

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

JULY 2024 | VOL. 4 | ISSUE 7



ALPHONSA

“Holiness through enduring trials”



Published by:
THUCKALAY MISSION
Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

July 2024 | Vol. 4 | 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
➔ Cultivating Future Shepherds: St. Mary's Minor Seminary Academic Year Launch	4
➔ Charting the Path Forward: Laity Council Meeting at Sangamam	5
➔ Seeds of Faith: Catechetical Annual Day Festivities	6
➔ Little Lights: Jesus Kids' Annual Day Celebration	7
➔ Growing Together in Faith: SMYM Camp at Sangamam	8
➔ Priests' Conference	9
➔ Empowering Clusters: SAFP Annual Meeting	10
➔ Visionary Paths: Extended Territory Mission Assembly	11
➔ Mission Meet at Tenkasi	12
➔ Managing with Purpose: Kaikars and Accountants Gathering	13
➔ Cumbum News	14
➔ Clean Cumbum Project	14
➔ A Legacy of Love	15





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

Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Greetings and prayerful wishes from the Diocese of Thuckalay!

Saint Alphonsa, whose feast we celebrate on 28 July, was the first Indian woman to be canonised as a saint in the Catholic Church. Her life, though brief, was marked by profound faith, unwavering devotion, and heroic endurance of suffering. Born Anna Muttathupadathu in Kudamaloor, Kerala, India, she would become a shining example of holiness and inspiration for Catholics worldwide. In this article, I want to highlight her spirituality, which can serve as a wonderful model in our journey towards holiness.

Saint Alphonsa's spirituality was characterised by a unique blend of mystical experiences, sacrificial love, and an unwavering commitment to her religious vocation despite numerous physical and mental challenges. Let me highlight some of the features of her spirituality, which we can emulate as we prepare to celebrate her feast.

Central to St Alphonsa's spirituality was her profound understanding and acceptance of **suffering** as a means of union with Christ. From a young age, she experienced various illnesses and accidents that caused her great pain. However, rather than viewing these trials as burdens, she embraced them as opportunities to participate in Christ's redemptive suffering. St Alphonsa often referred to herself as a victim soul, willingly offering her pain for the salvation of others and the sanctification of priests. She wrote, "I have given myself up completely to Jesus. Let Him please Himself in His dealings with me. My only desire in this world is to suffer for the love of God and to rejoice in doing it."

This attitude towards suffering was not merely passive acceptance but an active choice to transform her pain into a spiritual offering. She saw her bed of illness as an altar where she could unite her sufferings with those of Christ on the cross.

St Alphonsa's spirituality was deeply rooted in **prayer**. Despite her physical limitations, she maintained a rigorous prayer schedule, often spending hours in contemplation. Her prayer life was characterised by the following:

- Eucharistic devotion: She had a profound love for the


Eucharist, considering it the source of her strength and consolation.

- Marian devotion: St Alphonsa had a special relationship with the Virgin Mary, whom she saw as a model of perfect discipleship and suffering.
- Contemplative prayer: She practised deep, silent prayer, often experiencing mystical union with God.
- Intercessory prayer: She prayed fervently for others, especially for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of priests.

Despite her profound spiritual experiences, St Alphonsa maintained a childlike **simplicity** and **humility**. She never sought attention or special treatment, preferring to remain hidden and unknown. This aspect of her spirituality was reflected in her interactions with others, her writings, and her approach to religious life. She often spoke of the 'little way' of spiritual childhood, similar to St Thérèse of Lisieux, emphasising trust in God's love and the importance of small, everyday acts of love and sacrifice. St Alphonsa's spirituality was deeply intertwined with her vocation as a Franciscan Clarist nun. Despite facing numerous obstacles, including opposition from her family and her ill health, she persevered in her desire to consecrate herself to God. She saw her religious life as a means of complete self-giving to Christ. She writes: "I have entrusted myself entirely to the Lord. Let Him do with me as He pleases. My only desire in this world is to suffer for God's love and rejoice in doing so."

On 28 July 2024, is the celebration of the feast of St Alphonsa, let's make it a meaningful experience for all of us. We at the diocese of Thuckalay will remember you all in a special manner for your committed involvement in the diocese.




