

## Commemoration of Diocesan Foundation Day *With Renewed Fervour*





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# INSIDE STORY

➔ Message from the Bishop	3
➔ Annual Retreat for Priests	4
➔ The Servant of God Mar Mathew Kavukattu	5
➔ Life Orientation Camp	6
➔ Sinai Residential Retreat	7
➔ Annual Rosary Procession	8
➔ Popular Mission Retreat	9
➔ Little Flower Handicraft Unit	10
➔ Online Rosary Recitation by the Migrant Community	11
➔ Educare Retreat	12
➔ Catechism Teachers' Seminar	13
➔ St. Vincent de Paul Society – <i>Deshathodu Oru Naal</i>	14
➔ <i>Sirumalar</i> Platinum Jubilee	15
➔ <i>Kuzhanthai Isso Iyakkam</i> Seminar	16
➔ World Mental Health Day	17
➔ Golden Jubilee Celebration of Pilankalai Church and Blessing of Cemetery and <i>Kalkurusu</i>	18
➔ Rosary Procession and Jubilee Exhibition in Tenkasi Mission	19
➔ NAAC Peer Team Visit at St. Alphonsa College	20
➔ Launch of SMYM Jesus Dreamz Music Band	21
➔ Life Witness	22
➔ Vocation and Mission	24



**DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**  
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P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
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# Message

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Greetings and prayerful wishes from Diocese of Thuckalay.

In my message this month I would like to reflect with you, in short, the reality of death and how one needs to prepare for the same. When facing the end of life or the loss of a loved one, the first step is to recognize one's feelings about death. Taking the time to grieve is also important, as it is connecting with and communicating with others. Isolation can make things more difficult.

There is a natural longing in the human heart for peace, friendship, love and happiness; for a life that is purposeful and worth living. And there is an even deeper longing and yearning to discover the ultimate meaning of life, to know the love of God, and to share in a destiny beyond the horizon of death. St Augustine of Hippo, one of the great teachers of the Church, wrote: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." In God's plan, human beings are created for holiness and eternal life with him through death.

The mystery of death is of all the fears that plague the heart of man; none is greater than the fear of death. It is our greatest fear, the sum of all other fears. We are afraid to die. We are afraid of what happens when we die. Death is a fundamental human problem, but many also have a conviction that something lies beyond it, that death does not have the last word. The Catholic Faith is rooted in the belief that God has made us enjoy life with Him. Every Christian hopes to die in a state of grace, reconciled with God, self and at peace with others. The Bible says that God "desires all people to be saved" (1 Timothy 2:4).

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. Those who believe in Me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (Jh 11: 25-26). The final goal of our lives is to see God face to face in heaven, to be wrapped up in His joy, love and happiness forever in the company of all the angels and saints.

As we enter the month of November, let us meaningfully spend the month helping our people to pray for their dead

and assisting our dying members to reach the Heavenly Home. It is such a consolation to know that we are spiritually united, even now, with those who have died, and that we have the hope of seeing them again in Heaven when we die ourselves. It is also an appropriate time for us to reflect upon the temporality of human life and get ourselves of all unnecessary baggage that we carry which can distract us from our goal, namely, the heavenly Jerusalem, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal (Mt 6:19).

We have joyfully celebrated the **26<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Day** on 13 November 2022. Our hearts, "Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the Lord in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth (Isaiah 12:4-5). Thanksgiving is a joyous invitation to shower the world with love, togetherness and gratitude. The Diocese rejoices over the 26 years of the steadfast love of God and for the many blessings.

While I am grateful to all the priests, religious and faithful of the Diocese, **I thank all the friends and benefactors of the Diocese** for playing an important role in the building up of the Diocese. As we march towards another year, lets us implore God's unconditional love, accompaniment, guidance and support to be a joyful witness in the synodal Church to transform the world towards God's Kingdom. May God bless each and every one of you.

