

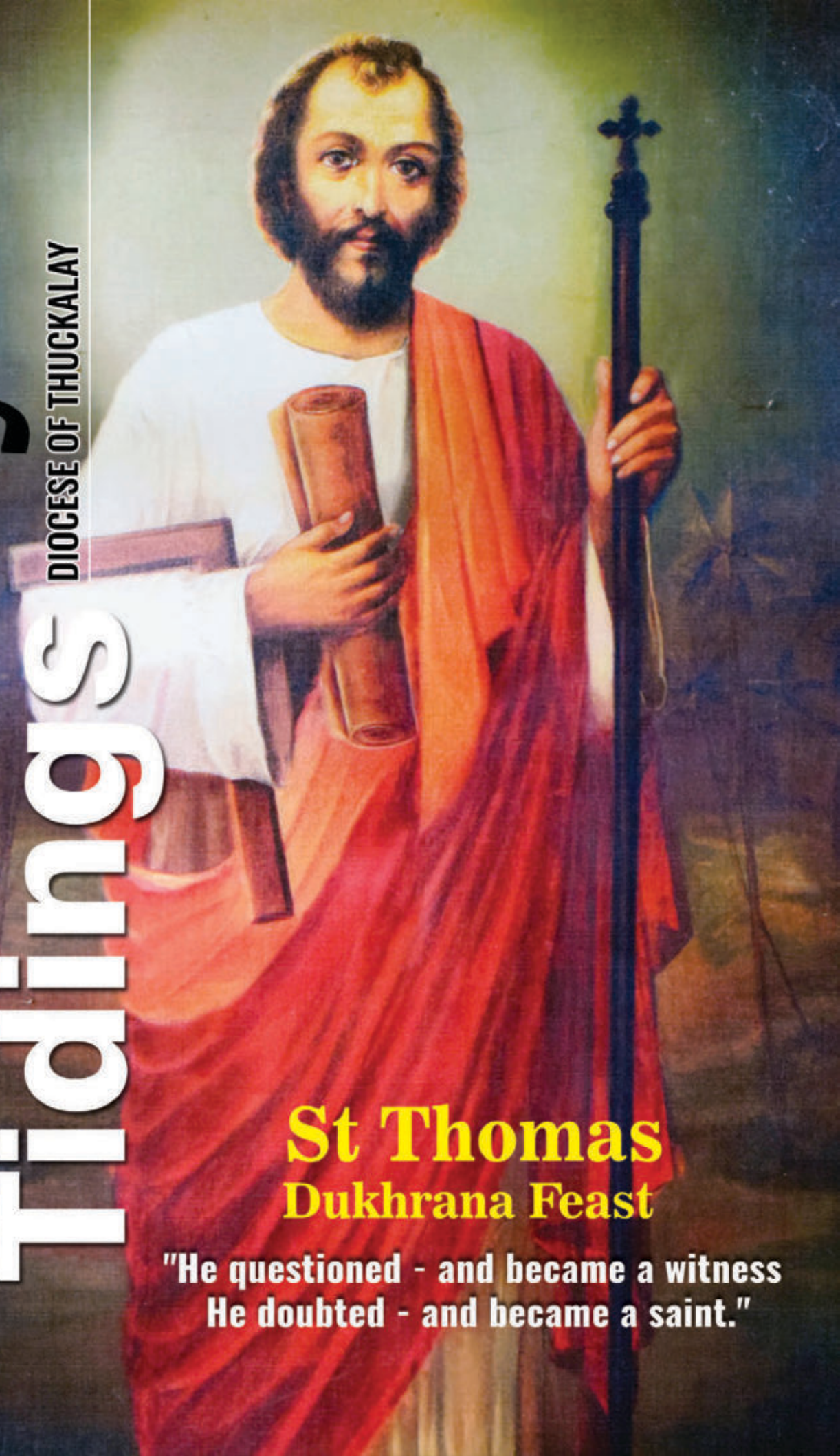
JULY 2025  
VOL. 5 | ISSUE 7

# Thuck'alay Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

## St Thomas Dukhrana Feast

"He questioned - and became a witness  
He doubted - and became a saint."





