

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



PRIESTHOOD

Anointed Hands for Selfless Service



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

April 2022 | Vol. 2 | Issue 4

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Message

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

We have been living the paschal mysteries of our Lord Jesus Christ: His Life, Death and Resurrection. We are not spectators, as we find many, during His journey to the Mount Calvary for the salvation of the whole world. We are called to be like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who cries with her Son and prays in silence, or like Veronica, who is courageous enough to approach Jesus to wipe his face amidst soldiers, or like John, who follows Him till the end together with Mother Mary. The salvation that Jesus announces, cannot be reduced to the mere announcement of the “empty tomb!” Jesus, above all, has overcome sin and death and makes us all children of the Father. Truly the Resurrection inaugurates new humanity, not only in its eschatological dimension but guarantees “a possible future” for men and women and their history. New life must begin now and must become continually new and glorious as we journey deeper and deeper into the glory of the Resurrection. The Resurrection of Christ is God's gift to humanity, which determines the ability to live out the relationship of God with his people.

This “new humanity”, is realized today through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which is instituted by Jesus on Holy Thursday, as the pre-taste of His sacrifice on the Cross on the following day. This day marks the inauguration of the Holy Sacrament of Ordination. For a priest, the Eucharist is the light of God that surrounds, the love of God that enfold, the power of God that protect and the presence of God that watch over every minute of their life. Who is a priest? Lacordaire, a French priest writes:

To live in the world without wishing for its pleasures; to be a member of each family, yet belonging to none; to share all suffering; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer Him their prayers; to return from God to men; to bring pardon and hope; to have a heart of fire for charity, and a heart of bronze for Chastity; to teach and to pardon, console and bless always. My God, what a life; and it is yours, O priest of Jesus Christ.

This beauty of priesthood is not just the effort of the candidate alone but of many collaborators especially the



friends and benefactors whose prayer, sacrifice and financial assistance make the process of formation complete. I am grateful to all those who support the seminarians through the Sponsor a Seminarian Program.

I remember sharing with a family about the joy of being a priest. “A priest, as a young man, accepting the call of God, “leaves everything”, and lives an exceptional life for God and His people”. Therefore, we must pray for our priests and ask for the gift of holiness. The true love and satisfaction a priest has in his ministry is the feeling of being loved by the faithful. Priesthood is directly connected with the Altar, where the priest offers the sacrifice of the mass and derives his identity as a priest. St. Monica told her son, St. Augustine in Ostia, where she later died, not to worry about where her body would be buried, but asked her son to remember her at the altar of the Lord. The greatness of priesthood is realized by that simple lady and is revealed through her words.

A few days ago, during the celebration of Holy Mass, I paused for a moment on the words of the Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing (Ps 22, 1). These words remind me of the verse of another Psalm: The Lord is the part of my inheritance (Ps 15: 5). Indeed, Christ Himself places His hands on - priests, who thus become the dispensers of the mysteries - of the portents - of the Lord (1 Cor 4: 1). I am sure, together with the Body and Blood of Christ in the hands of priests, you are also especially remembered.

May Jesus bless you with everything you desire and everything good for you. Celebrate the life and its blessings with your family this Easter. May you have the happiest Easter filled with joy, peace, and so many Easter eggs.

Yours in Christ,

+ George Rajendran sdb
Bishop of Thuckalay





Women's Day Celebration

The Diocese of Thuckalay organized functions and events on International Women's Day celebrating womanhood. We had two celebrations, one at St Alphonsa College of Arts and Science, the higher education institution of the Diocese and another at Kanniyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese.

In the College, the Commission for Family Apostolate, in collaboration with Health Care Commission gathered the mothers of Soosaipuram Forane as well as the teachers from the College for Women's Health program and medical camp. Dr. Sudhakar, Oncologist from Neyyoor Hospital gave a health-related talk to the mothers.

Kanniyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) organized a half-day cancer awareness program for Self-Help Group members at Aseer Auditorium. Dr. S. Senthil Kumar, Founder of Sree Ram Cancer Trust, Kanyakumari, gave awareness on the prevention of cancer, symptoms of cancer and self check-up to identify cancer. He urged the women not be panic about cancer and undertake early testing. The mothers put up a cultural program highlighting the achievements of women in society. Awards and gifts were given to women who won the recent Panchayath elections.