Yours in Christ,



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



## Annual Retreat for Priests

The annual retreat was held from 9 to 14 October 2022 at Sangamam, Pastoral Centre of the Diocese. It became a significant event for all the Priests. It was a moment to thank the Lord for the blessings that He has lavished upon the Diocese and to prepare for the continued ministry in our Mission Diocese. Rev Fr. Daniel Poovannathil and his team from Mount Carmel Retreat Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, animated the retreat. It was a hallowed opportunity for the Presbyterium to have a holy person like Rev Fr. Daniel Poovannathil as the preacher. He guided the Priests to acknowledge and appreciate the

shared priesthood of Jesus and how to lead and enhance our holy life. The retreat preacher focused on the themes of Evangelisation, Mission, and the power of the Word of God in our mission. All priests who participated in the retreat experienced and renewed their enthusiasm for missionary sacrifice. Opportunities were available to all the Priests for personal counselling by professional counsellors from Mount Carmel Retreat Centre. It was a great spiritual renewal for all the Priests and we thank the Lord for giving us such a heavenly experience.





## The Servant of God Mar Mathew Kavukattu

The Diocese of Thuckalay is always indebted to the Servant of God Mar Mathew Kavukattu, the first Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry for his contributions to the mission work in the Kanniyakumari district. Every year we are invited to celebrate the Holy Eucharist expressing our gratitude to God for the wonderful person in Mar Mathew Kavukattu. On 8 October 2022, six priests, as representatives from our Diocese celebrated Holy Eucharist at the tomb of Mar Mathew Kavukattu. Rev Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor was the main celebrant and Rev Fr. Josy Puthenpurayil preached the homily. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by the office for the dead in Tamil language.

## Life Orientation Camp

Two days Life Orientation residential camp was conducted for Sunday school students on 3 & 4 October 2022 at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu. The Camp with the theme ***Let it be with me according to your Word*** aimed to make the students understand God's Plan personally and trust the One God who speaks to them personally as a Friend. A team from Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) of the Diocese animated the camp along with Rev Fr. Abilash, Catechism Director of the Diocese and the Vocation promoters of each Forane. It was indeed wonderful to witness the 191 young boys and girls actively participating in the camp. Many of them expressed that they had been waiting for this camp and their experience has enriched them to a great extent.




## Sinai Residential Retreat


A four-day residential retreat was conducted at Sangamam, Pastoral Centre of the Diocese from 27 to 30 October 2022 by the Sinai Retreat Centre for the faithful of the Diocese. Rev Fr. Augustine Menamkariyil VC was the main preacher of the retreat. Sinai Retreat team joined with the preacher for preaching and intercessory prayers. Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General and Rev Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor celebrated the Holy Eucharist during the retreat days. There were 23 faithful, including the participants from the Virudhunagar mission from the extended territory of the Diocese, who experienced the Grace of God.



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



## Annual Rosary Procession



The Diocese organises a Mega Rosary Procession in the month of October every year under the leadership of *Mariyayin Senai* (Legion of Mary). It was held on 23 October 2022 starting the procession from Christ the King Church, Palappallam to St. Joseph Forane Church, Soosaipuram. More than 1200 faithful participated in the procession. All the people along with Reverend Fathers and Sisters prayerfully recited the Holy Rosary. At the Forane Church, Rev Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal spoke to the faithful on the graces and blessings that Catholics receive through constant recitation of the Rosary. Rev Bro. Eugene, *Mariyayin Senai* representative from the Diocese of Kottar highlighted on the different mysteries of the Rosary that we are called to reflect and that recitation of the Rosary is one of the highlights of the faith of Catholics and on the abundance of blessings received through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary. The faithful, priests and religious were very happy that the procession had helped them spiritually in creating prayerful participation





## Popular Mission Retreat



The Popular Mission Retreat was conducted at Christ the King Church Palappallam from 2 to 7 October 2022. The retreat was animated by Rev Fr. Edward VC and Rev Fr. Lijo VC. The retreat ignited a spiritual renewal and helped to deepen the faith of the people. The faithful also enriched their Divine experience through house visits, Adoration of Blessed Sacraments, Confession and various pious activities. Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the end of the retreat and showered his appreciation to the retreat team, the priests and religious and the faithful.

