

# THUCKALAY TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2023 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 9

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**MAR GEORGE RAJENDRAN SDB**  
**Selfless Love of a Shepherd for his Sheep**



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### THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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**Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175**

# Message

Dear friends and benefactors of Thuckalay Mission  
Greetings and prayerful wishes Bishop's House!

On 8 September, we celebrated the birthday of Mother Mary. The 8-day fast in preparation for her birthday was an important practice in our Church traditions, which led to the solemn liturgical celebration of her birthday. According to St Louis de Montfort, because we have not sufficiently known Mary, we do not sufficiently know Jesus. Hence, it is pertinent that we use every occasion that we get in order to know and love Mother Mary. Often, we like Marian devotions where we can get something out of it, like the scapular (protection from eternal fire), the miraculous medal (miracles and favours), the rosary (peace in the world and in our families) or Our Lady of Lourdes (healing). However, the feast of the Nativity of Mary should hold a special place in our lives.

There is only one reason why we celebrate this feast. It is the birthday of the mother of Jesus and our heavenly mother. Again, to neglect our own mother's birthday is unthinkable. In conception, Mary was created and filled with spiritual gifts and blessings but she was shrouded by the mystery of the womb. She lived only in the society of God and the angels. When she was born, she was introduced into the society of man. Born to the light of the world, her mission to be the universal mediatrix and co-redemptrix officially began, much in the same way the birth of the Messiah had.

According to legends, Anne (Hebrew: annah) was born in Bethlehem in Judaea. She married Joachim, and, although they shared a wealthy and devout life at Nazareth, they eventually lamented their childlessness. Joachim, reproached at the Temple for his sterility, retreated into the countryside to pray, while Anne, grieved by his disappearance and by her barrenness, solemnly promised God that, if given a child, she would dedicate it to the Lord's service. Both received the vision of an angel, who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wondrous child. The couple rejoiced at the birth of their daughter, whom Anne named Mary. When the child was

three years old, Joachim and Anne, in fulfilment of her divine promise, brought Mary to the Temple of Jerusalem, where they left her to be brought up.

We must keep in mind that true devotion to Mary is in imitation of the love and veneration Jesus has for his own mother. Without a doubt, Jesus celebrates her birthday in heaven. Since Jesus is the most perfect son, what person in the world could attribute anything less than loyal devotion and reverence to the most perfect of all mothers.

I am glad to share with you the news that our diocese is preparing for its eparchial assembly from 28-30 September 2023. It will be held at Sangamam, our pastoral and animation centre. The eparchial assembly is a representative organ of priests, religious and laity that assists the eparchial bishop in the governance of the eparchy. It is a consultative body to reflect, discuss and offer advice to the bishop in matters of ecclesial concern. It is also meant to assist the eparchial bishop in those things that regard the special needs or advantages of the eparchy (can. 235, CCEO). The assembly can propose legislative acts in the eparchy.

The main theme of the Assembly is "Mission and life of the Syro-Malabar Church in response to the needs of the time in the context of Thuckalay Diocese." Dear friends, I am requesting you to pray, so that the forthcoming assembly may bear abundant fruits that will take forward our eparchy spiritually. May the celebration of the assembly become a Pentecost where our priests, religious and lay people receive an outpouring of the Spirit and become enthusiastic in proclaiming the gospel like the Apostles! Praying for you and for your personal intentions. May our Blessed Mother intercede for all of us!



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






# St. Vincent de Paul Annual day celebration


On August 20, 2023, the 26th annual day celebration of the St. Vincent de Paul Central Council took place at the Holy Family Church in Mukkoottukal. The day's proceedings commenced with the Solemn Holy Qurbana, which was presided over by the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. Following the Holy Qurbana, a public meeting was convened at 11:00 am, presided over by Fr. Vicar General. During this significant gathering, a momentous occasion unfolded as the silver jubilee souvenir was officially released by Mr. Edwinson. Alongside, Mr. Paulraj, the President of the central council of the Kuzhithurai diocese, and Fr. Jose Vayalil, the Parish Priest of Malaicode Parish, added their felicitations to the event.



## NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.  
Please write the following and send SMS  
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## Annual General Body and Governing Body Meetings of KKSSS



On August 1st, 2023, the Annual General Body and Governing Body meetings of KKSSS were successfully held at the KKSSS, Kalluvilai. The board members participated in it. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil, the president of KKSSS, presided over the proceedings. The discussions during the meeting encompassed the presentation of the annual report, the audit report, and forthcoming programs. The collective sentiment was one of immense satisfaction and appreciation for the remarkable programs accomplished by KKSSS.

## Educare Class



A specialized class for Educare students took place at KKSSS, Kalluvilai. The session saw the enthusiastic participation of 55 students, who were guided by the capable hands of Mr. Simon.

## Medical Camps



### Munchirai Medical Camp

KKSSS, in partnership with Maria Ayurvedic Medical College, Attoor, orchestrated an Ayurvedic medical camp at St. George Church, Munchirai, on August 16, 2023. A commendable turnout of more than 80 individuals benefited from this health-focused initiative.



### Palugal Medical Camp

In collaboration with ATVSC Siddha Medical College Hospital, Munchirai, KKSSS organized a Siddha medical camp at the premises of St. Thomas Church, Palugal. The camp, inaugurated by Fr. Ajin C Joseph, the Assistant Director, achieved a significant milestone by aiding more than 150 individuals.



## Health care seminar at Tenkasi

On August 27, 2023, a health care seminar was organized by the Pulari Social Service Society in the village of Kattalai Kudiyiruppu. Sr. Libya CMC took the lead in enlightening the villagers on the nuances of leading a wholesome life. She delved into strategies for maintaining wellbeing and provided valuable insights on safeguarding against heart diseases. The event placed considerable emphasis on the crucial aspect of heart care,

disseminating invaluable knowledge on this important subject matter. Attended by approximately 100 women, the event engaged the community in an insightful and empowering session. Fr. Antony Mahesh, whose new initiatives at Tenkasi under the auspices of the Pulari Social Service Society are instrumental in conducting such beneficial events for the community.





## Tenkasi Mission Meet at Pudur Border

Meeting of Fathers and Sisters of Tenkasi mission was held on 09 August 2023 at 02.30 pm at Pudur Border. The meeting commenced at 2:30 pm and was divided into five sessions. In the first session, Rev. Fr. Dency Mundunadackal introduced the new Tamil Taksa and Qurbana Textbook, offering a comprehensive explanation of the changes incorporated within it. The attendees, including the Sisters and Fathers, were given the opportunity to practice the new liturgical songs added to the Qurbana text. Moving on to the second session, the eparchial priests actively engaged in Tenkasi's missions gathered, in the presence of the curia members of the eparchy. This gathering aimed to assess the progress and accomplishments of each missionary's work in Tenkasi. The meeting drew to a close with a communal agape meal at 8:30 pm, fostering a sense of fellowship among the missionaries.





## Practice of New Tamil Taksa for Priests at Sangamam

On August 10, 2023, a gathering of all priests took place at Sangamam with the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the new Taksa in Tamil. Commencing at 10:00 am, the session started with an enlightening introductory talk delivered by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General. Guiding the proceedings was Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvellil, the eparchial liturgical director, who skillfully animated the entire session. He expounded upon the significant modifications introduced in the language by drawing comparisons with the previous text, and diligently dissected each prayer to ensure a comprehensive understanding.





## St. Alphonsa Academy Cultural Competitions & award ceremony at Nagercoil

St. Alphonsa Academy for Excellence Cultural Competitions conducted by St. Alphonsa Matri. Hr.Sec. School, Nagercoil was held on 12 August 2023 at Nagercoil school campus. Mr. Appavu, the honourable Speaker of Lok Sabha inaugurated the event and Mr. Mahesh, the honourable Mayor was the chief guest. A total of 80 schools and 15 colleges from Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts participated in the competitions, which drew

over 1800 students. The overall trophy was claimed by Sacred Heart Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Padanthalumoodu, and the second prize by S.A.V. Balakrishna Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Vadakankulam. The A.P.J.M Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Soosaipuram, received the Best Participation Prize. The event was attended by academy officials, principals, teachers, parents, and programme coordinators







