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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

Thuckalay Tidings

**I'm The Resurrection
and The Life.**

John 11:25



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Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

April 2025 | Vol. 5 | Issue 4

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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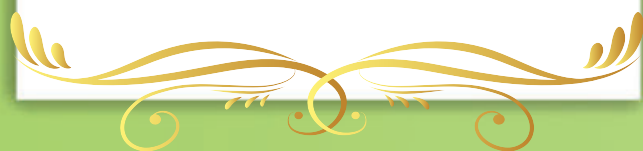
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INSIDE STORY

➔ Message from the Bishop	3
➔ Empowering Women: KKSSS Celebrates Women's Day in Kayathar and Viruthunagar	4
➔ A Sacred Renewal: Chapel Blessing at SH Convent, Mukkoottukal	5
➔ Lenten Reflection Through Taizé: Youth-Led Prayer Evenings Inspire the Faithful	6
➔ Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders: Youth Leadership Training at SYMY Office	7
➔ First Migrants' Sangamam Unites the Faithful in Bangalore	8
➔ National Conference for secretaries of diocesan and religious health commission	9
➔ Formation of Parish Health Unit (PHU) across the diocese	10
➔ Solemn Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph Across the Diocese	11
➔ Farewell to a Faithful Servant: Rev. Fr. Jose Koolipurackal CMI (1949–2025)	12
➔ A Life of Grace and Dedication: Farewell to Rev. Sr. Alice Vigi CMC (1953–2025)	13
➔ A Grateful Farewell to a Faithful Servant: Rev. Sr. Bridget Paul Thekeparambil SDS (1948–2025)	14
➔ A Humble Life in Service: Farewell to Rev. Sr. Elsy Mathew Chengandayil SDS (1945–2025)	15
➔ A Life Well-Lived	16
➔ Welcome	17
➔ Congratulations...	17





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He is not here; He has risen, just as He said.

– Mat. 28:6

Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord!

As we are approaching the Easter, we are filled with the joy and hope that comes from the empty tomb. The story of Easter is not just an ancient account; it is the heart of our Christian faith and a living testimony that echoes through the ages: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Holy Week leads us through a sacred journey – from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the solemnity of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, and the anguish of Good Friday. These moments remind us of the immense love Christ has for humanity – a love that took Him to the cross for our sake. Yet, Easter Sunday bursts forth with the glorious news that death has been conquered, sin has been defeated, and life has triumphed.

The Resurrection is not just a miraculous event in history; it is a personal invitation. It calls each of us to rise with Christ – from despair to hope, from darkness to light, and from sin to

grace. In our families, our parish communities, and our personal lives, Easter invites renewal. Where there is division, Christ brings unity. Where there is sorrow, He brings joy. Where there is fear, He breathes peace.

As the angel at the tomb proclaimed, “Do not be afraid” (Mat. 28:5). This Easter may that same voice echo in our hearts. In a world still touched by uncertainty, let us be Easter people – bearing the light of Christ wherever we go. Let our homes become little churches of joy, love, and forgiveness. Let our lives be living testimonies of the Resurrection.

To all the faithful of our beloved Diocese, the benefactors and friends of Thuckalay, may the Risen Christ bless you and your loved ones abundantly. May He walk with you in every step of your journey, filling you with the strength, peace, and joy that only He can give.

Wishing you and your family a blessed and grace-filled Easter!

In the Risen Lord,



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



Empowering Women:

KKSSS Celebrates Women's Day in Kayathar and Viruthunagar

On 5th March 2025, the Kayathar and Viruthunagar missions came alive with vibrant Women's Day celebrations organized by KKSSS. The events were coordinated by Fr. Jomon Mangalamadam in Kayathar and Fr. Ajin C. Joseph in Viruthunagar. As part of the mission's commitment to women empowerment, KKSSS distributed 20 sewing machines to economically disadvantaged women in each location, offering them a means to support themselves through self-employment. The programme was inaugurated by the Bishop. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Fr. Aby Poovathummoottil, Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, along with local leaders and members of the community was present. The day's celebrations also featured a range of cultural programmes and engaging activities that highlighted the talents and strength of women.





A Sacred Renewal: Chapel Blessing at SH Convent, Mukkoottukal

On 15th March 2025, the renovated chapel of the SH Convent in Mukkoottukal was solemnly blessed by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General. The ceremony commenced at 11:00 am with the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, presided over by the Vicar General and concelebrated by Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, Parish Priest of Mukkoottukal. The event saw the participation of all SH congregation sisters serving in the diocese, as well as priests from the parishes where SH convents are located. Following the spiritual celebration, the gathering concluded with a fellowship lunch.