## Little Flower Handicraft Unit

The skill training initiative and empowerment of the people by the Diocese of Thuckalay received boost with inauguration of Little Flower Handicraft Unit at Manjalumoodu on 25 October 2022. Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil took the initiative to begin this activity for the benefit of women around Manjalumoodu. Rev Fr. JoshyKulathumkal, Chancellor of the Diocese was the Chief Guest and urged upon the women to use the facilities for empowering themselves and for finding additional financial resources for the family. We are grateful to CEDRE – India, a voluntary social service organization in Tamil Nadu in our effort to support the downtrodden.



- People Info Activities
- Fr.Sumesh Valliyamthadathil (You)  
Meeting host
  - abey thomas
  - ASHLY ALEX
  - Augustin Kaliyal
  - Dibin Baby
  - Edwinson.M
  - George Rajend...
  - Hema Murugan
  - JAYASREE T.M
  - Jose Raj
  - Prakash Kumar
  - Russel Raj R K
  - Sandra Mathew

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George



Prakash




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You




JAYA 10 others



Selva Jaqueline



Edwinson.M



Augustin



Jose



JAYASREE



sivakumar



You



Russel F 13 others

## Online Rosary Recitation by the Migrant Community

An online prayer meeting of the migrants of our Diocese was held on 28 October 2022 to celebrate the Rosary month. Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General began the Rosary by reciting the first mystery of the Rosary. Then the participants recited each mystery. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb also joined in between and recited the Rosary with the faithful. His Excellency gave the concluding message and Blessing. It is always encouraging to see the migrant faithful all over the world who keep in continuous touch with their mother Diocese.

## Educare Retreat

Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese of Thuckalay organized three days of residential retreats for the Educare students at Kalluvilai from 2 to 5 October 2022. 50 students from various parishes participated in the retreat. Rev Fr. Daniel VC and his team led the young children into prayer and spiritual activities. The students were very much satisfied with the spiritual experience they gained.



***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**

**Director, Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS)**

**Kalluvilai, Mulagumoodu P.O**

**Kanyakumari District**

**Phone: +91 77087 26043; 98845 61965**

**Email: [abypoovathummoottil@gmail.com](mailto:abypoovathummoottil@gmail.com)**

## Catechism Teachers' Seminar

The Catechism department of the Diocese Thuckalay organized a one-day seminar for Sunday School Teachers on 5 October 2022 at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. The Seminar was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General. The First session of the seminar was animated by His Excellency Vincent Mar Paulos, Bishop of Marthandam. The Bishop focused on the various issues that our young students face today, and the role of the catechism teachers to guide them to the person of Jesus. The next session was animated by Mrs Jacquin from Palliyadi. She defined the role of catechism teachers and on the need for God's Grace in their life to be a living witness to the gospel that is preached. More than 400 teachers who participated in the seminar renewed their spirit and resolve to continue the self-sacrificing service for the cause of the Catholic Church.



## St. Vincent de Paul Society *Deshathodu Oru Naal*

Thuckalay Central Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society organized a one-day program *Deshathodu Oru Naal* (One Day with the Nation) in commemoration of Gandhi Jayanti on 1 October 2022 to promote social cleanliness and to engage its members in social charity. The cleaning camp was conducted at *Osanam* Higher Education Centre, Utharamcode. The one-day camp was inaugurated by the Vicar General of the

Diocese and Spiritual Director of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. There were about 50 members from different area Councils and Conferences of Thuckalay Central Council participated in the cleaning camp. This was an opportunity for all to come together for a genuine cause which created an awareness in the people who live around the area.



**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)



## Sirumalar Platinum Jubilee

*Sirumalar* (Little Flower) Mission League, one of the active pious associations of the young children in the Church is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee in the year 2021-2022. The global-level conclusion will be hosted by our Diocese on 29 January 2023. The Major Archbishop, Bishops and representatives from all the Dioceses of the Syro-Malabar Church will be participating in the concluding ceremony. Rev Fr. Pinto Kuriakose, Director of the Sirumalar Mission League in our

Diocese is spearheading the event. As the preparation for the Platinum Jubilee, *Sirumalar Ezhuchi Payanam* (Little Flower Awakening March) is being conducted in all the Foranes. A memento is taken to all the parishes. It began on 16 October 2022 in all the Forane centers. The Forane directors are co-coordinating the programme. This is an occasion for our Diocese to renew the spirit of unity and love among *Sirumalar* members.