## Syro Malabar Bishop's Synod at Kakkanad

The Third Session of the XXXI Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church took place at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas Kakkanad from August 21 to 26, 2023. The Fathers of the Synod made an effort to study the contemporary issues that pertain to the Church as well as the society and find solutions for the problems in a spirit of prayer and faith. I thank you for your valuable prayers for the successful completion of the Synod. Let us continue to pray for finding a solution to the existing problem in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly during the eight days fasting this year, as our special intention.





## CML General Body Meeting at Padanthalumoodu



The Annual General Body Meeting of the CML was convened at Sacred Heart Forane Church in Padanthalumoodu on August 13, 2023, at 2:30 pm. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, delivered the keynote address, setting the tone for the gathering. The director of CML, Rev. Fr. Printo Kurias, outlined the year's comprehensive plan during the meeting, outlining the intended activities for the current year. Following this, Mrs. Vijilvani presented a detailed report encompassing the

accomplishments of the previous year, spanning from 2022 to 2023. The meeting was graced by the felicitations of Mr. Aju Thomas, Sr. Ann Grace FCC, and Mr. Gnanadas, who offered their heartfelt support and encouragement. Representatives from various parishes, including forane directors, animators, organizers, and students, were in attendance, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose.

## State award to Santhinilayam, Paruthivilai



With great pride and admiration, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Shanthi Nilayam, Paruthivilai. This institution, guided by the compassionate stewardship of the Sisters of St. Chantal Province, SABS, Thuckalay, has been honored with the Government of Tamil Nadu Award for the Best Institution. This recognition comes in acknowledgment of its outstanding services to the mentally disabled. On the occasion of India's 77th Independence

Day, 15 August 2023, Chief Minister Mr. M.K. Stalin presented this well-deserved accolade to Shanthi Nilayam. The entire staff of the institution, under the guidance of Sr. Ancy Karingadu SABS, the Principal, has exemplified selflessness and compassion in their roles as educators and caregivers. Let us once again extend our warmest congratulations to Shanthi Nilayam for its exceptional achievement.



## Online Competition by Jesus' Kids on August 15



An online competition was conducted for Jesus Kids on August 15, 2023. The competition was open to all children aged 6-12 years old of the Eparchy. The competition encouraged our children to witness faith and to share their faith with others



## Relic of St. John Paul II at Thettiyode



Relic of St. John Paul II, Heavenly Patron of Youth, was brought as part of the Jesus Youth National Conference to be held from October 21 to 24, 2023. On Sunday 20th August 2023 at 10.00 am welcome was given at St. Paul's Church, Thettiyode. A special half an hour prayer was led by Rev.Fr Joseph Santhosh.





# Health awareness programmes in the Eparchy

From August 17 to 21, 2023, the Eparchial Health Commission organized a diverse array of programmes designed to foster awareness about heart health. These initiatives spanned various locations, including A P J M School in Soosaipuram, St. Alphonsa College in Soosaipuram, St. George Shrine Church in Munchirai, St. James Church in Mankarai, St. John Paul II School in Kulasekaram, Jaya Matha School in Christurajapuram, and Sacred Heart Matriculation School in Padanthalmoodu. At the helm of these enlightening activities was Rev. Sr. Josephine CTC, the secretary of the TNBC Health Commission, who served as the resource person. The campaign, aptly titled "Care Your Heart," encompassed an array of impactful events. Sr. Josephine delved into the multifaceted functions of the heart and elucidated various preventive measures against heart diseases. An instrumental facet of the campaign involved a heart awareness rally that was launched. With fervour and enthusiasm, the students rallied together, raising slogans and effectively disseminating awareness among the general public.







## Feast of Assumption of Our Lady and Independence Day at Minor Seminary

On 15th August, 2023, the feast of Assumption of Our Lady and Independence Day was celebrated. The day began with a Solemn Holy Mass. After the Holy Mass, flag hoisting, March past and Message of the Independence day were performed. As part of the celebration, a volleyball match was also conducted in the morning. In the evening, being part of feast day, had a Solemn Rosary.

