



# **Bishop's** *Circular*

For Priests / Sisters

**Bishop George Rajendran sdb**  
**Diocese of Thuckalay**

Bishop's House, P B No: 12, Thuckalay PO,  
Kanya kumari Dt- 629 175, Tamil Nadu, India

**Ref. No. Priests/GR/93/2019**

30April 2019

Dear and Reverend Fathers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

We are in the season of Easter. Let us briefly reflect upon the death and resurrection of Jesus. Whenever we recite the Apostles' Creed, we affirm our faith in the resurrection of Jesus - "On the third day He rose again from the dead." In the Acts 1:3, we read: "To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." The phrase, "after His suffering," refers to the complete death of Christ. There are many proofs showing us that Christ died completely, but in particular, John 19:34 states: "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."

The fact that Jesus was crucified to death has been recognized by everyone of everywhere. This punishment of crucifixion, a condemnation that the Romans dealt to foreigners, was a cruel punishment sentenced to political insurgents and slaves. Before the rise of the Roman Empire, crucifixion was generally carried out by hanging a convict on a cross by tying his hands and feet to it, and then killing the condemned by piercing his chest with a spear.

But the Roman version of crucifixion was a punishment that nailed, instead of tying, the hands and feet of a convict to a cross and left him hanging on the cross to die a slow death. As such, it is said that it took a considerable time for the condemned to die, usually 3-4 days, but at times even a week. We cannot even begin to imagine how painful it must have been to be punished in such a way, being nailed, drained of blood, suffering from increasingly unbearable thirst, bombarded relentlessly by the sun, and encircled by flying vultures. The condemned were made to suffer until the very last moment of death. Because of the extreme cruelty of this punishment, the Emperor Constantine, it is said, eliminated this particular form of punishment.

What, then, explains the fact that Jesus died in just six hours? As mentioned above, when one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, blood and water came out. As this shows, Jesus died so soon because he suffered such a great heartache for sinners that it literally broke and burst. In other words, he died from a ruptured heart.

In three days after his death, Jesus rose again in a perfect body. What is strange is that despite this, some people hesitated to believe in the resurrected Jesus, even as they professed to recognize his death. This can only be seen as a work of the devil trying to prevent humankind from believing in this truth, as stated in Luke 8:12: “Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” To deny the truth of the resurrection of Jesus, the devil therefore advocates through unbelieving, secularized scholars such false hypotheses as the apparent death hypothesis, the spiritual resurrection hypothesis, the hallucination hypothesis, the manipulation hypothesis, the stolen body hypothesis, and others. But the verity of the resurrection of Jesus has many definitive proofs.

### **The Fact that Jesus Presented Himself Alive is a Proof**

Acts 1:3 tells us that Jesus presented himself alive to his disciples by many infallible proofs. No matter what people say, when our Lord himself declares to be alive, there is then no ground for any dispute.

Jesus had liberated power over life and death. As John 10:17-18 states: “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

In Revelation 1:18, Jesus also says: “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” Our Lord has the power to rise from the dead to live again, for He is God the Almighty and a perfect man at the same time.

“The wages of sin,” as Romans 6:23 tells us, “is death.” This is the unchangeable, righteous law of God. As such, Jesus took care of the sins of the world and blotted them all out through his baptism and blood. Because he made all the sins of the world disappear, he rose from the dead again and has become the God of those who believe in him. This is how the righteous law of God is established.

### **That His Tomb was Empty is an Evidence**

Matthew 27:57-66 tells us that a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, laid the dead body of Jesus in a tomb hewn out of rock, and that he sealed the tomb by rolling a large stone against its door. The passage also tells us that a guard was placed at the tomb to secure the tomb. But the tomb became empty as the Lord rose from the dead with his power and came out of his tomb. Luke 24:3 says: “Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” What else can this be but the proof of the Lord’s resurrection?

Jesus is a great, historic figure. One of the proofs is the chronological use of *Anno Domini* (A.D.), which means “in the year of our Lord.” Years and months have been set, in other words, based on the day of his coming. He is the Lord of history, creation and salvation. If he had not been able to rise again from the dead, his tomb would have remained closed as a great historical landmark. The tombs of the great figures of history still remain as places of great interest. For example, Confucius’ tomb is in China, Buddha’s tomb is found in India, and that of Mohammed is at Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

If Christ had not risen from the dead again, his tomb should still remain closed like theirs. But because he rose from the dead in three days, His tomb has been opened. This is believing in our Lord, the one and only God.

