



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

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31 August 2026

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Warm greetings to each one of you from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

As we enter September, the Church sets before us one of the most profound and mysterious feasts of the liturgical year — the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on the fourteenth of this month. I write to you this circular not merely to remind you of it, but to invite you to deeper reflection on what this feast means for us, who, by the grace of God, have chosen to spend our lives at the foot of that same Cross in priestly ministry.

The Mystery We Celebrate

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross recalls St Helena's discovery of the true Cross in the fourth century and its solemn elevation before the faithful of Jerusalem. Yet beneath this historical memory lies a mystery far greater than any relic or ceremony: the Cross, once an instrument of the most degrading punishment the ancient world could devise, has become for us the throne of glory, the tree of life, and the sign by which the world is saved. What was raised in shame on Calvary is raised again in triumph each year, because on it hung the Saviour of the world.

St Paul reminds us that we preach Christ crucified — a stumbling block to some and folly to others, yet to those who are called, the power and the wisdom of God. This paradox stands at the very centre of our faith and, in a special way, at the centre of our vocation. We are men and women who have publicly and permanently bound our lives to a crucified Lord. Each September, the feast of the Exaltation invites us to look again at the Cross we carry and to ask ourselves honestly: have we truly exalted it in our hearts, or have we quietly tried to domesticate it, to make our priesthood and religious life comfortable, safe, and free of real cost?

There is, too, a deeper symmetry the Fathers of the Church loved to contemplate: as death entered the world through a tree in the garden, so life is restored through a tree on Calvary. The Cross is thus not merely an image of suffering endured, but the new Tree of Life planted at the centre of history, its branches reaching out to gather every nation and every wound into the mercy of God. Christ himself foretold this exaltation when he said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself" — a lifting up that is at once his crucifixion, his resurrection, and his glorification, three mysteries inseparably bound in the one wood. To exalt the Cross, then, is not to glorify pain for its own sake, but to proclaim that God has taken the worst that human cruelty can do and, definitively, transformed it into the instrument of the world's healing. This is the hope we are asked to carry with us into every hospital room, every confessional, every mission chapel, and every quiet act of service this September.

The Cross and Our Priestly Life

At its root, ordination is an exaltation of the Cross in one's own body and life. When a priest raises his hands at the altar, he does what Christ did on the wood of the Cross — he offers himself, together with the Lord, for the life of the world. This is similar to a religious pronouncing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience; he or she nails to that same wood every claim of self-will, every attachment to comfort, and

every desire to belong first to oneself. Ours is not a life that avoids the Cross; it is one that has freely and joyfully embraced it as the very shape of love.

This is not always easy to remember amid the routine of ministry — the endless meetings, the financial worries of an institution, the loneliness that can visit even the busiest rectory or convent, and the misunderstandings from within and without. It is precisely here, in the ordinary wear and tear of daily service, that the Cross ceases to be a devotional image and becomes flesh. Every act of patience with a difficult parishioner, every hour spent in the confessional listening to human weakness, every long journey undertaken to reach a single family, every night interrupted for a sick call, every silence accepted rather than a self-defensive word — these are the small, unnoticed exaltations of the Cross that make up a faithfully lived priestly or religious life. I ask you, dear Fathers, to see in these daily crosses not merely a burden to be endured, but the very substance of your configuration to Christ the Priest and Victim.

Carrying the Cross to the Extended Territories and the Thenkasi Mission

I cannot write to you this month without speaking, with deep gratitude and admiration, of those among you who live out this mystery in the most demanding circumstances — our priests and religious labouring in the extended mission territory and in the Thenkasi mission of our Eparchy.

