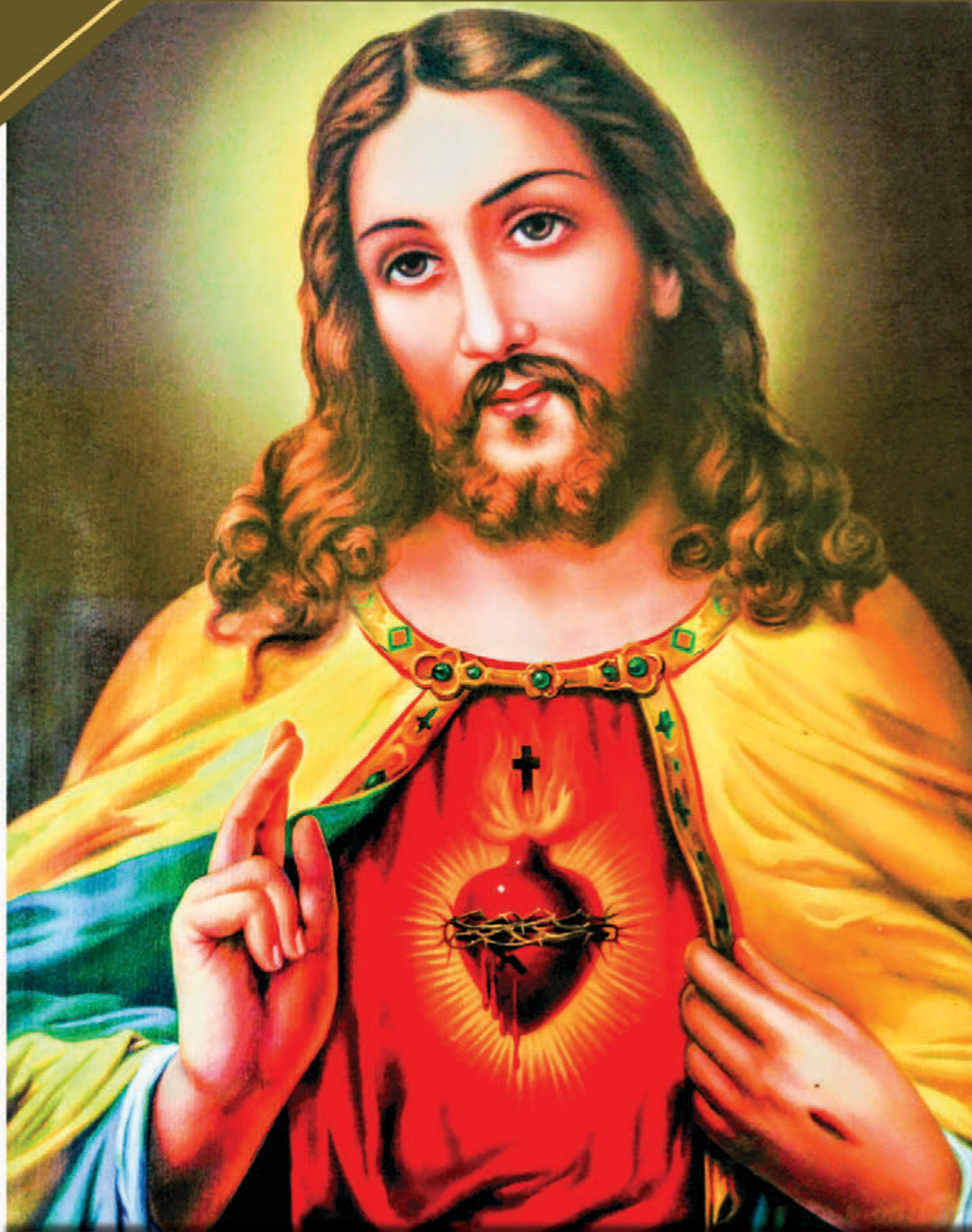


THUCKALAY TIDINGS

JUNE 2022 | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 6

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



Sacred Heart of Jesus

Abide Us in Your Love



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

June 2022 | Vol. 2 | Issue 6

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Message

Friends in Jesus Christ,

For us Christians, the month of June is very special as it is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of our Jesus. The Sacred Heart, also known as the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Sacratissimum Cor Iesu), is one of the most widely practiced and well-known Catholic devotions, wherein the heart of Jesus is viewed as a symbol of God's boundless and passionate love for mankind. The heart is synonymous with the totality of the person. Christ offers us an intimate view of the interior reality of His life, which is all love." In this, the love of God was manifested in us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him" (1 James 4: 8).

Pope Pius XII in his memorable Encyclical on devotion to the Sacred Heart (Haurietis Aquas) in 1956, expresses: "The cult of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is essentially nothing other than the cult of love that God has for us in Jesus, and it is at the same time the practice of our love for God and other men. In other words, this cult proposes the love of God as an object of adoration, thanksgiving and imitation; furthermore, he considers the perfection of our love for God and for our neighbor as the goal to be reached through the ever more generous practice of the new commandment." One of the many short prayers spoken by Catholics in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is precise: "Oh Jesus inflamed with love; I wish that I had never offended you." Every act of Jesus' earthly life was caused by the infinite love for all creatures: the Eucharistic sacrifice is a certificate of high charity, love devised in the immolation on the Cross, love hid Jesus under the sacramental species, love that transubstantiates the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, love that exists in the Holy Communion we receive.

From the Heart of Christ, the heart of man learns to know the true and unique meaning of his life and destiny, to understand the value of an authentic Christian life, to guard against certain perversions of the human heart, to unite the filial love for God with love for neighbor. (John Paul II, Message to the Society of Jesus, 10/5/1986). In this divine and human heart, the whole revolutionary reality of the Gospel, the love that saves us, has been revealed