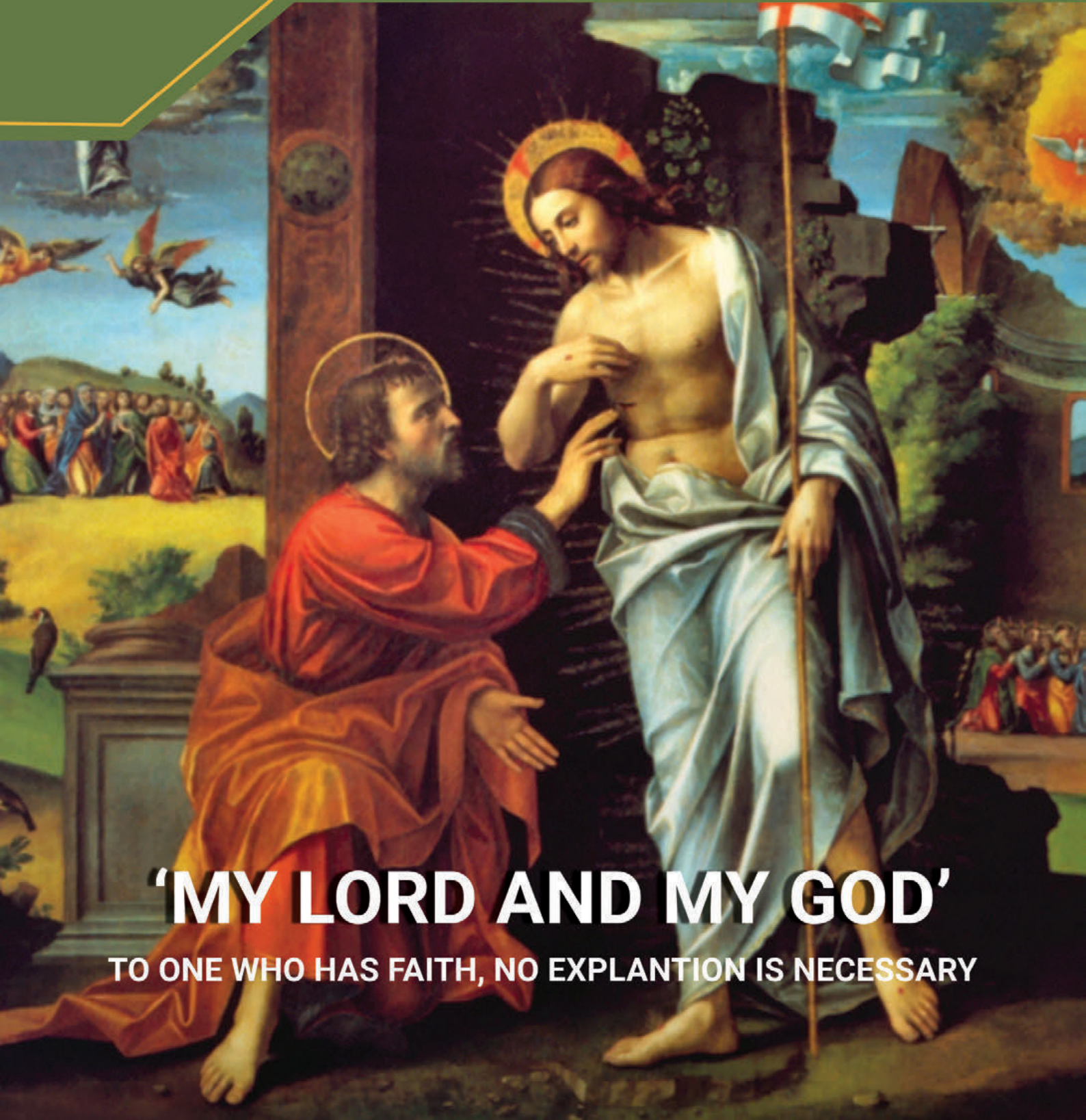


THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



'MY LORD AND MY GOD'

TO ONE WHO HAS FAITH, NO EXPLANATION IS NECESSARY



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BISHOP'S HOUSE
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Message

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,
Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

On 3 July, we celebrated the solemnity of St Thomas, the Apostle, who we firmly believe and acknowledge to be the father of our Syro-Malabar church. The Dukrana feast, as it is called, forms an important annual landmark in our Church. Every year, it is celebrated with great solemnity. Hence, in this message, I want to reflect with you, a significant characteristic that we notice in the life of St Thomas, namely, his doubt regarding the resurrection of Jesus. He is frequently known as doubting Thomas.

