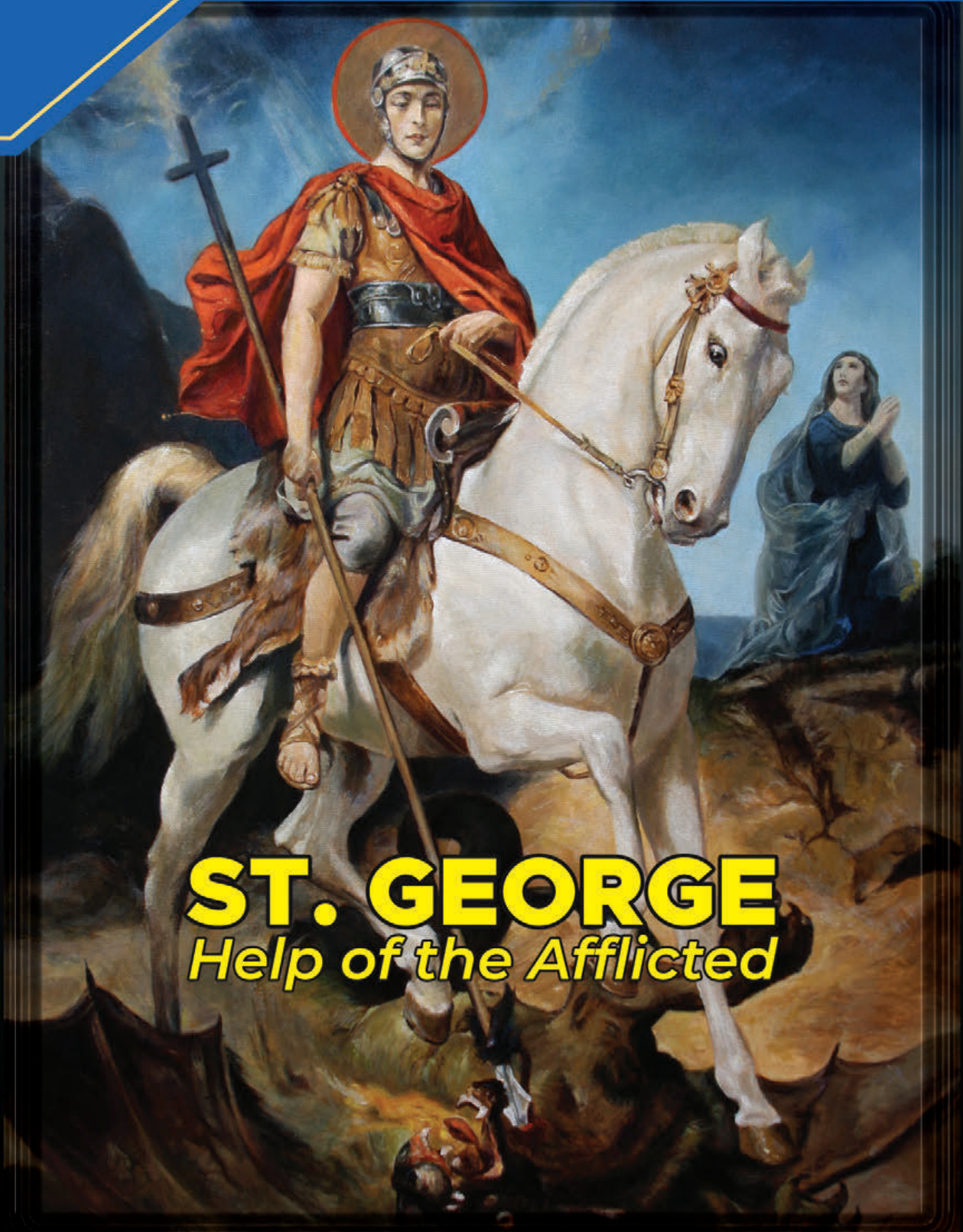


# THUCKALAY TIDINGS

APRIL 2023 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 4

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**ST. GEORGE**  
*Help of the Afflicted*



Published by:  
THUCKALAY MISSION  
Diocese of Thuckalay

**THUCKALAY TIDINGS**  
April 2023 | Vol. 3 | Issue 4

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**

Rev. Fr Robin Jose  
*Mission Procure*

**ASSOCIATE EDITORS**

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*Rome, Italy*  
Dr. S Isias  
*Principal, St. Alphonsa College*

**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

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**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!

