

The saints are **“PRECIOUS PEARLS”**
who show us the path to the Gospel.
Pope Francis



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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY
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Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Greetings from Thuckalay diocese!

Every year, on November 1st, the Catholic Church celebrates the feast of All Saints with great solemnity. It is a time to reflect on the lives of the saints and to try to follow their example of holiness. The saints teach us virtues, show us the path of faith and love towards God and others. They are models of virtue that illuminate our spiritual path.

All Saints' Day is also an opportunity to remember our dearly departed. In the month of November, the Catholic Church dedicates time to pray for the souls of the deceased and asks God to grant them eternal peace. We ask God to welcome them into his glory and grant them peace.

Pope Francis has often underlined the importance of saints in our spiritual life. He said that the saints are "precious pearls" who show us the path to the Gospel. Their lives are like an illustrated catechism of the good news that Jesus brought to humanity.

The Pope encourages us to live our daily lives with a heart open to God. Our work, prayer and care for our loved ones can become a path towards holiness if we live them with love and

dedication. Becoming saints is possible because the Lord helps us on this path. Being saints is a great gift that we can offer to the world, because saints are living witnesses of God's love and peace.

At this time when the world is plagued by conflict, division and suffering, we pray fervently that the feast of All Saints will be an opportunity to ask for peace in the world. We ask God to inspire the leaders of nations to seek peace, to comfort those who suffer from violence, and to open the hearts of all to reconciliation and brotherly love.

Let us remember that holiness is within the reach of all of us. Each of us is called to become a saint, to follow the path of the saints, to live with humor, joy and dedication. In our small way, we can help build a more peaceful, loving and just world. Let us pray for this grace on the occasion of the feast of All Saints and let us carry forward the message of peace and love that the saints have transmitted to us.

Yours in Jesus Christ.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



Annual Rosary Procession

Every year under the leadership of Legion of Mary. The Diocese organises Rosary procession. This year it was held on 29 October 2023 from St. Maria Goretti Church, Athencode to Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu at 02.00 pm. More than one thousand faithful participated. All the people along with the Fathers, Sisters and lay people prayerfully recited the holy rosary. Rev. Fr. Antony Jose gave the inaugural message and in the concluding meeting held at Padanthalumoodu Parish. Rev. Fr. Vaisilin Xavier, priest from the diocese of Kottar, delivered key note address.



Rosary Procession in Tenkasi Mission

Rosary procession has been conducted in Tenkasi mission on 08 October 2023. The whole of mission gathered at Little Flower Church, Puliyarai at 04.00 pm and from there, the faithful moved in procession towards Pulari Metric. School, Pudur. There were almost 175 faithful including Fathers, Sisters and MCBS Brothers who are rendering service in Tenkasi mission. After the concluding message, Rev. Bishop blessed the foundation stone for the new mission church at Sundarapandyapuram. The entire programme ended with an agape meal by 08.00 pm.





Laying the foundation for Sundarapandiyapuram Mission

It's heartening to learn about the auspicious occasion at the Sundarapandiyapuram Mission Station. The blessing of the new church, marked by the Bishop Mar George Rajendran blessing the foundation stone and Rev. Fr. John laying the stone, is a significant event that holds great importance for the faithful community. This ceremony not only symbolizes the physical foundation of a new place of worship but also reflects the spiritual

foundation of the community's zealous and ardent faith. May this new church in Sundarapandiyapuram serve as a beacon of faith, providing a sacred space for worship, reflection, and community gatherings. May the blessings bestowed upon the foundation stone contribute to the prosperity and spiritual growth of the Sundarapandiyapuram faithful.





The Vestition and first Religious profession

On October 28, 2023, at 9:30 am, a novice of the FCC San Joe Province Thuckalay, Anju James, made her First Religious Profession and Vestition at the FCC San Joe Provincial House in Azhakiyamandapam. The ceremony commenced with a Solemn Holy Qurbana presided over by Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB, with Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and Rev. Fr. Joshy Thevalakkara as concelebrants. Congratulations to the newly professed Sister Anju Maria and offer heartfelt wishes for God's blessings to accompany her in her religious life.