While many of us minister in established parishes with settled communities, familiar faces, and the ordinary support structures of Church life, some among us have gone further out — into areas where the Church is still young, the Catholic presence is thin or nil, the nearest brother priest may be an hour or more away, and every institution, every chapel, every catechism class has had to be built almost from nothing. In the villages and small towns spreading out to Thenkasi, Thoothukudi, Thirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Virudunagar, Madurai and Theni districts, entrusted to our Eparchy, our priests and religious go from village to village and street to street, carrying — quite literally, at times — the Cross to people who might otherwise never encounter it. They walk into homes where the Gospel has never been proclaimed. They sit with families in unfamiliar languages and customs, learning patience before they can even begin to teach. They celebrate the Eucharist in modest structures that would seem impossibly small and simple to those used to the settled parishes of our heartland, yet they do so with the same reverence and joy as if they stood before the grandest altar.

I have visited many times in all these mission stations, and what has struck me each time is not hardship on display, but hardship quietly absorbed — absorbed with a smile, without complaint, simply as part of the work God has given them. These are men and women who have left behind the comforts many of us take for granted: proximity to family, familiar food and climate, the company of fellow priests who share their mother tongue, the medical facilities and conveniences of larger towns, and even, at times, basic amenities that the rest of us assume without a thought. They have freely exchanged all this for the privilege of keeping Christ's mission alive in places the world has largely overlooked.

In this circular, I wish to express my profound admiration, and that of the whole Eparchy, for this quiet, sustained sacrifice. Mission work can easily become invisible precisely because it is faithful and unspectacular — no headlines are written about our priests or catechist walking for kilometres every evening to teach a handful of children, or about a Sister who has spent years learning a local dialect so she might be truly present to the people she serves. Yet it is exactly this hidden, patient carrying of the Cross that keeps the flame of the Gospel burning in our extended territory and in Thenkasi Mission. Every Eucharist celebrated there, every child baptised, every sick person anointed, and every family strengthened in faith is

a small but real exaltation of the Cross — raised again, in our own time, in our own Eparchy, by hands and hearts we should never take for granted.

An Invitation for the Feast Day

On this year's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, I ask every parish, institution, and religious community of the Eparchy to do three things. First, to celebrate the Holy Qurbana with special solemnity as our liturgy demands, including a rite of veneration of the Cross, so that our people may renew their reverence for the sign of our salvation. Second, to devote part of that day's homily or catechesis to the meaning of the Cross in the life of every baptised Christian, and, in a special way, in priestly and religious vocation. Third, and closest to my heart, I ask that each of you dear fathers to remember, in the Qurbana and in personal prayer, our missionary priests and religious of the extended territory and of Thenkasi by name, and that, wherever possible, a concrete gesture of solidarity — a letter, a gift, an offer of temporary help, or simply a sustained commitment to pray for them — be extended to them this month.

Dear Fathers, the Cross we exalt on the fourteenth of September is not an abstraction. It has a face in each of you who has said yes to Christ in the priesthood or in consecrated life, and this year, in particular, it has the faces of our brothers and sisters who serve quietly and heroically in our mission areas. May this feast renew in all of us the grace to embrace our own crosses without bitterness, to support one another's crosses without judgement, and to look, always, beyond the wood itself to the love that hung upon it.