Published by:  
THUCKALAY MISSION  
Diocese of Thuckalay

## THUCKALAY TIDINGS

July 2025 | Vol. 5 | Issue 7

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

### PATRON

Mar George Rajendran sdb  
*Bishop of Thuckalay*

### CONSULTERS

Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil  
*Vicar General*

Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkal  
*Chancellor*

### CHIEF EDITOR

Fr. Liju Marattukalam

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rev. Fr Jinu Jacob  
*Vatican City*

### PHOTOGRAPHS

Mr. S Shajan  
Mr. S M Antony Justus

### BISHOP'S HOUSE

P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175

### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Mr. Y. R. Dominic  
Guwahati, Assam

# INSIDE STORY

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ➔ Message from the Bishop . . . . .   | 3  |
| ➔ At the Crossroads of Communion: Inter-Eparchial Meet Held in Kanyakumari . . . . .            | 4  |
| ➔ Stewards of the Church: Kaikkars and Accountants Gather for Formation at Kalluvilai . . . . . | 5  |
| ➔ Grace Renewed in Stone: Chapel Blessing at Malaicode SH Convent . . . . .                     | 6  |
| ➔ Faith in Motion: Christ Jubilee Celebrated with Missionaries in Madurai . . . . .             | 7  |
| ➔ A Beacon of Compassion: Palliative Care Unit Inaugurated at Moolamattam . . . . .             | 8  |
| ➔ Consecrated to Serve: Christ Jubilee of Religious Celebrated at Kalluvilai . . . . .          | 9  |
| ➔ Little Ones for Christ: KII Jubilee Celebrated with Joy at Kalluvilai . . . . .               | 10 |
| ➔ Fifty Years of Grace: Golden Jubilee of Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam . . . . .             | 11 |
| ➔ Anointed for Mission: New Priests Honoured at Kattathurai                                     | 12 |
| ➔ United in Mission: Tenkasi Missionaries Hold First Coordinated Gathering . . . . .            | 13 |
| ➔ Christ for GenZ: SMYM Youth Leaders Formed at Sangamam . . . . .                              | 14 |
| ➔ Rooted in Responsibility: World Environment Day Observed at KKSSS . . . . .                   | 15 |
| ➔ With Heartfelt condolences . . . . .  | 16 |





**DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**

**BISHOP'S HOUSE**

**P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.**

**Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175**

## Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

On 3 July, we celebrated 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.

Pope Francis reminds us: “*God does not fear our questions, but invites us to touch His wounds, to discover that faith is not a theory but an encounter with Him, alive and risen.*” St. Thomas is the living proof of this truth. His honest questions led him to the most important confession of faith in Scripture: “*My Lord and my God*” (John 20:28).

St. Thomas teaches us that:

- Faith does not exclude questions; it welcomes the search for truth.
- Real faith emerges when we are willing to approach Jesus personally, even with our wounds and doubts.

History tells us that this same Thomas, once hesitant, became a missionary full of zeal. His feet carried the Gospel to India, where he sowed the seeds of Christian faith in our land. Despite challenges, he persevered, even to the point of martyrdom. As Pope Francis said, “*A faith that does not journey, that remains still and closed in itself, is not the faith of Jesus.*” St. Thomas lived a faith on mission.

In the Diocese of Thuckalay, we proudly trace our spiritual roots to this Apostle. His story continues to inspire and challenge us:

- Are we prepared to proclaim Christ boldly, like St. Thomas?
- Is our faith something personal and alive, or merely inherited tradition?

May his example encourage us to:

- Seek Jesus sincerely whenever doubts arise.
- Deepen our relationship with Him through personal encounter and prayer.
- Witness courageously to the Gospel in our families, parishes, and communities.

As we look upon the image of St. Thomas – traditionally shown placing his hand on the Lord’s wounds – let it remind us that faith grows where we meet Christ personally.