His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb attended both the programs, enhancing the joy of the women who participated in the events. He appreciated the important role women play in building up the family and the Church.





Scholarship for Higher Education

The Diocese of Thuckalay extends its support to the students within its jurisdiction who are financially weak to qualify themselves in Under Graduate courses in St Alphonsa College of Arts and Science. The majority of these youth are first-generation learners in higher education. We can extend this support with the help of our benefactors and friends, especially from Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). Forty students from our Diocese who study in our

College benefitted from this scheme. A special meeting was organized on 11 March 2022 to distribute the scholarships to the students. The program was organized by Kanniyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS). Together with the Vicar General of the Diocese, His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran SDB attended the program and encouraged the students to be ever grateful to persons who make sacrifices to donate the money and to make more efforts in their studies.





TNBC Meeting

His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb attended the half-yearly Governing Body meeting of Tamil Nadu Bishops Council (TNBC) held at Pallotine House, Pillar, Madurai on 3 March 2022. The meeting began with the morning prayer at 7.00 AM, followed by Holy Mass presided over by Archbishop Antony Pappusamy. The meeting began with mourning the untimely death of Rev. Fr Joseph Justus, Regional Secretary of the Commission for *Anbiam* (Basic Christian Community). A one-minute silence was observed praying for the repose of his soul.

The meeting went on to discuss various matters concerning the Catholic Church in Tamilnadu. The major issues involved in the discussion were canonization of Blessed Devasahayam, Trusts / Societies / Companies owned by priests, TET qualification, Michaelpatti Issue and a letter from the Bishop of Mannar, Sri Lanka to assist in the construction of a hospital. In the concluding remarks, Archbishop Pappusamy expressed gratitude for the involvement and cooperation of the Bishops in matters related to the pastoral care and social developmental activities of the Church in Tamilnadu. He appreciated the presence of the four Oriental Bishops and for their active participation and valuable suggestions.

The term of the President and Vice President of TNBC had come to an end in January 2022 and therefore, the election for new office bearers took place through a secret ballot. Archbishop George Antonysamy, Archbishop of Madras and Mylapore and Bishop Lawrence Pius Dorairaj, Bishop of Dharmapuri were elected as the President and Vice President. The outgoing President received their consent, honoured and presented a *ponnadai* (shawl) to them. All the Bishops congratulated them and wished them success.



Self-Improvement Program of Educare

Education for All under Educare being carried out by the Diocese is working for poor children under the flagship of Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS). The self-improvement class for Educare students was conducted on 4 March 2022 at KKSSS auditorium. Rev. Sr Reeja handled the class. She used effective tools like songs and dances to attract the young children to make them actively participate. She urged the students to have the strongest desire within themselves for their personal growth and development so that they develop self-confidence and through that a greater all-around achievement. She dwelt in detail on the importance of planning for academics, for every activity and every day of life. Thirty-eight students, who participated in the event, were very happy that they received some important tips to keep themselves vigorous and have a purpose in life.



You can come forward to partner the Educare Sponsorship Program of the Diocese of Thuckalay.

You can help a Child for Education at different levels.

School Education : 5 - 7 Years

College Education : 3 Years

For details contact

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Diocesan Level Vincent De Paul Turns Silver

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is an international Christian lay voluntary organization dedicated to tackling poverty and helping the disadvantaged by assisting irrespective of ideology, faith, ethnicity, age, or gender. The vision of SSVP states that it is “a network of friends who seek personal holiness through service to those in need and defense of social justice”.

Until 1996, SSVP functioned in the then Kanniyakumari Mission as an Area Council under the Central Council of the Archdiocese of Chanagnacherry. When the Kanniyakumari Mission became a Diocese, the Vincent de Paul Society Area Council was raised to a Central Council in 1997. The inauguration of the Silver

Jubilee celebration was held on 13 March 2022 at Padanthalumoodu Parish. The celebration began with Holy Mass presided over by His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb. Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General and Spiritual Director of St Vincent De Paul, also participated. It was a time to thank the Lord for the blessings our people received through the instrumentality of this Society over the last many years. There was a brief public meeting to place on record the activities and achievements of the Thuckalay Central Council of the Society. A clear action plan prepared by the Vincent de Paul members for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee was presented in the meeting.





