement (TCYM), organised a Diocese Level Cricket Tournament. There were 18 teams from different parishes of the Diocese who took part in the Tournament. The tournament was organized in the playground of St Alphonsa College of Arts and Science, Soosaipuram, Karinkal. The players were very happy to participate in the event.



## Blessing of the Door Step of St. Joseph's Church, Kunnuvilai



The faithful of St. Joseph's Church, Kunnuvilai have been very fervent in their faith and active in pious Catholic practices. They have made efforts to construct a Church for their worship. With support from benefactors and friends, the construction of the Church had started and His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb blessed the door step of the Church on 16 August 2021 in the presence of Rev Fr Augustine Thalodil and the faithful of the Parish. The faithful seek the prayerful support of all for the completion of the Church.

## Silver Jubilee Housing Project Home for the Homeless

The Dioceses of Thuckaly in collaboration with Save A Family Plan, began the construction of ten houses at Karodu, Bengiri, Annikarai, Vayalinkarai, Munchirai, Mankarai, and Soosaipuram. Happy to see the progress of the construction and smile on the faces of those families.





## Recollection for Seminarians

The Regency and minor Seminary brothers had their monthly recollection on 13 & 14 August, 2021 at St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukuttooal. Rev. Fr Peter Kizhakel helped the seminarians to listen to the voice of God on these two days. The recollection and prayer ended the second day with adoration and confession. The Church continues to long for more vocations to priesthood and religious life.

## PARTICIPATE

# in the Mission of the Church

- Join us in promoting vocation to priesthood.
- Come forward, sponsor the education and maintenance of a seminarian.
- Let us join hands and send disciples to the end of the world; we need to make Jesus known through the length and breadth of the world.
- Future of the Church depends on the availability of selfless, committed and pastoral priests.
- Pope Francis said, "No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. Did not Jesus say: 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (Jn 13:35)?"
- You can join God's Mission by helping in the preparation for priesthood.
- With a generous heart, please support the formation of Seminarians.
- We assure our prayers for your well-being.
- It takes about Rs. 40,000/- approximately per year for the education and maintenance of a seminarian.
- The Seminarian you sponsor will remain a spiritual child to you and to your family throughout his years of formation and later as a priest and he shall constantly pray for all your intentions.

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

### **Postal Address:**

Bishop's House, PB. 12, Thuckalay,  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

### **Contact Mission Procure:**

Rev. Fr Robin Jose  
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;  
Email: [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)

## Mathrujyothis and Our Blessed Mother



The Diocese celebrates the Nativity of our Blessed Mother in a special way every September. Using the pandemic situation and the related restrictions, the Mathrujyothis of the Diocese organized an online fancy dress competition for the members on 26 August 2021 on the theme "Our Blessed Mother Mary". The members were asked to take photographs of their presentation and send the same to the coordinators. The event was organised Forane-wise and prizes distributed. The active participation and creativity have been praiseworthy.

## VOCATION AND MISSION

**Rev. Fr Sebastian Mancherikkalam**

*A Pioneering Alleviator of Suffering*



Looking back at the mysterious ways that the Lord has guided and blessed the Diocese of Thuckalay, we render thanks to the Lord for His abundant blessings through different persons and their important interventions and activities. Rev. Fr Sebastian Mancherikkalam was born on 09 September 1936 at Vazhappally in Changanacherry as the fourth child to Joseph and Mary. After his college studies at the age 20, Sebastian joined in the Changanacherry Minor Seminary. It was his long desire to become a priest even though he waited long to enter a seminary for formation. After the two years of initial minor seminary formation, he joined St. Joseph's Seminary, Alwaye for Philosophy and later Theology studies. Long seven years of the formation at Alwaye Seminary inspired him a lot to dedicate his life totally for the poor and the afflicted. Thus the zeal for the mission started blooming in his heart, which later fructified in Kanyakumari Mission and Thuckalay Diocese. After being ordained in 1966, Rev. Fr. Sebastian served at St. Thomas Parish Church in Nalukodi, Chanagancherry as Assistant Parish Priest and he moved to Changanacherry Minor Seminary for teaching. Mar Joseph Perumthottam, present Archbishop of Changanacherry had been his student in the Minor Seminary. After two years of service at the Minor Seminary, Mar Mathew Kavukatt, then Archbishop of Changanacherry sent him to the Kanyakumari Mission as the parish priest of Amalapuri Mission in Nithiravilai in the year 1969. Besides Nithiravilai, he was engaged to look after the missions at Varuthatt and Vayalinkarai. Christurajapuram mission is the fruit of his tireless service in the coastal areas.