Lenten Reflection Through Taizé: Youth-Led Prayer Evenings Inspire the Faithful

During the Lenten season, the SMYM organized deeply moving Taizé prayer services led by the youth. These reflective gatherings were held on 23rd March 2025 at 6:00 PM at St. Antony's Church, Vayalinkarai, for the Nithiravilai and Padanthalumoodu foranes, and on 30th March 2025 at 2:00 PM for the Thuckalay - Pilankalai forane. Around 50 young people participated in each session, engaging in heartfelt meditation on the passion, death, and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The atmosphere of contemplative prayer offered them a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal, including the sacrament of confession.





Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders: Youth Leadership Training at SMYM Office

A one-day leadership training programme was held on 8th March 2025 at the SMYM Office, Kalluvilai, with the aim of enhancing leadership skills among the youth. The session was led by Fr. Joseph Santhosh, who focused on the unique characteristics, creative

youth. Fr. Santhosh also introduced practical tools and strategies to help the participants develop and implement effective leadership in their communities. Twenty young individuals took part in the training, engaging actively in the interactive sessions.



First Migrants' Sangamam Unites the Faithful in Bangalore

The inaugural Migrants' Sangamam in Bangalore was held on 16th March 2025 at St. Thomas Forane Church, Dharmaram. Organized by the diocesan Migrants' Apostolate, the event opened with the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana, presided over by Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, the diocesan director. Though the Bishop had intended to preside over the meeting, an unavoidable circumstance prevented his physical presence. However, his message was shared virtually with the attendees, offering encouragement and blessings. Fr. Sumesh officially inaugurated the public gathering that followed.



Mr. Edwinson efficiently coordinated the day's programme, while Miss Jasmine served as the anchor. During the gathering, Mr. Praveen and Mr. Aneesh were elected as the coordinators of Bangalore Migrants. Twenty-six participants from various parts of Bangalore introduced themselves and shared their personal experiences of life in the city. The event was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Anto (Vicar), Rev. Fr. Jomon (Chancellor of the Diocese of Mandya), Fr. John, and Fr. Arun, who offered their greetings and reassured the migrants of ongoing spiritual and pastoral support.

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:

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Kanyakumari District,
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Contact Mission Procure:

Fr. Liju Marattukalam
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



NATIONAL CONFERENCE for secretaries of diocesan and religious health commission

A significant and spiritually enriching event—the **NATIONAL CONFERENCE for secretaries of diocesan and religious health commission**—was held in **Bangalore** under the auspices of the **Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI)** for Health Care. The conference brought together a diverse gathering of bishops, priests, religious superiors, and lay leaders from across the country, representing various dioceses and religious congregations.

Over several days of sessions, the participants engaged in deep discussions on current pastoral challenges, inter-congregational cooperation, missionary strategies, and the role of religious life in responding to the emerging needs of the Church and society in India. Workshops and panel discussions provided insights into best practices in evangelization, youth ministry, education, healthcare, and social justice. The Diocese of Thuckalay, represented by its bishop and delegates, actively participated in the conference, sharing its missionary experiences and drawing inspiration from the national gathering.



Formation of Parish Health Unit (PHU) across the diocese

As part of the diocesan initiative to strengthen pastoral health care outreach in the parishes, the **election of Health Care Committee members** was successfully conducted in various parishes across the Diocese under the leadership of **Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal**, the Diocesan Director of Health Care Ministry.

The elections were coordinated and animated by **Sr. Missi Maria**, who visited several parishes and prayerfully guided the selection process. This move aimed to decentralize and empower local communities to take active roles in the physical and emotional well-being of their members, especially the sick, elderly, and homebound.

Parish-level meetings were held with the support of parish priests and lay leaders to ensure transparency and representation. The newly elected members will be responsible for coordinating medical assistance, organizing health awareness programs, facilitating regular visits to the sick, and ensuring the spiritual and sacramental needs of the ailing are met.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

Please write the following and send SMS



+91 94871 65903:

Name:

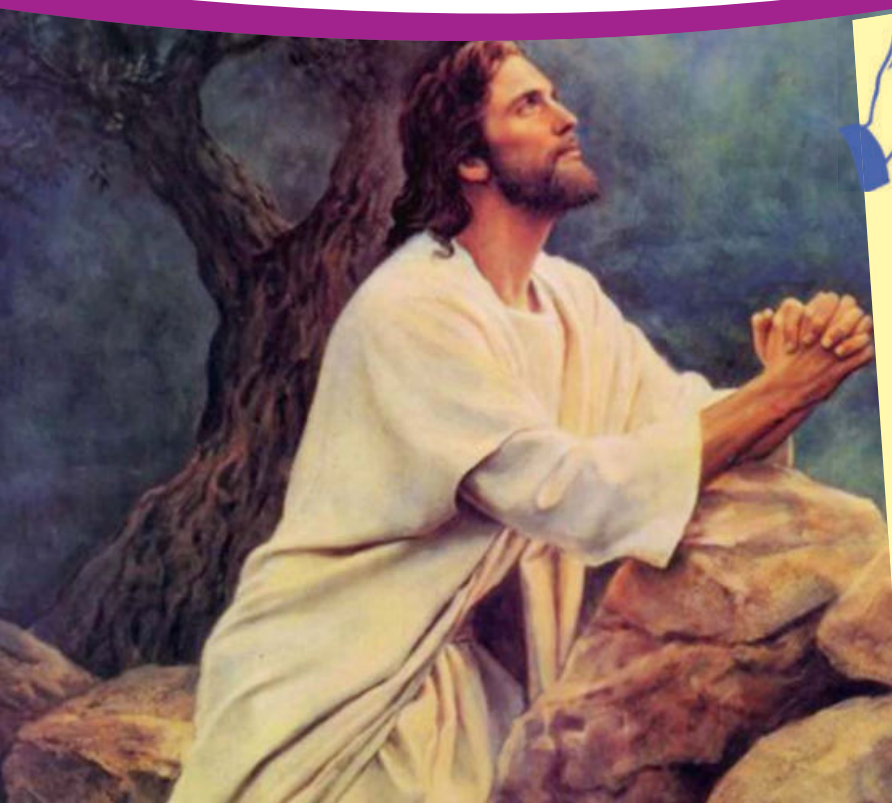
Place:

Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,



: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com





Solemn Celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph Across the Diocese

The Feast of St. Joseph, celebrated on 19 March 2025, was marked with deep devotion and festivity in various parishes across the Diocese of Thuckalay. As the patron of the Universal Church and model of humble service, St. Joseph was honoured with special liturgical celebrations and community gatherings. Parishes dedicated to St. Joseph

observed the feast with novena prayers, Eucharistic celebrations, and vibrant cultural programs. Faithful in large numbers gathered to participate in the Holy Qurbana, during which special intentions were offered for families, workers, and the sick, entrusting them to the intercession of St. Joseph.





Farewell to a Faithful Servant Rev. Fr. Jose Koolipurackal CMI (1949–2025)

With deep sorrow, the Diocese received the news of the passing of Rev. Fr. Jose Koolipurackal CMI on 29th March 2025, at the age of 74. Upon hearing the sad news, members of the diocesan curia and priests from nearby foranes gathered at Kaliyal, where they prayed the Office of the Dead, offering their last respects.

The mortal remains of Fr. Jose were transported from Kaliyal to Rita's Hospital, Nalukody, by 12:30 PM the same day. A native of Chambakulam, Fr. Jose had spent nearly five years at St. Mary's CMI Bhavan, Kaliyal, offering dedicated pastoral assistance to the parish priest and extending his support to

neighbouring parishes as well. Fr. Jose's missionary zeal extended beyond spiritual care—while serving as the counsellor for social service activities in the CMI Trivandrum Province, he launched initiatives to create job opportunities for women in Pilankalai in 1988 and also helped secure housing for poor families in the region. His compassionate contributions left a lasting impact on the lives of many. The funeral rites were held on 31st March 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Sacred Heart Monastery Church, Chethipuzha. The Bishop presided over the final part of the ceremonies, commending the soul of Fr. Jose to the eternal embrace of the Lord.



A Life of Grace and Dedication: Farewell to Rev. Sr. Alice Vigi CMC (1953–2025)



With profound sorrow, the Diocese of Thuckalay mourned the passing of Rev. Sr. Alice Vigi CMC (affectionately known as *Vigiyamma*) on 17th March 2025, at the age of 72. Her life was a remarkable witness to faith, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the Church, especially within the Diocese of Thuckalay, where she served faithfully for 12 years. Sr. Alice Vigi CMC began her journey in the diocese on 3rd March 2013, initially taking charge as the Regional Superior of the CMC congregation. With the elevation of the region to a Vice Province, she was appointed as its first Vice Provincial. Later, in 2019, when the Vice Province attained full Province status, Sr. Alice Vigi CMC became the first Provincial of the newly established CMC Chavara Province, Thuckalay. From 2022, she served as the House Superior of the CMC Convent in Chithankudiyiruppu, continuing to inspire with her simplicity, strength, and prayerful presence.