By experiencing doubt and then being brought back to faith through his encounter with the risen Jesus, Thomas provided a tangible example of doubt leading to a firm and convincing act of faith. St. John's Gospel presents a path to faith in the risen Jesus, where Thomas is invited to follow the journey through his doubt. Thomas, obedient to Jesus' invitation to touch His wounds, reaches a moment of clear and convincing faith, exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" The beatitude proclaimed by Jesus, "Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe," applies to those who, in their faith journey, arrive at the risen Christ through complete abandonment and trust. The emphasis upon doubt can be transformative and beneficial. Doubts can challenge the status quo, help overcome fears, prompt reevaluation of beliefs, encourage reflection on personal narratives, and inspire the search for new answers and understanding. In the case of Thomas, his doubt led him to a profound expression of faith after contemplating the wounds of Jesus. Thomas' example demonstrates that while doubt may arise, it is essential to move from skepticism to trust and from fear to courage. Thomas's commitment to his newfound belief led him to martyrdom. The passage encourages us to contemplate the profound love

expressed through Jesus' wounds and allow it to inspire a clear, determined, strong, and apostolic faith. In short, doubt can play a vital role in the development of faith. Like St. Thomas, by confronting and overcoming doubt, individuals can arrive at a deeper, more profound belief in Christ, leading to a transformative faith experience.

As I conclude this short message, let me express my sincere thanks to you the friends and benefactors of the diocese for supporting the Missions. In a special way, my gratefulness goes to those friends who are sponsoring the seminarians in the diocese. All the seminarians are remembering you and praying for you. We are grateful to Rev. Fr Robin Jose for being the MISSION PROCURE and the Chief Editor of THUCKALAY TIDINGS for the last three years. The purpose of the Thuckalay Tidings is to reach out to the friends and benefactors the latest happenings in the diocese. The task of the Mission procure is to coordinate the friends and benefactors of the diocese. Fr Robin Jose carried out these two responsibilities with utmost care and dedication and we are grateful to him. After serving for three years Fr Robin Jose is transferred now and in his place Rev. Fr Justin Cheruvilil is appointed as the MISSION PROCURE and Dn Liju Marattukalam Editor-in-charge of THUCKALAY TIDINGS. We wish them all the best and God's blessing at the same time requesting you dear friends your full cooperation.

God bless you and praying for you all.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



Mathru Jyothis Inauguration at Kalluvilai



On 10th June 2023, at 2:00 pm, the grand inauguration of the activities for Mathru Jyothis in the year 2023-24 took place in Kalluvilai. Nearly 125 mothers from various parishes attended on the annual day. During the event, the themes for the year's discussions and meetings were officially unveiled. Following the conclusion of the meeting, Forane directors' meeting was conducted to further deliberate on the annual plan. This additional session facilitated comprehensive discussions and strategic planning, ensuring a well-rounded approach to the upcoming year's programme. Heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to the efforts of Rev. Fr. Jimmy Thekkekadumathil and team who coordinated all the activities of *Mathru Jyothis*





Pastoral visit at St. Chavara Parish, Madurai

The pastoral visit reflects the responsibility to provide care for and nurture their people, just as a shepherd cares for their sheep. This includes providing spiritual guidance, support, and pastoral care to help individuals grow in their faith and navigate life's challenges.





New Priests' day celebration at Bishop's House

The newly ordained priests, Fr. Ajin C. Joseph, Fr. Prince Cherippanattu, and Fr. George Kandathil, were given a cordial welcome at the Bishop's House on June 10, 2023. The solemn Holy Qurbana ceremony by the newly ordained priests was followed by a joyful agape feast as the event's opening act. The devout from St. Mary's Church in Thuckalay were present to bless the Holy

Qurbana. Fr. Georgekutty gave an insightful homily, Fr. Ajin expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone in attendance, and Fr. Prince served as the main celebrant. Forane Vicars, Fathers from Thuckalay-Pilankali Forane, Provincial Superiors, and Sisters from nearby convents attended the reception, which added to the solemnity of the event.