**O**n Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, as he had said many times earlier. The stone rolled away, and inside the tomb, only the linen, that was used to wrap his body, was left behind. The soldiers deserted the tomb, shocked and in disbelief at what they saw, and reported the events that unfolded to the authorities. Before sunrise, a group of women had come with oil to anoint the body but could not find Him. The angels appeared to announce His Resurrection and directed the disciples to gather in Galilee.

The Resurrection of Jesus tells us that the tomb is not the end. Instead, it is the beginning. Jesus has risen, never to die again. His mission of telling the world that evil can be conquered by good is accomplished. God, who loves the world so much, empowers human beings to overcome the evil within and around us. Human beings can be good and prove worthy of heaven. The message of the angel early on Easter Sunday morning can be good news for us too. "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day he will rise again'" (Lk 24: 5-7).

The lives of the apostles underwent a radical change after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus appeared to them and prepared them to continue His mission. The crowd too changed, when the apostles preached to them about Jesus and His resurrection. They were cut to the heart. "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" (Acts 2:37). Down through the centuries, life, death, and resurrection, and the preaching of Jesus' principles, gave so much meaning and relevance to the people.

The celebration of Easter should encourage us to begin our lives anew. We need to live our lives afresh, positively and re-energised in order to do good and avoid evil, to contribute towards the progress and not stagnation or

regression. Let us not look for the dead among the living. Let us look for life and promote life. Let us stop being dead while being alive. Let us be fully alive.

One of the often repeated gifts of the Risen Lord was peace. He would say: "Peace be with you." Peace is the need of the hour for individuals and for the entire world. We need to work for peace and promote peace. A peaceful man is serene and will not cause trouble for others. We are expected to be people who are symbols of peace, serenity, and joy.

Jesus forgave Peter. "I have prayed for you, Simon," said Jesus, "that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." In return, Jesus received loyalty, deep commitment, and love from Peter. "Yes, Lord, you know I love you" was what Peter replied to Jesus after his resurrection. He then entrusted him with the responsibility of looking after and tending his sheep. He condescended to show His wounded side and allow it to be touched by Thomas just to strengthen his faith. Finally, He not only commissioned every disciple to go and preach repentance, love, and forgiveness to all creation but also promised to be with everyone who called on Him till the end of time.

I wish every one of you a very HAPPY EASTER. May the Risen Lord fill you with his Peace, love, and passion! Let us pray for one another. Let us earnestly ask the Risen Lord for the grace that we will all be faithful to the mission that He has given to us. I thank you for your continuous support to the mission of the Diocese of Thuckalay.

Yours in Risen Christ,



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


# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH

The Jesus Youth movement of Tamil Nadu region organized a one-day spiritual enrichment programme on 4 March 2023, for the youth of the parishes where the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) sisters are serving. The event was expertly coordinated by the Reverend Sisters of FCC San Joe Province, Thuckalay, and was hosted at St. Michael's Matriculation School,

Kattathurai. It is heartening to learn that seventy enthusiastic youth participated in the programme. The commitment towards the youth that the FCC Sisters have and the initiatives taken in making this event a successful one. This instilling of spirituality among youth has been highly appreciated by everyone in the Diocese.



## 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,  
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## MISSION VISIT TO EXTENDED TERRITORY

His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb, accompanied by Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor of the Diocese undertook mission visit to the extended territory of the Diocese on 13 & 14 March 2023 with the purpose to encourage and motivate the missionary priests and religious serving the Church.

On the first day, they visited the Sacred Heart (SH) Sisters of Kanjirapally Province who are residing in a rented house in Cumbum; they went on and met Rev. Fr Benny Thattampampil, the coordinator of the Theni mission, and Rev. Fr Shan, Assistant Priest of Theni Mission; They also used the opportunity to interact with the FCC Sisters from the Idukki Province who have been serving in Theni.

On the second day, they visited the Madurai Mission located at Ariyur, where His Excellency and the Chancellor had a fruitful meeting with

Rev. Fr Jebaneesh and the SABS Sisters who are serving the community with utmost dedication. Later, they visited the Virudhu Nagar Mission and met Rev. Fr Peter Kizhakkeyil and the FCC Sisters from the Idukki Province, who were rendering valuable service in the region. They visited the Kayathar Mission and interacted with Rev. Fr Jomon and the FCC Sisters from the Thuckalay Province. At Thirunelveli, they discussed the works with the SABS Sisters from Thuckalay Province; accompanied by Rev. Fr Tobin, they undertook a visit the land at Nanguneri. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb had again paid a mission visit to Madurai (Vilangudi) on 18 March 2023. He had a fruitful discussion with Rev. Fr Babu CMI and some representatives from the parish, which was highly enlightening. The Bishop expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the missionaries for their selfless efforts.