+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



CULTIVATING FUTURE SHEPHERDS:

St. Mary's Minor Seminary Academic Year Launch



The inauguration of the academic year 2024-25 at St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal, was held on June 29, 2024. The festivities commenced with the solemn celebration of Ramsa at 5:30 PM. The inaugural ceremony continued with a dedicated meeting, presided over by Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the chancellor, who officially inaugurated the academic year. The Parish Priest and Sisters from Mukkoottukal Parish graced the gathering with their presence. In his inaugural address, Fr. Joshy extended heartfelt congratulations to the entire seminary team, with

special commendation to Fr. Augustine Thalodil and Fr. George Kandathil for their meticulous organization of the ceremony. The meeting concluded at 8:00 PM, followed by a joyful agape meal, fostering a sense of fellowship.



You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminarian 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

CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD:

Laity Council Meeting at Sangamam



The one-day seminar for the Diocesan Laity Council Members was held at Sangamam on June 2, 2024. The program began with the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana, presided over by Fr. Vinu D. Joseph, the director of the Laity Council. The public meeting commenced at 11:30 AM, with Adv. Raja Eric Godwin, the Treasurer of the Laity Council, welcoming all present. This was followed by an insightful session on trade unions and the challenges faced by workers, led by Fr. Godwin Selva Justus. After the lunch break, Mr. Celestin, a teacher, delivered an excellent speech on why the faithful should engage in politics and explained the various welfare schemes provided to minorities by government departments. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil presided over the concluding session of the seminar, offering many valuable and constructive insights. Adv. Dhanasign, the President of the Laity Council, delivered the vote of thanks, and the meeting concluded with a final blessing at 3:00 PM. Nearly 69 representatives from different parishes participated in the seminar.



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

SEEDS OF FAITH: Catechetical Annual Day Festivities



The Sunday School Annual Day 2023-24 was held on June 30, 2024, at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The programme was led by the central team of the Catechetical Department of the Diocese. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, presided over the event. Various cultural programmes were performed by the Sunday School centers.

During the programme, Bible quiz, scholarship, and Mission Quest winners were awarded by the dignitaries. Trophies were given to the best Sunday School centers in three categories: A, B, and C. Additionally, trophies for the best Sunday School teachers were awarded. Over 500 students and teachers participated in the annual day.



LITTLE LIGHTS: Jesus Kids' Annual Day Celebration

The annual day celebration of Kuzhanthai Iso lyakkam had taken place on June 6, 2024, at KKSSS Auditorium, Kalluvilai, starting at 2:00 PM. The meeting had been chaired by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General, and Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal had been the chief guest of the occasion. At the conclusion of the meeting, prizes had been distributed to the deserving winners of various competitions. St. Jermain Cousin had been announced as the icon of the year for the next year of KII. Including Fathers, Sisters, teachers, and students, almost 250 people had participated in the annual day celebrations.



GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH: SMYM Camp at Sangamam



The Diocesan Youth Camp had been held at Sangamam from June 14 to 16, 2024. The programme had started at 10:40 AM on June 14 with the inaugural address by Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General. In the first session, Ms. Sherin Velicham from Chennai had trained the youth to set goals in life and provided practical guidance on achieving them. In the afternoon session, Fr. Edwin from JDAX Academy of Excellence had enlightened the youth on the constant training needed to secure desired jobs, especially government jobs, which provide social and economic security. At 7:00 PM, there had been a Rosary procession and Adoration. On the morning of the next day, Fr. Felix Arulnadhan SDB had oriented the youth on today's job market and the nature of available jobs. In the afternoon, Fr. Printo Kurias had

enlightened the youth about the Constitution of India, as well as their civil rights and duties. At 7:00 PM, there had been an hour of Adoration, followed by a group talent exhibition in the evening. On the last day, June 16, 2024, Fr. Joseph Santhosh, the director, had guided the youth through spiritual, life, and career discernments. The youth had felt enthused after the three-day camp.