On this sacred feast, may St. Thomas the Apostle intercede for each of us, that we might, like him, move from uncertainty to a living proclamation: “*My Lord and my God.*”

Wishing you all the blessings of this feast,



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



## **At the Crossroads of Communion: Inter-Eparchial Meet Held in Kanyakumari**

On 30 June 2025, the Diocese of Thuckalay had the honour of hosting the Inter-Eparchial Meeting at the Stella Maris Auditorium, located within the campus of the DM Sisters, Kanyakumari, near the sacred convergence of land and sea, Thriveni Sangamam. This historic gathering brought together bishops and priests from the Eparchies of Palai, Kanjirappally, Changanacherry, and Thuckalay, fostering fraternity, collaboration, and shared vision among the Syro-Malabar dioceses. The meeting was held under the presidency of His Grace Mar Thomas Tharayil, Metropolitan Archbishop of Changanacherry, marking his first official visit to the Diocese of Thuckalay since his appointment. The Bishop

of Thuckalay warmly welcomed all participating bishops and clergy, with a special gesture of heartfelt welcome to the Archbishop, whose presence greatly honoured the occasion. A total of 80 participants, including 22 priests from the host diocese, attended the meeting. The gathering also included department directors, institutional heads, and mission representatives from the participating eparchies, representing a wide cross-section of ecclesial leadership and pastoral outreach. This Inter-Eparchial Meet stood as a milestone of ecclesial communion and strategic collaboration, setting a firm foundation for future partnerships and joint initiatives.





# Stewards of the Church:

Kaikkars and Accountants Gather for Formation at Kalluvilai



The Diocese of Thuckalay hosted its annual Meeting and Orientation Programme for Kaikkars and Parish Accountants on Sunday, 29 June 2025, at Kalluvilai, drawing approximately 60 dedicated lay participants from across the diocese. The event was designed to equip lay leaders with the pastoral, administrative, and spiritual tools necessary for effective service within their parish communities. The day began with a solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana at 10:00 a.m., presided over by the Bishop, setting the tone for a day rooted in faith and commitment. During the session, the second edition of Palliyogam – Procedure Rules was also officially released, providing updated guidelines for effective parish administration. The second session featured Rev. Fr. Dominic

Dhas, Cooperative Manager of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai, who offered a scripture-based reflection on Christian leadership. Drawing from real pastoral experiences, he addressed both the strengths and challenges of lay leadership within today's Church. In the afternoon sessions, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal led two in-depth resource talks, offering participants practical and canonical insights. Topics included the roles and responsibilities of Kaikkars, the functioning of Pothumantram and Panku Peravai, and the parish accounting system. Their sessions provided both clarity and empowerment to those responsible for the financial and pastoral coordination at the grassroots level.







## Grace Renewed in Stone: Chapel Blessing at Malaicode SH Convent

The renovated chapel at the Sacred Heart (SH) Convent in Malaicode was blessed on 5 June 2025 at 6:30 p.m., in a solemn ceremony presided over by the Bishop. Members of the diocesan curia and priests associated with the SH Convent parish also graced the occasion with their presence. Following the blessing, an agape meal brought the community together in joyful fellowship. During the gathering, Sr. Anitha SH, the Mission Superior, conveyed her heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to and supported the renovation. The Bishop too extended his sincere appreciation to the Reverend Sisters, acknowledging their initiative and dedicated efforts in transforming the chapel into a more beautiful and spiritually uplifting space.



# Faith in Motion:

## Christ Jubilee Celebrated with Missionaries in Madurai



The Christ Jubilee celebration of the missionaries from the diocese was held on 12 June 2025 at St. Mary's Church, Ariyur – Madurai, in a spirit of thanksgiving and renewal. The event was presided over by the Bishop, with seventeen missionaries. The gathering was thoughtfully organized by Fr. Tobin Alapurackal, the Mission Coordinator for the extended territories. During the proceedings, Fr. Jebanesh was unanimously elected as Secretary for upcoming mission meetings. Mission coordinators from each region, Tirunelveli, Theni, Madurai, Virudhunagar, Thoothukkudi, and Ramanathapuram – presented insightful historical overviews of their respective territories. These presentations deepened the shared appreciation for the early missionary foundations and rekindled a spirit of commitment for ongoing ministry.