Onam Celebration was on 16th August, 2023. After the Holy Mass, Onam day competitions were there and had an Onam Sadya too. This year, Onam Sadya was sponsored by SH Convent, Mukkoottukal. By the evening, a friendly cricket match was also conducted.



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+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;  
Email: [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)



## Honoring the Special Olympic award winners



The honoring of the Special Olympic award winners was a heartwarming and inspiring event. It was an auspicious occasion that our special school children had participated in the Special Olympics. Bishop Mar. George Rajendran SDB, honored the Special Olympic award winners at the Bishop's House. He said that they are an inspiration to everyone and

that they make the diocese proud. He specifically appraised the award winners on their achievements and praised them for their courage and determination. The event showed the world that people with disabilities are just as capable of achieving great things as anyone else.

## A New Shepherd for the Eparchy of Gorakhpur

Rev. Fr. Mathew Nellikunnel, a member of the CST congregation, has been appointed the new shepherd of the Eparchy of Gorakhpur. Rev. Dr. Mathew 8 Nellikunnel was born on November 13, 1970. He joined the congregation in 1986 and the minor seminary formation was in the Diocese of Gorakhpur, and the further studies and formations took place in Kerala and Punjab. He holds a PhD in Systematic Philosophy. He made his first religious commitment on May 17, 1990. He was ordained Priest on December 30, 1998. He is a priest member of Christ Jyoti Province, Punjab-Rajasthan, of the Little Flower Congregation (CST Fathers). He was Provincial Superior of Christ Jyoti Province, Punjab-Rajasthan, from 2015 to 2018. At present, he is serving the congregation as the Rector of Little Flower Major Seminary, Aluva from 2018.







## **VISIT OF DEACONS** from Poonamallee Major Seminary Chennai, to the Eparchy of Thuckalay

The visit of 6 deacons from Poonamallee Major Seminary to the Eparchy of Thuckalay was a success. The deacons came across with the challenges and opportunities that faced by the Eparchy and they were encouraged to persevere in their faith more deeply. It was a valuable opportunity to learn about the Eparchy's activities and institutions, and to share their own experiences and insights. They also offered their support to the diocese in its mission of evangelization and social welfare.



## Palliative Care Centers: Thuckalay and Thenkasi mission



Our Thuckalay and Thenkasi Mission have been actively involved in the healing mission for last 20 years through its dispensaries. There are a number of bed ridden patients in the area and the Diocese felt the need for extending our services through palliative care in an organized manner with a mobile palliate care unit. The nurse Rev. Sr Helen DSHS and Rev. Sr Libia CMC and Sr. Sajitha ASMI have been entrusted with the task of carrying out this mission.



# VOCATION AND MISSION

## MISSION AS PASSION



Fr. Dorathick, OSBCam

I am Fr. Dorathick, OSBCam. Born in Kootamavu, a village in Kanyakumari on the tip of Southern India. My parents are both devoted Catholic and I am so grateful to them who brought me up inculcating in me our Catholic faith. My grandmother, Rajem, inspired me so much having been a woman of prayer, rich in love and charity towards other people. She paved the way for me to Christ and the Church in my early childhood. At the age of 5, I began attending the Eucharistic Celebration with my grandmother who used to go to church daily. My willingness to go to church and my attentiveness during the celebration increased in me the desire to see Christ every day. I was so curious, and I could still recall what my grandmother had told me about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist which made me so fascinated to go to church with my simple faith. I can still remember when I was in line with my mother or grandmother to receive the Holy Communion. I felt so happy every time I lined up for the Holy Communion, at least I could see Christ closely, though I had not received it yet. As a child, I was so excited to know what would happen when we consume the Holy Communion. One of my frequent questions was, "How does Jesus taste?" My grandmother told me that it cannot be explained, but one day I would "taste" Jesus and I would know how good the Lord is! From that day on, I wanted to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion and taste Jesus! That year, my elder brother was about to receive the Holy Communion, so I wished to receive it too! But my parish priest was hesitant due to my young age. He said that I still