I entrust each of you, especially our missionaries in the extended territory and in Thenkasi, to the protection of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, who stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross. I invoke the Triune God's blessing upon you all.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Feast of St. Alphonsa – Shrine, Nagercoil: The celebration of the feast of St. Alphonsa commenced at St. Alphonsa's Shrine, Nagercoil, on 24 July 2026 with the solemn flag-hoisting ceremony by our Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam. It was deeply moving to witness thousands of faithful flocking to the shrine throughout the ten days of festivities to pray and seek God's blessings through the intercession of St. Alphonsa. Almost all the priests and faithful of our Diocese actively participated in the various spiritual programmes, particularly in the Forane-level Holy Qurbana celebrations. On 28 July 2026, Most Rev. Dr. Jeevanantham Amalanathan, Bishop of Kumbakonam, visited the shrine and presided over the Holy Qurbana, which was attended by more than five thousand faithful belonging to different rites. On 02 August 2026, the concluding day of the feast, priests, religious, and faithful from all our parishes gathered at the shrine by 9:30 a.m. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal led the novena in honour of St. Alphonsa, which was followed by a solemn concelebrated Holy Qurbana presided over by me. After the Holy Qurbana, a grand procession was held, followed by an agape meal for all the pilgrims. In the evening, another Holy Qurbana was celebrated, after which the flag was lowered, marking the solemn conclusion of the feast. I gratefully acknowledge and sincerely appreciate the dedicated service and tireless efforts of Rev. Fr. Sanil Panthichirackal, Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Bibin Kouikkudiyl, Assistant Parish Priest, the Rev. Sisters, and the faithful of St. Alphonsa Shrine. Their wholehearted cooperation and commitment contributed greatly to making the celebration a prayerful, joyful, and grace-filled experience.

Vianney Day Celebration: The feast of St. John Maria Vianney, the patron saint of all priests, especially diocesan priests, was meaningfully celebrated in our Diocese on 04 August 2026 at St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal, with the participation of all the priests of the Diocese. The programme began at 9:30 a.m. with Eucharistic Adoration, which provided a meaningful opportunity for the priests to come together in prayer, thanking God for the precious gift of priesthood and interceding for new priestly

vocations. Following the Adoration, time was set apart for sports and games. However, due to the rain, the Fathers participated in indoor games instead. This was followed by a brief cultural programme that highlighted the various talents of the Fathers. The public meeting was presided over by me. The celebration concluded with a solemn fraternal lunch. As the brothers of the Minor Seminary were not present, the Fathers arranged the programme and all the necessary preparations with the assistance of the Regent Brothers. I express my heartfelt gratitude to my dear Fathers and Brothers for their excellent cooperation and for organizing the Vianney Day celebration so well.

25th St. Alphonsa Academy Cultural Competitions – Nagercoil: The 25th St. Alphonsa Academy for Excellence Cultural Competitions, organized by St. Alphonsa Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil, were held on 08 August 2026 at the school campus. Dr. Dellibabu Vijayakumar, Indian Scientist, was the Chief Guest. A total of 75 schools and 20 colleges from Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts participated in the competitions, bringing together more than 2,000 students. The participants enthusiastically took part in a wide variety of competitions, including elocution, quiz, essay writing, solo singing, drawing, dance, and several other events. The Academy Award Day was celebrated on 22 August 2026. Dr. Jeyasekharan, former Principal of Pioneer Kumaraswamy College, Nagercoil, presided over the function and distributed prizes to the winners. I place on record my sincere appreciation to the Correspondent, Rev. Fr. Sanil John, and the entire organizing team for their dedicated efforts and excellent coordination in successfully conducting this important programme.

Blessing of Sahaya Matha Convent – Ariyur, Madurai: The SABS Sisters have been carrying out their mission work in and around Ariyur, Madurai, while residing in a building near the Parish Church. Gradually, they purchased land in the area and constructed a convent to facilitate and strengthen their mission activities. The newly constructed convent was blessed by me on 08 August 2026. The entire building was first blessed, followed by the celebration of Holy Qurbana and a common meeting on the same campus. The new convent stands as a visible symbol of the missionary spirit and apostolic activities of the Sisters in the region. I thank God for His benevolent blessings and take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Sr. Rose Martin SABS, Provincial Superior of the Tamil Nadu SABS Province, and her team for their missionary spirit, dedication, and committed service towards the growth of the Church.