As Rev. Fr Sebastian was very brilliant in studies while he was at the Major Seminary that he was sent to United States of America to for higher studies in the year 1973. After one year, he returned to Nithiravilai and continued mission services at different places in the district of Kanyakumari. People remember him as a very young and energetic person and felt that the people were in need of such a dynamic leader for their progress. In the year 1981, he was transferred back to Chanagancherry and rendered his services in different places.

It is quite long since his service here in the Diocese of Thuckalay, but even today we hear the echoes of the Good News, which he preached at every corner of this mission land. Without any discrimination of caste, creed or language, he worked hard for the betterment of a society which was in need of a pastor of Jesus Christ. Due to his looks, people used to call him as Thadiswami (Priest with beard). This friendly rapport with the people helped him to involve closely in the ordinary life of the people to get them out of superstitious beliefs and practices, spiritual crisis, family issues and so on. He started pious associations like Vincent De Paul Society, Catechism and Family Associations in different parishes which had a great influence among the people who were just converted to Christianity. He was very attentive to the needs of the people and realised that education of the people is the key to progress and therefore, he paid special attention to the school dropouts. To emphasize the importance of the higher education among the youth, he had started many scholarship programs with the help of his friends and relatives.



Rev. Fr Sebastian reflected and realised that the ordinary and poor people were to be relieved of their suffering and misery for concentration in spiritual life and practices. It was the motive behind the opening of the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the then Kanyakumari Mission of the Archdiocese of Chanagancherry and now the Diocese of Thuckalay. Even at the initial stages of the mission to help out the poor and the afflicted, the KKSSS undertook lots of pioneering activities. Among the various initiatives undertaken by the KKSSS, one of the most important was “the food for work” programme. It may be inconceivable today, but it could assist in the alleviation of hunger among the poor people.

Rev. Fr Sebastian created the awareness and the opportunity for even poor people to make micro savings from their daily wages. Another important difficulty was the unemployment existing among the people especially among the youth. To resolve at least the immediate emergencies of the local people, he started a printing press to offer job opportunities at Amala Auditorium in Nithiravilai. His tireless service was not only limited to the Christians but to people of all faiths. People at Nithiravilai still remember him for the hard work behind to establish a post office at Nithiravilai.

His family visits were very special for his direct entry to the kitchen to experience the poverty of the people and to help them out. He was simple but strict to himself with a disciplined personal life. He never hesitated to correct people for their mistakes. When the Kanyakumari Mission was elevated as the Diocese of Thuckalay, he came back to serve the Diocese in 1997, serving as the Parish Priest of Padanthalumodu and Thettiyodu. He returned to Changanacherry in



2002 and served in various capacities at different places. Rev. Fr Sebastian Mancherikkalam presently resides at Ithithanam Priests Home after his service at St. Mary's Church, Mundupalam, Changanacherry. About four years back, Fr. Sebastian visited some of the mission stations he worked in the Diocese and he was welcomed wholeheartedly by the senior faithful and people in the area who continue to cherish the contributions he has made in their spiritual and economic development.

The smiling face of Rev. Fr Sebastian continues to brighten the faces of other elderly inmates in the Priests Home. Spiritual thirst, hard work, selfless service and firm prayer life are some of the key life's example that Rev. Fr Sebastian Mancherikkalam continues to exhibit for us Christians.





## KNOWING A MISSION THIS MONTH

### St Alphonsa Holy Shrine Church

#### *First Shrine of St. Alphonsa in Tamilnadu with Abundant Blessings*

**O**ver the last 50 years and more Syro-Malabar Catholic Christians from Vilavancode and Kalkulam Taluk as well as from many parts of Kerala have settled down in Nagercoil town and adjoining places in small numbers for reasons such as profession, business, plantation, employment and education of children. The number of such migrants is ever on the increase. Syro-Malabar Catholic Christians (Syrian Catholics), wherever they are, have been keen on retaining their distinct Catholic and cultural identity.