needed to learn many prayers. I was almost 8 years old that time. So with enthusiasm I began to learn all the prayers for I was so adamant to receive the Holy Communion. Usually, in our village we celebrate our Parish Feast for 10 days and on the 9th day the First Holy Communion is given. I was kneeling throughout the whole celebration of the Holy Mass for 7 days hoping that my desire to receive the Holy Communion and taste Jesus would be granted. My only prayer was to receive Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. My prayers were not in vain when on the 7th day the parish priest told my parents that I must receive the Holy Communion. The excitement was indescribable when I finally received the Holy Eucharist! It was the first time in my life that I could go into a blissful experience and deep intimacy with Christ. I think I was just 8 years old, I really didn't know what was happening to me! As the days went on, I received Holy Communion every day. Then, a new desire emerged in me, that is, to be an altar boy during weekdays when not many boys will come to church. Seeing an elderly priest who managed to celebrate mass by himself without anyone assisting him led me to think that I could be an altar boy doing service in the altar. Revealing my desire to our parish priest, he jokingly said to me that once I grow up to the height of the altar I can serve as an altar boy. I took seriously what he had just said and from that time on, I frequently went to church early in the morning with my grandmother who used to arrange flowers for our Lady of Perpetual Help. Literally, I used to go to the altar and measure my height with the altar. One day when I measured myself again I was

almost at the height of the altar, so, I ran to the sacristy and told to my parish priest that I already had grown up; therefore, I could serve as an altar boy! And from that day on, I became an altar boy, the youngest among all the other altar boys.

Time flies. I had done my basic education with the Carmelite nuns who had nurtured me to grow more deeply in Christ. Concurrently, I was so curious to explore Hinduism and Islam too. I was fortunate enough to have a number of acquaintances from other religions that had given me the chance to explore temples and mosques which I loved to know, particularly, on how they pray and see God! When I finished my high school at the age of 15, I felt like joining with the OCD fathers where I studied. It was a call to a contemplative life. After exposing my desire to my parents, they advised me to decide after I reached the age of 18. Following my parents' advice, I just kept my desire to become a priest in my heart and continued to serve as an altar boy in my parish. But when I was a teenager, the desire was not so prominent like before but still it was echoing deep in my heart. After I finished my secondary school, I expressed again my desire to my parents but this time they were delighted and without hesitation they communicated this to my parish priest who advised me not to join in a cloistered monastery because the world needs me. Nevertheless, I was convinced in joining the Carmelites. So I told him that it is fine for me whatever he wanted as far as it has a Carmelite spirituality. He suggested an active Carmelite order in Kerala. Immediately, I went to a come-and-see program for a week. More than 60 participants (including myself) were experiencing the life of these active friars for one week. At the end of the program, the rector told me to come back after a month. I returned home and told my parents that I would never become a priest! Actually, I was not impressed by the friars because they had many commercial institutions! To become a priest seemed to be like just an ordinary profession for



them. Therefore, I was not interested anymore! I was so close to my parents and to my only brother so I was thinking that staying with them is the best choice rather than staying in a monastery. In the meantime, I failed in my secondary school examinations. So I could not realize my second wish that is to do yoga and naturopathy BNYS studies. I decided to have a one year diploma on yoga and my parents encouraged me to pursue it. One day, I started reading a book. It was written that in 3 hours sitting with cross leg without any movement one can master a meditation. One night, I tried to do it myself without being taught by anyone. So, I sat and closed my eyes without knowing what to do! But I was very blissful, I got no thoughts in my mind just like when I received my first Holy Communion. I felt the same feelings that lasted for more than 4 hours before I opened my eyes.