Junior Priests' Ongoing Formation Programme: A two-day ongoing formation programme for the junior priests of our Diocese was held at Sangamam on 11 and 12 August 2026. All the junior priests, Fathers Jose Paul Purayidathilkunnel, Antony Mahesh, George Kandathil, Prince Cherippanattu, Ajin C. Joseph, Liju Marattukalam, Linto Thakidiyel, Sanjo Theneplackal, Amanto Edakkootathil, Sunil Antony, Anoop Thathappally, Bibin Koyikkakudiyil, Joseph Vettakonam, and Tony Kallamparampil were present for the sessions. The programme was inaugurated by me with a short session on the topic "The Grace of Positivity in Priestly Life." On the first day, in the morning, Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpuraiyil, Director of Uraviyam, conducted a session on "Preaching the Gospel through Different Ways." In the afternoon, Rev. Fr. Vinu D. Joseph led a session on "Holy Eucharistic Adoration." In the evening, the members of the Curia, together with myself, met with the junior priests for an open discussion. During this interaction, the junior priests shared their pastoral experiences, challenges, and concerns in a fraternal atmosphere. On the following day, 12 August, Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Director of the Media Commission, conducted a session on "Evangelization through Media." The ongoing formation programme concluded at noon on the same day. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to all the junior priests for their enthusiastic and active participation and for their openness and commitment to ongoing formation.

Anniversary of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: The Anniversary Programme of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was held on 16 August 2026 at Kalluvilai with great enthusiasm and participation. The

programme commenced with the celebration of Holy Qurbana, which was presided over by me. Following the Holy Qurbana, the newly elected President, Mr. Edwinson from Palapallam Parish, along with the other executive members, took the oath of leadership. The oath was taken in the presence of the Gospel and lighted candles, symbolizing their commitment to follow Christ and to serve those in need with faith, love, compassion, and dedication. Following the oath-taking ceremony, the Anniversary Meeting was held at the Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. Many Vincentians from different parts of the Tamil Nadu region, particularly from the Dioceses of Kottar, Kuzhithurai, and Marthandom, actively participated in the meeting. Their presence and participation added great significance and joy to the celebration. The Anniversary Programme concluded with a fellowship lunch, providing an opportunity for all the participants to share their joy and strengthen their bonds of fraternity and service. I sincerely thank Rev Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Director, and all those who contributed to and worked for the success of this Anniversary Programme. I greatly appreciate the dedication and generous service of all the Vincentians. I wish the newly appointed office-bearers and all the members God's abundant blessings and encourage them to carry out their entrusted responsibilities with renewed commitment, continuing their charitable works and compassionate service to the poor, needy, and suffering, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

34th Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church – Kakkanad: The Second Session of the 34th (XXXIV) Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church was convened from 17 to 28 August 2026 at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church in Kochi, Kerala. Presided over by Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil, the Synod brought together bishops from across India and from the international eparchies to deliberate on important ecclesiastical, pastoral, and administrative matters. During the Synod, Fr. Thomas Animoottil, aged 64, was canonically elected as the new Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Kottayam, following the prior assent of the Holy See. The Synodal Committee for Conferring Titles and Honours also announced the selection of two lay faithful for the prestigious Sabhatharam Award, in recognition of their distinguished service to the Church and society. The recipients are Mr. Santosh Karumathra of the Archdiocese of Trichur and Mr. Jacob Pynadath of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The awards will formally be presented during the Dukrana-Sabhadinam celebrations on 03 July 2027 at Mount St. Thomas. The Synod also held discussions on pastoral harmony, liturgical uniformity, and the ongoing efforts to resolve long-standing administrative and liturgical tensions in specific archdioceses.

Media Training for Priests: The Department of Media and Communication of the Diocese of Thuckalay organized a specialized Media Training Programme for Priests on Monday, 24 August 2026, at Sangamam. The session was led and conducted by Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Director of the Media Department. The training covered several important areas of modern communication that are increasingly essential for contemporary pastoral ministry, including basic photography, videography, video editing, and the practical application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools in pastoral work. The session included hands-on guidance, enabling the participating priests to engage directly with various practical digital tools. The priests gained valuable insights into using modern technology to enrich their daily pastoral ministry, pastoral care, and community outreach. They also learned innovative digital methods to communicate effectively and proclaim the Good News to a wider audience. The programme concluded with the participants expressing their appreciation for the exceptionally practical, timely, and enriching nature of the training. I sincerely thank Rev. Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil for initiating and implementing this important ministry of evangelization through media.

