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Thuckalay Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



When words fail,
the ROSARY speaks
from the HEART.



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

BISHOP'S HOUSE

P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.

Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175

Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

I write to you with a heart full of devotion to our Blessed Mother, recognising her unique role in the mystery of salvation and her maternal care for all the faithful. The Church has always held Mary in special veneration, and it is appropriate that we, as her children should nurture a genuine Marian devotion both in our personal spiritual lives and in the family we care.

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary, which is considered the pinnacle of Marian devotions. St John Paul II describes it as “a compendium of the entire Gospel” in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. Through the Rosary, we reflect on the mysteries of Christ's life in communion with Mary, who “kept all these things, pondering them in her heart” (Lk 2:19). For Pope Francis, the Rosary is a School of Prayer that teaches us to pray like Mary. He emphasises that it is not just repetitive recitation, but a contemplative prayer that draws us deeper into the mysteries of Christ's life. He frequently encouraged families to pray the Rosary together, describing it as a powerful method to strengthen family bonds and transmit faith to children. He has stated that the Rosary can bring peace to homes and help families confront difficulties. He emphasised that through the rosary, we learn from Mary how to be disciples of Jesus. He often discussed Mary's role as our spiritual mother who guides us closer to her son.

The Pope has consistently promoted the Rosary as a prayer for peace – both personal peace and world peace.

He has organised special Rosary events for global intentions, including prayers for peace in various conflict zones. He appreciated that the Rosary is a prayer accessible to everyone – the learned and unlearned, young and old. He values its simplicity while recognising its profound spiritual depth.

Pope Francis has also promoted special Rosary campaigns, including dedicating the month of May to praying the Rosary for the end of the pandemic, and encouraging Rosary prayers for peace in Ukraine and other troubled regions. The Pope saw the Rosary not as an outdated practice, but as a living, relevant prayer that can transform hearts and bring God's grace into our daily lives.

Therefore, I exhort you to pray the rosary whenever possible, especially during the family prayers. The Rosary has particular power for peace, family unity, and vocations. Families with strong Rosary devotion consistently experience greater spiritual vitality and produce more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Promoting the family Rosary as a means of sanctifying domestic life. The family that prays the Rosary together experiences Mary's maternal protection and grows in unity and holiness.

Dear friends, sincere devotion to Mary will bear fruit in our spiritual lives. We will find in Mary a model of humility, purity, and complete surrender to God's will. Her intercession grants the graces needed for faithful priestly service, teaching us to say “yes” to God's will even in sacrifice and suffering.

Families embracing authentic Marian devotion experience renewed spiritual vitality. Mary draws souls to her Son, and her maternal care fosters communities of faith, hope, and charity. Through her school, we learn the attitudes of heart that make us effective ministers of the Gospel.

While thanking you for your care and support to the spiritual activities of the Diocese of Thuckalay, I entrust each and every one of you and your family to the maternal care of our Blessed Mother

May our Blessed Mother intercede for each one of us!



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



“Built in Faith, Blessed for Generations”

Bengiri Parish was originally formed by the faithful from the Mukkoottukal and Karode Parishes. The challenging, long-distance walk to attend Holy Qurbana prompted Rev. Fr. James Pannamkuzhy OSB of Karode and Rev. Fr. Mathew Thekkekkutt of Mukkoottukal to visit the families in the Bengiri area. With the permission of the then Bishop, Mar George Alencherry, the first Holy Qurbana was celebrated in Mr. Devadas's house on November 12, 2000, with about 40 members from 18 families participating. He stated that through the efforts of Rev. Fr. James Pannamkuzhy OSB, his Order acquired 3.12

acres of land, which was named Bengiri. A small shed with coconut leaves was quickly erected, and by the end of 2000, the Holy Qurbana was shifted there. This structure was dedicated as the St. Benedict Mission, and Rev. Fr. James Pannamkuzhy was appointed its first pastor. The FCC Sisters began their mission in Bengiri in 2001. Due to the growing community, the existing church had become insufficient, necessitating its renovation and modifications to the Madhubaha. He explained that under the leadership of Rev. Fr. George Kandathil, these renovation works were successfully undertaken.