and given to us. This heart calls our heart, it invites us to come out of ourselves and abandon all our human certainties and trust Him. What a great relief to us it is to think that we are the object of God's love, a love that is always and forever. God impressed His mark in our lives because He does not want to lose us. He has created us for Him and only in Him do we realize our good. Faced with such an intense and eternal love, we can neither betray nor stop loving.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ, this love of God, which has penetrated the heart of each one of us, flows like a fountain to the valley of Thuckalay Diocese. I thank each one of you for your unconditional love towards this mission land and pray that the Sacred Heart of Jesus may bring you peace and serenity. Happy Feast Day to all of you.

May God continue to shower His abundant blessings on each one of you.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



Migrants' Meet at Chennai

The migrants' apostolate was established in our Diocese on 15 February 2017 to keep in touch with the faithful who live away from the Diocese due to employment, business and other reasons. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all the meetings had been conducted online. The first physical migrants' meet was organized by the Migrants' Apostolate at Holy Cross Church, Mugappair East, Chennai on 1 May 2022 at 5.00 PM. The programme began with a solemn Holy Mass celebrated by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb and one child received the First Holy Communion during the Holy Mass. The Holy Mass was followed by a meeting and His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb presided over it and His Excellency Mar Sebastian Pozholiparampil, Bishop of Hosur, was the chief guest. The Bishops called upon the faithful to continue their fervent faith through practices of piety at home and in Church to remain connected to their home Dioceses. The joyous and first-of-its-kind gathering ended with a fraternal meal.





Home for the Homeless

Home for the Homeless has been a dream project of the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese of Thuckalay since the year 2001. We have aimed to commemorate important milestones in our charitable activities. The Diocese had concluded its Silver Jubilee Celebrations and therefore 25 homes for the deserving poor, who otherwise find it extremely difficult to live during monsoons in their current accommodations. The KKSSS, founded by the Kanyakumari Mission of the Archdiocese of Changanassery in 1972 is commemorating its Golden Jubilee this year. In this honour, the effort is to provide 50 decent homes to 50 families.