Foundation Stone Laying – Jayamatha Forane Church, Nithiravilai: On 30 August 2026 at 11:15 a.m., Jayamatha Forane Church, Nithiravilai, reached a momentous milestone with the solemn Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony for its new church building. The parish community gathered in prayerful reflection and

thanksgiving for God's abundant blessings upon this historic mission. The occasion commenced with a devout celebration of Holy Qurbana, in which the faithful of the parish participated with great piety and reverence. Following the Holy Qurbana, special prayers were offered, invoking God's grace and protection upon the entire construction project. The foundation stone was then formally laid, marking the official beginning of the construction of the new house of worship. This event holds deep historical significance for the local Catholic community. Established in 1960, this parish has the distinction of being the very first mission church established under the Kanyakumari Mission, which later became part of the Diocese of Thuckalay. After decades of faithful service, this auspicious occasion represents a new chapter in the history of the parish and a providential opportunity to renew and expand the church structure. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil for his dedicated leadership in inspiring, convincing, and preparing the parishioners to undertake this noble endeavour. Gratitude is also offered to God for His divine guidance throughout this journey. May God abundantly bless Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil and all the faithful parishioners as they work together to complete the construction of this mission church smoothly and at the earliest.

Blessing of the Renovated Amala Maria Mission Church – Railway Gate, Tenkasi Mission: The renovated Amala Maria Mission Church at Railway Gate, Tenkasi Mission, was blessed by me on 31 August 2026, marking a significant and joyful moment in the spiritual journey of the mission community. At present, seven families receive spiritual care and pastoral providence through this Amala Maria Mission Church. Previously, the church was merely a small shed without the basic facilities required for the celebration of Holy Mass and other religious activities. Due to the lack of proper facilities, the Fathers were unable to celebrate Holy Mass there properly. Recognizing the spiritual needs of the faithful, Mrs. Amala Teacher, the donor of the place, generously took the initiative to renovate the church. Through her valuable contribution and commitment, the small shed has now been transformed into a beautiful, pleasant, and suitable place for the celebration of Holy Mass, prayer, and other pious activities. This renovation is a great blessing for the seven families and will certainly strengthen the faith life of the mission community. I sincerely express my deep gratitude to Mrs. Amala Teacher for her generous contribution and wholehearted support in completing the renovation work. Her kindness and dedication to the spiritual welfare of the faithful are deeply appreciated. May God reward her generosity and bless her abundantly. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Sumesh for his dedicated pastoral ministry and for taking sincere and sustained efforts to develop and strengthen the Amala Maria Mission Church. His commitment, initiative, and tireless service have contributed greatly to the growth of this mission community.

Blessing of the Completed Extension of Pulari Matriculation School: The Blessing Ceremony of the completed extension of Pulari Matriculation School was held with great joy and gratitude on Monday, 31 August 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony was presided over by me. The programme commenced with the school assembly, bringing together students, parents, teachers, priests, and well-wishers. Rev. Fr. Dency Mundunadaikal, Correspondent of Pulari Matriculation School, warmly welcomed all the dignitaries and participants and expressed his gratitude for their presence on this significant occasion. The students presented various entertainment and cultural programmes, showcasing their talents and adding colour and joy to the celebration. Following the cultural programmes, I delivered the Presidential Address, appreciating the vision and efforts behind the development of the school and encouraging the students to make good use of the opportunities provided to them. The highlight of the programme was the blessing of the newly constructed extension and the entire school building. The prayer for blessing was conducted, invoking God's abundant blessings upon the institution, its students, teachers, staff, and all those who work for its growth. The newly completed extension, together with the whole school building, was solemnly blessed. A good number of priests were present and participated in the blessing ceremony, making the occasion spiritually meaningful and memorable. Following the blessing, prizes were distributed to the students in recognition