Her tireless efforts were instrumental in the growth and establishment of the CMC Province in Thuckalay. She offered invaluable spiritual and financial support to the diocese, nurtured vocations, and sent committed sisters to serve in various apostolates, especially in education,

health care, and parish ministry. Her legacy remains etched in the fabric of the diocese. The mortal remains of Sr. Alice Vigi CMC were kept for final respects at Carmel Villa (Carmel Mount Retreat Centre, near St. Thomas Hospital, Chethipuzha, Changanacherry) on 18th March 2025. The funeral services began at 10:00 AM on 19th March 2025. The Bishop presided over the Holy Qurbana and the final rites, which were concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Antony Elamthottam CMI (Provincial), Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam CMI, and several priests from the Diocese of Thuckalay.

The services were attended by a large number of priests, religious sisters, and lay faithful who came to pray and pay their last respects. The diocese extends its heartfelt condolences and prayers to the sisters of the CMC Chavara Province.

A Grateful Farewell to a Faithful Servant: Rev. Sr. Bridget Paul Thekeparambil SDS (1948–2025)



With heartfelt sorrow, the Diocese of Thuckalay received the news of the passing of Rev. Sr. Bridget Paul Thekeparambil SDS on 21st March 2025, at the age of 77. A native of St. Sebastian's Church, Mutholapuram, in the Diocese of Palai, Sr. Bridget lived a life wholly dedicated to the service of God and His people, spending a total of 18 fruitful years in pastoral and missionary work within the Diocese of Thuckalay. Her ministry began in Karode, where she served from 1980 to 1987, offering her time and energy for the growth of the local Church. She later served in

Manjalumoodu from 2003 to 2012, and again from 2023 until her passing, providing constant support to the faithful through her prayer, presence, and compassion. Her life was marked by simplicity, dedication, and a deep love for the people she served.

The funeral rites were held on 24th March 2025 at 10:00 AM at the SDS Convent Chapel in Manjalumoodu. The initial parts of the ceremony were presided over by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, while the Bishop presided over the Holy Qurbana and the concluding funeral rites.

A Humble Life in Service: Farewell to Rev. Sr. Elsy Mathew Chengandayil SDS (1945–2025)



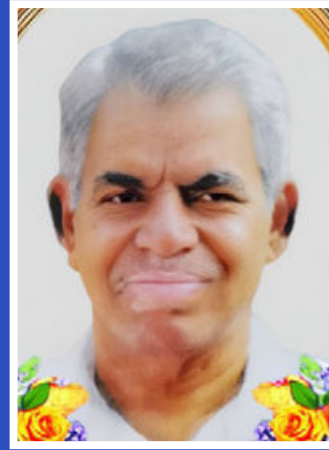
With deep sadness, the Diocese of Thuckalay received the news of the passing of Rev. Sr. Elsy Mathew Chengandayil SDS on 20th March 2025, at the age of 79. A native of St. Joseph's Church, Chennamkary, Sr. Elsy devoted her life to religious service, offering her presence, prayer, and pastoral care across various mission centers.

Her ministry spanned several locations, including Bangalore, Kandamvilai, Pulluvilai, Mysore, and Aruvikkara, where she served with humility and

dedication. In the final months of her life, due to ill health, Sr. Elsy was under medical care at the SDS Convent in Manjalumoodu, where she spent her last days surrounded by her religious community. The funeral service was held on 21st March 2025 at 11:00 AM at the SDS Convent Chapel, Manjalumoodu. The initial parts of the service were led by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, and the Bishop presided over the Holy Qurbana and the concluding funeral rites.



Mr. Alexkutty (64), brother of
Sr. Alice Kattakkayam SABS



Mr. Joseph Kattakkayam (80), elder
brother of Sr. Alice Kattakkayam SABS



Mr. A. D. Sebastian (70), brother
of Sr. Marykutty Sebastian MMM



Mrs. Eliyamma Joseph Vayalil (92),
mother of Sr. Deepthi Jose SD

WELCOME



Rev. Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST
Joining the Mission of the Diocese of Thuckalay
with Zeal and Commitment

Congratulations...



Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil on the successful completion of his Postgraduate Studies in Cinema and Television from St. Joseph College of Communication (SJCC), Changanacherry—India's first university-affiliated media college.



Sr. Mary Tom FCC, from Assisi Vidyalaya, Chenamcode, was honoured with the "Fr. Thomas Felix CMI Memorial Award for Outstanding Individual Working for the Intellectually Disabled Children" in recognition of her 34 years of dedicated service to intellectually challenged children. She received the award from Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose IAS, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, at a public meeting organized by CIMR and AKAMR at CIMR, Thiruvananthapuram



THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

A BLESSED FEAST DAY!

*Wish our Shepherd
Mar George Rajendran SDB
good health of mind, soul & body.*

*May the Lord continue to
bless him abundantly to carry on
his services for the greater glory
of God's Kingdom.*



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