We are very happy that the twelfth and the thirteenth homes at Mekkarai, Tenkasi Mission and Munchirai have been completed successfully. The blessings of newly constructed houses were carried out by Rev. Fr Thomas Poovathummottil, Director of KKSSS at Mekkarai on 28 May 2022 and Rev. Fr Jomon



Mangalamadathil, Parish Priest of Munchirai on 8 May 2022. The construction of two more houses is in progress at present in Tenkasi Mission. The Diocese is sure with support from many friends, well-wishers and donors, that we will be able to achieve this enormous task of providing a total of 75 decent roofs to very poor families in rural villages in the Diocese.



St Devasahayam



St Devasahayam, who was born in the Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and converted to Christianity in the 18th century, was canonized by our Holy Father Pope Francis on 15 May 2022 at the Vatican. Before the declaration, a special religious ceremony, the Vespers was held on 14 May 2022 at St Peter's Basilica. Mar Baselius Cardinal Cleemes, Major Archbishop of Syro-Malankara Church, led the vespers. Mar George Cardinal Alencherry gave the homily and Cardinal Oswald Gracias led the benediction. Over 50,000 faithful from all over the world including the Government delegation from India attended the

Canonisation Mass at St Peter's Basilica. Besides St Devasahayam, nine others were declared saints. There were a good number of Bishops and faithful from India who joyously attended the ceremony and the Holy Eucharist. On behalf of the Diocese of Thuckalay, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb attended the historic function and thanked the Lord for this great saint to our Church. We are glad that we have an institution called *Devasahayam Nalvazhvu Nilayam* (DNN), a Home for the Mentally Ill Patients, named after this great saint of India.



Mathru Jyothis Annual Day

The annual day of *Mathru Jyothis* (Catholic Mothers Movement) was celebrated on Mothers' Day on 8 May 2022 at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General, inaugurated the function and presided over it. Awards for best unit of the year and best animator were announced during the meeting. St Thomas Church, Muzhucode won the best unit award and Rev. Sr Jessy CMC received the best animator award. On this occasion, we

remember with gratitude Rev. Sr Jain Rose CHF and Rev. Sr Ancy SABS who are leaving the Diocese after completing their mission in the Family apostolate with commitment and dedication. As a joint director of the family apostolate, Rev. Sr Jain Rose had contributed a lot to creating strong faith. We also appreciate the great support rendered by Rev. Sr Ancy SABS in the counseling wing of the family apostolate. We assure our prayers and blessings to both of them and wish them the very best in God's ministry.



Forane Priests' Conference


The Forane level priests' conferences were held in three different places namely, Manjalumoodu for Manjalumoodu, Kaliyal and Arukani Foranes, Padanthalumoodu for Nithiravilai and Padanthalumoodu Foranes, and, Sangamam for Thuckalay Pilankalai and Soosaipuram Foranes on 12, 13 and 16 May 2022 respectively. The conferences were mainly intended to thank our Fathers who are on transfer from the respective Forane territories. The meetings were occasions to share the joyous experience of the missionaries and also to share a few difficult moments. All the meetings were organized by Forane Vicars and Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General chaired them.



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



Inter-Religious Meet & Pulari Educational and Charitable Trust Anniversary

As part of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Tenkasi Mission, an Inter-Religious Meeting was organized on 28 May 2022 at 04.30 PM held at Piranoor, Border in Tenkasi mission. The annual celebration of Pulari Educational and Charitable Trust was also held on the occasion. Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil was the guest of honour. The event was felicitated by the Panchayat President and ward members of the

area, the Director of KKSSS and by the Hindu - Islam religious representatives. The meeting highlighted the need for coming and working together as brothers and sisters beyond the religious barriers for the growth and upliftment of the poor and the downtrodden. Around 500 people including our fathers and sisters participated in the function.



Dissemination of our Seminarians

The brothers who finished their regency have joined the major seminaries for their theological studies and the new regency brothers took charge on 24 April 2022. Bro. Divin Raj and Bro Albin are the new regents from the Thuckalay diocese. Three brothers, Bro Sajan from Chenganassery Archdiocese, Bro. Ajo and Bro. Josin from Kanjirappally Diocese reached the Diocese for their regency.