### **That He Ate after He Rose from the Dead is Still another Proof**

Spirits do not eat. But the resurrected Lord ate. Luke 24:40-43 states: “When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marvelled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’ So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.” Acts 10:40-41 also testifies: “Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.” That Jesus ate provides us the explicit proof of His resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul also testifies: “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” The Bible is the inspired Word of God with absolute authority that can be neither added to nor subtracted from. As this Bible had prophesied, Jesus died and rose again.

Around the time of Jesus’ death, his disciples had been trembling in fear. But after they were convinced of his resurrection, they became bold to spread through Jesus the resurrection from the dead. As Acts 4:18-20 tells us, “So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’” Peter and other Apostles also replied, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Although Jesus’ disciples had trembled before the dead Jesus, once they saw the living Jesus, they became bold. From then on to the very present, the reason why the saints have spread this gospel even as they have been persecuted for Christ, and why they have been willing to die for its sake, is because of the certainty of the resurrection of Christ and the assurance of their own resurrection as well.

Jesus’ resurrection is a prelude to our own resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15:20, it is stated, “But now Christ has risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.” As such, the teachings of the Pauline Epistles are also centred around, first of all, the core truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and then on the message that this resurrection also brings us our own resurrection.

We need to keep up the fervour of the Easter as we prepare for the celebrations of Ascension and Pentecost. During these days, let us prepare our people for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as Our Blessed Mother and the Apostles received so that our faith in the Risen Lord may be strengthened and may become apostles of the Risen Lord!

### **NEWS AND EVENTS**

**Graduation Ceremony at St Alphonsa College:** The second batch students were graduated from St Alphonsa Arts and Science College. The graduation ceremony was organised on 5 April 2019. I had the

privilege of taking part in the ceremony. Dr K. Pichumani, Vice-Chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli was the Chief Guest. He distributed the Degree Certificates to the students and delivered the keynote address during the ceremony. Rev. Fr Jose Muttathupadam and Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, managers of the College, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose, Correspondent, Dr Isaias, Principal and the heads of the Departments were also seated on the dais. This year the pass percentage is 93. With excellent academic results and the emphasis on imparting of value based education, our College has become well-known in the area.

On 8 April 2019, the College celebrated its annual day. The Chief Guest was Dr G. Madhavan Nair, Former Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Secretary to the Department of Space, Government of India. The tastefully decorated stage and the well-choreographed items made the day memorable. I thank and appreciate the entire Alphonsian Team for their dedication and hard work.

**Minor and Major Orders:** Br Ajin C., Br Liju, Br Prince George, Br Georgekutty and Br Shijin Dev received clerical dress (Cassock) while Br Mahesh and Br Josemon Paul received Karoyusa on 15 April 2019 at Sangamam, Thuckalay at 7.00 am. On the same day, at 6.00 pm Br Toji and Br Robin Jose were ordained deacons at St Thomas Church, Marappady. We wish them fruitful ministries and completion of their studies in their respective seminaries.

**Priestly Ordination of Deacon Abilash Xavier Raj:** Deacon Abilash Xavier Raj was ordained priest on 24 April 2019 at Muzhucode at 9.30am. Bishop Vincent Mar Paulose preached the homily. The entire celebration was very solemn. The Parish Priest of Muzhukode and the parishioners together with the family members of Deacon Abilash planned and executed the entire programme very meticulously. I thank Rev. Fr Chacko Akkathara for coordinating the entire ceremony. The Eparchy welcomes Rev. Fr Abilash Xavier to the communion of the Presbyterium and wishes him God's choicest blessings for his pastoral ministry that he will carry out in the Eparchy.

**One-Day Recollection for Priests and Religious:** The Priesthood Day was celebrated in the Eparchy on 17 April 2019. On that day, a one-day Recollection was organised for the Priests and Religious at Sangamam. I was happy to note that almost all the Priests and the Religious participated in the programme. I thank Vincent Mar Paulose, Bishop of Marthandam, for animating the recollection with his thought provoking reflections. I thank all the Fathers and Sisters for your participation. I appreciate your eagerness to express your solidarity with the Eparchy.