After this experience which I kept only to myself, I gradually focused on learning yoga and trained as a teacher of yoga from Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Ashrams (Hindu Ashram) at the age of 19. I started teaching yoga. Later, I also received my bachelor's degree on Alternative Medicines and Psychology. My exploration on yoga allowed me to go to different Ashrams, Temples and beyond other religions from Southern to Northern India to learn different styles of yoga. All of these had helped me to see God beyond names and forms! I was teaching in various schools and seminary too. During that



time, my interest in going to church was declining, perhaps I saw it more ritualistic and hearing the different scandals in the church had made no sense to me at all. I only went to church just to please my mother. One day my father was feeding doves at home when I asked him why we have to go to the church if God is everywhere. For me, there is no point in going to church so, I argued with him. He just smiled and asked me, “Do you think these doves have no food in this world that I have to feed them?” I replied to him, “Everywhere they could find food”. He then asked me, “Why then they are here? I responded to him, “It is because they knew they would be fed if they come here”. My father then beautifully said, “My son, this means that church, temple, or mosque are treasure houses of God and they are where we have to go.” This was a mind blowing thought for me! Reflecting on this, I could say that I was saying a contradiction. I realized that I had often said, “God is everywhere, but not in the church. So why could I not see God in the church if He is all present?” This thought made me open my mind to go back to church. In those days, I was too busy teaching yoga. I began early in the morning but despite my busy schedule, I decided to start going to church again! At that time, I was about to go to the Maldives to work in a resort as a yoga teacher. I got my passport and was getting ready for the trip. I had already started going to church. On the first two days I fixed my eyes on a painting of our Lord’s Resurrection during the Mass.

On the third day, during the Eucharistic Celebration, I heard a voice saying, “Why don’t you become a priest?” This voice disturbed me a lot since on the first two days I fixed my eyes on a painting of our Lord’s Resurrection during the Mass. On the third day, during the Eucharistic Celebration, I heard a voice saying, “Why don’t you become a priest?” This voice disturbed me a lot since I had no intention to become a priest or a monk anymore. On the fourth day, again I



repeatedly heard the same voice. During this time, my lifestyle was so different. I loved worldly things especially modern electronic gadgets and fashion. I had decided against becoming a monk or priest! But this voice became strong in my heart. I never told anyone, but I searched on the internet for a monastery with a rigid observance and I found the Carthusians. Unfortunately, we didn’t have any in India. The second option was the Cistercian Monastery in Kerala which I was interested in. I was so disturbed for a week. Then one day when I did not go church, one of the deacons, Fr. Aneesh, from Adorno Fathers who was helping our parish, came to my home. We were conversing and having a cup of tea and he started to talk about the Cistercian Monastery in Kerala to my father. I was so excited to hear about it because it was secretly my second option. I learned from him that they had a huge farm, so I was thinking that a farm was not in my interest, we had one at home! He also told me about a monk who lived as a hermit in the North of Kerala. This monk had no connections with the world and lived a very simple life. So, I told Fr. Aneesh to inform that monk about a young brother who is ready to join with him. My parents had joyfully given me their consent to become a monk. In a week’s time I went to this monastery Dhayana Ashram in Kerala. For one year I enjoyed the everyday life of silence and solitude. Though I was quite talkative but in Ashram nobody talks to this over 85 year old monk. I could only rarely chat to a younger monk named Fr. Anto but most of the time I spent days in silence and prayer happily doing all the works and enjoying the nature around me. I was really convinced to be in this kind of life. What was interesting was that they belong to a Syromalankara Rite which had a long liturgy with lots of symbolic

signs. I enjoyed their hymns too. But suddenly, never had I thought that the Bishop would decide to close the Ashram because there was nobody who could continue their present life so he asked me to join to his diocese. Due to the fact that I felt a deep contemplative call I responded to him frankly that I was not happy to join to his diocese. At that time, Fr. Silvester and Fr. Anto from the Dhayana Ashram had suggested to go to Shantivanam. They asked me to move first to see and make discernments but deep in my heart I felt that it could be my place. Therefore, I went to Saccidananda Ashram. It is a Camaldolese Benedictine Monastery in Tamilnadu. So far, I didn't know anything about Shantivanam. I only had read something about one of the founders of the Ashram.