Brothers those who have received their vestition have been sent to the seminaries for their philosophical studies – two brothers to Poonamallee, three brothers to Rome, two brothers to Trissur.

St. Joseph's Seminary conducted Tamil language classes for the brothers to empower them in their ministry today and later in the Diocese of Thuckalay. The brothers engaged themselves in different activities such as debates, speeches and sharing all in Tamil. The events were fun-filled and very enriching for the brothers.



At the beginning of May, a work camp was organised at KKSSS where the brothers supported our social service headquarters with cleaning, weeding and other activities. Fathers from the Diocese also visited the brothers in the work camp and shared their experiences.

The minor seminarians who were on vacation in their homes returned to the seminary on 31 May 2022.

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:
Rev. Fr Robin Jose
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

Medical Camp at Rajaputhukkudi in Kayathar Mission

Our missionary fathers and sisters working in Tirunelveli and Kayathar missions organized a one-day free medical camp at St Paul's CSI Church campus, Rajaputhukkudi on 29 May 2022. A team of 3 doctors along with the staff from Lourdes Matha Hospital, Pacha, Kerala came to give medical consultation. Rev. Sr Rose Martin, Provincial Superior of St Chantal Province SABS, was present for the camp. More than 200 people from the village came for a consultation and free medicines were given to them. Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General and Rev. Fr Thomas Sathianesan, Chancellor were present for the concluding the medical camp. The people who benefited expressed their gratitude to the doctors and the missionaries.





Save A Family Plan Unit in Tenkasi Mission

Save A Family Plan (SAFP) is a sponsorship programme of the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), funded by Save A Family Plan India (SAFPI). The project was started in the year 1998 and so far 1059 families have benefited from this project. At present we have 218 active partner families in the Family Development Program (FDP) under the operational area of KKSSS. The project has empowered families to become self-reliant and visible progress has been noticed in their social-economic conditions.

After constants request from KKSSS, the SAFPI has sanctioned an additional unit of SAFPI in Shenkottai, one of the most backward regions of the state of Tamil Nādu in Tenkasi District as a gift on the occasion of the golden jubilee of

KKSSS. In the first phase, 200 families will get benefited from this programme.

The new project was inaugurated on 28 May 2022 on the occasion of the silver jubilee celebration of Pulari Social Service Society (PSSS), Shenkottai by Mr. Manimaran, DSP of Tenkasi in the presence of Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General of the Diocese, Rev. Fr Thomas Poovathummottil, Director of KKSSS, Rev. Fr Thomas Thuckalay, Director of PSSS. Our Hindu and Muslim brothers and sisters who came for the inter-religious meeting and many other guests and beneficiaries, particularly women from the area, attended the event.

The Diocese is very grateful to SAFPI India for sanctioning the additional unit in the Shenkottai region.



Kuzhanthai Iso Iyakkam Annual Day

The annual day celebration of *Kuzhanthai Iso Iyakkam* (Holy Childhood) was held on 15 May 2022 at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The meeting was chaired by Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General. Rev. Fr Anil Raj and Rev. Fr Jimmy Thekkekadumathil were the chief guests of the meeting. The Movement had conducted various competitions for the children at different levels and the prizes were distributed to those who won the competitions. Rev. Fr. Jomon Mangalamadam, the outgoing Director of *Kuzhanthai Iso Iyakkam*, who organized the entire event and gave effective leadership to the activities in the past years was given a farewell by the animators and the children. Rev. Fr. Anil Raj took charge as the new Director during the function. We continue to undertake every activity for the spiritual and overall development of children in the Diocese.