## FOUNDATION STONE LAID For Marthandam Presbytery

The Marthandam Mission was erected on 8 September 2007 with a solemn prayer gathering held at the residence of Mr. Mariadas. Subsequently, after a year, the community began to celebrate Holy Eucharist on Sundays at Stephen Complex in Marthandam. However, in 2017, the community was relocated to the Serene Retreat Centre of *Yesuvai Kanpom*. Later, when the Congregation of the sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SABS)

convent was consecrated, the community shifted to the convent chapel for their Sunday worship services. With the acquisition of land for the Church, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb had laid the foundation stone for the presbytery and community hall on 15 March 2023. Kudos to the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Thomas Sathianesan, who is carrying out meticulous coordination of the construction works.



## FOUNDATION STONE LAID For St. Joseph Mission Home

The Diocese of Palai has been kind to undertake missionary activities in the districts of Ramanathapuram and Sivagangai. The eminent missionary, Rev. Fr Mathew Kuzhinjalil has been visiting Rameswaram in the district of Ramanathapuram since 19 February 2020 to identify a suitable locations for the mission. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic causing the suspension of the mission along with the Snehagiri Missionary Sisters (SMS) from the Diocese of Palai, Rev. Fr Mathew demonstrated a deep trust in God's grace and resumed his ministry with great fervour upon his return to Rameswaram. Recently, he procured a plot of land measuring 12 cents at Vethalai, Rameswaram, further demonstrating

his commitment to the mission. His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of Palai, arrived in Rameswaram with his curia members and other Fathers on 17 March 2023. Our Bishop, accompanied by Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor of the Diocese and Rev. Fr Justin, participated in the function. The Holy Mass was celebrated at the residence of Rev. Fr Mathew Kuzhinjalil. Later, His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangattu sanctified and laid the foundation for St. Joseph Mission Home. The mission coordinator, Rev. Fr Peter Kizhakkeyil, and Rev. Fr Christudas were also present for this momentous occasion.







## MAJOR SEMINARIANS MEET

Our major seminarians arrived the Diocese from their respective seminaries On 30 March 2023, for their annual vacation. They remain in the Diocese until 15 May 2023. On 31 March 2023, the curia members convened the seminarians at Sangamam, where their academic, spiritual, human, and pastoral formative experiences from their respective seminaries were reviewed. Likewise, the curia

members conveyed their profound expectations for the formation and ministry of the seminarians within the Diocese. During the Holy Week, the seminarians were dispatched to various parishes for ministry and were expected to offer their services for Vacation Bible Class (VPV) as well. We wish them the very best in their vacation ministry.





## FOUNDATION STONE LAID

### For Kulasekharam Community Hall

The Kulasekharam Mission, which was initiated by late Rev. Fr Philip Kodiyanthara, was established to cater to the pastoral requirements of the Syro-Malabar faithful residing in the area. Over the time, the mission evolved and on 27 March 2009, the very first Holy Eucharist was offered in one of the classrooms, and the mission was christened the John Paul II Mission. Subsequently, a piece of land was acquired to construct a Church. A significant milestone was achieved as the foundation stone for a community hall was blessed and laid by Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General of the Diocese on 27 March 2023, in order to fulfil the pastoral needs of the parishioners. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor of the Diocese and Rev. Fr Jose Kanichakkuzhiyil, Parish Priest and the Reverend Sisters from the SABS Congregation. We pray that the work is completed within the intended time frame.







## BLESSING OF NEW FCC CONVENT at Kayathar

The San Jose Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC), Province of Thuckalay embarked on their community journey in Kayathar on 13 June 2019, beginning their missionary activities in a rented house. The Sisters initiated their ministry by establishing a tuition centre, making home visits, and providing care to the sick. Through divine intervention, the sisters were able to acquire 2.85 acres of land in Kayathar in 2021, which paved the way for the foundation stone of a new convent to be laid on 18 April 2022. Within one year, the construction was completed, and

the newly built convent was blessed on 23 March 2023. During the blessing, Rev. Sr. Cilia FCC, Provincial Superior of San Joe Province, Diocesan Curia members, and Reverend Fathers and Sisters from the extended mission territories and Thuckalay were present. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb blessed the chapel during the concelebrated Holy Eucharist and later the Convent in the presence of numerous people from nearby villages. A public meeting followed, where the village leaders and people were in attendance. We congratulate the FCC sisters.







