

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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Fr. Sanjo

Fr. Linto

PRIESTHOOD

MYSTIC UNITY : DISCOVERING ONENESS WITH DIVINE



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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BISHOP'S HOUSE
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Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175

Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

On this auspicious season, when we celebrate the solemnity of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let me at the outset, wish you the peace and joy of the risen Lord. May the risen Lord bless you abundantly in your family and professional life! Let me reflect with you on the significance and importance of the paschal mysteries that we are just celebrating in the life of every one of us.

As we are aware, the events of Jesus' passion, death on the cross, and bodily resurrection from the tomb three days later are described across all four Gospels of the New Testament. The passion narratives recount Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his betrayal by Judas, his unjust trials before the Sanhedrin and Pontius Pilate, his brutal scourging, the carrying of the cross, and his crucifixion alongside two criminals at Golgotha (Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 18-19).

The Gospels emphasise that Jesus freely accepted this torturous death as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of humanity. As Jesus himself says, "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28). St Paul further develops this theology of Christ's death as an expiatory sacrifice that reconciles humanity to God (Romans 3:21-26, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

Just as crucial as the accounts of Jesus' suffering and death are the narratives of his resurrection from the tomb on the third day after his death (Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20). The Gospels describe the discovery of the empty tomb by Jesus' women disciples, his appearances to Mary Magdalene, Peter, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and the Twelve Apostles. These appearances confirm Jesus' physical resurrection and victory over death.

The resurrection fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah (Psalm 16, Isaiah 53) and demonstrated that Jesus' sacrifice had been accepted by God. As St Paul proclaimed, "[Jesus] was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said...For if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:4, 14).

These biblical events are central to Catholic doctrine and liturgy. The Catechism of the Catholic Church roots all of salvation history in the "Blessed Passion and Resurrection of Christ" by which "God himself reconciled us to himself in Christ" (CCC 1064-1065).



Church teaching expounds on the soteriological meaning and effects of Christ's passion. By embracing the agonizing sufferings of the cross, Jesus perfectly embodied the qualities of obedience, humility, and self-sacrificing love. As St Paul writes, "Though he was in the form of God...he emptied himself...he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). His passion manifests the depth of his human solidarity with sinful humanity.

Through the sins of his passion and death, Jesus made atonement as the unblemished sacrificial lamb, offering himself in expiation for sins by the symbolism of the Old Testament sin offerings. In this way, he is the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah who "was pierced for our offences, crushed for our sins" (Isaiah 53:5).

Church teaching views Christ's resurrection as the apex and confirmation of the entire paschal mystery. It is the culmination of the Incarnation - the divine Son truly vanquished death and was bodily raised from the tomb. The resurrection validates Jesus' teachings about his identity as the Son of God and the truth of his messianic mission. Christ's exaltation also confirms the profound unity between his human and divine natures.

While we reflect upon the import of the paschal mysteries that we are celebrating, it is heartening to note that this year our Diocese is blessed with two priestly ordinations in this April. We congratulate these new priests. Let us support them with our prayers that they may become priests after the heart of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Also I am grateful to you dear benefactors for supporting these priests both spiritually and financially to complete their formation especially those who sponsored them.

May the risen Christ shower his blessings upon each one of us!



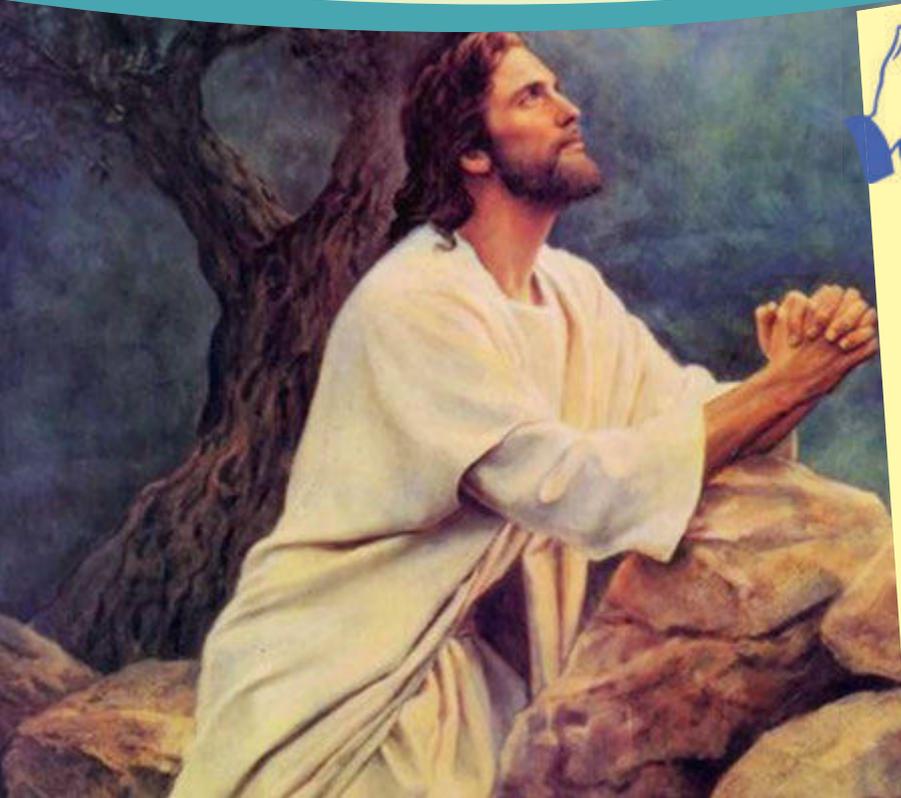
+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay

Ascending to Sacred Heights:

The Journey of Ordination



The Sacred Ordination of Deacon Linto took place at Kozhimala, Idukki and Dn. Sanjo at Kallupalalam, Idukki. Both the Deacons were ordained to the priesthood amidst a solemn gathering of clergy, family members, and well-wishers. The ceremony was conducted with reverence and prayer, marking a significant milestone in both Linto and Sanjo's spiritual journey. The presence of Priests and Religious from Thuckalay Diocese added to the sanctity of the occasion. Both ordination ceremonies were likely conducted with traditional rituals and prayers, symbolizing the passing of the mantle of priesthood. Congratulations and Hearty welcome to Fr. Linto and Fr. Sanjo and affirming their dedication to both their faith and Priestly ministry.



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

Stepping into Sacred Service:

Diaconate Ordination



On 26 March 2024, at St. Thomas Church, Palugal, the Major Order of Diaconate was conferred by Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB upon Bro. Sunil Antony and Augustine (Anoop) Thathappally. The liturgical celebration commenced at 6:00 pm, with Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil serving as the archdeacon, and Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, Fr. Sajan Nettapongu, and Fr. Josemon Paul concelebrating the Holy Qurbana. Following the Holy Qurbana, a brief meeting was convened inside the church, during which Fr. Sajan conveyed the well-wishes of the presbyterium to the newly ordained deacons. Deacon Sunil expressed gratitude to all involved in organizing the event. The programme concluded with a delightful dinner, served to celebrate the occasion.

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



Renewal and Reverence:

A Day of Recollection for Priests & Religious

On March 27, 2024, just a day prior to Maundy Thursday, a profound day of recollection was organized for all the Priests and Religious at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. It was a significant gathering where all the Priests and Sisters of the diocese came together for a day of prayer, adoration, and confession. The day commenced with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, followed by an insightful one-hour reflection session led by Fr. Benedict Analin, the secretary to the liturgical commission of TNLBC. The event reached its

pinnacle with the celebration of Holy Qurbana, which was concelebrated by all the Fathers present. Towards the end of the recollection, Rev. Fr. Joseph Santhosh was felicitated for his remarkable achievement in completing his doctoral thesis. Additionally, a warm welcome was extended to Fr. Joseph Koovelloor as he began his ministry in Rameswaram. Sr. Rosia Puthiyaparampil SABS, who completed her licentiate in Canon Law from Paurasthya Vidyapeetham, Vadavathoor, was also honoured during the concluding gathering.





Veiled Commitment: *Minor Orders and Vestition*

On 25 March 2024, Minor Orders were administered at Sangamam at 07.00 am. Bro. Godwin Christudhas received the Cassock. Bro. Divin Raj received the Minor Order of *Karoyusa*. Bro. Varghese (Bibin) Koyickakudiyil, Bro. Joseph (Bibin) Vettakonam and Bro. Mathew (Tony) Kallamparambil received the Minor Order of *Heupadiyaknusa*. Parents and family members of the brother who received Cassock and Curia members were present for the ceremony. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam and Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal were the concelebrants for the Holy Qurbana.





