

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



HOLY FAMILY
EMULATE IN LOVE AND FAITH



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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INSIDE STORY

- ➔ Message from the Bishop 3
- ➔ Christmas Joy and Celebrations 4
- ➔ Priests' Conference and Pre-Christmas Celebration 8
- ➔ Blessing of New Presbytery 9
- ➔ St. Vincent de Paul, Silver Jubilee Celebration and VAAN Inauguration 10
- ➔ Blessing of Community Kitchen and Renovated Chapel at Anbu Illam 11
- ➔ Bible Convention 12
- ➔ Bible Fest 14
- ➔ Nambikkai Alayam Silver Jubilee Begins 15
- ➔ KKSSS Turns 50 16
- ➔ Family Empowerment 18



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



Message

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Greetings and prayerful wishes from Bishop's House, Thuckalay.

The year 2022 receded away and we have entered into the New Year 2023. Whenever we conclude a year and step into another year, we think of the wonderful gift of God, namely, time. Although God is above time, we are blessed with time with which we can grow, develop and become more humane and spiritual. While wishing you a prosperous and grace-filled New Year, let me remind you that we need to make good use of the precious gift of time that God has generously given to us.

As we enter this new era with excitement and happiness, I wish to highlight the importance of **Family Life**. The only perfect family that ever lived on this earth is the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family is a model of faithfulness and they were devoted to God and His call in their lives. They faithfully followed their God-given vocations to the best ability. Holy Family is a **true model of a Christian home**, that radiated loving harmony and peace. The Holy Family is a strong symbol of the Church and is an example for all Catholics to follow.

A family is a group of persons who are related by marriage or blood, and for us Catholics, the family typically includes a father, mother, and children. The husband and wife attain holiness when they discharge their duties faithfully, trusting in God, and drawing on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, through personal and family prayer, meditative reading of the Bible, and devout participation in Holy Mass. Families become holy when Christ Jesus is present in them. Jesus becomes truly present in a family when all the members live in the Christian spirit of sacrifice. This happens with mutual understanding, mutual

support and mutual respect binding the members in one loving family. There must be proper care and respect given by children to their parents and grandparents, even after they have grown up and left home. The five characteristic features of Catholic families are that they worship together, pray together, are called to live in intimacy, need to put family first and witness a sign of God's love and goodness. The grave responsibility of parents and children is to make their families holy after the example set by the Holy Family of Nazareth. Vatican II says that "the family is the foundation of society". Our family mission is ensure that we live and exhibit God's love in the world.

I wish and pray for each one of you that, you and your family be graced with God's abundant blessings throughout the year 2023. I may suggest a short prayer for all us through this year, *Teach us truth, to walk with courage, teach us mercy, to walk with humility, teach us forgiveness, to walk with compassion, teach us grace, to walk with strength, teach us generosity, to walk an extra mile, teach us wonder, to walk with praise, teach us goodness, to walk with those in need, teach us courage, to speak my voice and teach us wisdom, to remain faithful Christians.*

May our Creator and Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, shower His abundant blessings on each one of you.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay

Christmas Joy and Celebrations



The Diocese of Thuckalay joins the universal celebration of Christmas as a joyful event, sharing gifts among friends and relatives. The festival of joy is celebrated appropriately in the entire Diocese to spread joy and happiness among the faithful and the people living

around us in our places of ministry. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb joined and greeted all the Pre-Christmas celebrations. He cut the cake and shared, and distributed diaries of 2023 to all the participants of the celebrations.

Christmas Joy and Celebrations



Migrants of the Diocese



Missionaries of extended territories at Madurai

We organized many Pre-Christmas celebrations. We had Christmas Celebrations with charitable institution staff, Educational and Production Institution Staff and those of **Sychar Resource Centre, Kozhiporvilai** on 12 December 2022.

The celebrations with the **missionaries of extended territories at Madurai** were held on 15 December 2022. The **migrants of the Diocese** were brought together as they arrived for their holidays and Christmas and New Year celebrations at Sangamam on 16 December 2022 and the Christmas joy was shared.