MMM Convent Chapel and Madonna Garment Unit

The Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix (MMM) Congregation was founded in 1942 in Spain by Mother Rosario Fernandez Pereira. The mission of the Congregation is to spread the Word of God all over the world through fraternal love. Indian Province has its Provincial House at Hyderabad. The MMM Sisters are present in our Diocese since 2011 and their new Convent was blessed last year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all could not take part in the celebration. The chapel was

not ready during that time. On the occasion of the visit of the Mother General of the Congregation on 8 March 2022, the chapel was blessed during the Holy Mass by His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb. A felicitation program was organized for the Mother General. The Madonna Garment Unit, for the employment and welfare of 50 women was also inaugurated on the occasion.





‘ANAMED’ Seminar on Cancer Prevention Treatment

Health Care Commission of the Diocese conducted a Seminar on Cancer Prevention Medicine on 21 March 2022 at *Sangamam*, Socio-Pastoral Centre of the Diocese. His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb gave felicitation addressed the gathering and inaugurated the Seminar. The Director of Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), Rev. Fr Thomas Poovathummoottil gave a brief introduction to the seminar and welcomed all the participants. Rev. Sr. Nirmala and Rev. Sr Bavana introduced the cancer prevention herb “*Artemisia Annua Anamed*”. Rev. Sr Nirmala explained the uses of *Artemisia*, the process to use the herb and how it works against cancer in the human body. One of the beneficiaries of this herb shared his experience with the participants. There were a total of 60 participants and they expressed cooperation and

work for the spread of this natural medicine among cancer-affected persons in the region.

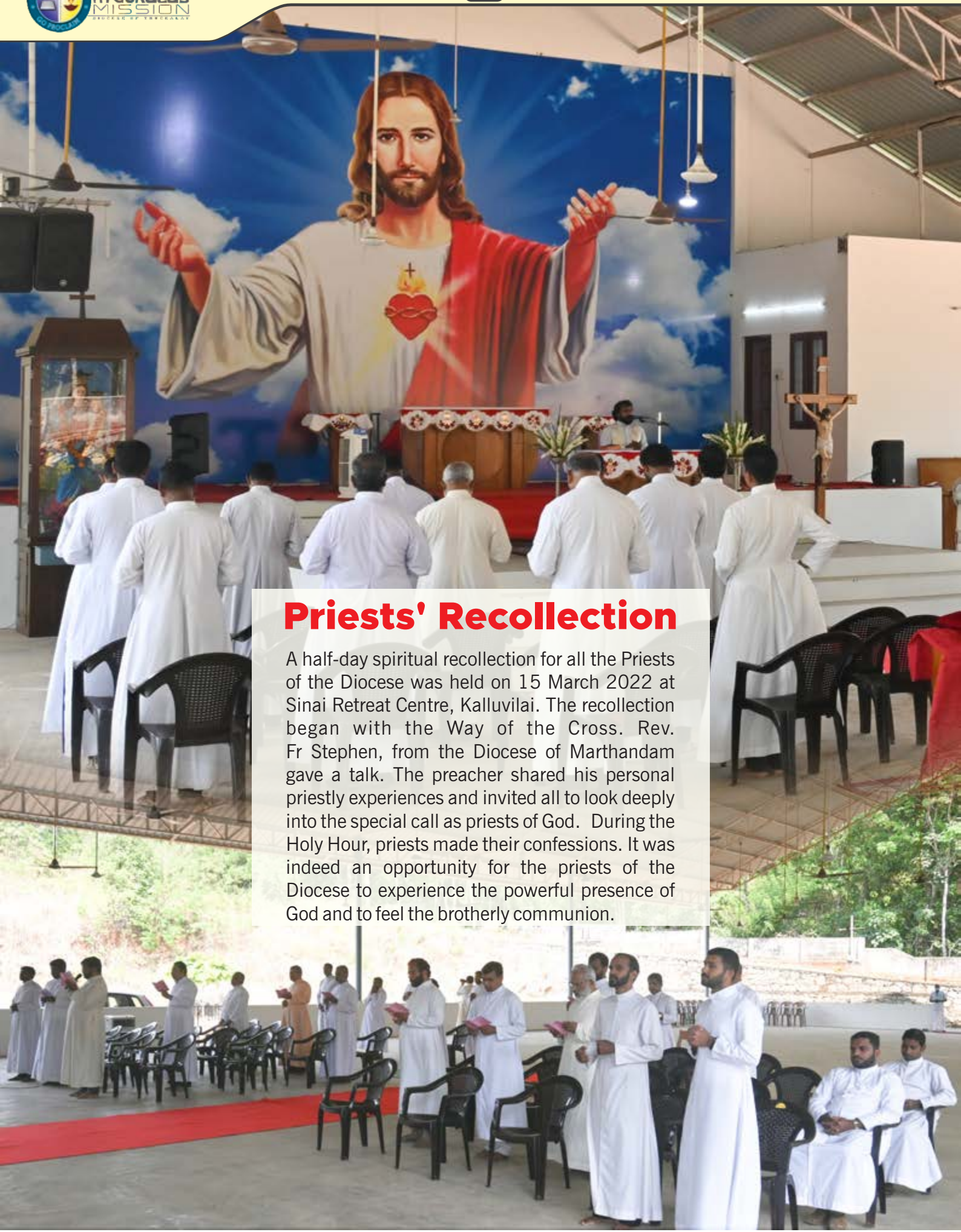
It may be mentioned that Action for Natural Medicine (ANAMED) is a Christian organization that enables people living in the tropical region to become self-reliant, especially concerning their health. ANAMED works with people of all faiths who are committed to improving the health care of their neighbours, region and country. These days, Anamed runs week-long seminars in natural medicine for health workers, doctors, traditional healers, religious leaders, community workers and other active members of the community in Africa and Asia. *Artemisia* is widely used in North India to fight malaria, cancer and the like.