When I came to the Ashram, I felt love in the atmosphere and the Indian way of their liturgy. I was so much impressed by the simplicity of the monks. I was sent to the formation house which was nearby the Ashram but I was not happy there because I felt it was just like any other formation houses! So I was thinking that this was not my place! The cry of my vocation resonates to my happy experiences in Dhayana Ashram where I sincerely did everything I could during my short stay. I asked God a very human question that why after I left everything, I found myself in this situation. I told Fr. George, the Prior, that I didn't want to continue my life in this Ashram. He asked me if I liked a spiritual life. I simply answered him positively, but the more I loved the more I needed to leave! He advised me to reflect then make a decision. My things were almost packed and I called my mother telling her that I would be home the day after. She just asked me if everything was okay. I replied to her that "no places are good and that all people are corrupt. Therefore, it is better for me to go home!" I never thought that my mom would give me a very clever and profound thought. She told me about the lotus flower which is the most beautiful flower, whose petals will open one by one when it blooms. Despite being beautiful it will only grow in mud and often, dirt. She said to me, "My



son, you have not yet bloomed! If you didn't find what you were looking for, you can come back home." Though my things were already packed and ready to go home this phrase had profoundly touched my heart and an anecdote of Confucius came across my mind saying, "Don't curse the darkness. Light a candle!" These two phrases had given me strength that enlightened the final call. I had written that day about spiritual maturity, "One who has spiritually matured will not be changed by places, people, or situations but rather he or she will have the courage to change the place, people and situations." Then I realized that it is not I who choose but God chose me to a very radical change of heart. I could see and feel the movement from being ego centered to a God centered life. From that time on and still now, I find myself living in Shantivanam Ashram which is one of the most unique Ashrams in the world where the church opens the doors to all. The Camaldolese spirituality and the life in the Ashram is so inspiring day by day. I have 2 hours of meditation, which I love most because it helps me feel the intimacy of Christ every day. Later, I was sent to Kerala for my Philosophical Studies and to Rome, Italy in Pontificio Ateneo Sant'Anselmo for my Theological studies after which I was ordained in 2018 by Bishop George Rajendran (Bishop of Thukalay) soon I became a Prior of Shantivanam Ashram after being nominated by the Prior General before my ordination. I am deeply grateful to my monastic vocation. I listen every moment by the ear of the heart and my response is: "That in all things God may be glorified."





Invitation

# Diocese of Thuckalay

## First Eparchial Assembly

Date : 2023, September 28, 29,30  
Place : Sangamam, Thuckalay

### Theme

The Life and Mission of the Syro-Malabar Church in response to the needs of the time in the context of the Eparchy of Thuckalay



*"A significant Step forward, to begin this journey together and to create something truly special."*



Presided by

Mar George Rajendran SDB  
Bishop, Diocese of Thuckalay



Mar Joseph Perumthottam  
Archbishop of Changanacherry



Bishop Antoniswamy Savarimuthu  
Bishop of Palayamkottai



Mar Pauly Kannoorkadan  
Bishop of Irinjalakuda



Bishop Nazarene Soosai  
Bishop of Kottar



Vincent Mar Paulose  
Bishop of Marthandam

*We invite you to join us, as we build a brighter future*

*We Cordially invite you to*



EPARCHY OF THUCKALAY

# *Priests and Religious Sangamam - 2023*

Jubilee Celebrations



Sr. Alphonsa SABS



Sr. Alpo



Sr. Bridgit SABS



Sr Angela DSS



Sr. Jincy FCC



Sr Vijil Maria SH



Sr. Silvy Therese CMC



Sr. Jyothis SABS



Sr Mary Beena LSDP



Sr Anitha SH

*Yours in Christ*

Bishop George Rajendran SDB  
EPARCHY OF THUCKALAY

Pastoral Centre, Sangamam | 16 September 2023

PROGRAMME

Arrival: 9.00 am | Holy Qurbana: 9.15 am | Tea Break : 11 am | Jubilee Celebration 11.30 am | Lunch 1.00 pm