SMYM Celebration



Sychar Resource Centre, Kozhiporvilai

Christmas Joy and Celebrations



Conference of Religious of India



Friends and Wellwishers

There were a few Christmas celebrations on 17 December 2022 with **Conference of Religious of India** (CRI), the **catechesis department**, the **Family Apostolate** and **Tenkasi Mission**.

The Diocese went on to celebrate Christmas with the Educare children, Sinai Theological students and youth of the **Syro-Malabar Youth Movement** (SMYM) on 18 December 2022. On 20

December 2022, the celebrations were held with **Nambikkai Alayam** children, Kazhuvanthittai and **friends and well-wishers** of the Diocese at Sangamam. **Major seminarians** of the Seminary gathered to share the joy of Christmas at Sangamam and the **Seeds** (members who support seminarians) and **Minor Seminarians** gathered at Mukkootukal Seminary on 22 December 2022 for the Christmas celebrations.



Major Seminarians



SEEDS

Christmas Joy and Celebrations



Heads of the Institutions

The **neighborhood of Bishop's House** and the **staff of Bishop's House** participated in the celebrations on 23 December 2022.

The **Christmas Eve** and **Christmas Day** Celebrations were celebrated in **all the Parishes and Mission Centres** where the faithful, priests and religious shared the joy of Christmas among all.



Kuzhinjavilai Mission



Neighborhood of Bishop's House



Priests' Conference and Pre-Christmas Celebration

On 21 December 2021, at the **Pastoral Centre, Thuckalay** the priests of the Diocese gathered together to celebrate Christmas and to share brotherhood at Sangamam. The get-together began with the Priests' Conference. After the conference, all the Fathers came from the chapel and moved to the hall in procession singing Christmas carols. The event was organised well by our junior priests and deacons. For the competitions, all the priests were divided into four groups and different tasks were assigned. There was stiff competition among the groups. Prizes were given to the winning teams. Rev. Fr Jogi Marangattu CMI, Rector of St. Mary's Minor

Seminary gave a short Christmas message. At the end of the gathering, all the Fathers came together to cut the Christmas cake and a delicious meal was organised to bring the



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:

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



Blessing of New Presbytery



The new Presbytery at **Christ the King Parish, Paraicode** was blessed on 18 December 2022. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdblessed the Presbytery in the presence of Curia members and Fathers from Thuckalay-Pilankalai Forane.

It is good to mention that His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church blessed the foundation stone for the Presbytery on December 13, 2021, on his visit to the Diocese for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of his Episcopal Ordination. We are very glad that the priest serving in Christ the King Parish has been provided with a residence during the Golden Jubilee Year of the establishment of the Parish. The new Church for the Parish too has been under construction since 2016 and has been delayed due to various reasons. We are confident that the new Church will be blessed during the Jubilee concluding function to be held in November 2023.



St. Vincent de Paul, Silver Jubilee Celebration and VAAN Inauguration

The first Vincent de Paul Conference in Kanyakumari mission was established at Soosaipuram on 08 December 1963 and this conference belonged then to Changanacherry Central Council. Slowly it got spread to different places and different conferences were made under the 'Kanyakumari circle'. On 12 December 1997, Thuckalay Central Council was erected and Mr. Sounder Raj was elected as the first president. At present, there are 7 area councils and 91 conferences with 600 members.

On 11 December 2022, St. Vincent de Paul Thuckalay Central Council celebrated the conclusion of the Silver Jubilee at Asaripallam and the dream project of Thuckalay St. Vincent de Paul Central Council, **Vidiyal Arul Avai Naduvam (VAAN)** building was blessed by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb. Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Spiritual Advisor of the Society, Rev. Fr Sanal Panthichirackal, Spiritual Director of VAAN, Bro Jude Mangal Raj, National

President of the Vincent de Paul Society, Bro Santhyagu Manikiam, National Council Secretary, Bro Robi, President, Thuckalay CC and a good number of St. Vincent de Paul members. It is a home to accommodate and give proper guidance to the patients and bystanders who come for treatment at the Government Medical College, Asaripallam. The Diocese is indeed privileged to have lay leaders and volunteers in the St. Vincent de Paul Society to take up the mission to assist the poor and sick people who visit the Government Medical College and look for free treatment and accommodation.