SMYM Youth Fest 2022

To promote leadership and communion among the youth and to exhibit their talents, the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) of the Diocese organizes Youth Fest every year. The Forane Level Youth Fest competitions began on 27 March 2022 with competitions being organized in Kaliyal and Padanthalumoodu Foranes. Individual events such as Proof Yourself and Just A Minute were organized. There were group events like Group Dance, Group Song, Tableau and Debate. The participants were very enthusiastic in their participation.

In the coming days, the Youth Fest will be organized in other Foranes and the Diocesan Level Grand Finale will be held on 30 April 2022 at St. Alphonsa College of Arts and Science, Karinkal. It is encouraging to see the leadership taken by the youth themselves. The twelve central level youth leaders are continuously trained in leadership with the group and individual attention being provided by the Youth Director of the Diocese, Rev. Fr Joseph Santhosh. The youth leaders work very hard for the success of every program organized by SMYM.





Priests' Recollection

A half-day spiritual recollection for all the Priests of the Diocese was held on 15 March 2022 at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. The recollection began with the Way of the Cross. Rev. Fr Stephen, from the Diocese of Marthandam gave a talk. The preacher shared his personal priestly experiences and invited all to look deeply into the special call as priests of God. During the Holy Hour, priests made their confessions. It was indeed an opportunity for the priests of the Diocese to experience the powerful presence of God and to feel the brotherly communion.

VARNAM 2021 Prize Distribution



Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) conducted *Varnam* 2021 painting and poster competition to expose the aesthetic life of children, as a part of Children's Day. It was conducted on 13 December 2021. The students from 7 schools participated in the competition. The students of Classes from 4 to 6 had their painting competition on the theme of Children's Day. The students of Classes 7 to 8 had their poster competition on the Beauty of Kannyakumari. KKSSS selected the best paintings and posters and distributed the prizes to the winning children on 10 March 2022 at KKSSS training hall. Vicar General of Thuckalay Diocese, Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil gave a presidential address and distributed the prizes and medals. The Director of KKSSS, teachers and students of 7 schools participated in the prize distribution program.



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





Minor Seminary Home Day

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to gather all the parents of the Minor Seminary brothers for the last two years. This year we decided to have the Home Day celebration online on 15 March 2022, since there were some Brothers hailing from Kerala. All the family members of our Minor Seminary Brothers were present. The meeting began with a warm welcome by the Rector of the Seminary. It was followed by an entertainment program staged by the seminarians. One of the parents spoke about

the efforts of the Seminary to include the parents and families in the celebration and formation of the young minds. It was also a chance for the seminarians and the parents to remember all the benefactors, friends and sponsors of the seminarians and for supporting the seminary financially. It is the support of generous friends and benefactors with a deep love for the Church that keeps vocation to the priesthood and religious life alive in our Diocese and the Universal Church.