VOCATION AND MISSION

Rev. Fr Mathew Kuzhinjalil

A Versatile Champion for Missions and Development



Rev. Fr Mathew Kuzhinjalil was born on 28 September 1954 at Pravithanam in the Kottayam District of Kerala. His parents were Michael and Annamma. His Parish, St. Michael's Church is in the Diocese of Palai. Rev. Fr Mathew shared in our interaction that he owes his vocation to his family that raised him in piety and to the Pravithanam Parish for instilling in him that ardent faith and the missionary spirit. He gave a broad smile and stated that he had a special love for the mission from his childhood. Initially, he desired to be a missionary in Assam.

The long years of the priestly formation began when young Mathew joined St. Joseph's Mission Home, Palai, which was established by Monsignor Jacob Vellaringattu. He was a great visionary who desired to prepare young boys and send them to the missions in North India. Later, Rev. Fr. Mathew shifted to Good Shepherd Minor Seminary in Palai in 1973. His formation in various seminaries had cemented first of all his Christian faith; to live the faith in trying circumstances; the strongest desire to proclaim God to all people, especially in mission lands and then to work for the upliftment of the people. He recalled how he had shared with Excellency Mar Joseph Pallickapparambil about his love for the missions.

Rev. Fr Mathew was ordained a priest on 28 December 1983. He was appointed in Sacred Heart

Church, Poovarany. Knowing that Mar Joseph Pallickapparambil encouraging priests to go to go to missionary lands, he approached him. The Bishop advised him to serve the Diocese for two years and then a serious thought could be given. As soon as he completed two years, Rev. Fr Mathew went back to Mar Joseph Pawathil and once again expressed his desire to serve in missionary lands. The Bishop gave his consent and sent him to Kanyakumari Mission.

Rev. Fr Kuzhinjalil joyfully joined the Kanyakumari Mission on the 15 February 1986 at Holy Family Church, Mukootukkal. A new land, a new people, and a new language excited him. He set to learn the language; he began visiting the homes of the people. Within a short period, he had visited all the homes of the faithful and many other homes for praying and sharing to understand the nature and life of the people. He was shattered to observe the poverty that existed then. He stated very confidently that in two months he could learn to celebrate the Holy Mass in Tamil.

Rev. Fr Mathew shared about the initial days of his missionary journey. He learned a lot from the experienced missionaries. He mentioned the name of Rev. Fr Zacharias Kaithara, who inspired him to dedicate himself totally to the people. He stated that observation of the way Rev. Fr Kaithara lived among the simple people and the way he was loved by them would give any priest the desire to be a missionary for life. To strengthen the faith of the people, the Missionaries used *Chinakuripidam*, a prayer book to teach catechism to the newly converted Christians. During May and June, people found it very difficult to live and make a living due to rain and the people were living in huts that leaked. He was very proud



that the Archdiocese of Changanassery stood for the people and brought in food materials from the Cochin zone for distribution to the people. He stated that Rev. Fr. Manjerikalam, on the other hand, started to get food materials for Nithravailai from Kottar Diocese and later help arrived from Chennai. To the joy of the missionaries, the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) was established in 1972. This was also the time when service-centered children's homes, girls' homes, boys' homes, orphanages, houses and other institutions began to be established. When he observed all these wonderful works, he felt that he was being chiseled by God to dedicate his entire life to the missions.

He worked very hard for the upliftment of the people. Rev. Fr Mathew found ways and means within the Church to bring funds for building homes for the people who were living in huts. He managed to get support and constructed 25 houses. He was also asked to look after the Karodu Parish and to be the director of Family Apostolate in Kanyakumari Mission.

His second stint at missionary work was the Thirunelveli – Nagercoil mission. The first four days of the week he stayed in Thirunelveli at a motor shed and rest of the three days he looked after Nagercoil where he had seven Syro Malabar Christian families. He built a Church and started celebrating the Holy Mass in the Church. He began a small school at Nagercoil with 17 students in LKG and it grew to the second standard during his time there. The institution has grown into Alphonsa Matriculation Higher Secondary School today. There was no place to stay in Nagercoil and he used to come to Soosaipuram for his stay. Later he was transferred to Palugal and Annikarai parishes. He believed in the



providence of God and His blessings on all the people and land he served and he carried out his pastoral work according to the needs of the people.