In the initial years, since there was no Church to assist them in the practice of faith in the Syro-Malabar tradition, they had felt a vacuum within them, leading them to face a number of problems. They had to return to their native parishes for the conduct of religious ceremonies like baptism and marriage. They went through serious mental and emotional pressure when there was a death of a dear one, when no Churches in Nagercoil accepted to conduct the funeral services or provide spaces in the cemeteries. They had to again get the help of far away Syro-Malabar parishes to come to their assistance. There had been instances when the bereaved family approaches the native parishes, the corpse would not be accepted there because of the long severance from the mother parish and such occasions left ineffaceable and painful memories in the minds of Syrian Catholic Christians living in Nagercoil.

The only means of solving these problems was to have a church in their own rite at Nagercoil. Since 1971, under the guidance of the elders of the community, Syrian Catholics used to assemble at the home of one of the members and invite priests belonging to their rite from distant places to perform religious ceremonies and the Holy mass. This kind of worship continued for several years. One of these priests belonging to the Kanyakumari Mission of the

Changanassery Archdiocese, Rev. Fr. Damian Thuruthumaliyil took up residence at Bharathinagar, Nagercoil, which is very near the place where Alphonsa Church is situated now. He organized the Syrian Catholic community in and around Nagercoil and rendered them pastoral care from 1985 to 1988. Under his guidance Syrian Catholics submitted a memorandum to the Archbishop of Changanacherry to provide them with a Church and a vicar. Realizing their genuine needs and their painful condition, His Excellency Archbishop Mar Joseph Powathil took a sympathetic view of their genuine need and bought a piece of land at A.R.P. Camp Road, Nagercoil and constructed a building for worship and other religious ceremonies of Syrian Catholics and for strengthening their fellowship among themselves, named it after Blessed Alphonsa and today the same has grown into a vibrant community of Syrian Catholics of St. Alphonsa Shrine Church, Nagercoil.

St Alphonsa Shrine Church is located in the Alphonsa Nagar, A. R.P. Camp Road, Nagercoil. It was indeed a dream that came true for the Syro-Malabar Catholics of Nagercoil and surrounding areas when His Grace Mar Joseph Powathil, Archbishop of Changanacherry, kindly granted them a church in answer to their prayer. A plot of 44 cents in ARP Camp Road was acquired by the Archdiocese and a community hall cum Mission Centre was constructed under the supervision of Rev. Fr. Mathew Vakkayil, Mission Coordinator of Kanyakumari District. The building was blessed on 10th September 1989 by Rev. Fr. Mathew Vakkayil and was named Bl. Alphonsa Mission Centre and Community Hall. Rev Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil took charge as the Vicar, opening a new chapter for the spiritual guidance of the Syro-Malabar faithful in the area. Rev. Fr. Mathew Odalani succeeded Rev. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil in 1992 and served the community with great enthusiasm for one year.



Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil took charge as Vicar on 17th February 1993. He contacted Syro-Malabar members who were living in and around Nagercoil and not attending Church services. The constant visits and invitations resulted in forming a vibrant community. While the number of faithful had increased, the need for a spacious church became a priority. The Renovated Church was blessed on 13th August 1993 by His Grace Mar Joseph Powathil. Until then the Holy Mass had been celebrated on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only. Later on, Holy Qurbana was celebrated on all days and most of the faithful started attending the daily Qurbana before their busy day's schedule.

Meanwhile in 1990, the Archdiocese started a school in the church campus and in a short period the school could boast of ample grounds and buildings with excellent infrastructural facilities. Today Alphonsa Matriculation Higher Secondary School is one of the best educational institutions in Kanyakumari District and in Tamilnadu. All these miracles have been made possible with the Grace of God through the intercession of St Alphonsa, with the people continuously kneeling and praying.