Priests' Conference



The Priests' Conference for the month had taken place at Sangamam on June 18, 2024, commencing at 9:30 AM. The conference had begun with a solemn adoration and confession, setting a prayerful atmosphere for the gathering. At 11:15 AM, the meeting had officially begun, with Fr. Vicar General coordinating the proceedings in my absence and presiding over the conference. During this significant conference, a warm welcome had been extended to two new Fathers who had joined the Presbytery: Rev. Fr. George Kalangara SDB, the new mission procure and project coordinator, and Rev. Fr. Joseph (Bibin) Kocheethra, Parish Priest of Mezhacode Parish.



EMPOWERING CLUSTERS: SAFP Annual Meeting

The cluster-level meeting of the Save A Family Programme (SAFP) was held on three separate dates: June 3 in Mukkoottukal, June 13 in Marappady, and June 21 in Muzhucode. Mr. Vijayarajan, the SAFP coordinator, facilitated the meetings, focusing on the topic of health and hygiene. More than 50 families benefited from the programme.



VISIONARY PATHS:

Extended Territory Mission Assembly



The mission meet for the Fathers and Sisters in the extended territory for the month of June took place at St. Joseph Mission, Rameswaram, on June 22, 2024. The event commenced at 10:00 AM with adoration and confession, followed by a meeting presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General. During the meeting, Fathers and Sisters shared

their mission experiences. Rev. Sr. Lisy Jose FCC and Rev. Sr. Cicy FCC, who are new to the mission, were warmly welcomed. Following the meeting, the concelebrated Holy Qurbana was celebrated and presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. The program concluded with an agape meal at Dhanushkodi.



Mission Meet at Tenkasi



The Tenkasi mission meeting was held at the Dorethian Sisters' Convent in Panpoli on June 29, 2024, at 4:00 PM. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil presided over the meeting. Fr. Thomas Pottamparampil gave a class on the Vatican II document, Sacrosanctum Concilium. Twenty-eight members attended the meeting. Discussions on various topics pertaining to the mission were conducted. The meeting concluded with an agape meal, followed by Ramsa and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

MANAGING WITH PURPOSE: Kaikars and Accountants Gathering



On Sunday, June 30, 2024, the Diocese conducted an annual meeting and orientation programme for all Kaikars and accountants at Sangamam. The day-long programme commenced at 9:30 AM and concluded at 4:00 PM, encompassing various informative sessions and activities. The programme began with a solemn Holy Qurbana, presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. Fr. Justin Cheruvellil, Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, and Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil served as resource persons, providing valuable insights and guidance throughout the day. They

conducted classes on the role of the laity in the Church, the rights and duties of Kaikars, the functions of Pothumantram and Panku Peravai, and the accounting systems used within our parishes. In his presidential address, Fr. Vicar General extended a warm greeting to all the participants and expressed the diocese's heartfelt gratitude for their selfless and sacrificial service within our parishes. The programme saw the active participation of approximately 85 attendees.



CUMBUM NEWS

The Hairband Project is a transformative initiative that empowers jobless women by providing them with the skills and resources needed to create a sustainable source of income. By supporting these women, the project not only enhances their economic independence but also contributes to the well-being of their families and the broader community. With continuous support and development, the Hairband Project has the potential to create lasting positive change in the lives of many women



CLEAN CUMBUM PROJECT

The Clean Cumbum Project is a community-driven initiative aimed at improving the quality of life for the mentally challenged individuals living in the streets of Cumbum City. This project focuses on rehabilitating these individuals by providing them with medical care, psychological support, and skills training to reintegrate them into society.



A Legacy of Love



Mr. VV Kurian
(father of Sr. Elsy SH)



Mr. Robin Jose
(Nephew of Fr. Albert Jose CMI)



Mrs. Njanavadiu
(Mother of Fr. Cristudas)



Mr. Annakutty Jose
(Mother of Sr. Beena LSDP)



Mrs. Kunjamma Xavier
(Mother of Sr. Jenny Therese CMC)



Mrs. Elykutty Ouseph
(Grand mother of Sr. Linza SABS)



Mrs. Thresia rappai
(Mother of Sr. Ligi LSDP)



Mrs. Chellam
(Mother of Fr. Thomas Sathyanesan)



Mrs. Mariamma Joseph
(Mother of Sr. Pavana CMC)



Mr. Joseph P Maman
(Elder brother of Fr. Chacko Puthiyaparambil)