Shepherding the Future: *Bishop with Major Seminarisians*

On 25 March 2024, following the Minor Orders, a meeting of major seminary brothers was convened at Sangamam, with the participation of curia members. All major seminarisians, with the exception of those from Ujjain, were present for the gathering. Brothers shared their academic and pastoral experiences over the past year,

gained from various seminaries and parishes. During the meeting, curia members outlined the expectations of the Diocese regarding the adherence of brothers to formative values throughout their seminary life and vacation periods. Additionally, new leaders were elected to assume roles among them.





Patterns of Support:

Shepherd's Journey to Garments Unit

This month, Rev. Bishop conducted his pastoral visit to three of our garment units. On the morning of 21st March, he visited Angels' Garments in Palugal. On 23rd March morning, Devamatha Garments in Killiyoor, and in the afternoon, Sangamam Garments in Thuckalay. During these visits, Bishop met with the directors and engage in discussions with the staff and thoroughly reviewed all documents and assessed the spiritual activities provided for the staff. At the conclusion of each visit, Bishop offered necessary suggestions for improvement.





From Hosanna to Hallelujah: *Holy Week Reverence*

This Year Bishop celebrated Palm Sunday at St. Benedict's Church, Bengiri, we joyously welcomed Jesus into our hearts with palm branches. Every liturgical celebration was presided over by Bishop, was a beautiful testament to our faith, culminating in the blessing of a new kitchen. Maundy Thursday at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Soosaipuram, was a solemn reflection on Jesus' sacrifice, with prayers for a cathedral and a moving foot washing

ceremony. Good Friday at Virudhunagar Parish was a day of deep reflection on Jesus' crucifixion, with liturgical ceremonies and the Way of the Cross. Finally, the Easter Holy Qurbana at Chenamcode Parish and Chembakatharissu Mission was a celebration of Jesus' resurrection, with vibrant participation and devotion from the faithful. These holy week celebrations were moments of spiritual renewal and community unity, thanks to the dedication of all involved.





Witnessing the Paschal Mystery: Holy Week Journey in Mission Stations



The Holy Week celebrations in various mission stations of the Diocese of Thuckalay, were a time of spiritual renewal and devotion for the Christian community. Through prayer, reflection, and participation in religious rituals, believers honored the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, reaffirming their faith and commitment to the teachings of Christianity.





An Oasis of Prayer: Celebrating the Angoorpalayam Sanctuary

On March 15, 2024, a new Prayer House was blessed at Angoorpalayam, Cumbum by Fr. Benny Thattampampil. This sacred occasion marked the beginning of a new chapter of spiritual growth and community fellowship. Let us join in gratitude for this blessed space and pray for its role in fostering faith and unity among all who gather within its walls.

Mar Joseph Powathil: Dawn of Renewal in the Syro-Malabar Church



Mar Joseph Powathil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, remembered by Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, was hailed as the guiding star of the modern Syro-Malabar Church. Major Archbishop Thattil expressed this sentiment while delivering a message of remembrance at St. Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral, Changanacherry, on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Mar Joseph Powathil. He emphasized Mar Powathil's pivotal role in reclaiming the lost heritage of the Syro-Malabar Church and highlighted how his visionary leadership and actions have helped to rejuvenate the Church's traditions and fostered a sense of affectionate bonding among its members. Major Archbishop Thattil also acknowledged that Mar Powathil's efforts had expanded the influence of the Syro-Malabar Church both within India and beyond, attributing it to his tireless endeavors. Additionally, he praised Mar Powathil's unwavering commitment to serving as an exemplary model for bishops and priests alike, offering them a sterling example of dedicated service. Major Archbishop Thattil concluded by asserting that Mar Powathil's exemplary conduct had significantly shaped the ethos of the Syro-Malabar Church, transforming it into a globally recognized institution that cherishes its

heritage and continues to evolve under his profound influence.

Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil officially inaugurated the Symposium with Archbishop's official acceptance of the honor. Major Archbishop then delivered a message and celebrated the Holy Qurbana. After Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Mar Jos Puliakal, Bishop Mar George Rajendran, Metropolitan Mar Joshwa Ignathios of Syro-Malankara Church, and other dignitaries attended. Following the program, lunch was served.





Seeking Solace: *National Day of Prayer and Fasting*

The National Day of Fasting and Prayer was solemnly observed in our diocese on 22 March 2022, with a focus on praying for the Church and the nation. Following the directives issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), this observance was carried out in all parishes across the diocese. Special forms of devotion such as adoration, the praying of the rosary in a continuous chain, and the way of the cross were organized as part of this day of prayer and fasting. This collective spiritual effort aimed to seek divine guidance and blessings for the well-being and prosperity of both the Church and the nation.