## ***Kuzhanthai Isso Iyakkam Seminar***

Rev Fr. Anil Raj, Director of *Kuzhanthai Isso Iyakkam* (Holy Childhood), conducted a half-day Forane animation programme for children from 6 to 8 October 2022 in different places. On 6 October morning, it was conducted at Palappallam for Soosaipuram Forane and afternoon in Kaliyal Forane. On 7 October 2022 morning session was held in Padanthalumoodu Forane and in the afternoon it was held at

Munchirai for Nithiravilai Forane. On 8 October 2022, the animation programme was conducted at Manjalumoodu and Kattathurai for Manjalumoodu and Thuckalay – Pilankalai Foranes. Altogether 430 children participated in the animation programme. The children expressed their great joy in being part of the programme that worked towards their love for Jesus Christ through Catholic Faith.







## World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October. The Health Commission of the Tamil Nadu Bishops Council (TNBC) took this opportunity to promote mental health in all the Dioceses of Tamil Nadu. As part of the programme, the Diocese of Thuckalay observed it on 15 October 2022. Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) and the Association of Institutions of Differently Abled Children at Thuckalay (AIDACT) jointly

celebrated world mental health day at Kalluvilai. Teachers from seven special schools participated in the programme. Rev Fr. Benher, Director of PuthuVasantham Rehabilitation Centre animated the gathering and he emphasized the important role of teachers in the formation of differently-abled children. Indeed, we need to make a lot of efforts to drill in common people the importance to care for these special children.



## Golden Jubilee Celebration of Pilankalai Church and Blessing of Cemetery and *Kalkurusu*

Little Flower Forane Church, Pilankalai was established in the year 1971 as a small mission station by the initiatives taken by the Reverend Fathers of the CMI Congregation. Rev Fr. James Joseph Kozhimattam was appointed as the first parish priest of this community. The primary school was started in 1972 and later it was upgraded as a high school. The old Church was built in 1977 and the new Church was built and consecrated on 29 December 2017. On 1 October 2022, the Golden Jubilee Celebration started with a Solemn Rosary recitation followed by *Thirunal Latheenju* (Festival Litany). On this occasion, Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General of the Diocese blessed the new Church Cemetery and *Kalkurusu* (Stone Cross). The Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist began with a grand and solemn procession. Rev Fr. Sebastian Chamathara CMI, Provincial of St. Joseph's Province, Thiruvanthapuram was the main celebrant and Reverend Fathers who served in the parish in the past years were the concelebrants. It was followed by the Jubilee concluding gathering and agape. We congratulate the faithful of Pilankalai Church for their ardent faith.



## Rosary Procession and Jubilee Exhibition in Tenkasi Mission

The Rosary procession and Jubilee exhibition of the Tenkasi mission had been conducted on 23 October 2022. The whole mission gathered at Little Flower Church, Puliyarai. The programme was inaugurated by Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General of The Diocese by hoisting the Mission League flag to commemorate Mission Sunday. Rev Sr. Libiya CMC recited the mission prayer. The solemn Rosary Procession towards Pulari Metric. School, Pudur brought in very meaningful moments for faithful of Tenkasi Mission. There were about 150 faithful and Fathers, Sisters and MCBS Brothers who are rendering service in the Tenkasi mission participated in the procession. After the concluding message and blessing, Vicar General inaugurated the mission jubilee exhibition in which every mission centre and institution depicted their works since their inception.



Oct 23, 2022 4:33:02 PM  
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Tamil Nadu





## NAAC Peer Team Visit at St. Alphonsa College

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) conducted the assessment and accreditation exercise at St. Alphonsa College of Arts and Science, Soosaipuram and the peer team visit was held on 12 & 13 October 2022. After the examination of the reports of the peer team by the Executive committee, the council had declared the accreditation results. Our college has been accredited with a CGPA of 2.96 with B++ Grade, which is valid for 5 years from 18

October 2022. It is a great achievement for the College. We congratulate Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Rev Fr. Antony Jose and Rev Fr. Michael Arockiyasamy sdb for their tireless efforts. We also congratulate the Principal, the staff and the students of the College for their hard work. It's a moment of pride for every one of us in the Diocese that the College has been highly placed for its quality education and good infrastructure.