The thanksgiving Holy Eucharist was celebrated by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb, followed by the Jubilee concluding the public meeting. During the meeting, the Jubilarians who completed 25 or 50 years of service in the St. Vincent de Paul Society were honoured with a memento. The event also marked the release of the Jubilee Souvenir.



Blessing of Community Kitchen and Renovated Chapel at *Anbu Illam*



A community kitchen, with the purpose to provide daily food for 100 people who are sick and abandoned on the streets, was blessed by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb on 07 December 2022 at Pavoorchathram in Tenkasi mission. It was built under the guidance of Rev. Fr Rajesh MCBS, director of **Anbu Illam**. Many Fathers and Sisters were present for the blessing. We are very happy

that we can reach out to people in need of a nutritious meal daily. We are proud that the hungry can find a place for a meal in this backward area.

On the very same day in the evening, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb blessed the renovated chapel of *Anbu Illam*. Rev. Fr Antony Kuttickal, assistant provincial of MCBS was present for the blessing.





BIBLE CONVENTION

The Diocesan Bible Convention was held on December 02, 03& 04, 2022 at **Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai**. The Vincentian Fathers from Kottayam Province animated the retreat for elders and youth. Rev. Fr Augustine Menankariyil VC was the main preacher and Rev. Fr Daniel VC assisted him. The retreat began with a Bible





procession presided over by Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General of the Diocese.

The director of Sinai retreat centre, Rev. Fr Mijo welcomed all the faithful. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb inaugurated the retreat with a profound and meaningful message on the importance of adoration in everyone's lives. The retreat was blessed with praise and worship, preaching the Word of God, adoration, confession and Eucharistic procession. Our faithful from all the parishes attended and actively participated in the Convention. On the last day, we had a large number of faithful attending the programme. It was nice to see many Fathers and Sisters along with their faithful exhibiting an interest in deepening the Faith at the Convention. A special retreat was also conducted simultaneously on the same campus for the catechism students.



Bible Fest


The Forane level Catechism Bible competitions were held from 27 to 30 December 2022. All the parishes took part in various competitions. **Narcheithi Nilayam** of the Diocese organised the competitions. The themes for the various competitions were taken from the Bible. This helped the children to read the Bible and to engender love for the Word of God. All the children after much preparation and rigorous practice took part actively in the competitions.



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



Nambikkai Alayam Silver Jubilee Begins

Nambikkai Alayam is a home for the mentally challenged and celebrated the inauguration of its Silver Jubilee on 20 December 2022. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb celebrated the Holy Eucharist and thanked all the Sacred Heart Sisters for taking good care of the children

in the past and at present. The Jubilee celebration also marked the performance of these special children with cultural items such as singing and dancing. The Jubilee inauguration was very simple and was participated by the children along with parents and a few neighbours.





KKSSS Turns 50

Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KSSS), the social arm of the Diocese of Thuckalay is a Non-Governmental Organization, that aims for the social welfare and upliftment of the community. It was established in 1972 with the motto "To Reachout and Empower". Its societal involvement includes Family Development, Women Empowerment, Education for Empowerment, Holistic Health, Livelihood Enhancement, Tribal Development and Rehabilitation for Differently abled persons and so on. On 05 December 2022, a splendid celebration honoring the Golden Jubilee of the Kanyakumari Social Service Society was held at the Aseer Auditorium at Kalluvilai, Mulagumoodu.