Inauguration of *Kuzhantai Isso Iyakkam*

On June 11th, 2023, the grand inauguration of all the activities for the year 2023-24 of *Kuzhantai Isso Iyakkam* took place at Kalluvilai. The event was made even more special by the presence of Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, who presided over the meeting and inaugurated it by lighting the lamp. During the event, Fr. Abilash Xavier delivered a felicitation speech, adding to the significance of the occasion. The Director of *Kuzhantai Isso Iyakkam*, Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, presented the

comprehensive year plan, emphasizing the importance of a parish-level inauguration. One of the key decisions made during the meeting was to choose a saint as the icon of the year. St. Nellie of Holy God (Ellen Organ), who lived for only four years, was selected as the iconic figure for the current year. It is appropriate to extend heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Toji and to express sincere wishes for God's blessings upon the entire team involved in *Kuzhantai Isso Iyakkam*.



Special Synod at Kakkanad

A special Syro Malabar Synod took place from the 12th to the 16th of June 2023 at Mount St. Thomas in Kakkanad. Their sincere objective was to discern the will of God in addressing these matters. The primary focus of convening this synod was to find a lasting and harmonious solution to the ongoing challenges regarding the uniform mode of celebrating the Holy Qurbana within the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Ankamaly. It is our earnest hope that, through this synod, concrete measures will be formulated to address these issues in the near future.



Installation of New Rector at Minor Seminary



On the 17th of July 2023, Rev. Fr. Isaac Punnoor CMI was officially installed as the new Rector of St. Mary's Minor Seminary in Mukkoottukal. The installation ceremony commenced at 2:30 pm with a solemn celebration of Ramsa, the Rector-designate publicly professed his faith, affirming his commitment to his new role. It was a joyous occasion, graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam, the CMI regional superior, along with Fathers from the Manjalumoodu Forane and the CMI Fathers who serve within our Eparchy. We, the Diocesan family, outpours heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Joji Marangattu CMI, the outgoing Rector, for his dedicated service to St. Mary's Minor Seminary. We extend our sincerest wishes to the new Rector, Fr. Isaac, as he assumes this important role, and we pray for God's abundant blessings upon him and the entire seminary team.



Kaikars and Accountants Meeting at Sangamam

On Sunday, the 25th of June 2023, the Eparchy conducted its annual meeting and orientation programme for all Kaikars and accountants at Sangamam. The day-long programme commenced at 9:30 am and concluded at 4:00 pm, encompassing various informative sessions and activities. The programme commenced with a solemn Holy Qurbana. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal

and Fr. Johnsilal were the resource persons, who provided valuable insights and guidance throughout the day. They conducted classes on the rights and duties of Kaikars, the functions of Pothumantram and Panku Peravai, and the accounting systems employed within our parishes.





Youth Retreat at Soosaipuram

A Youth Retreat was conducted from the 16th to the 18th of June 2023 at St. Alphonsa College in Soosaipuram. The retreat commenced on the morning of the 16th at 10:30 am, with the College Correspondent, Fr. Antony Jose, delivering words of blessings. The Diocesan Director, Fr. Joseph Santhosh, provided an enlightening orientation talk, setting the tone for the retreat. The event concluded on the 18th at 3:30 pm, with the presence of Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, gracing the concluding function. Farewell was given to Merbin Dhas, who

had served as the diocesan youth president for 18 months. The retreat witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 134 youth, who actively engaged in the spiritual activities and reflections. Sincere appreciation is extended to Fr. Joseph Santhosh and also to the hardworking central team for organizing the three-day retreat in such a wonderful manner. Their diligent efforts, along with the preparatory meetings held in each Forane, ensured a well-structured and impactful experience for all participants.





Priests' Conference at Sangamam

The Priests' Conference for the month of July took place at Sangamam on the 20th of June 2023, at 09:30 am. The meeting began with a solemn adoration and confession, setting the tone for the gathering with prayer. At 11:15 am, the meeting officially began, with Fr. Vicar General coordinating the proceedings as the presiding authority. A warm welcome was extended to three Fathers who joined to the Presbytery: Rev.

Fr. Mathew Arekalam, the regional superior of CMI; Rev. Fr. Isaac Punnoor CMI, the Rector of the Minor Seminary; and Rev. Fr. Joshy Thevalakkara CMI, the Forane Vicar of Thuckalay-Pilankalai Forane. Furthermore, various departments and associations presented their respective programmes and initiatives, fostering a collaborative and informative atmosphere.