## RECOLLECTION OF RELIGIOUS

A spiritually uplifting half-day recollection was held at Sangamam, the pastoral centre of the Diocese on 11 March 2023, under the auspices of the Conference of Religious India (CRI), for the religious sisters serving in the Diocese of Thuckalay. The retreat was animated by Rev. Fr Robins Kuzhikodil, who adeptly guided the sisters in their Lenten journey towards spiritual rejuvenation. The retreat provided a sacred space for the sisters to reflect, meditate, and connect with their inner selves, with the Fathers on hand to administer the sacrament of confession during the solemn adoration. The retreat culminated in a solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which served as a poignant reminder of the immense love and grace of the Almighty.





## TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

The Youth Resource Team of the Diocese underwent an update program on 14 March 2023 at the SMYM Office in Kalluvilai. The morning session was taken by Mr. Michael Raja, the esteemed coordinator of Don Bosco Vazhikatti from Trichy, who shared his valuable insights on the current job market and the various opportunities available for higher education. Later in the afternoon, the program continued with a session taken by the Director of SMYM-Thuckalay, Rev. Fr Joseph Santhosh, who touched upon the important themes discussed in the YOCAT book.



***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.**

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**College Education : 3 Years**

*For details contact*

**Rev. Fr Abin Poovathumoottil**

*Director, Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS)*

*Kalluvilai, Mulagumoodu P.O*

*Kanyakumari District*

*Phone: +91 77087 26043; 98845 61965*

*Email: abypoovathummoottil@gmail.com*





## PRESBYTERY BLESSING AT KOZHIPPORVILAI

Over the past few years, the directors of Sychar Farm at Kozhipporvilai have been residing in a small and inadequate room, without proper space for private liturgical celebrations. However, his Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb was generous to construct a new priest's residence, providing a comfortable and spacious abode for the directors. It gives great pleasure to express the profound gratitude towards Rev. Fr Geo Choozhikunnel for spearheading this construction project. The Bishop blessed the new presbytery on 15 March 2023, in the esteemed presence of curia members and the director of Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese.





**Cancer awareness Program for the Animators**



**Cancer awareness rally at Mukootukal**

## KKSSS

The Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese of Thuckalay has been a great aid to the people of Kanyakumari District and the surrounding areas. KKSSS has always extended its arms and come out to help the poor and the marginalized of all kinds. During the month of March, it has organized various activities for the betterment of the people whom it takes close to the heart in service to God.



**Educare Innaguration**



**Women's Day Celebration**



## ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS MAR JOSEPH POWATHIL

With profound sadness, the Diocese of Thuckalay received the heart-breaking news of the demise of beloved Archbishop Emeritus Mar Joseph Powathil on 18 March 2023. As the Diocese has been deeply indebted to the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, we express our heartfelt condolences and offer our prayers and render our consolation to our Archbishop Mar Joseph Perumthottam.

Archbishop Mar Joseph Powathil played an instrumental role in the development of the then Kanyakumari Mission during his episcopal ministry. His regular visits and establishment of new mission stations instilled a missionary zeal in the hearts of the priests and religious who worked in the Kanyakumari Mission. It was his earnest desire and untiring effort that helped raise the Kanyakumari Mission to the Diocese of Thuckalay, and we are truly grateful to him for his selfless sacrifice.





We were privileged to pay our last respects to this great soul of the Church, as his body was brought to the Bishop's House of the Archdiocese on 21 March 2023. From that moment onwards until the conclusion of the funeral ceremony, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb was present for all the events. Some Fathers and Sisters from the Diocese joined the prayers on 20 March 2023. Later that day, our Diocese had the opportunity to pay our last respects to Mar Joseph Powathil. Forane Vicars organized the travel arrangements from each Forane, and a large number of Priests, Sisters, and lay faithful came to attend the prayer service that we conducted in Tamil language at St. Mary's Cathedral Church, Changanacherry. The funeral was held on 22 March 2023, and some Fathers and Sisters from our Diocese participated in the Funeral Mass. We witnessed a sea of humanity converging at the St. Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral to bid adieu to the Archbishop Emeritus. On 24 March 2023, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb concelebrated the remembrance Holy Eucharist along with other bishops and recited *oppees* at his tomb.



**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](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)





**THUCKALAY**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**Diocese of Thuckalay Cherishes!**

**Congratulations to the Newly ordained  
Priests 2023**

**Rev. Frs Ajin Joseph, George Kandathil, Prince George**

**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)**