You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminarian in his formation:

Please write / mail to us for any enquiry / details. We shall contact you with all further details soliciting your generous support:

Postal Address:

Bishop's House, P.B. 12, Thuckalay,
Kanyakumari District,
Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

Contact Mission Procure:

Rev. Fr Robin Jose
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



Bishop in the Homes of Deacons

His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb had a special experience as he visited the homes of the two Deacons to be ordained shortly to thank the parents and family members for offering their members for the services of the Catholic Church and the Diocese. The Bishop was accompanied by Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkal, Rector of the Seminary. They visited the families of Deacon M. Mahesh on 4 March 2022 and that of Deacon Josemon Paul on 12 March 2022.



It was indeed a unique and happy experience for the family members to receive the Bishop and the Rector of the Seminary to their home. Our Bishop expressed his joy to meet the family members and he thanked them for their generous support of the mission of the Church and for partnering in the spreading of the Gospel. He urged them to continue to pray for them and the success of their future ministry. He expressed his joy in praying together with them on the days of their ordination.

Caritas Meeting



Caritas Southern Regional Organization of India conducted the Board of Directors meeting at Coimbatore Social Service Society on 24 & 25 March 2022. The Director of Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), Rev. Fr Thomas Poovathummoottil participated in the meeting. The Board of Directors discussed the findings, projects and current problems of society. Tamilnadu Caritas organizer, Dr. John Arokiya Raj explained the *Ezhuvom Iyyakkam* (Let Us Rise) project and how to spread holistic awareness to poor people. All the Tamilnadu Directors participated in the program.



Neengal Jebikum Pothu (When You Pray) **Exam for Mothers**



The Family Apostolate department has resumed its activities Parish-wise and Forane-wise through home visits and counseling. After the pandemic, a new team in the Foranes can be noticed with renewed spirit and enthusiasm. The Mathru Jyothis (Mothers Movement) conducted the election of Forane office bearers for this year in all the Foranes. They have conducted an exam for mothers from *Neengal Jebikum Pothu (When You Pray)* at Padanthalumoodu on 27 March 2022 in which active participation of the mothers has been very rewarding for the Director and the Religious who constantly animate them.



Congratulations to Most Rev. Thomas Netto Installed as Archbishop of Trivandrum

The Episcopal ordination and the installation of Most Rev. Thomas J. Netto as the Archbishop of the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum took place on 19 March 2022 on the occasion of the solemnity of St Joseph at St Sebastian Church Ground, Cheruvettukad, Thiruvananthapuram. Hundreds of priests, religious and faithful took part in the ceremony which lasted over four hours. The chief celebrant was Most Rev. M. Soosai Pakiam, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese. Twenty Archbishops and Bishops took part. Most Rev Leopoldo Girelli, Apostoli Nuncio, was present on the occasion and felicitated the newly ordained Archbishop

in the name of the Holy Father. Cardinal Baselios Cleemis Catholicos, Major Archbishop of Syro-Malankara Church, preached the homily. He called upon the new Archbishop to lead the coastal population from the front to safeguard their rights and bring about development in their areas. He also recounted the selfless deeds of the fisherfolk in rescuing those stranded during the floods of 2018. On behalf of the Diocese of Thuckalay, His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb honoured the newly ordained Archbishop with a *Ponnadai* (shawl) and wished him God's blessings.



Adolescent Health Education for School Students



The Health Care Commission of the Diocese conducted an awareness program on “Adolescent Education for School Students” to children and youth at Carmel Matriculation School, Muzhukode on 3 March 2022, Carmel Matha Matriculation Higher secondary school, Kanniyakumari on 17 March 2022 and St Michael Matriculation Higher Secondary school, Kattathurai on 22 March 2022. The awareness program focussed on the following topics such as Adolescent growth and development, Nutritional requirements, Needs and

problems, Personal Hygiene, Sex Education, and Integral Development. The resource persons were the members of the Diocesan Health Care Commission, Rev. Sr Dian SDS, Rev. Sr Emily Rose CMC, Rev. Sr Christy SDS and Rev. Sr Tess Maria ASMI. We were happy to witness the enthusiasm of the children and the great interest that the schools took in order to organise this very important health related program for the children. We are grateful to the principals, teachers and students of these above mentioned Schools for giving importance to good health of both the mind and the body.