**News from Seminarians:** The major seminarians had a work camp at Kumarakoil from 8 April 2019 to 12 April 2019. From 13 April 2019 to 21 April 2019, they helped in the Parishes for the Holy Week celebrations. The major seminarians will be in the Eparchy till 13 May 2019. These days, they are conducting VBS in our various centres. This year five Brothers will enter the Major Seminary for their theological studies. We are sending four seminarians to Ujjain for their pastoral course.

**Orientation and Career Guidance Seminar:** St Alphonsa College organized a one-day Career Guidance Seminar for class 12 students of our Parishes and Institutions on 15 April 2019. Rev. Fr Antony Jose made arrangements for the participants to visit the facilities that the College offers. I also interacted with the students. This year the numbers of participants were less. I thank all the Fathers who supported and encouraged the students to attend the Career Guidance Programme. Let us continue to work for augmenting admissions in our College.

## INFORMATION

- ❖ **Inauguration of Jubilee of the Eparchy:** As we have discussed in the Priests' Conference and Forane Level meetings, we shall inaugurate the three-year preparations for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of our Eparchy (1996-2021) on 30 June 2019 in all the parishes. The Jubilee core committee, under the leadership of Rev. Fr Jose Muttathupadam, is preparing the three-year programme. The committee will keep you informed about the various events during these years. You can already inform the people about this forthcoming event. I am sure the years of preparation will help all of us to celebrate the Jubilee in 2021 with greater zeal.
- ❖ **Visit to the UK and Ireland:** I am going to the UK and Ireland to visit our Fathers and to meet some of our friends on 28 April 2019. I will return on 19 May 2019. Please pray for me for the success of my visits.
- ❖ **Holy Family Congregation:** Three Holy Family sisters are serving in our Eparchy and are staying in different places at present. Temporarily we have offered the sisters to stay at our building at Kamaraj Nagar. The convent will be blessed on 20 May, 2019.
- ❖ **CMC St Chavara Province:** The General Chapter of CMC Congregation has decided to elevate the St Chavara Vice-Province to a Province. The declaration and the thanksgiving Qurbana will be held on 27 May 2019 at Thuckalay CMC Convent. We are grateful to God and congratulate the CMC sisters.
- ❖ **Catechism VPV:** The VPV classes for our catechism students started on 28 April 2019. The programme will end on 12 May 2019. I request all the Fathers and Sisters to encourage the children to participate in the VPV.
- ❖ **Youth Convention:** A Youth Convention will be held from 7-9 June 2019. The Youth Director along with youth volunteers are preparing for this mega event well in advance. I request your valuable prayers and support. I am informing you well in advance so that you can take part in the Holy Qurbana and cultural programme, which will be held on 9 June 2019 at 2.00 pm in Alphonsa College. Bishop Joseph Pandarasserry and Bishop Nazarene Soosai will be our special guests on that day.
- ❖ **Madubaha Blessing:** The Madubaha of Bishop's House chapel is being renovated. It will be blessed on 24 May 2019. I appreciate and thank Rev. Fr Thankachan sdb who has taken the initiative to do it within a short span of time.
- ❖ **RIP:** Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkam lost his brother-in-law on 22 April 2019. We express our heartfelt condolences to Fr Joshy and offer our prayers to the grieved family members.
- ❖ **Regency Brothers:** This year we have Five Brothers for regency and two Brothers for college Studies
  - Br Lintomon : KKSSS
  - Br Amento : Minor Seminary
  - Br Sanjomon : Sangamam
  - Br Divin Raj : Bishop's House
  - Br Albin Jose : Manjalumoodu
  - Br Bibin K J : B. Com (CA), SB College, Changanaserry
  - Br Alwin John : B. Com (Finance and Taxes) SB College, Changanaserry

These Brothers began their ministries from 27 April 2019. I wish them all the best and pray that the good Lord may strengthen them in their pastoral ministries!