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:

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Cleaning drive at DNN

Thuckalay Central Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society organizes a one-day cleaning camp every year under the title 'deshathoduorunaal' on the day of Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October to promote social cleanliness and to engage its members in social charity. This year the cleaning camp was conducted on 2 October 2023 at Devasahaya

Nalavazhvu Nilayam (DNN), Karode. Central Council President, Mr. Rabi welcomed all to the one-day camp and it was inaugurated by the Vicar General Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Spiritual Director of St. Vincent de Paul Society in our diocese. Fr. Justin Sutheesh, the director of DNN provided full support to the programme. Almost 50 members from different area councils and conferences of Thuckalay central council participated in the cleaning camp.





Bible Sentence writing competition: *Matru Jyothis*

On 2 October 2023, the department of Family Apostolate has conducted Bible Sentence Writing Competition and Kadhaprasangam Competition for mothers at Sacred Heart Forane Church campus, Padanthalumoodu. 62 mothers participated in the Bible sentence writing competition and 22 groups in Kadhaprasangam competition.





Foundation Stone Blessed for Kayathar Mission

For the pastoral development of the Kayathar mission, Diocese had acquired one acre of land in Kayathar on January 6, 2023. On October 3, 2023, Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB, laid the foundation stone for the new community hall, which we named the 'Divine Mercy Community Hall'. Vicar General Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and Rev. Fathers from extended mission territories were present for the event. It concluded with an agape meal served by the Rev. Sisters of FCC convent in Kayathar. Mrs. Mercy Jose, who generously donated as the Snehavilla in Moolamattam, is providing the financial support for the construction of the community hall in Kayathar.





Pastoral visit to special schools

To maintain personal contact with the entire team of administrators, staff, students, parents, and benefactors, and to assess and strengthen the pastoral and charitable activities, Rev. Bishop canonically visited to three of our charitable institutions. On October 4, 2023, Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB visited DNN in Karode, on October 30, 2023, Karunailam in Nithiravilai, and on October 31, 2023 and Nambikkai Alayam in Kazhuvanhattai. The pastoral visits commenced with the celebration of Holy Qurbana and continued throughout the day. During these visits, Rev. Bishop personally met with the directors, administrators, staff, students, and benefactors, as well as review the relevant documents and the maintenance of the facilities. The overall administration of these institutions and offer guidance for their improvement is well structured.





Seminar on Mental Health

In collaboration with NIMS Medicity, Neyyattinkara, KKSSS, and AIDACT, a half-day seminar was conducted on the topics of 'Mental Health as a Universal Right' and 'Sensory Integration and Special Education for Special School Teachers' at Kalluviali on 07 October 2023. 90 teachers from seven special schools participated. The first session was conducted by Ms. Beena, a consultant psychologist at NIMS Medicity. The second

session was led by Ms. Princemol, a special education trainer at NIMS Medicity. In the afternoon session, in my presence, Santhinilayam Special School was honoured for achieving the Chief Minister's Award for the best special school. Additionally, students who participated in the Berlin Special Olympics and other achievers at the state and district levels were also honoured



Catechesis Writing competitions

Bible Fest Forane Level Writing Competition was held on 08 October 2023. It was conducted under the guidance of forane Catechesis directors in different centres of each forane. On 15 October 2023, the competitions were held at Tenkasi mission and Arukani Forane. Competitions were held on colouring, pencil drawing, easy writing and poetry writing.



Thuckalay remembers Mar Mathew Kavukattu

The Diocese of Thuckalay is always indebted to the Servant of God Mar Mathew Kavukattu, the first Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry for his contributions to the mission work in Kanyakumari district. Every year we are invited to celebrate the commemoration Holy Qurbana at his tomb. On 09 October 2023, Rev. Bishop celebrated Holy Qurbana at the tomb of Mar Mathew Kavukattu at 10.00 am along with four priests including the Vicar General, as representatives. It was followed by the office for the dead.



World Mental Health day celebrated

10 October is the World Mental Health Day. The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. In order to make our people aware of this and to maintain a good health, the Diocesan Health Commission promoted the observation of this day in all the parishes and institutions. During the Sunday liturgy on 08 October 2023, we recited special prayers with this intention. In our diocese, it was celebrated on 10 October 2023 at Karunaiyilam, Nithiraivilai. TNBC Health Care Commission Regional Secretary Rev. Sr. Josephine CTC participated as Chief Guest.