Pastoral Parley: Priests' meet at Bishop's House

On 19 March 2024, all priests in our diocese with six to eleven years of ordination gathered at the Bishop's House for a day of prayer and interaction with me. The meeting commenced at 10:30 am with a recollection talk by Fr. Thomas Pottampampil MCBS from Tenkasi. The talk was followed by adoration and confession. After a shared lunch, an interactive session took place where the priests shared their experiences in their current pastoral fields and offered suggestions for the better coordination of their pastoral ministry. Among 15 priests, 13 participated in the meeting.



Meditative Melodies:

Taizé Prayer Service for the Youth

During the season of Lent, in order to prepare the youth for a good confession and to imbibe in them the spiritual gifts of paschal mystery, forane level Taizé prayer was conducted as follows: March 3, 2024 at Padanthalumoodu, March 10, 2024 at Malaicode, March 17 at Palapallam.





Missionary Momentum: *Tenkasi Mission Forum*

The mission meet was convened at Pulari Matriculation School, Pudur. It was noted that the proceedings were initiated with a brief prayer at 05:30 pm, with attendees including missionaries such as priests and religious from various stations of the Tenkasi mission. Fr. Dency Mundunadackal, the mission coordinator, extended a warm welcome to all present. Sr. Dona CMC conducted a practice session for the songs of the Holy Qurbana, with a particular focus on the thanksgiving hymn after communion. Fr. Dency provided an introduction to the four constitutions of the Vatican II, as mandated by the Holy Father in connection with the Jubilee 2025.

It was stated that it was decided during the meeting that each constitution would be studied in detail during subsequent meetings, with resource persons from the diocese leading the sessions. Attendees from different missions and institutions were said to have shared their experiences and challenges, highlighting concerns regarding financial difficulties in carrying out mission work. It was mentioned that during the address, the importance of monthly gatherings and recollections for missionaries in Tenkasi was emphasized. Following the meeting, the Ramsa Prayer and Confession were conducted, followed by a shared Agape meal.





Celebrating Maternal Wisdom: *Matru Jyothi's* Annual Day

Mathru Jyothis' annual day, along with Women's Day celebrations, was held at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai on 08 March 2024. The event commenced at 09:00 am, with Bishop presided over the function, and Dr. Sudha BHMS serving as the chief guest. Mrs. Juliet Sunil extended a warm welcome to everyone in attendance. Mothers from various foranes presented a variety of

entertainment programmes, including dances, songs, and skits. Winners of the food fest, Kathaprasangam, best units, etc., were duly honoured during the event. Forane Directors and Animators graced the occasion with their presence. The festivities concluded with a shared agape meal served to all attendees.



Trailblazing Women

On March 8th, 2024 International Women's Day was celebrated by KKSSS through various events held in 35 centres, including Self Help Groups. Awareness programmes, rallies, and cultural events were organized to promote awareness on various themes. Fr. Thomas Poovathummoottil and Fr. Ajin C Joseph, along with the parish priests, animators, and coordinators from KKSSS, facilitated the meeting. The theme of the celebration was 'Invest in women and accelerate development!'



Mindful Mastery: Lessons from Educare Class

On March 8th, 2024 an Educare class was conducted for Educare students, with 43 students participating. Sr. Merin Rose and Mr. Babin Jose oriented the students. On that day, the director, Fr. Thomas Poovathummoottil, announced that the summer residential camp for the Educare students will be held from the evening of May 12th to May 22nd, 2024, at the KKSSS Campus in Kalluvilai.



Gone But Not Forgotten:



**Mr. Ouseph Xavier (97), Father of
Sr. Anns Maria CMC**



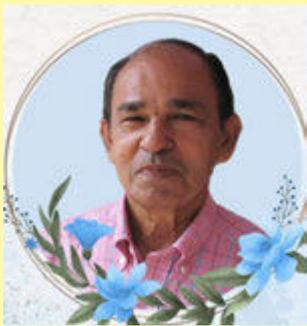
**Rev. Fr. Mathew Anthyankulam CMI,
Former Missionary of Thuckalay Diocese**



**Mr. Sajan (53), brother of Sr. Leena
Parampakath SABS**



**Sr. Catherine A SMI (83) Vayalinkarai
Parish from 1982 – 1985, Annikkarai
from 2006 – 2007**



**Mr. P M John (83), the elder brother
of Fr. Chacko Puthiyaparampil**



**Sr. Domini Kalapurackal (83),
Mankarai- 2013-2014,
Soosaipuram -2014-2016**



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