**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:

**Postal Address:**

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

**Contact Mission Procure:**

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





## A Beacon of Compassion: Palliative Care Unit Inaugurated at Moolamattam

On 13 June 2025, a new building for the Palliative Care Unit at Moolamattam was blessed and inaugurated at 05:00 p.m., marking a significant milestone in the Church's mission of compassionate care. The ceremony was presided over by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, in the presence of the local bishop, Curia members, diocesan clergy, the religious community of

Moolamattam Forane, friends and relatives of Mrs. Mercy Jose, children from Geetha Village, residents of Snehavilla, and nearly 200 well-wishers from the local neighbourhood. This new Palliative Care facility stands as a living testament to the generosity of Mrs. Mercy Jose, whose unwavering commitment to the suffering and the marginalized continues to inspire. Following the blessing, a public meeting was held to celebrate the occasion. Mr. Roshy Augustine, Honourable Minister of Irrigation for Kerala, served as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. Both the Minister and Mar Raphael Thattil praised Mrs. Mercy Jose for her selfless service. The Major Archbishop described her as a true "Good Samaritan", embodying Christian love through her compassionate outreach to the poor and the sick. The Minister likewise commended her for her role in the integral development of local communities, emphasizing how her actions serve as a model of social responsibility.





## Consecrated to Serve:

### Christ Jubilee of Religious Celebrated at Kalluvilai

The Christ Jubilee celebration of the religious was joyfully held on 14 June 2025 at Asser Auditorium, Kalluvilai, beginning at 02:00 p.m. The event brought together members of various religious congregations in a spirit of gratitude and renewal. Before the official program commenced at 3:00 p.m., a one-hour spiritual reflection was led by Fr. Cijo Chennad CMI, Director of Sargashekthra Radio, Kottayam. His thought-provoking session focused on how religious communities can remain relevant and prophetic in today's rapidly changing world, offering valuable insights to all gathered. Sisters from various congregations enriched the celebration through a vibrant cultural program, featuring a tableau, action song, and group song, reflecting the diversity and dynamism of consecrated life.



## Little Ones for Christ: KII Jubilee Celebrated with Joy at Kalluvilai



The Christ Jubilee celebration and anniversary of Kuzhanthai Issu Iyakkam (KII) were joyfully held on 22 June 2025 at 2:30 p.m. at Kalluvilai, bringing together over 600 participants, including children, teachers, parents, Curia members, and priests. The event was presided over by the Bishop, marking a significant milestone in the mission of nurturing faith among the young. The programme was inaugurated by Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, Director of KII, who welcomed the gathering



with warmth and enthusiasm. Fr. Antony Mahesh followed with words of felicitation, acknowledging the commitment of the KII team and the joyful spirit of the children. The celebration featured a vibrant cultural programme presented by children from various foranes. Songs, dances, skits, and creative performances reflected not only their talents but also their deepening faith and joyful spirit.





# **Fifty Years of Grace:**

## **Golden Jubilee of Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam**

The Sacred Heart Church, Pallikonam celebrated its Golden Jubilee with profound gratitude and joy, coinciding with the Parish Feast held from 22 to 29 June 2025. The event marked a significant milestone in the parish's spiritual journey, offering the faithful an opportunity to thank God for fifty years of abundant blessings and growth. The roots of the Pallikonam mission trace back to a humble beginning marked by social service activities. The first Christian community was officially established in 1975, under the visionary leadership of Fr. Antony Titus Chempathara CMI, the pioneering missionary who built the first church structure. He was assisted by missionary priests from Kaliyal and the CMC



Sisters from Netta, who played a vital role in supporting the spiritual and pastoral care of the early community. From an initial community of just four families, the parish began to flourish. In 1976, a nursery school was founded in Pallikonam, laying the foundation for what would become a strong commitment to education and social upliftment. Over the years, various initiatives have supported the socioeconomic development of the local population, affirming the Church's dedication to holistic mission.