Awareness Program on Self-Employment Promotion

Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) conducted an awareness program on 19 March 2022 at KKSSS auditorium as a part of the Save A Family Program (SAFP). The Director of KKSSS, Rev. Fr Thomas Poovathummoottil inaugurated the awareness program. Project Coordinator of Save a Family Program, Mr. Vijaya Rajan explained the Self employment opportunities for the poor and economically backward people. He brought to the notice of the participants, that there is a lot of home-based work/employment for women wherein they can continue to look after their home matters and at the same time earn a little money for the group of the family. He also explained the scope of home-based Poultry Farming and Animal Husbandry. It was stressed that when there is self-employment in the home, there is a greater chance for the growth of the family. The 50 new beneficiaries appreciated the inputs of the program.





Social Harmony Day Observed

The executive members of TNPICRI participated in the TNBC meeting held on 3 March 2022 to discuss the unfortunate incident in Michaelpatti. Rev. Sr Paula, Superior General of the Congregation of Immaculate Heart of Mary, narrated the incidents that happened after the death of the school girl till the release of Rev. Sr Sahaya Mary, hostel warden on bail.

The Bishops discussed how to react to the rising intolerance and atrocities against Christians in some parts of the country. It was decided to observe a *Samuga Nallinakka Naal* (Social Harmony Day) at the Diocesan levels on 26 March 2022 to explain to the society that the Catholic institutions do not involve in any forced religious conversions. TNPICRI was requested to cooperate with the Diocesan Bishops to organize the day effectively.

The four Dioceses of Kanyakumari district came together on 26 March 2022 and held a public program at Holy Cross Auditorium, Nagercoil. The representatives involving faithful, priests, CRI members and people belonging to other faiths and denominations participated in the program. There were nearly 1500 people at the



function. Our Diocese was represented by 100 lay persons, 20 religious Sisters and all the Fathers. The key persons who spoke on the importance of social harmony were Mr. T. Mano Thangaraj, Minister of Information and Technology, Mr. R Mahesh, Mayor of Nagercoil, Ayya Balaprajapathi, Mr. S Noormuhamad, former MLA and Mr. Vanni Arasu from Viduthalai Chiruthai Kadchi.

VOCATION AND MISSION

Rev. Fr Mathew Mulangasseril MST

A Missionary with Zeal for Development

The blossoming garden of the Diocese of Thuckalay renders her primary gratitude to the Eternal Gardener, God the Father. But He was always in need of many collaborators to be present physically near each plant for its particular care. Looking back to the story of this beautiful garden, we cannot forget the innumerable services offered by Rev. Fr Mathew MST cooperating with the eternal plan of God. Being simple and humble, Rev. Fr Mathew gives a positive image to the priesthood of Jesus, which he partakes in. Like Jesus, he was ready to take up all challenges in life for the betterment of the lives of people. He was born on 07 July 1964 at Theekoy, Palai as the fourth child of Thomas and Thresia. They are seven siblings in the family. Rev. Sr. Mercy, his sister is religious in the SABS Congregation. Rev. Fr Shinto Vettickal, his nephew is a priest in Vincentian Congregation.



He was inspired by the life of his parents, who were very strict about family prayers. He gives credit to his mother who formed him to respond to the call of God. He remembers the words of his mother, "The presence of a priest in the family brings more showers of blessings to the family". Another inspiration for his priestly vocation was Rev. Fr Nellikatt, who was then assistant parish priest of his home parish. The desire to become a priest always remained in the heart of Mathew, which led him to maintain a good relationship with priests. He had special contact with Rev. Fr Francis Kandathil MST and had written many letters to him and he was very happy to receive caring replies from him. He had a fondness to attend priestly ordinations. When he attended the ordination of Rev. Fr Tomy Kakkaniyil MST, he was convinced about his call to priesthood in the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST) Congregation.