❖ **Result of Classes 10 and 12 Students in our Schools:** The Tamil Nadu Board has declared the results of Class 10 and Class12 examinations held recently. All our Catholic Schools have performed extremely very well. Hearty congratulations to all our Fathers and Sisters. The good results are an indication of the commitment that the Eparchy has towards the education and the upliftment of under-privileged sections of our society.

#### CLASS 10 RESULTS

NAME	APPEARD	PASSED	HIGHEST
John Paul II Kulasekaram - SABS	48	48	482
St. Alphonsa, Nagercoil	225	225	494
St. Michael's, Kattathurai - FCC	73	73	480
Jaya Matha, Christurajapuram	56	56	474
Sacred Heart, Padanthalumoodu	150	150	479
APJM HSS, Soosaipuram	111	111	484
St. Joseph's School, Panpoli -MCBS	113	113	489
Carmel Matha, Kanyakumari-CMC	77	77	480
Carmel Jyothi, Colechal - CMC	69	68	474
Mount Carmel, Muzhucode - CMC	55	55	479
Mar M. Kavukatt Meml. School, Varuthattu	44	44	449
St. James High School, Mankarai	69	69	469
Holy Family, Mukkootukal	52	51	440
St Joseph's Pilankalai -CMI	34	33	447
St. Mary's, Kaliyal - CMI	133	131	467
St Thomas, Netta - CMI	25	23	430
Holy Family HS Arukany	30	30	377
Sacred Hear HSS, Kazhuvanthittai	42	42	482

#### CLASS 12 RESULTS

NAMES	APPEARD	PASSED	HIGHEST
Alphonsa, Nagercoil	268	268	578
Sacred Heart, Padanthalumoodu	97	97	556
St. Joseph's Matric, Panpoli MCBS	99	99	545
APJM HSS, Soosaipuram	80	79	559
St. Mary's, Kaliyal CMI	194	191	565
Carmel Matha, Kanyakumari CMC	30	30	487
Holy Family, Mukkootukal	67	67	539
Sacred Hear HSS, Kazhuvanthittai	26	26	521
St. Michael Matric HSSS, Kattathurai	54	54	539
Carmel Jyothi Matric HSSS, Colachal	35	35	466

❖ **Transfers 2019:** I have effected some transfers this year and have communicated personally to all the Fathers concerned. You will find the transfer list below. The transfers will take effect from 24 May 2019 unless indicated otherwise. I am grateful to the Fathers who have served our people with great commitment for the past years and are now moving to new places of ministries. In a special way, I place on record my gratitude to Rev. Fr Jose Muttathupadam, who served the Eparchy as the Proto-Syncellus for the last six years and to Rev. Fr Dency Mundunadackal, who served the

Eparchy as Finance Officer for three years. It was a joyful experience for me to have worked very closely with them.

Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil is the new Proto-Syncellus. As I welcome him to the Curia, I thank him for his 26 years of service at St Alphonsa, Nagercoil. During these years, he has brought up the School to a premier educational institution in the district. I also welcome Rev. Fr Johnsilal, our new Finance Officer, to Curia.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Current Place</b>	<b>Current and Additional Appointments in the Eparchy</b>
1.	Fr Thomas Powathuparampil	Nagercoil	<b>Proto-Syncellus of the Eparchy, Bishop's House Thuckalay;</b> <b>Manager of English Medium Schools and College;</b> <b>Spiritual Director of St. Vincent de Paul Society</b> President of Educational Commission
2.	Fr Kuriakose (Johnsilal) Arackaparambil	Sangamam	<b>Procurator of the Eparchy; Helping Fr Vinu at Thadikkarakonam for Weekday Holy Mass</b> Parish Priest of Christ the King Church Paraicode Prison Ministry
3.	Fr Abilash Xavier Raj S.	New Priest	<b>Assistant Parish Priest of Vayalinkarai and Amala Maria Church Cheenivilai. Headmaster and Correspondent of St Mary's English Medium School, Killiyoor</b>
4.	Fr Antony Jose	Additional Appointment	<b>Spiritual Director of Legion of Mary (Mariayin Senai)</b>
5.	Fr Dominic Anil Raj	Thuckalay	<b>Parish Priest of St Paul's Church, Thettiyode;</b> <b>Assistant Director of Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai</b>
6.	Fr James (Vinod) Kanakalil	Karode	<b>Parish Priest of St Thomas Church, Marappady and St Michael's Church, Thettivilai</b>
7.	Fr Jipson Chully MBCS	Mekkarai	<b>MCBS School</b>
8.	Fr John (Subin Scaria) Puthenpurackal	Padanthal/ Kunnuvilai	<b>Assistant Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Forane Church and Teacher at APJM School Soosaipuram; Parish Priest of Holy Family Church Thakkalivilai and Fathima Matha Church, Kudukachivilai</b>
9.	Fr John Paul	Shenkottai	<b>Parish Priest of Christ the King Church, Palapallam;</b> <b>Manager of Gloves Packing Unit at Anakuzhi;</b> <b>Correspondent of Tamil Medium Schools;</b> <b>Secretary of Eparchial Presbyterium</b>
10.	Fr Jose Muttathupadam	Vayalinkarai - Cheenivilai	<b>Parish Priest of Jaya Matha Forane Church, Nithravilai</b> <b>Director of KarunaiIllam;</b> <b>Director of AIDACT</b>
11.	Fr Jose Vayalail	Additional Responsibility	<b>Director of Uraviam</b>