"From Milestone to Mission: Silver Jubilee at Vattakottai"



The Silver Jubilee Celebration of the St. Mary's Health Mission Service Centre at Vattakottai, marking 25 years of service and existence that the mission was originally established in 1989 at Ramanputhoor by Rev. Sr. Mary Kodiyan. In its early years, the Diocese of Kottar had provided for the spiritual and other fundamental needs of the institution. The institution was later relocated on May 1, 2000, from Ramanputhoor to Vattakottai with the assistance of Rev. Fr. Thomas Kodiyan, who is the brother of Sr. Mary Kodiyan. Initially, priests from the Diocese of Kottar had supported its development, but in 2017, the institution was officially handed over to the Diocese of Thuckalay. The Silver Jubilee celebration took place on September 21, 2025, held in conjunction with the parish feast. Bishop presided over the solemn Holy Qurbana and the Silver Jubilee public meeting. The programme was also attended by the parish priest, sisters, and parishioners from Nagercoil parish. Cultural programmes were presented by the catechism students of St. Alphonsa Church, Nagercoil, and the celebration concluded with a festive agape.





“Rooted in Christ, Radiant in Jubilee”

The Christ Jubilee Celebration of Uraviyams (KudumbaKootayma), which was held at the diocesan level on September 21, 2025, at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. Bishop presided over the public meeting, which began at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam was the chief guest for the occasion. The program commenced with a solemn reception, followed by a prayer service led by Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil. Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil, the Diocesan Director of Uraviyam, welcomed the gathering. Following this, a variety of cultural programmes were presented Forane-wise. In his presidential address, the speaker emphasized the importance of recognizing and nurturing the talents given to the participants by God. Bishop noted that this event was significant as it was the first time Uraviyam had organized a diocesan-level celebration.



“Silver Milestone, Golden Memories”

The Concluding Silver Jubilee Celebration of Assisi Vidyalaya, Chenamcode, which was held on September 27, 2025. Assisi Vidyalaya was established on September 30, 2000, and had successfully completed 25 years of its mission dedicated to empowering students with intellectual disabilities. Over the years, the institution has educated 235 students, with 60 students currently under its care. The public meeting for the celebration began at 4:30 p.m. and was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jose Kanachikuzhiyil, the Parish Priest of Chenamcode Parish. Bishop stated that he himself had inaugurated the concluding Jubilee Celebration. The distinguished guests of honour included Rev. Mother Litty FCC, Superior General of the FCC Congregation; Mr. Mano Thankaraj MLA; and Rev. Sr. Brigy FCC, Provincial Superior of Changanacherry FCC Province. The Jubilee Souvenir was also released on this occasion. The celebration was graced by the presence of many priests and sisters. Following the felicitation speeches, the school students presented a number of vibrant cultural and entertainment programmes. The entire event concluded at 9:30 p.m. with a festive agape meal for all participants.



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Fr. Liju Marattukalam
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
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“Little Lights of Faith: KII Parish Activities for Children”

Different parishes organized a range of activities for the children. These included visiting the sick and making visits to charity homes, demonstrating an active commitment to social outreach and compassion. Additionally, in connection with the Nativity of St. Mary, children in some parishes

participated in special activities where they dressed and enacted the role of St. Mary, providing a unique form of engagement with the celebration. The involvement of KII children was successful in both charitable and spiritual activities at the parish level during the month.



“Equipping Hands, Empowering Hearts”



The community service and skill development initiatives coordinated by the **Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS)** during September 2025. A free medical camp was successfully organized on September 17, 2025, at the Kazhuvanthittai church campus in collaboration between the KKSSS and Maria Ayurvedic College, Attoor. This event was held to celebrate Ayurvedic Day. The program was overseen by the Director of KKSSS, Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony, and the participation of distinguished guests, including Chief Guest Pon Asai Thampi, Chairman of the Kuzhithurai Municipality, and Guest of Honor Advt. Iden Soni of Kuzhithurai. The event began with a health and wellness session led by Mrs. Ravithari, who provided valuable advice on yoga, diet, and general health tips. Following this educational session, the free medical camp was held, where a total of 79 patients were examined and provided with free medicine. The speaker highlighted the success of the initiative, which demonstrated both organizations' commitment to community service and traditional healthcare promotion, crediting the meticulous planning of the KKSSS staff for handling all arrangements.