## Launch of SMYM Jesus Dreamz Music Band

It was a long-cherished dream of the youth of the Diocese of Thuckalay, Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM), to set up a music band for the youth. The band is named Jesus Dreamz, realising the dreams of Jesus in today's youth and to seek to realise the dream of Jesus in every youth in the Diocese. The launching event was held at Aseer Vidyalaya Auditorium, Thettiode on 19 October 2022. The Director,

Rev Fr. Joseph Santhosh introduced the event to the audience and explained the meaning of Jesus Dreamz and its objectives. The Vicar General of the Diocese, Very Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil invoked God's blessings on the band and prayed for them. The event organised by the central team of the Youth Apostolate included many cultural events.

## LIFE WITNESS

### My Discovery and Living the True Faith

#### Mrs Reena Satheesh

##### Praise the Lord! Hallelujah

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want (Psalm 23:1)

I am Reena Satheesh and I am originally from Thettiyode, Thuckalay Diocese and currently I am working as a nurse in Bahrain. My husband Satheesh works in A to Z contracting company in central AC ducting section. We have three children Evangelin Mary, Dominic Savio and Elsa Mary. Evangelin and Dominic are studying in an Asian school, Bahrain in 9th and 3rd Grades and Elsa Mary is 3years of age.

It is with great pleasure I pen for the first time to share with someone about my life and how I was touched by the Catholic Faith.

I was born and brought up in a non-Catholic family and more specifically we belonged to an evangelical church, where Mother Mary was not venerated. During my childhood, I used to go to our nearby evangelical church. It was so interesting for me to attend Sunday's Bible classes and the explanation of Bible stories by the teachers. One Sunday evenings when I was studying in 7th standard, I got a chance to watch a movie on Velankanni Matha (Our Lady of Health, Velankanni). As usual, the movie was so interesting. Besides, there was something else that touched profoundly my heart. Till then I had never heard about Mother Mary and her apparition in Velankanni. As my family was so orthodox in the evangelical church, I was also afraid of asking more about Mother Mary to anyone in the family. But the image always remained in my heart.



I continued my studies and passed the higher secondary examination with distinction. Then I joined Sree Mookambika College of Nursing for B.Sc Nursing and completed in 2004. Later I started my career as a professional nurse. But I was so frustrated about my future, thinking about different issues in the family, the low income, debts of my father, etc. So frequently I used to go and pray in nearby churches during my leisure time and holidays. Unexpectedly all these churches were Catholic Churches and again those images of Mother Mary imprinted in my heart after the movie, returned powerfully. I started praying, to intercede for her help with all the intentions. Miraculously one day, Mother Mary gave me a vision promising me help to resolve all my problems. After all these events, I came home for holidays and my family was getting ready to present me for my marriage to a boy from Thettiyode in May 2005. It was a great joy in my life that he belonged to a Catholic family. It was the first miracle that I experienced after my relation with Mother Mary personally in my life. Today I believe that all these are beyond human knowledge and comprehension. It is only faith and trust that will help us to cooperate with the Divine plan in our life. Gradually she started removing each obstacle in my life.

Thereafter, with the help of the Parish especially priests and religious, I started learning Catholic prayers like Holy Mass, Rosary, Novena, prayers for the souls in purgatory, the intercession of the Holy Spirit, Divine Mercy chaplet, consecration to Immaculate Heart of Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus, etc. It was not easy in the beginning but once I learned all these prayers, I have never ceased my routine prayer life.

After ten months of marriage, we went together to Bahrain for our jobs. I started working in a hospital. There were many difficulties we faced during those initial years. Many days I was left alone during work. I strongly believe that Our Blessed Mother Mary was my companion every moment. She protected me always, especially when I was working in the psychiatric department. There were times when patients were so agitated and violent and I could have managed alone all these situations as I was spiritually accompanied by the Holy Family.

Another major trial in my life was the last pregnancy. Doctors suggested to avoid the baby deforming inside the uterus. But I believed in God more and more and trusted in intercession and counsel of Our Mother Mary. One of the Bible verses which I repeatedly recited during those months was, "The Holy Spirit will come on you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" (Luke 1:35). Today our great joy is with this third child is 3 years old now. She is the reason to draw me more and more to Jesus. Whenever I am distressed and unable to pray, she always



brought me in front of the Blessed Sacrament or the Holy Cross and helps me to overcome all sorrowful situations.