Health Care Seminar at Kazhuvanthittai



Health Care Commission of the Diocese organised a one day 'Care your Heart', health awareness programme at Sacred Heart Convent Matric Higher Secondary School, Kazhuvanthittai on 12 October 2023. Health Commission volunteer Sr. Sajitha ASMI animated the programme. Around 300 students participated.

Department Directors' Meet at Bishop's House



Following the transfers that became effective on May 24, 2023, Rev. Bishop met with the Directors and Forane Directors of each department for the first time.

During these meetings, the directors evaluated the current activities and offered suggestions to enhance coordination. It was unanimously recognized that there is a need for effective coordination at the Forane level and for strengthening the role of Forane Directors in the respective departments. The Forane Directors were tasked with presenting these recommendations during the upcoming Forane Priests' Conferences and engaging all Parish Priests in these activities.





Medical Camp at Kalluvilai

On 11 October 2023, an eye camp was held at KKSSS, Kalluvilai in collaboration with Samco Eye Hospital, Vettumany. Seventy-two people benefited from this camp. KKSSS also organized a Siddha medical camp at Kalluvilai in collaboration with Atsvs Siddha Medical College in the afternoon, benefiting 80 individuals.





Medical Camp at Cumbum

On October 15, 2023, a free medical camp was conducted in Angurpalayam, Cumbum, through the joint efforts of Cumbum Sacred Heart Mission and Medical Trust Hospital, Mundakkayam. The camp saw the participation of two doctors, namely Dr. S. Arul Xavier and Dr. S. Thomas Chandi, who provided medical consultations to numerous residents from the village.





Annual Retreat for Priests at Moolamattam

This year, the annual retreat took place for the first time at Snehavilla, Moolamattam, from October 15 to October 20, 2023. Rev. Fr. Stephen Thachil CMI and his team from Carmel Retreat Centre, Dharmapuri, animated the retreat. They guided the Priests in recognizing and appreciating the shared priesthood of Jesus and in leading a holy life. The retreat preacher focused on various

themes including Holiness, Priestly communion, the Importance of Prayer, Evangelization, and the power of the Word of God in our mission. A total of 41 priests along with Bishop participated in the retreat. All priests who attended the retreat experienced a renewal of enthusiasm for their dedicated priestly life. We are grateful to the Lord for providing us with such a heavenly experience.





Mission Sunday Celebration

Under the guidance of the Sirumalar Mission League (CML) of the diocese, specific guidelines were provided to ensure the effective celebration of Mission Sunday in every parish on October 22, 2023. CML students actively engaged in various parish-based activities, which included flag hosting, honouring elder missionaries, collecting contributions for missions, offering prayers for mission stations and missionaries, and sharing photographs of these activities





SMYM Patron's Day Celebration

The SMYM of Thuckalay celebrated the feast day of its heavenly patron on October 22, 2023. This celebration unfolded in parish units and featured several activities, including the offertory during the Holy Qurbana, a special prayer for the youth, Arts Competitions, house visits, drug awareness seminars, and medical camps





National Youth Conference at Bangalore

The Jaago Jesus Youth National Conference India 2023 was held at Dharmaram College from 21-24 October 2023. Some 17,500 youth took part in the event. From our diocese, 5 members participated in the event as representatives. A relic of Pope Saint John Paul II that previously travelled across 28 states and visited over 500 parishes, reaching over half a million faithful, was venerated at the Jaago Conference, seeking intercession for the youth and the missions they will undertake.



Special day of Prayer for Israel – Hamas war



In accordance with the invitation from Pope Francis and the guidance provided by TNBC, our Diocese observed a special day of prayer and fasting on October 27, 2023, Friday. This observance took place in all our parishes and institutions and was dedicated to praying for peace in the Israel-Hamas conflicts. The programme included fasting and one hour of adoration, during which the special prayer for peace by Pope Francis was recited. Let us continue to pray for these nations in need of peace.



Career Guidance Seminar at Tenkasi



On October 29, 2023, a career guidance programme was conducted for students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th classes at the Pulari Social Service Society in Pudur Border. Mr. Manoj and team from Thuckalay, provided information about education and employment opportunities for the students. More than 50 students and their parents attended the event and benefited from the guidance provided.