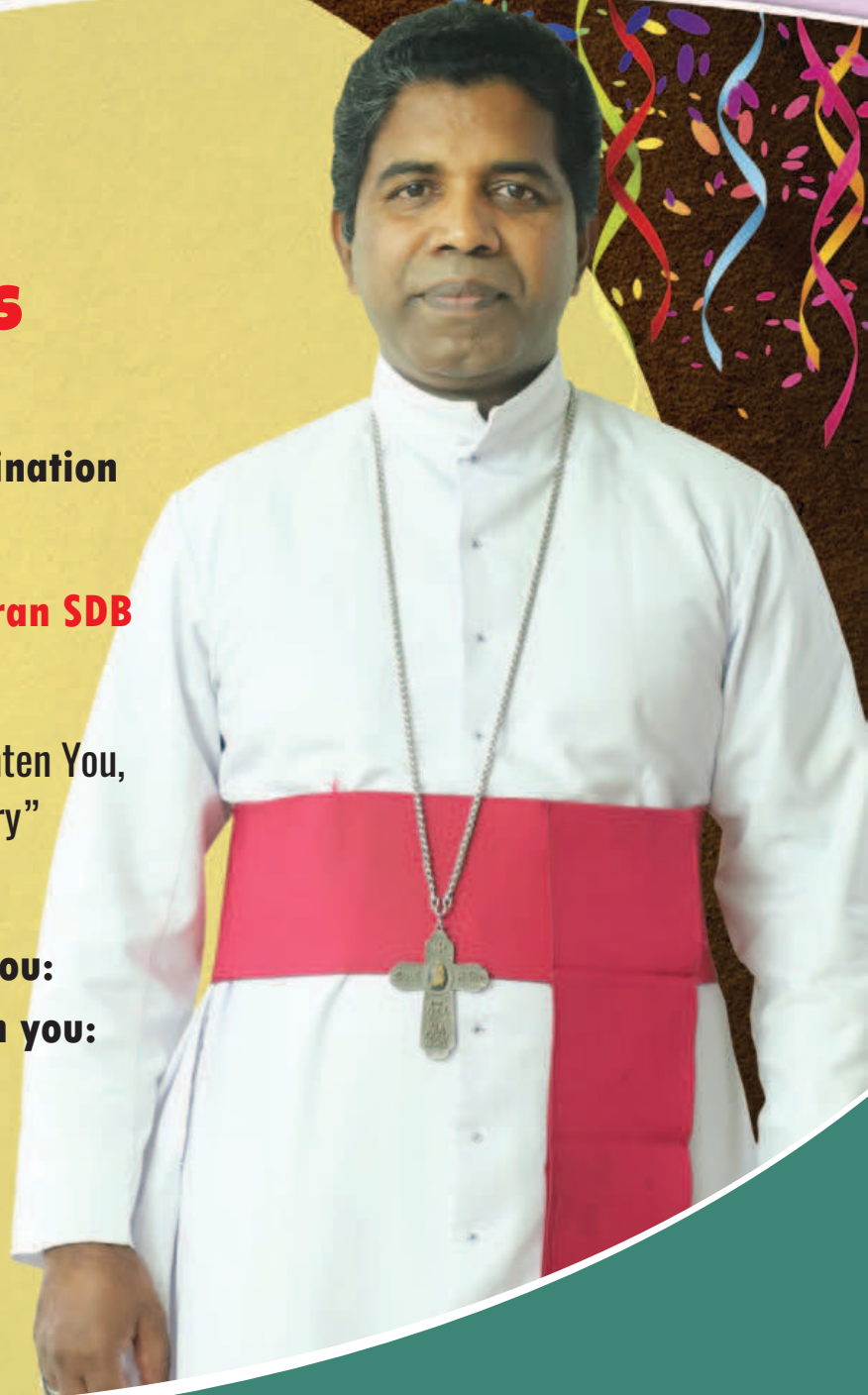
**THUCKALAY**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**On the  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination  
of  
His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB**

**“May the Spirit of God Guide You, Enlighten You,  
and Strengthen You in Your Ministry”**

**The Lord Bless you and Keep you:  
The Lord makes his Face shine on you:  
And be gracious to you.**



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