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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



ST. JOHN MARIA VIANNEY

Guardian of Souls & Intercessor of Sinners



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Message

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Greetings and prayerful wishes from all of us in the Diocese of Thuckalay.

The Catholic Church commemorates the feast of St. John Maria Vianney, Patron saint of priests on August 4 every year. It is a special occasion for everyone to remember our priests in a very special way and to thank them for the spiritual guidance that they provide us in our daily lives. A saint, a holy priest, is recognized. He is recognized by how he talks and how he lives, how he faces the trials of life and how he dies. That John Maria Baptist Vianney is a true saint, beyond doubt for all Catholic believers. specific

But the Church does not invent the holiness of a Christian: he finds it and "defines" it; he proposes it as attractive and imitable. The title of a text by Don Mazzolari could be applied to Saint John Maria Vianney: "Even priests know how to die". But even before that, St. John's verse could be applied to him: "... having loved his, he loved them to the end." (Jn 13:1) Until the end: up to the maximum intensity, up to the extreme of existence. This love is manifested through the continuous hours which he had spent in the confessional for the salvation of souls. He cried even for those who were not ready to cry over their sins.

"It is no exaggeration to say that, in the story of Ars, everything converged towards the revelation of God to man, towards the 'epiphany' of creative love and saviour. Everything, including what might appear to be weakness or instability. Everything, including suffering. In Vianney, love has determined everything, right up to the last moment", said a French priest, André Dupleix in his essay on Vianney, The Insistence of Love. In his first encyclical, Redemptor hominis, St. John Paul II wrote: "Man cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible to himself, his life is senseless if love is not revealed to him if he does not encounter love if he does not experience it and make it his own if he does not participate intimately in it." These words seem to have been taken into account by the Curé of Ars: Man, created out of love, cannot live without love. This is Ars's message, a positive and surprisingly dynamic message: God is love: we were created and saved because he loves

us madly. Our happiness is to love him back without any condition. There is no greater happiness on earth.

Dear friends in Jesus Christ, this love of John Maria Vianney, which is divine, showered through human hands and saved the souls of thousands of people. He always said yes to the Word of God and he matured his holiness in prayer, penance and in the evangelical donation to his people. It was an example of fervent, constant prayer, of the Holy Eucharist: how many hours we spent in front of the tabernacle, how much richness of feelings, how holy and continuous fervor of love! He was an example of penance because for all the years of his life a rule of service was imposed, a rule of humility, and a rule of detachment from all earthly things.

It teaches us how to be careful because it is so easy for things to occupy our soul; it is so easy that we are caught up in the deception of uncontrolled pleasure and we go on like this, but with this one does not have a serious and fruitful spiritual life. It is necessary to find strength, find ardor, find perseverance in and through prayer.

I would also like to thank you, dear friends, for your constant support, prayer and love towards our priests. I still remember one of the testimonies which I was told by a faithful in my Diocese: I pray for the priests because they are called directly by God and through them, the Lord wishes to make Himself present to the community of his faithful with His Grace. The priest is necessary, without him there is no Church and there is no visible presence of Jesus among us.

Let me request you again to pray for our priests and new vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

May God bless you all and may St. John Maria Vianney intercede for all of us.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay





Dukrana and Conclusion of St Thomas' Month



The Mission Diocese of Thuckalay on 3 July 2022 celebrated the Dukrana, Feast of St Thomas in all the parishes. It is an important feast for the entire Syro-Malabar Church all over the world. The solemn celebration of Holy Mass concluded the observance of St Thomas' month which had its official inauguration on 5 June 2022. Throughout the month, we recited special prayers to St Thomas and various events were organised to make it very fruitful. In its conclusion, we had *Raza Qurbana* (Most Solemn Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar Liturgy) in most of our parishes.



Sabhadinam Celebration at Mount St Thomas



The Syro-Malabar Church celebrates the *Dukrana* of St. Thomas on 3 July of every year, as *Sabhadinam*. Representatives from each Diocese of the Syro-Malabar Church participated in the event. On this significant day, the Diocese of Thuckalay also made her presence at Kakkanad. After the *Raza Qurbana* (Most Solemn Holy Mass in the Syro-Malabar Liturgy), the head of the Syro-Malabar Church, Mar George Cardinal Alencherry inaugurated the public gathering in which he bestowed upon Rev. Fr. Michael Karimattom the honour of *Malpan* to acknowledge his contribution to the sectors of catechism and protection of Faith.



Dukrana Feast at UAE for Migrant Communities

The Bishop (Apostolic Administrator) of UAE, Most Rev. Paul Hinder invited His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb, for the feast of St Thomas. His Excellency visited the Syro-Malabar communities in Sharjah and Al Ain. The trip was from 27 June to 5 July 2022. Our Bishop made use of this opportunity to meet some of our friends and benefactors of the Thuckalay Mission who make substantial contributions to Wings, Educare and Sponsor a Seminarian Program. The feast day Holy Mass at Sharajah and Al Ain was well attended by hundreds of Syro-Malabar faithful that he could witness the faith and devotion of our migrant communities. They actively took part in our Liturgy. We thank Rev. Fr. Jose Vattukulam OFM, Assistant Parish Priest and incharge of Syro-Malabar community at Sharjah for making excellent arrangements for the programme.



Margamkali Competition at Kalluvilai



Formation to the parents helps the Parents to form their children to grow up in the faith. As part of St Thomas' month, *Margamkali* (form of traditional Suriyani dance) competition was held for the *Mathru Jyothis* (Mothers Movement) members, the mothers of the Diocese on 9 July 2022 at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The competition began in the morning inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Martin Kandampampil, Forane Director of Catechism and Mission League,

Arukani. There were 19 teams of Mothers from different Parishes who participated in the competition. All the teams exhibited great enthusiasm and sporting spirit. In the concluding meeting, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Chancellor, distributed the prizes and Rev. Fr. Printo Kurias, organizer of St Thomas' month, felicitated the winners. Rev. Fr. Jimmy, Director of Family Apostolate, coordinated the event.