## Anointed for Mission: New Priests Honoured at Kattathurai



A solemn and joyful celebration was held on 27 June 2025 at St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai, to honour the newly ordained priests of the year, Rev. Fr. Amanto Edakkootathil, Rev. Fr. Sunil Antony, and Rev. Fr. Anoop Thathappally. The event brought together clergy, religious, and laity in a vibrant expression of thanksgiving for the gift of priesthood.

The celebration began at 06:30 p.m. with a grand reception followed by the Holy Qurbana celebrated by the new priests. Rev. Fr. Amanto served as the main celebrant, while Rev. Fr. Anoop delivered a deeply inspiring homily,

encouraging the faithful to grow in faith and commitment. At the conclusion of the liturgy, Rev. Fr. Sunil offered heartfelt words of gratitude, thanking all who supported them in their vocational journey.

The liturgical celebration was attended by a large number of faithful from the parish, alongside a distinguished gathering of Forane Vicars, priests from the Thuckalay-Pilankalai Forane, Provincial Superiors, and religious sisters from nearby convents, making the occasion one of spiritual depth and ecclesial unity.



# United in Mission:

## Tenkasi Missionaries Hold First Coordinated Gathering



The priests and sisters serving in the Tenkasi Mission came together for a mission meeting on 28 June 2025 at the convent of the Dorethy Sisters in Panpoli. The gathering was marked by prayer, fellowship, and a shared commitment to the pastoral and missionary outreach of the Church in the region. The meeting began with a time of Eucharistic Adoration, reverently led by Rev. Fr. John Joseph, followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation, allowing participants to renew themselves spiritually before the official proceedings. Newly assigned Fathers and Sisters were warmly welcomed to the missionary community. Representatives from various mission centres and apostolic initiatives then shared their pastoral experiences, highlighting the challenges faced and opportunities embraced in their respective mission fields. The day concluded with a fraternal agape meal, fostering deeper fellowship and unity among all attendees.



## 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)



## **Christ for GenZ: SMYM Youth Leaders Formed at Sangamam**

A dynamic and spiritually enriching three-day residential leadership camp titled "Christ for GenZ" was organized by the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) of the Diocese of Thuckalay from 27 to 29 June 2025 at Sangamam. The camp aimed to nurture leadership among young people, drawing inspiration from the servant leadership model of Jesus Christ. The camp was inaugurated at 10:00 a.m. on 27 June in a session presided over by Rev. Fr. George Kalangara SDB. Over the next three days, participants were guided through a series of inspiring talks, group discussions, and interactive activities, all designed to build confidence, deepen faith, and shape visionary youth leaders. A total of 66 enthusiastic young participants from parishes across the diocese took part in the camp with great spirit and dedication.



## Rooted in Responsibility: World Environment Day Observed at KKSSS

World Environment Day was meaningfully observed at KKSSS, Kalluvilai, on 05 June 2025, through a variety of eco-conscious initiatives conducted in collaboration with the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) associated with the organization. The day's activities included awareness seminars, where participants reflected on the urgent need to care for creation and explored practical steps toward environmental sustainability. As a symbol of commitment to green living, saplings and plants were distributed to the SHG members, encouraging them to take personal and community action in promoting greenery. Participants also planted saplings on and around the KKSSS campus and in nearby areas, marking the event not just with words, but with meaningful and visible action. The initiative served to instill environmental responsibility and foster a culture of ecological stewardship among grassroots communities.



*With Heartfelt condolences...*



**Rev. Fr. Cyriac Thekkekkutt MCBS**

*Elder brother of Rev. Fr. Mathew Thekkekkutt*



**Mr. Jose Joseph, Father of Bro. Jubin Joseph**



**Mr. Russel Raj, Father of Sr. Rani Maria SABS**





THUCKALAY  
MISSION  
BISHOP OF THUCKALAY

# WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



**BISHOP'S HOUSE** | P.B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O, Kanyakumari District - 629 175  
TAMIL NADU, South India | Tel : +91 4651250633.

Email : Office - [thuckalaymission@gmail.com](mailto:thuckalaymission@gmail.com)

Mission Procure - [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com) | Mob +91 9487165903

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