A small beginning has received abundant blessings. Despite limited means and resources Blessed Alphonsa Church has embarked on a course of public service. It established a non-formal I.T.I. exclusively for school dropouts from poor families, named Moritz I.T.I. at Sarakkalvilai under the management of a Catholic Congregation, Franciscan Brothers and a School for the mentally challenged children at Paruthivilai near Rajakamangalam under the care and management of Syrian Catholic nuns called Adoration Sisters. Apart from these, another body of Syrian Catholic nuns, the Franciscan Clarist Congregation runs a tailoring institute for unemployed women and girls from poor families and also a hostel for school girls near the Alphonsa Church. The Vincent de Paul Society of Alphonsa Church has been engaged in various charitable activities like providing food materials to poor families and arranging medical and financial assistance to the needy and offering educational aid to poor students. The Blessed Alphonsa Church also started a forum called Alphonsa Cultural

Academy in 2002 for achieving a constant understanding with every section of the society especially the young generation through functions and social activities like conducting various competitions for school and college students of the district, for providing a competent platform for poor rural students to compete with urban students so as to identify and develop their aptitude.

When the Kanyakumari Mission of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry was elevated to the status of an Eparchy, Alphonsa Church and the School were further developed and nurtured by the diocesan management under the patronage of His Excellencies Mar George Alencherry, the first Bishop and Mar George Rajendran sdb, the current bishop. One of the blessed moments held on 8th November 2008 in the campus was the joint Sainthood celebration of St. Alphonsa by the Diocese of Thuckalay, together with the Dioceses of Kottar (Latin) and Marthandom (Syro Malankara). On the same day, St. Alphonsa Church was declared to the position of a Holy Shrine of St. Alphonsa by Archbishop Peter Fernando, then president of the Tamilnadu Bishops Council. This is the first St. Alphonsa Pilgrim Centre in Tamilnadu and thousands of people from Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala pay holy visits to the Shrine and receive abundant blessings. Scores of Catholics and others visit and pray at the Shrine during the celebration of the Feast of St. Alphonsa in month of July every year. Presently Rev. Fr Sanal Panthichirackal serves as the Parish Priest and Rector of the Shrine and Rev. Fr Toji Sebastian is the Assistant Parish Priest.

### Milestones in St. Alphonsa Church

Blessing of Bl. Alphonsa Mission Centre and Community Hall	: September 10, 1989
Blessing of the Renovated Church	: August 13, 1993
Renaming as St. Alphonsa Church and Elevation to a Pilgrim Centre	: November 8, 2008
Silver Jubilee of the Church	: September 21, 2014
Visit of all Tamilnadu Bishops	: January 21, 2020

# Celebrating the Anointment and Vows

## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUBILARIANS OF 2021



**Rev. Sr. Stella Mary SH**  
Golden Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 19-04-1972



**Rev. Sr. Lizet FCC**  
Golden Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 02-05-1972



**Rev. Fr. Christudas**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Ordination : 03-01-1997



**Rev. Fr Benny T John Thattampampil**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Ordination : 31-12-1996



**Rev. Sr. Leena Rose CMC**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 04-07-1997



**Rev. Sr. Ansit Melettukochiyil SABS**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 01-02-1997



**Rev. Sr. Bindu Chacko MMM**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 04-06-1997



**Rev. Sr. Lins Vallavanthara SABS**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 01-02-1997



**Rev. Sr. Alphonse Vazhipilavilai SABS**  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 16-02-1997

# Celebrating the Anointment and Vows

## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUBILIANS OF 2021



Rev. Sr. Maria Mathew CMC  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 04-07-1997



Rev. Sr. Jain Mary Thannikottaivilai SABS  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 16-02-1997



Rev. Sr. Maria James CMC  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 04-07-1997



Rev. Sr. Rani Maria Panthalichivilai SABS  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 16-02-1997



Rev. Sr. Ann Maria CMC  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 04-07-1997



Rev. Sr. Liz Tom Vettuparampil SABS  
Silver Jubilarian  
Date of Profession : 01-02-1997

### Priests and Religious Sangamam 2021

Date : October 2, 2021

Time : 9:30 AM

Venue : SABS Regional House, Soosaipuram

**BISHOP'S HOUSE** | P.B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O, Kanyakumari District - 629 175

TAMIL NADU, South India | Tel : +91 4651250633.

Email : Office - thuckalaydiocese@yahoo.com

Mission Procure - bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com | Mob +91 9487165903

Website : [www.thuckalaydiocese.org](http://www.thuckalaydiocese.org)