

My Dear Fathers

Love and greetings from Bishop's House! Month of June is a busy month since we are beginning the academic year. There will be an inflow of young people who will be joining our institutions. Let us make every effort to help them experience the love of Jesus in all our settings. May our educational interventions become evangelizing interventions!

The SSLC results of the State was published on 31 May and Kanyakumari District secured first in the State level performance with 97.2% pass. All the Schools in our Diocese run both by the Diocese as well as the Religious have performed excellently well with 100% pass in all the Schools. It is the result of the hard work and commitment of all the Correspondents, Principals, Teachers and Students. I congratulate all of them for their untiring spirit of dedication.

RESULT AT A GLANCE

Sl. No	SCHOOL	APPEARD	PASSED	FIRST CLASS	POSITION DISTRICT	HIGHEST MARK
1	St Alphonsa School	147	147	147	Dist: 3 rd State: 4 th	495
2	APJM, Soosaipuram	46	46	46	NIL	486
3	S.H. School, Padanthalumoodu	95	95	95	State: 1 st and 3 rd for Malayalam	489
4	St Mary's School, Kaliyal	147	140	124	NIL	485
5	Carmel school, Kanyakumari	62	61	58	4 th	494
6	Holy Family School, Mukkootukal	131	131	121	NIL	468
7	St Joseph School, Sengkottai	66	66	44	NIL	485
8	Varuthuttu	55	55	53	NIL	477
9	Holy Family School, Arukani	38	38	38	NIL	484
10	St Michael School, Kattathurai	29	29	29	NIL	484
11	St James School, Mankarai	129	129	120	NIL	471
12	Mount Carmel School, Muzhukode	39	39	39	NIL	488
13	Carmel Jyoti school, Kulachal	7	7	7	NIL	483
14	Plankalai	76	76	53	NIL	471
15	Netta	44	44	33	NIL	485

NEWS FROM ROME

As you know, Fr Sathianesan is doing his Doctorate in Cannon Law, Frs Joshy(Cannon Law) and Justin (Liturgy) are completing their Licentiate studies and Br Jinu is in the 2nd year Theology in Rome.

Fr Justin has performed very well in the comprehensive examination securing 9.8 for written and 9.5 for defence out of 10 points. We express our sincere congratulations to him. He will be coming back to the Diocese by October 2013.

Fr Joshy is having the final examinations which will end on 27 June. We wish him all the best for the examinations. I have also asked him to complete his Doctoral Studies in the same subject. He will be in our Diocese for holidays from 4 July to 7 September 2013. We welcome him to the Diocese and wish him happy holidays.

Br Jinu received the minor orders on 28 May, which was conferred on him by Mar Mathew Arrakel, Bishop of Kanjirapally. As we congratulate Br Jinu on this occasion, we thank Bishop Mathew for conferring the ministry to the Brother on my behalf.

INAUGURATION AND BLESSING

The Sisters of Divine Saviour (SDS) in Manchalumoodu demolished the old convent building and has built a Retirement House for the Sisters of their Congregation which will also accommodate old people (women) on payment. I blessed the Chapel and the building on 1 June 2013. The house is well set up to give comfortable accommodation to the senior Sisters. I wish them God's blessings on their new mission.

The Sisters of Adoration of Blessed Sacrament (SABS) in Kulasekaram built a new extension to their existing School building. It was blessed on 6 June 2013. The School is upgraded to 7th standard now. I was told that many Fathers from our Diocese were invited for the ceremony but unfortunately only a few turned up. It is basic courtesy to inform the people concerned if you are unable to attend. Let us support the SABS community of Kulasekaram with prayers.

APPOINTMENTS

Rev. Fr Kurian Koipuram is appointed as the Secretary to Pious Association Departments' Office at Kaluvilai and Rev. Fr Augustine Thalodil is appointed as the new Parish Priest of Mezhakode Parish. We wish them all the best in their new ministries.

Rev. Fr Joseph Santhosh is appointed as Chief Editor of *Irai Arul*. I would like to thank all the former members of the Editorial Board for their valuable contributions in the preparation of this official organ of communication of the Diocese.