The event was presided over by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb, Thiru J. Prince, MLA, Colachel Constituency, Kavignar Malarvathi, Sahitya Academy Award winner, Rev. Fr Jesu Rethanam, contact person for the Diocese of Kuzhithurai, Navukkarasar Nanjil Sampath, Mrs. Sarojini, District Social Welfare Officer for Kanyakumari, Rev. Fr Marshel Melappely, Executive Director, Save a Family



Plan, India, Rev. Fr Albert Thambidurai, Director, Tamil Nadu Social Service Society, Trichy and Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General of the Diocese graced the entire programme. It was indeed a befitting celebration in recalling the contributions of KKSSS through fifty years and declaring the way forward keeping in mind the needs of the communities being served. All former directors and staff who selflessly served the people through KKSSS during the past 50 years were remembered with gratitude and appreciation.



You can come forward to partner the Educare Sponsorship Program of the Diocese of Thuckalay.

You can help a Child for Education at different levels.

School Education : 5 - 7 Years

College Education : 3 Years

For details contact

Rev. Fr Abin Poovathumoottil

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Kalluvilai, Mulagumoodu P.O

Kanyakumari District

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Family Empowerment

Save A Family Plan (SAFP) is a programme run by the Kanyakumari Social Service Society, the social arm of the Diocese of Thuckalay. SAFP is funded by a Canadian-based International Development Organization founded in 1965 by Monsignor Augustine Kandathil. The cost of the program is shared by Canadian and US individual benefactors as their contribution of \$20 per month to each family for six continuous years. The Family Development Programme and Community Development Programme are the two major programmes under SAFP. Family Development Program is the pioneer program of SAFP, which aims at the overall development of poor families by promoting economic and social development initiatives. The main focus of this program is to help poverty-stricken families to meet their basic needs and to encourage them to move towards self-reliance through the creation of their personalized income generation projects. The income generation projects and livelihood initiatives lead the family, in time, to be self-sufficient. The beneficiaries for this program are selected based on the criteria fixed by SAFP, and Rs.1,200/- is provided to each beneficiary family as monthly support. Apart from this regular support, the beneficiaries are provided with a special gift as decided by the benefactor.



Selection Criteria:

The following two criteria are strictly followed and are mandatory:

- One child in the family to be under the age of 13 years
- At least one family member is willing and capable of doing a “sustainable” Income Generation Program.

At least one of the below-mentioned three criteria should be satisfied:

- Woman headed family
- Family member with Cancer/ HIV/AIDS/ Tuberculosis/ Leprosy
- Differently abled family member (at least 40% disability)

At least three of the below-mentioned four criteria are to be satisfied:

- Below Poverty Line (BPL) Card
- No sanitary latrine
- No access to safe drinking water
- Inadequate shelter – homeless

How it helps poor families:

- Provides basic human needs
- Meets some of the educational costs of children



- Offers skills development opportunities
- Enhances awareness through training
- Reduces indebtedness
- Improves living conditions
- Reduces the burden of widows and abandoned women
- Augments the income



Save A Family Plan (SAFP) in the Diocese

Family Development Program is one of the premier programs for the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS). The program has been operating in the Diocesan operational area of Kanyakumari District since 1987. A very positive new area identified last year in the Diocesan mission area was Shenkottai in Tenkasi District. Till now more than 1000 families have been assisted to become self-reliant in the operational area. At present 435 families are being assisted every month.

We were very happy that we could support some families during and after the COVID pandemic. To promote entrepreneurship skills and to develop the economic condition among the family development program beneficiaries, 25 families were given financial support to start new small business initiatives or enhance existing small business initiatives. The activity is a model, creative and innovative small business initiative for all the FDP families. The selected families were given an amount of Rs.100,000/- for initiating or improving an income-generating activity based on certain conditions. These families are being highlighted as models for encouraging other partner families.

We still have a great opportunity in this field to empower many families from very downtrodden families who fit into the criteria for the Program.





THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

Pope Benedict XVI (1927 – 2022)

The Diocese of Thuckalay
mourns the death of
our dearest
Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
on his demise.

His Holiness breathed his last on the last day of 2022,
leaving a memory that shall remain alive throughout
the history of the our Catholic Church.

We are very proud that
Pope Benedict XVI
is leading us with his staff in hand
having shown us the way to the Lord.

The Diocese of Thuckalay conveys our heartfelt condolences
to every Catholic all over the Universal Church.



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