“Sewing Pathways to Progress”

A new tailoring class was inaugurated on September 15, 2025, at Malaicode, marking a significant step toward vocational training. Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony, Director of KKSSS, presided over the function. In his presidential address, Fr. Antony emphasized the crucial role of skill acquisition in driving small business growth and women's empowerment. He specifically focused on the potential for trainees to generate a reliable small income and achieve financial independence. The Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Jose Vayalil, Parish Priest of Malaicode, delivered an inspiring message, commending the initiative and offering his blessings. This one-month training program, led by instructor Mrs. Sareshwathi, aims to empower local women and promote self-reliance.

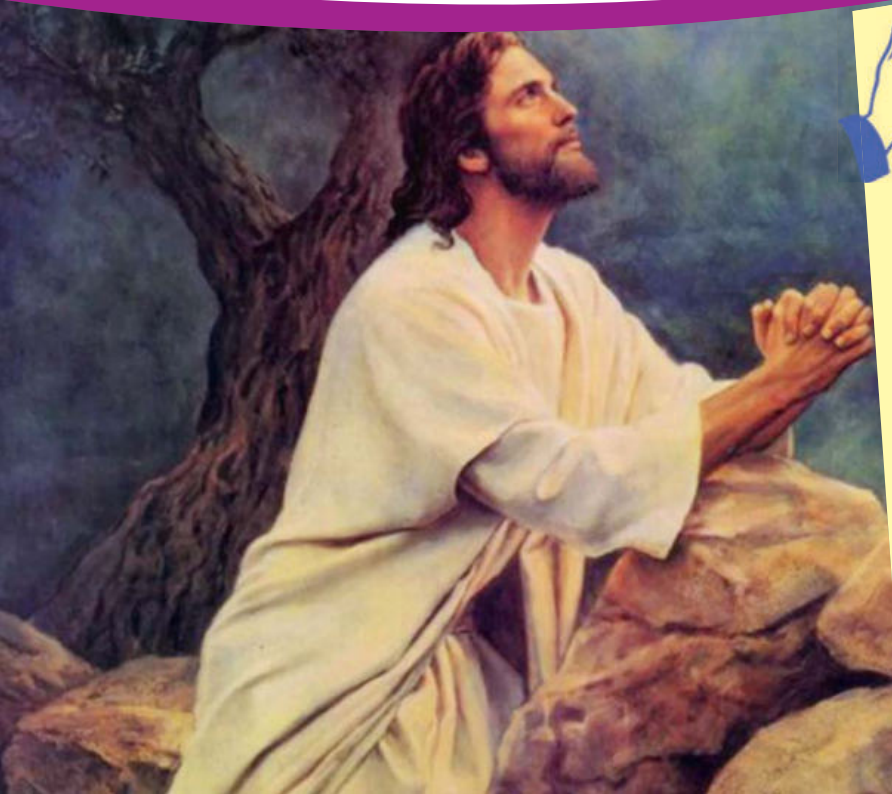


“Celebrating Craft and Creativity: Aari Course Conclusion”

A 45-day *Aari* work class concluded with a festive program on Friday, September 19, 2025, at Christurajapuram. All participants and their teacher, Mrs. Saraswathi, attended the event. Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony delivered the presidential address, speaking about the importance of acquiring self-sustaining skills and praising the students for their dedication to achieving financial independence. Mrs. Saraswathi shared her rewarding training experience, highlighting her students' passion and hard work. A student, Mrs. Ravi, shared her study experience,



expressing gratitude and explaining how the hands-on practice had empowered her and her peers to create stunning designs. A special moment occurred when two students proudly showcased blouses they had designed and stitched themselves, demonstrating their intricate handiwork. The successful event, which marked the beginning of a new journey for these talented artists, concluded with a non-vegetarian feast for all participants.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

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+91 94871 65903:

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Place:

Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,



: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

A Life Poured Out in Love and Service

With hearts filled with gratitude, we thank God Almighty for the precious gift of Sr. Josia SDS (84), who was called to her eternal reward last night. A native of Kangazha, Changanacherry, Sr. Josia lovingly dedicated almost 35 years of her religious life in service to our Diocese. Her generous and prayerful presence touched many lives through her ministry in:

- Manjalumoodu: 1973–1978; 1989–1994; 2013–2025
- Padanthalumoodu: 1998–2003; 2011–2013
- Karode (as Superior): 2006–2011
- Family Apostolate: Counselling, family visits, and de-addiction ministry (1998–2002; 2006–2014)

We offer heartfelt thanks to God for her selfless service, deep faith, and loving dedication to the people of our Diocese. Her gentle smile, simplicity, and prayerful life have left a lasting witness of Christ's compassion among us.