Last respects to Very Rev. Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel

: With profound sadness, we received the unfortunate news of the passing of the pioneering missionary of our diocese, Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel, on October 22, 2023. As a diocese deeply indebted to the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, we wish to express our heartfelt condolences and offer our prayers. We had the opportunity to pay our final respects to this great soul of our diocese when his body was taken to his house in Ponkunnam on Tuesday, October 25. From that point onward, and until the conclusion of the funeral, our Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powthuparampil, actively participated in all the events. The funeral ceremony itself took place at 1:00 pm on October 26, 2023, at Sacred Heart Forane Church in Ponkunnam. Travel arrangements were organized by the Diocesan Procurator, Forane Vicars, and the Parish Priests of the parishes where Fr. Thomas served, and a large number of Priests, Sisters, and lay faithful attended the funeral. Approximately 250 faithful

from our diocese participated. The first and second parts of the funeral ceremony were conducted by me, while the third and fourth parts were presided over by Mar Joseph Perumthottam, the Archbishop of Changanacherry. During the Holy Qurbana presided by the Archbishop and Rev. Bishop of Thuckalay, delivered the homily.

Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel was a pioneering missionary who dedicated himself tirelessly to the advancement of the Kingdom of God and played a pivotal role in the development of the Kanyakumari mission. Later, he served as the Vicar General of the Diocese of Thuckalay. Following his priestly ordination on December 20, 1960, he arrived in the Kanyakumari mission in January 1961, and he wholeheartedly devoted his entire priestly ministry to this mission until his retirement to the Archdiocese of Changanacherry in 2004. With commitment and



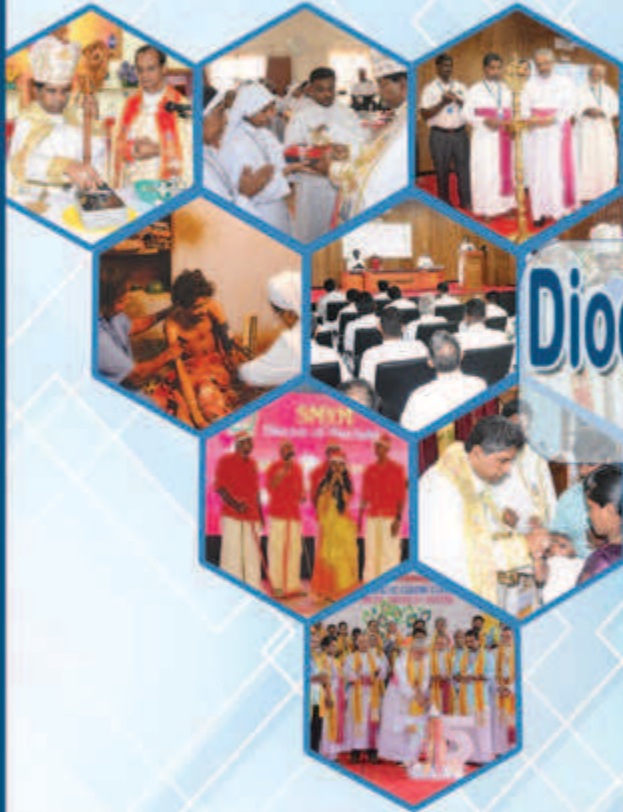
missionary zeal, he served for 43 years in the soil of Kanyakumari. During these years, he served as Parish Priest in 15 different mission places, including Nithiravilai, Padanthalumoodu, Soosaipuram, Vayalinkarai, Palukal, Manjalumoodu, Palappallam, Mankarai, Pilankarai, Karode, Mukkoottukal, Marappady, Thettiyode, Thakkalivilai, and Varuthattu. He also served for many years as the President of KKSSS and as the spiritual director of the Vincent de Paul

Society and the Legion of Mary. During these periods, he served the mission as the district mission coordinator and Kanyakumari mission coordinator. When the Diocese of Thuckalay was established, he was appointed as its first Vicar General and served the diocese for 7 years until his retirement in 2004. The Diocese of Thuckalay is truly grateful to Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel for his selfless dedication and prays for his eternal rewards.





THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



Prayerful Greetings on
27Th

Diocesan Foundation Day

11 November 2023



Mar. George Rajendran SDB
Bishop, Diocese of Thuckalay

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

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