Rev. Fr Mathew was made the parish priest of Nithravailai, Vayalankarai and Christhurajapuram. He was very happy to develop a choir in the Parish and used choir for prayer and Bible Convention in various places in the region. Fathers from the Latin and Malankara Churches were part of the team with him. During this time there was a flood and many people lost their homes; the people were in agony; the Church came forward, housed the people in the Churches and provided for their needs. Rev. Fr Antony Porookkara, Director of KKSSS arranged for funds for the construction of 200 houses. He was appointed as KKSSS in Padantalumoodu and at the same time looked after Athencodu Parish.

The joyous news for the missions came with the Episcopal ordination of His Excellency Mar George Allenchery, the mission Diocese of Thuckalay was created to strengthen the missionary activities in the region. He provided leadership for the organization of the Episcopal ordination at Padanthalumoodu.

The third part of the missionary life of this versatile man began in the Senkottai Missions. His contribution has been tremendous when it comes to the existence and development of the Senkottai mission of the Diocese of Thuckalay. Rev. Fr Mathew lived in a rented house in Puliয়ারai. He visited the villages far and wide and observed utter poverty in the people. He knew education is the key. He started many Nursery schools in various mission centers of Senkottai they are Mekarai, Puthur, Lalakudirupu, Keshavapuram, Puliয়ারai,



Bagavathipuram and Karkudi. He started a bookbinding press at Puliyarai, which was inaugurated by the District Collector of Tirunelveli, for employing people from very poor families. Later the facility was upgraded and named Pulari Press.

The name 'Pulari' receives honour through his hard work. He started important institutions and activities such as Pulari Nursery School, Pulari English Medium School, Pulari Social Service Society, Pulari Offset Press, Pulari Village Health Program and Pulari School Health Program. The Church continues to work for the development of the poor by upgrading and strengthening them.

He came back to serve the Nithravilai Parish. He went to Munar for rest due to health reasons. On the request of the Bishop of Idukki, he started a new mission at Vattavadi for Tamil speaking people. He stayed in a rented house and built a Church for the faithful of the area. After four years, Rev. Fr Mathew came back to the Diocese and looked after Anaiyadi Parish and his own land at Kumarakovil. Later, he was appointed as the spiritual director of minor seminary.

He said that he has begun a new journey of his mission life at Rameswaram, staying at a rented house working for a mission centre named as *Mukthidan*, sponsored by Palai Diocese. He is trying his best to be faithful to God's call. He is helping



thirty backward families for their development. But there is abundance of opportunity created in serving the poor families that live in the area.

He advises the young generation of priests and religious that all should have a clear vision for them the Church and the Diocese, according to the present trying conditions, on how to evangelize. The same has to be reflected and deliberated repeatedly among ourselves. We are called to serve the Church by providing an opportunity for all, including lay people, who have been called to for His mission. He concluded by saying let us reach out to the entire land. He wished that the Diocese of Thuckalay has a bright future in its mission in the extended territories.





Rev. Fr Michael Arokiyaswami sdb
Director – Academics
St. Alphonsa College of Arts and Science
Soosaipuram



Rev. Fr Martin Gabriel Kandampampil MST
Parish Priest
St. Thomas Church
Pathukani