May the Lord, who called her to serve, now grant her eternal peace and joy in His heavenly home.



"In the Arms of the Lord: Final Tribute to Sr. Sophia"

It is with deep sorrow about the sad demise of Sr. Sophia Chacko SDS on 24 September 2025. Sr. Sophia was a native of St. Sebastin's Church, Nedumudy in the archdiocese of Changanacherry. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese for almost 21 years at Manjalumoodu (1973 – 1978; 2009 – 2025). During her second term of service, she was the Superior from 2009 to 2012. The funeral service took place on 25 September 2025 at 10:00 am at the SDS Convent Chapel, Manjalumoodu. The first two parts of the ceremony were presided over by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Bishop presided over the Holy Qurbana and the remainder of the funeral rites. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil delivered the funeral homily. Diocese extended her heartfelt condolences and prayers to the SDS Sisters.



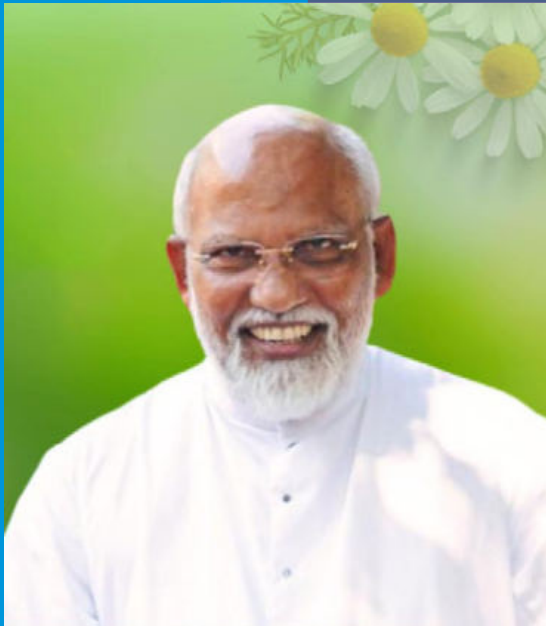
A Gentle Servant Enters Eternal Peace

With hearts filled with gratitude, we praise God Almighty for the life and faithful service of Sr. Mary Thomas SDS (83), who was called to her eternal rest last night. A native of Koratty, in the Diocese of Kanjirappally, Sr. Mary joyfully dedicated 44 years of her religious life to the service of our Diocese. Her years of ministry were spent at Manjalumoodu (1978–1986; 1989–2009; 2013–2025) and Padanthalumoodu (2009–2013), where she worked with humility, prayer, and wholehearted commitment.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to God for her deep faith, gentle presence, and tireless dedication to the mission of Christ. Her life stands as a testimony of love, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to God and His people. May the Lord grant her eternal peace and welcome her into His heavenly home of joy and rest.



A Shepherd's Heart, A Servant's Spirit



With hearts full of appreciation, we thank Rev. **Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil** for his **dedicated and exemplary service** as the **ProtoSyncellus of our Diocese**. After completing **six fruitful years** in this important pastoral responsibility, he now steps into retirement, leaving behind a legacy of faith, wisdom, and sincere commitment.

Fr. Thomas served the Diocese with deep pastoral care, administrative prudence, and a genuine love for the Church. His leadership was marked by humility, clarity of vision, and tireless dedication to the spiritual and pastoral growth of our diocesan community.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for his wonderful service and priestly devotion, praying that God may continue to bless him with peace, good health, and joy in the years ahead.

Empowered to Serve, Anointed to Lead



With joy and gratitude, we announce the appointment of **Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam** as the **ProtoSyncellus of our Diocese**. We thank God for blessing our local Church with his dedicated priestly service, pastoral zeal, and administrative wisdom.

Fr. Jose has served the Diocese faithfully in various capacities, marked by his commitment

to the mission of the Church. As he now assumes this new responsibility, we pray that the Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen him in his ministry of leadership and collaboration with the Bishop and the presbyterium.

May his service as Proto-Syncellus be a channel of grace, unity, and renewed missionary vigor for the Diocese.



Thuckalay
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

*Fondly remembered on
21st anniversary of
demise*



Rev. Fr Zacharias Kaithara

Torchbearer of Thuckalay's Mission Spirit
"His mission was not a moment, but a movement."

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