12.	Fr Joseph (Dency) Mundunadackal	Pilankarai	<b>Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Padanthalumoodu and St Joseph's Church Kunnuvilai</b> <b>Correspondent of SH Matriculation School</b> Director of Liturgical Commission
13.	Fr Joseph (Jimmy) Thekkekadumathil	Rome	<b>Parish Priest of Loretto Matha Church, Pilankarai; Director of Family Apostolate and Counselling at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai</b> <b>Director of De-addiction Apostolate</b>
14.	Fr Joseph (Jinu) Thekkethalackal	Thettiyode	<b>Doctoral Student of Social Communication, Salesian University, Rome</b>
15.	Fr Joseph (Jomon) Mangalamadam	Marappady, Thettivilai	<b>Parish Priest of St George Church, Munchirai</b> Director of <i>Kuzhanthai Iso Iyakkam</i>
16.	Fr Joseph (Prince) Maliyil	Secretary of Presbyterium	<b>Director of Catechism</b>
17.	Fr. Joseph Santhosh	Deva Matha School Killiyoor	-
18.	Fr Joseph (Thankachan) Kollappallyil SDB	Mission Procure	<b>Back to Province, Delhi</b>
19.	Fr Joseph Ottalamkal MST	Varuthattu	<b>Parish Priest of St Mathew's Church, Annikarai</b>
20.	Fr John (Joshy) Kulathumkal	Director of Uraviam	-
21.	Fr Justin Suteesh	Thakkalivilai, Soosaiapuram	<b>Correspondent of Pulari School Shenkottai; Parish Priest of St Thomas Mission, Pudur and Sundarapandiyapuram</b>
22.	Fr Kurian (Sanil) Panthichirackal	Nithravilai	<b>Parish Priest of St Alphonsa Church, Nagercoil; Correspondent of St Alphonsa School, Nagercoil</b>
23.	Fr Kurian Koipuram	-	<b>Priest in charge of Chembahatharisu Mission</b> Asst. Parish priest of Arukani and Pathukani
24.	Fr Peter Kizhakkeyil	Changanassery	<b>Coordinator of Madurai, Theni, Sivagangai and Virudunagar Mission with residence in Madurai</b>
25.	Fr Philip (Alex) Puthettu	Tirunelveli	<b>In charge of Nanguneri Mission and JMJ – Farm</b>
26.	Fr Printo Kurias	Palapallam	<b>Parish Priest of St Xavier's Church, Varuthattu; Director of Safe Environment of Minor and Vulnerable Women Commission and Student of LLB and LLM</b>
27.	Fr Saji Elambasseril SDB	Kalluvilai	<b>Mission Procure, Bishop's House and Parish Priest of St Mary's Mission Bishop's House, Thuckalay</b> Director of KKSSS
28.	Fr Sebastian (Mijo) Puthenpurayil	Additional Responsibility till November 2019	<b>Priest in charge of Loretto Matha Church, Pilankarai for May-November 2019</b>
29.	Fr Seby Manimalakandathil	-	<b>Correspondent of St John's Nursery and Primary School, Boarder, Shenkottai</b> Parish Priest of Little Flower Church, Puliয়ারাই; Director of St Thomas Dispensary, Lalakudiyiruppu