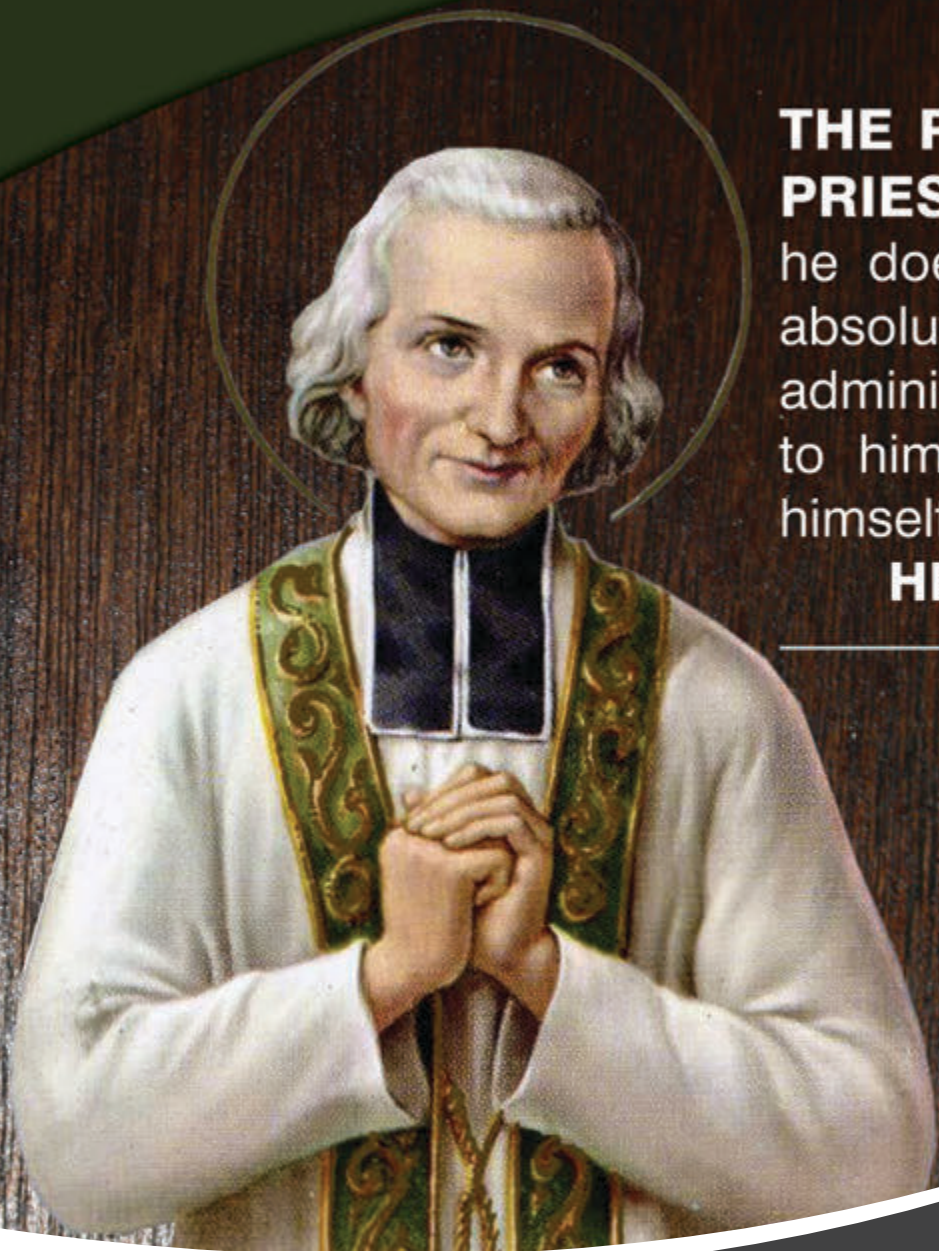


Mr. Justin Jose
(Younger Brother of Fr. Albert Jose CMI)





THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**THE PRIEST IS NOT A
PRIEST FOR HIMSELF;**
he does not give himself
absolution; he does not
administer the Sacraments
to himself. He is not for
himself.

HE IS FOR YOU.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY

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

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

Website : www.thuckalaydiocese.org