Silver Jubilee Inauguration *of* **St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal**

Our St Mary's Minor Seminary Mukkoottukal, the heart of the Diocese turned to 25 years. The inaugural ceremony along with the inauguration of academic year 2023- 24 was held on 24 June 2023. The festivities commenced with concelebrated Holy Qurbana. During it, the Jubilee candle was lit, accompanied by a special prayer. The inaugural ceremony was presided by Bishop Mar George Rajendran and Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam was the chief guest of the day. A Jubilee emblem was unveiled during the

meeting, symbolizing this significant milestone. Fathers and Sisters from the Manjalumoodu Forane, along with the teaching staff of the Seminary, graced the gathering with their presence. Congratulations to the entire seminary team, with special commendation for Fr. Isaac Punnoor, for their meticulous organization of the ceremony, alongside Fr. Shijo. The meeting concluded at 01:30 pm, followed by a joyful Agape meal, fostering a sense of fellowship.



Adieu to Fr. Robin Jose



Welcome



Fr. Justin as Mission Procure



Dn. Liju as Interim Editor-in-Charge of Thuckalay Tidings.

We express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Robin Jose, the former Secretary, also as the mission procure is a thoughtful gesture. We acknowledge the sincere contributions and efforts of Fr. Robin Jose, who had served for the Diocese.

Welcoming new leaderships bring fresh perspectives, ideas, and opportunities for growth. We extend a heartfelt welcome to Fr. Justin Cheruvelil as the new Mission Procure and Dn Liju Marattukalam as the Editor-in-charge of THUCKALAY TIDINGS. It's important to offer assistance to them as they navigates their new role for the Diocese.

VOCATION AND MISSION

FR. GEORGE KANDATHIL

FROM HIM, WITH OTHERS AND FOR OTHERS



My name is Fr. George Kandathil. I am originally from Pala. Raju George and Philomina Raju are my parents. I have a younger brother and an older sister. After finishing my secondary schooling, I joined in the minor seminary of the Thuckalay diocese in 2013. I entered seminary solely out of personal desire, and I also understood Jesus' call to the priesthood. My vocation promoter was Rev. Fr. Augustine Thalodil. Rev. Fr. Tom Kunnumpuram served as seminary rector during my formation in minor seminary. I am so happy to become a priest. God gifted me with great formations and education in my priestly life. During my formation days, I formed a strong desire to become a missionary. I want to serve in the parish how Jesus wished to serve his people.

After two years of formation in the minor seminary, I was moved to Dharmara Vidhya Ksethram in Bengaluru to further my philosophical studies. CIM congregations administered the seminary. There, I met the greatest and most senior CIM teachers, who assisted me in developing a clear vision for my vocation. They were missionaries once, and their life stories and experiences enhanced me.

I finished my regency in Deva Matha Church at Killyoor, Tholayavattam, and St. Mary's Minor Seminary at Mukkoottukal. This was an important turning point in my life. Because I had a lot of challenges and struggles during my formation time. Even though God has a plan for me to overcome all of the challenges that are in my way.



After the regency ended on April 15, 2019, I received my clerical dress. Not long after that, I was sent to Rome to study theology. It was an awesome opportunity for me to study overseas. Despite the fact that the corona problem lasted one and a half years. God prepared me to survive in the midst of difficulties, disease, loneliness, emptiness, and sorrow. Since I abide with Jesus and his sorrows, I felt that true formation occurred for me throughout those times. I can comprehend the sentiments of others as well as my own invincibility. I received my other minor orders during those times.

I was ordained as a deacon on April 17, 2022. I was honoured to receive it from His Eminence Mar George Alencherry, our former Bishop and present cardinal of our Church, and our Bishop

Mar George Rajendran SDB. In the same month, I was blessed to celebrate Mass with the Pope as a Deacon.

For two months, I served as a deacon in St. Jerome's Church at Nedumudi, Diocese of Changanacherry. I then proceeded to serve as a deacon in St. Joseph Church at Soosaipuram, Karungal, in the Diocese of Thuckalay. Being a member of the clergy and to join with priests of my own diocese, makes me proud and delighted to be a priest. During my ministry, I realised that being a priest is not an easy task. Many things must be sacrificed for the cause of God. But I found joy in sacrificing something for my God and the people of God. I accepted it and began preparing for the ordination. I was ordained as a priest on April 12, 2023.



THUCKALAY
MISSION
HOUSE OF THUCKALAY

ST. ALPHONSA

“Do you know why I’m so particularly happy today? It’s because I have Jesus in my Heart”

No matter what my sufferings may be, I will never complain and if I have to undergo any humiliation, I’ll seek refuge in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



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