30.	Fr Thomas (Abin) Poovathummoottil	MSW, Chennai	<b>Parish Priest of St Mother Theresa Church, Kalluvilai; Assistant Director of KKSSS, Kalluvilai</b>
31.	Fr Thomas (Ajeesh) Attiyil	Munchirai	<b>Parish Priest of St Joseph's Church, Karode. Director of DNN, Karode.</b> Director of Family Apostolate
32.	Fr Thomas (Jiji) Koipuram	Annikarai	<b>Parish Priest of St George Church, Mekkarai; Director of Pulari SSS; Mission Coordinator of Shenkottai ,Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, and Ramanathapuram</b>
33.	Fr Thomas (Robins) Kuzhikodil	Padanthalumoodu	<b>Parish Priest of St Antony's Church. Vayalinkarai and Amala Maria Church Cheenivilai; Director Pulari communications</b> Director of Chrisma and Pulari Enterprises; Director of Nambikkai Alayam
34.	Fr Thomas Jebanesh	Vayalinkarai	<b>Assistant Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Forane Church and St Joseph's Church Kunnuvilai and Teacher at S.H. School, Padanthalumoodu; Priest In-Charge of St Philip Church Kalluketti – Kuzhithurai</b> Assistant Director of Uraviam
35.	Fr Chaco (Toji) Parambilparambil	Anayadi	<b>Director of Sangamam, Thuckalay; Director of Diocesan Choir</b> Parish Priest of St George Church, Anayadi
36.	Fr Abraham (Shoji) Puthenpurackal	Chenamcode	Mission Oversees in Ireland
37.	Fr Joseph (Sajan) Nettaponghu	Sangamam	<b>Parish Priest of Lourdh Matha Church, Chenamcode and St John Paul II Church Kulasekharam</b> Office Secretary at Bishop's House Notary of Eparchial Tribunal Assistant Director of Catechism
38.	Fr Vinu D. Joseph	Kalluvilai	<b>Director of Pulari Press from 3 March 2019, Sangamam</b> Parish Priest of St Joseph's Church, Thadikkarakonam and Vellambi Mission; Director of Laity Commission

### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

28 April to 19 May 2019	- Visit to UK and Ireland
20 May 2019	- Blessing of CHF Convent at Kamaraj Nagar
23 May 2019	- Priests' Conference at Sangamam
24 May 2019	- Blessing of Bishop's House Chapel Madubaha
27 May 2019	- Elevation of CMC Vice Province to CMC St Chavara Province
28 May 2019	- Blessing of SABS Convent Marthandam
29 May 2019	- Jubilee of Vattacottai Centre of Sr Mary Mathew Kodiyan

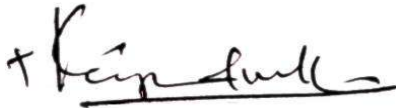
## CONCLUSION

The month of May is a special time for us to pay homage to our Blessed Mother Mary. She has a unique role in salvation history as the Mother of God, conceived without Sin, who by her own free will agreed to bring the “Word made flesh,” (John 1:14) our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ into the world. Mary is prefigured as the one who would crush the head of the serpent in Genesis 3:15 through her Divine Son. Still she in no way over shadows him, nor would she ever wish to! Her life in the Gospel years was one of service and great devotion to Jesus, from the cave in Bethlehem where she gave birth to him, to Calvary in Jerusalem where she stood by his cross in his Crucifixion, from Crib to Cross, as it were.

During month, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. Let us join the entire Catholic world in offering special presents to Our Blessed Mother during this month of May. Through pilgrimages, visits to churches dedicated to her, offering little sacrifices in her honour, attentive recitation of the rosary, and many other ways, we can spend this month fruitfully in her company. Let us also encourage our people to come closer to our Blessed Mother by inculcating various Marian devotions!

With my prayers and blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ **George Rajendran SDB**  
Bishop of Thuckalay