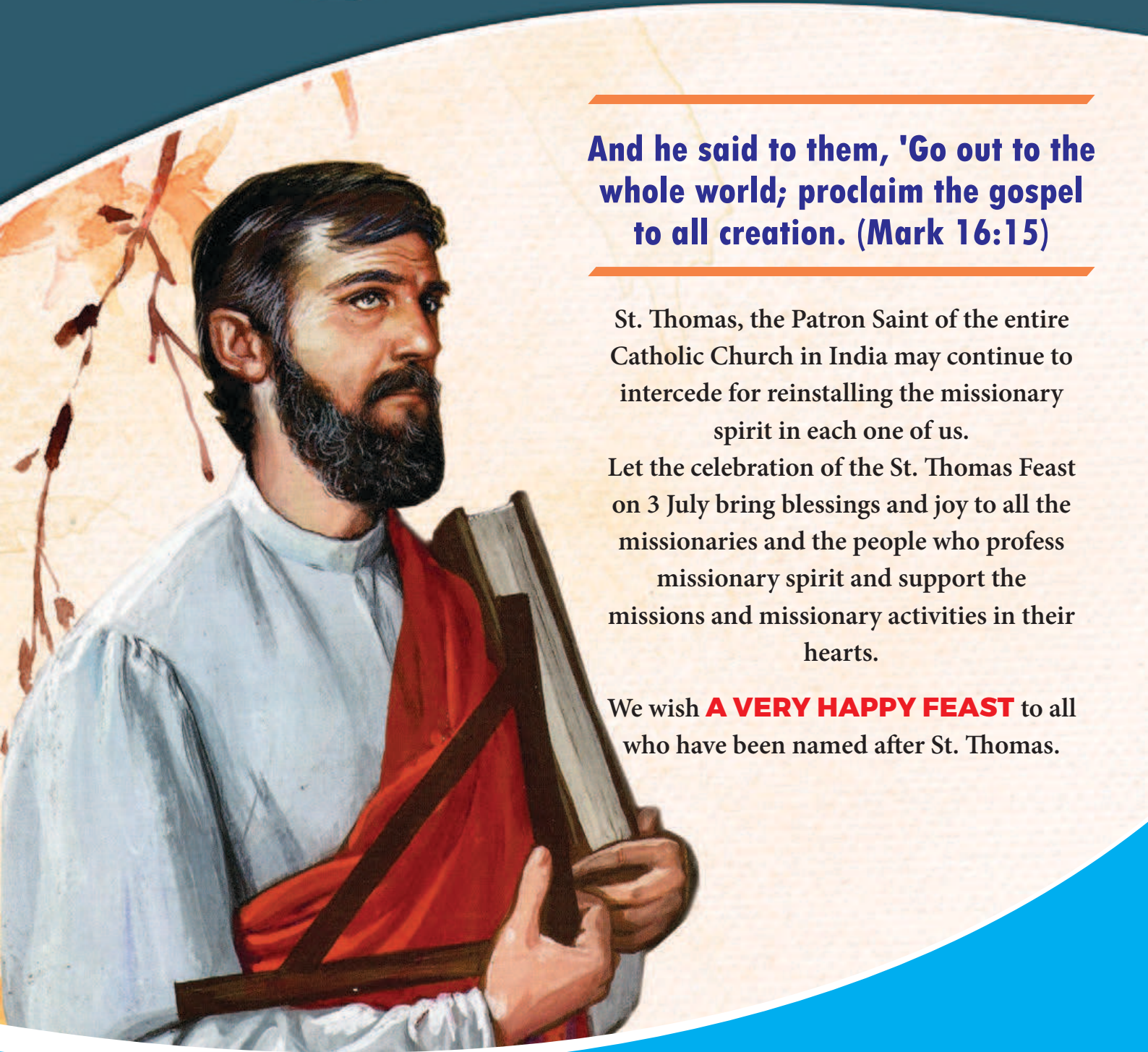


Rev. Fr Jogy Marangattu CMI
Rector
St. Mary's Minor Seminary
Mukootukal

**Hearty Welcome
to
Diocese of Thuckalay**



THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



And he said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation. (Mark 16:15)

St. Thomas, the Patron Saint of the entire Catholic Church in India may continue to intercede for reinstalling the missionary spirit in each one of us.

Let the celebration of the St. Thomas Feast on 3 July bring blessings and joy to all the missionaries and the people who profess missionary spirit and support the missions and missionary activities in their hearts.

We wish **A VERY HAPPY FEAST** to all who have been named after St. Thomas.

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