Inauguration of *Mathru Jyothis* at Kalluvilai

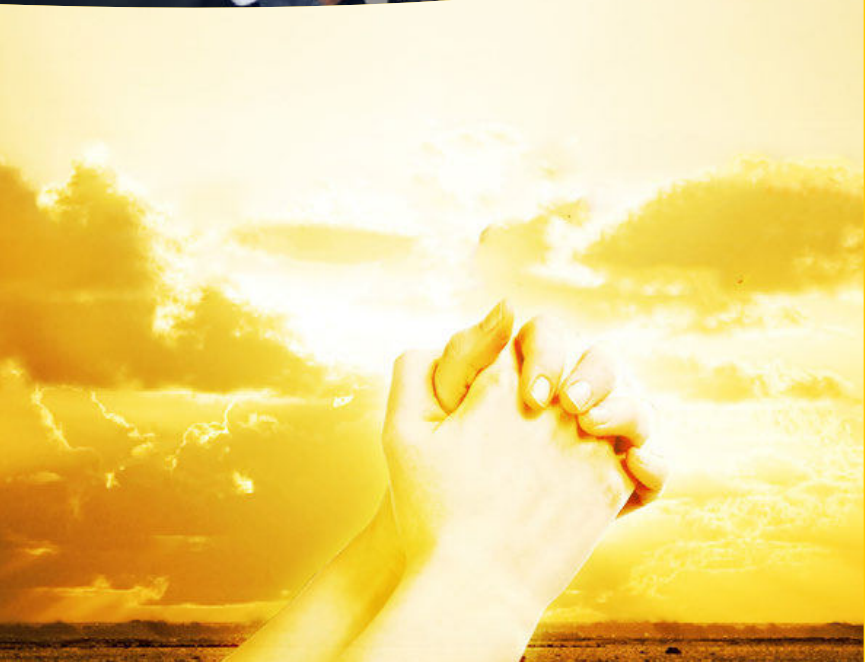
The official inauguration of the activities of *Mathru Jyothis* (Mothers Movement) for the year 2022-23 was held at Kalluvilai on 16 July 2022. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb presided over the meeting. There had been 120 members from different parishes participating in the programme. Forane and Eparchial level elections of *Mathru Jyothis* office bearers were held. At the Diocesan level, Mrs. Juliet from Thettiyodu Parish was elected President of *Mathru Jyothis*. The themes for the yearly discussion and meeting were also published during the meeting.



Junior Priests' On-going Formation Programme

On 14 July 2022, a one-day ongoing formation programme was held for the Junior Priests of our Diocese at Sangamam, Pastoral Centre of the Diocese. All Junior Priests were present for the orientation course. The resource person was Rev. Fr. Augustine P, Finance Officer of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai, who shared the experiences and


challenges in pastoral ministry in Kanniyakumari District. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal coordinated the programme. The priests spent quality time in the afternoon interacting with members of the Diocesan Curia led by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

Please write the following and send SMS

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Name:

Place:

Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,

 : bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



Blessing of Kurusadi at Karode



A *Kurusadi* (Grotto) dedicated to St Devasahayam was blessed at Karode on 16 July 2022 by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb. It is situated at the entrance of *Devasahayam Nalvazhvu Nilayam* (DNN), Karode, A Home for the Mentally Retarded Women in a land donated by Advocate Raja, one of faithful of the Diocese. For the blessing ceremony, curia members and many Fathers from the Diocese were present. We express our most sincere appreciation to Advocate Raja and his family for the generous contribution and assure our prayers.

Installation of New Rector

Rev. Fr. Jogi Marangatu CMI was installed by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb as the new Rector of St Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal on 16 July 2022. The installation ceremony began with a solemn celebration of *Ramsa* (Evening Prayer). During the prayer, the Chancellor read out the decree of the appointment. The Rector-designate made the profession of faith in public. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Chamathara, Provincial of CMI Province, Thiruvananthapuram, was present for the ceremony. During the agape, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General, felicitated the new Rector. Fathers from Manjalumoodu Forane and CMI Fathers working in our Diocese were present for the ceremony. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb extended sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the outgoing Rector and wished God's blessings to the new Rector, Rev. Fr. Jogi Marangatu and other seminary staff.



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Contact Mission Procure:

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Kaikarars and Accountants Meeting at Sangamam

The annual meeting and orientation programme for all the Kaikarars (Parish Leaders) and accountants of the Diocese were held on Sunday, 17 July 2022 at Sangamam. The programme began with Solemn Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil were the resource persons. Classes were given on the

rights and duties of Kaikarars, the functions of Pothu Mantram (Parish Meeting) and Panku Peravai (Parish Council) and the accounting system in parishes. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb thanked everyone for the self-sacrificing service that they are rendering in their respective parishes. There were about 100 participants in the programme.





Catechism Annual Day

The annual day celebration of the Catechetical department of the Diocese was held on 17 July 2022 at Padanthalumoodu. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb presided over the meeting. Rev. Fr. Abilash Xavier Raj, Director of the department, delivered the farewell speech and thanked Rev. Fr. Prince Maliyil, outgoing Director, for his selfless service during the past years. The catechism teachers who completed

25 years and 40 years of service were also honoured during the meeting. The Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil felicitated the Jubilarians. Various programmes by the catechism students added more colours to the event. Bible quiz winners were awarded by the department during the function.