He joined the MST minor seminary at Melampara immediately after his school education. The initial days were tough for him especially learning the English language. But the guidance of Rev. Fr Joseph Maliparampil, the founder of Cherupushpa Mission League (CML) as the spiritual



director had brought a radical change to orient his life in the right direction. Recognizing his limitation in learning the English language, he decided to repeat his final year in the minor seminary. He went on to study his philosophy course at Ruhalya Seminary, Ujjain. He had to again face the challenges of learning a new language when he served his regency in Karnataka. He struggled initially to converse with the simple villagers there. The period of Theology studies had been a very testing period for Rev. Fr Mathew. He believes that the guardian angel acted through one of his companions to guide him to safeguard his vocation to the priesthood. The final jerk in his vocation was witnessed eight days before his ordination; his mother had a cerebral hemorrhage and doctors declared that she would not survive for long. He prayed and surrendered to the will of God. He witnessed the power of the sacrament of the priesthood; his mother attended his ordination on 26 December 1994, sitting on a chair throughout the Holy Mass. He cemented his priestly ministry recalling the works of God in the miraculous healing of his mother.

His mother, a very pious lady throughout her life, after being affected with Alzheimer's, started to detest all saints and religious activities. As he administered the anointing of the sick during her last days, she regained her memory, asking pardon for her mistakes and died a life of grace. Rev. Fr Mathew could realize the power of priestly ministry once again as we read in the Gospel of St. Mark, "Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons." (St. Mark 3, 13-15)



He started his priestly ministry in Mandya, Maharashtra in an estate of the Congregation. Besides caring for the estate, he was also sent to take care of Syro Malabar migrants to offer Holy Mass for them and provide pastoral care. After five and half years of ministry, he was transferred to the Diocese of Thuckalay. MST formation helped him a lot to adapt to any circumstances. Varuthatt and Annikarai were the first two missions entrusted to Rev. Fr Mathew. Amidst various difficulties concerning language, and cultural differences, he had completed 5 years of his ministry for the services of people. His bold and strong decisions concerning many difficulties solved a lot of issues during this period. Then he was appointed the procurator of the Diocese. The economic instability and



lack of income in the Diocese had placed him in very difficult situations, but with strong backing by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, then Bishop of the Diocese. The Diocese undertook several futuristic steps to identify locations for future ministry and purchased many plots in different areas. The Bishop's House at Thuckalay and the Home for the destitute in Karode are some of the constructions realized during the time of Rev. Fr Mathew. Along with the procuratorship, he extended his dedicated pastoral ministry at Palappallam, Cheenivilai and Permchilampu missions.

Rev. Fr Mathew was missioned to Kazhuvanthittai as the parish priest and director of Nambikkai Alayam, a home for children with disabilities. During this period, he organized many fundraising activities including dramas and plays at Vavubali Utsav, Kuzhithurai. After two years of his ministry, he was re-appointed as the procurator of the Diocese. It was a great help to Rev. Fr Philip Kodiyanthara, then Administrator of the Diocese and Bishop George Rajendran sdb, the current ordinary of the Diocese, when they took over these responsibilities. His calm and peaceful bearings had always led to a better ambiance in the financial administration of the Diocese. Together with the financial office, he took care of the estate at Kozhipurvilai. He undertook the mission at Athencode for some time and then to the estate as a full-time



manager. He faced many difficulties on the estate while undertaking many activities such as the farming of pigs, cows and agricultural activities. He would always surrender to God and call upon His might to overpower the difficulties being faced. The Okhi cyclone, flood, virus infections and other natural disasters had brought total devastation to the dreams he had for the good of the society. But nothing could have turned off the candles of faith and trust of Rev. Fr Mathew in God which strengthened to rise after every fall. He continued his service at Kozhipurvilai estate for several good causes.

Rev. Fr Mathew is leaving the Diocese of Thuckalay this May and shall be continuing his priestly ministry in the MST Congregation. The 22 years of tireless service and compassionate heart towards the faithful and the whole-hearted dedication to the growth of the Church and its service will ever be remembered in the history of the Diocese of Thuckalay.

We thank God for the gift of Rev. Fr Mathew Mulangasseril MST to the Diocese. We appreciate the missionary who embarked on a journey with a focus on development. We wish and pray that his zeal for the development of the Church and its people continues to live on and ignite many more young minds to join priestly vocation and may the legacy of this missionary be taken forward by the priests, religious and lay leaders of the Diocese.



His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb is celebrating two of the most important days of his life in the month of April.