Today I rejoice in my Lord through Mother Mary. My family is also so attentive to pious and devotional and spiritual activities. The lead taken by my older two children in spiritual activities helps a lot in the formation of the third child. Even at home, we decorate images and statues of Jesus, Mother Mary and other saints with flowers. Elsa, our third child also helps us in these activities. Small prayer services, prayer to the Guardian Angel, and lighting the candles are the daily routine of all of us before leaving home for work or studies. In the evening we sit together for the evening prayer and I believe that it is the base of the life of faith of my children.

Reception of Holy Sacraments like Holy Mass and Holy Confession are unwritten law of my family. They render us more worthy to praise and worship God. Human words are not enough to express the joy which I experience in my Catholic life. I wish all other Christian denominations to experience Jesus and love Our Blessed Mother Mary.

I request your prayers for my family and we assure you all our prayers. I thank the Diocese of Thuckalay for accepting me as her daughter and rendering my life as wonderful before the love of God and Mother Mary. "But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!" (Romans 5:8-9)



## VOCATION AND MISSION

**Very Rev. Fr Augustine Thalodil**

**A Missionary Who Builds and Nourishes Faith**

Missionary priests serve the Word of God in ways suited to the uniqueness of the peoples to whom they are sent to; through teaching, dialogue, prayer, celebration and the witness of their person and life. The Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* states that, even though belonging to a Particular Church, the priest has received a spiritual gift by virtue of his ordination, which prepares him for a universal mission, even to the ends of the earth (Cf. Acts 1:8), “for every priestly ministry shares in the universality of the mission entrusted by Christ to His apostles” (PDV 32). This magisterium of the Catholic Church realizes in the life of missionaries who render their services in the mission Diocese of Thuckalay and before in the Thekkan Mission or Kanyakumari Mission of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry since 1960. Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil is one among these missionaries, who is specially chosen and sent by Christ Himself for His flock in Tamilnadu and especially in Kanniyakumari region.

Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil was born on 27 October 1960 as the fourth and last child of his parents Joseph and Rosamma Thalodil. Thomas, Antony and Johny are his elder brothers. St. George Church, Manvettam, which is famous for the richness of religious vocations, is his parish of origin. He had completed his schooling from Government L P School Memury, NSS High



School Kallara and Government Higher Secondary School Arpookara. After the class Ten studies, he joined Good Shepherd Minor Seminary, Palai and started his formation for priesthood. Even from the very first day, he was very mature in his dealings with formators and classmates. His conviction about priestly life was expressed in his spiritual as well as human relationships. Inspired by the spiritual life of Very Rev Fr. John Thalodil, then Mission Director of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry and Forane Vicar of St. Mary's Forane Church Athirampuzha, Augustine Thalodil had always possessed a special devotion to Mother Mary. The incomparable prayer life of mother Rosamma was the powerhouse of his decision to become a priest.

He was sent to St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor for his Philosophy and Theology studies and in between he had completed his MA in English as well as practical training or regency in Bishop Vayalil Library, Palai. During these years, through reading books and prayer life he had been moulding the future minister of Christ in himself. As St. Augustine says, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” During the formation period, Fr. Augustine prepared himself surrendering totally to the will of God. On 30 December 1989, he was ordained a priest by the imposition of hands by Mar Joseph Pallikaparampilat at Holy Ghost Forane Church, Muttuchira.

Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil was appointed as the assistant parish priest of Holy Cross Forane Church, Cherpumkal on 10 February 1990. At the same time, he was also appointed as the Forane Director of Sunday School and Mission League. Very Rev Fr. Cyriac Kunnel, then parish priest of the Forane appreciated his selfless service and





utmost dedication to the responsibilities even at a young age. After this initial ministry, he served the Diocese for another 10 years in various parishes and positions – assistant priest at St. George Forane Church, Aruvithura and Sacred Heart Church Poovarany and then Vicar of St. Mary's Church Elappally and St Antony Church Kaippally. He had also served as CML Forane Director, SMYM Forane Director. He was an instrument in constructing the Way of the Cross Stations for the public devotion in the parishes. People continue to remember him with gratitude for all the dedicated services rendered in the Diocese for their spiritual growth.