Rev. Fr Christudas will be in-charge of Ecumenism and Dialogue in the Diocese. Mr Sounderaj will help and collaborate with Fr Christudas on behalf of the Diocese. We are grateful to Fr Antony Jose for faithfully looking after this Department in the past years.

DEPARTMENTS' MEETING

All the Departments of the Pious Associations and other Ministries of the Diocese met on 31 May 2013 at Sangamam. All the Directors of the Department took part in the meeting except the Directors of Family Apostolate and Liturgy due to unavoidable circumstances. During the meeting, we welcomed the new Directors: Rev. Fr Ginoy Thottiyil (Mission League), Fr Saji Ezhambaserril sdb(KKSSS) and Fr Christudas (Correspondent, Tamil Medium Schools). It was a sharing session wherein all the programmes of each Department were discussed and decisions were made to carry out the ministry in a better way. I would like to thank all the Department Directors and Assistant Directors for working together to realise the goals of the Diocese.

EVALUATION OF *URAVIUM*

Many Fathers felt that the present format we are using to conduct our *uravium* meetings are not very helpful to the people of God and needed some modifications. Keeping in mind the interest and good of the Church and of the Faithful, I have appointed the following Fathers to study the present format of *uravium* and to make new proposals which will help us to formulate new guidelines for conducting *uravium*:

- Fr John Pudumana
- Fr Joseph Nedumpuram
- Fr Joseph Santhosh
- Fr Antony Jose
- Fr Peter Kizhakeil

INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR

The new Academic Year of our Minor Seminary was inaugurated on 5 June 2013. All the Fathers from Manchalumoodu Forane along with the staff and students of the Seminary were present. Rev. Fr Tom Kunnumpuram, the Rector, presented the formation programme of the Seminary. We have this year 10 new candidates in the first year. Altogether there are 29 Brothers in the Seminary doing various studies. Two Brothers are doing their B.Com studies at Nanjil Catholic College, Kaliakkavilai. I sincerely thank all of you for promoting vocations and praying for our seminarians. We wish God's blessings on all the staff of the Seminary.

CHANGANACHERRY ARCHDIOCESE TURNS 126

126th Anniversary Celebrations of Archdiocese of Changanacherry was held on 20 May 2013 at Manimala Forane Church. I was personally invited for the celebrations. The celebrations began at 10.00am with formal Prayer Service. Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam and Archbishop Joseph Pawathil too were present for the programme. Most of the Fathers and Sisters from the Archdiocese were present along with 10 representatives from each parish. It was a meaningful celebration organised to thank God for His blessing upon the Diocese. It was also meant to acknowledge and thank the contributions made by several individuals to the Archdiocese. We gratefully remember the great support our mother Diocese gives to us both financially and in personnel.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Rev. Fr John Thekkeyl is now spending his retired life at the Minor Seminary. His health is weak. He has to visit the hospital for check up and treatment quite regularly. I request you to keep him in your valuable prayers and visit him whenever you get an opportunity. I thank the Rector and the Seminary Community for taking care of Fr John.

Rev. Fr. Jimmy is undergoing treatment for kidney stone in Caritas Hospital, Kottayam. His parents are looking after him and occasionally our VG visits him. Let's pray for his speedy recovery.

These days, Dengue Fever is spreading at an alarming rate and threatening the life of people. May I request every one of you to take care of your health and if you find any symptom please go for check up yourself or else inform me or Fr Jose Muttathupadam. Your health is our wealth.

CONCLUSION

As I was going through the Pastoral Calendar of the Parishes I realised that many Parishes will be celebrating their Parish Feasts and organizing Retreats and other animation programmes in these coming months. I wish and pray that all the initiatives that you take may help our people to grow towards Jesus. I will be happy to share in your happiness in celebrating Mass on Parish Feast days. However, kindly inform me in advance so that I can arrange my programmes accordingly.

We are already into the month of June, which is hallowed by its association with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I cordially invite all the Fathers and the Faithful to foster devotion to the Sacred Heart. I request you to revive possibly some of the devotional practices that have fallen by the wayside over the years for whatever reasons. We should not leave ourselves in the lurch in so important an aspect of our Christian spirituality. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be the source of the fire of love for the mission that ought to burn bright and warm in our hearts!

Yours faithfully,

+George Rajendran sdb
Bishop of Thuckalay