Birthday - April 14, 2022

Feast Day - April 24, 2022

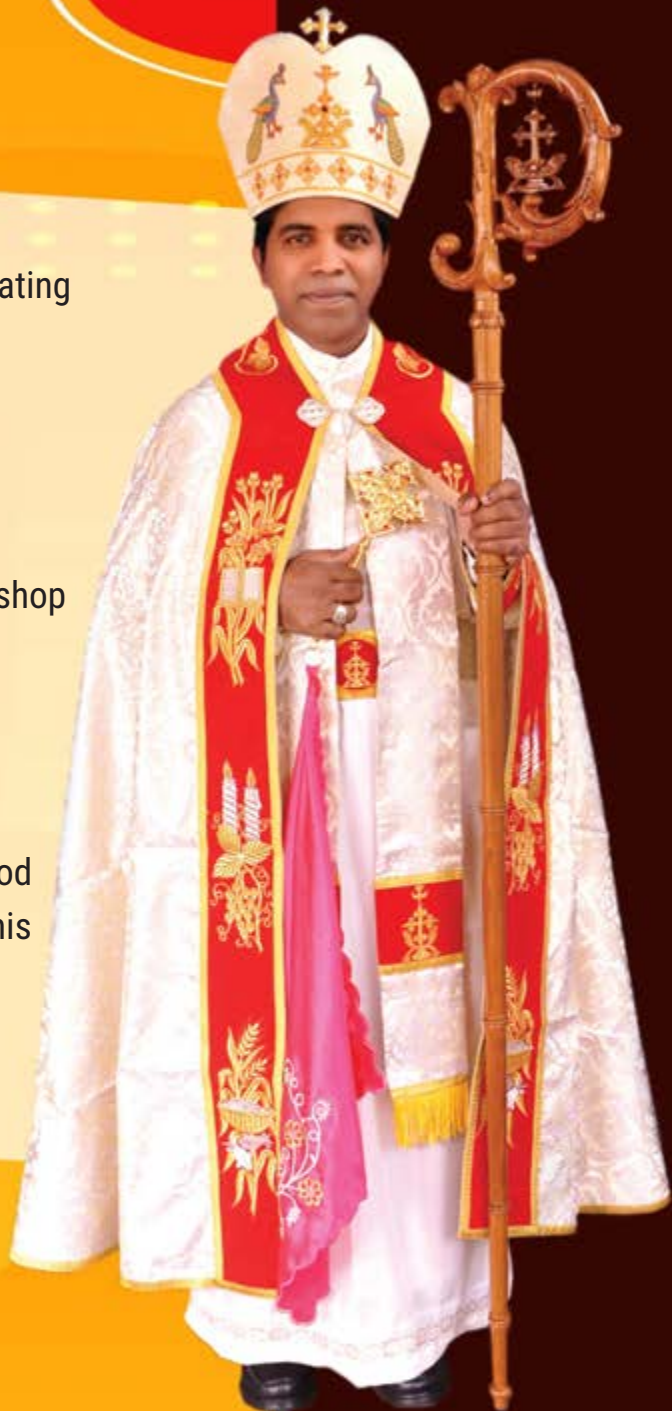
The priests, religious and faithful wish our beloved Bishop

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

and

A BLESSED FEAST DAY

May the Lord continue to keep His Excellency in good health and give him abundant strength to carry on his services for God's Kingdom and His people.



PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS



Deacon Josemon Paul



Deacon M. Mahesh

We praise and thank God for the Priestly Vocation of our two Deacons in the Diocese and we are very happy to announce their ordination days.

	Deacon Josemon Paul	Deacon M. Mahesh
Date	20.04.2022	23.04.2022
Time	9:30 AM	2:30 PM
Place	St. Mathew's Church Annikkarai	Sacred Heart Forane Church Padanthalumoodu

We request you all to say special prayers for these two Deacons on the days of their Ordination.



THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



The Diocese of Thuckalay
is very proud to join the

Canonisation

of

Martyr Devasahayam

by

Pope Francis at a canonization Mass
in the Vatican

on

May 15, 2022

His Excellency Bishop George Rajendran sdb
will attend the solemn Canonisation.

We pray that all of us strengthen ourselves
to be true witnesses to our Faith.

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Mission Procure - bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com | Mob +91 9487165903

Website : www.thuckalaydiocese.org