After 10 years of his priestly ministry in Palai Diocese, in the year 2001, after the request made by the First Bishop of The Diocese Thuckalay Cardinal Mar George Alencherry to the Diocese Palai, Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil was sent to a new land of missions for one year as the missionary in the Diocese of Thuckalay and still he continues his work in the Diocese. He had possessed a strong desire to become a missionary even during the formation period. He was a very good volunteer in prison ministry during the major seminary studies and he was deeply impacted by it. He developed an ardent heart for the poor and the needy and wished for their upliftment. This dream had come true when he reached in the land of Kanniyakumari as a missionary. The first appointment of Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil was at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padantalumoodu and was also teaching in the school for six years. Along with the responsibility in the Forane church and in the school, he was also appointed to look after the parishes of Thettiyode and Athencode. Awakened by the need of parishioners of Thettiyode to have a



big Church, he helped to construct a new Church. Nobody imagined at that time that he would go on to construct many churches in the Diocese of Thuckalay. Another venture that he had undertaken was the construction of Annikarai Church. Besides the Church, he had added a presbytery and parish hall. Then he was appointed as the vice-rector and procurator of the Minor Seminary at Mukkoottukal. He did not limit his pastoral field to the institution, rather he took charge also as the parish priest of Bengiri Church, which was near to the Minor Seminary. Under his guidance, the parishioners came together for the renovation of the Church and constructed a new *Kurusady* (Grotto), stage and main entrance gate.

Though Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil was active in the parish ministries and other institutional services, he had a desire to acquire knowledge in different fields. After the term in the minor seminary, he was sent to Denhalaya Psycho-Spiritual formation Centre, Punnapra for a short-term course. He returned to the Diocese after successful completion of the course and took charge as the parish priest of St. Francis Assisi





Church Mezhakode. There too he started constructing a new church, a new *Kurusady*, bell tower and parish hall. This time, construction was not a burden for him as he had already become an expert due to his abundant experience. He was also keen to construct spirituality in the life of parishioners. He committed himself in the evangelical mission of Church, to reach the Faith to non-Christian families.

At present, Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil serves the Diocese as the Forane Vicar of Manjalumoodu and Parish Priest of Thettivilai. He had also undertaken the construction of St. Joseph's Church Kunnuvilai, bell tower and renovation of parish hall and completed the whole work in less than a year. Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil has been an Ideal Missionary who constructs the church, fills the people in it and nourishes them with spirituality for the sake of the kingdom of God.



Whenever Rev Fr. Augustine Thalodil was asked about the vocation, he repeats,

Vocation is the Gift of God. He calls whom He loves the most. Jesus loves me a lot though I am not worthy to be his Priest. What I am and what I became is the gift of God. I am an instrument in the hands of God. I am proud of nothing- I haven't put my name in any of the parishes rather I put the Christian brand mark PRAISE THE LORD. I have no enemies; if someone turns against me, I pray for them. I have all confidence in prayer that they will reconcile soon. Mother Mary is my best friend who has constantly saved me from all kinds of dangers both physical and spiritual. Among the saints, I pray for the intercession of St Devasahayam and Blessed Kunjachan. For all the needs in my life I pray to the Holy Spirit. I recite one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be every day before wearing the cassock. If I wear ten times, I say ten times these prayers. Prayer is my strength both in joys and sorrows.

He exhorts the future missionaries, "Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you don't have; bewith the people; don't miss daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist; be close to Jesus; keep at least one hour for personal prayer; have a timetable in life and keep a balance in life."

The Diocese of Thuckalay is still vibrant and Missionary because of such priests continue to be a model and guide the younger generation to follow the suit.



**THUCKALAY**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**WE STAND UNITED IN CHRIST AS WE CELEBRATE**

**26<sup>th</sup>**

**FOUNDATION DAY OF  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**

**Let Us Support Each Other  
in Planting the Seeds of Faith**

**Hearty Congratulations on the Anniversary**

**May the Blessed Virgin Mary the Patron of our Diocese  
continue to intercede for all of us!**

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