of their achievements in various fields. The students were congratulated and encouraged to continue striving for excellence in academics, sports, arts, cultural activities, and other areas of their talents. I sincerely thank all those who worked tirelessly for the successful completion and blessing of the building, especially Rev. Fr. Dency Mundunadaikal, the Correspondent, for his hard work, commitment, vision, and dedication. His sustained efforts and personal involvement have contributed greatly to the completion of this important project.

INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Forane-Level Seminars for Uraviyam Leaders: Under the direction of the Diocesan Uraviyam Department, half-day retreat and orientation programmes were conducted at the Forane level for Uraviyam animators, leaders, and organizers from each parish. For Kaliyal Forane, the programme was held at Marapady Parish on 09 August 2026, with around 40 leaders in attendance. For Padanthalumoodu Forane, the seminar was held at Padanthalumoodu Forane Parish on 30 August 2026, with approximately 60 leaders participating. I extend my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurackal and the respective Forane Directors for organizing these programmes effectively and with great commitment.

Catechism Promoters' Meeting and Basic Training Classes: A meeting of the Catechism promoters was conducted on 14 August 2026 at the Catechism Office, Kalluvilai. Out of the total 12 promoters, 10 participated in the meeting. During the meeting, various matters concerning the activities of the promoters were discussed. The dates for the promoters' visits to their respective parishes were finalized, and the necessary instructions and guidance regarding the parish visits were provided. During August 2026, two Basic Training classes were conducted at Padanthalumoodu for catechism teachers. On 16 August 2026, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathingal conducted a session on "The Creed." The second session was held on 23 August 2026, during which Rev. Fr. Christudas conducted a session on "The Holy Bible." Both sessions were conducted successfully and provided the participants with valuable knowledge and guidance for their catechetical ministry. With these sessions, the Tenth Batch of the Basic Training Programme was successfully completed. I thank Rev. Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil, Catechism Director, for his dedicated efforts in successfully completing the Basic Training Programme for the tenth batch.

In Memoriam – Mrs. Lilly Chittilapilly: Mrs. Lilly Chittilapilly, aged 85, the beloved sister of Sr. Rose CHF, presently a member of Athencode Convent and serving in Family Apostles, Kalluvilai, slept in the Lord on 09 August 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Rose and her family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant her eternal joy and everlasting peace.

In Memoriam – Dr. K. C. Jose Koyipparampil: Dr. K. C. Jose Koyipparampil, aged 85, the brother-in-law of Sr. Maria Martin CMC, presently a member of Chithenkudiyipu, Kanyakumari Convent, slept in the Lord on 15 August 2026. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Maria Martin CMC and her family members. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant him eternal joy and everlasting peace.

Appointments and Pastoral Arrangements: Rev. Fr. Justin Sudheesh has been appointed as the In Charge of St. James Church, Valiyavilai, Mankarai, with effect from 30 August 2026. Rev. Fr. Jomy Kamukumattathil has been appointed as the Director of SMYM, with effect from 01 September 2026. Rev. Fr. Anilraj will be taking a period of leave for medical treatment and a renewal programme. We sincerely express our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Anilraj for his dedicated and wonderful service. We assure him of our prayers and wish him good health, strength, and a fruitful period of renewal. We also congratulate and prayerfully wish Rev. Fr. Justin Sudheesh and Rev. Fr. Jomy Kamukumattathil God's

abundant blessings as they take up their new responsibilities. May the Lord guide, strengthen, and accompany them in their respective ministries.

In Memoriam – Mr. Jinson Antony Kunnumpuram: Mr. Jinson Antony Kunnumpuram, aged 45, the beloved brother of Rev. Sr. Ancila CMC, slept in the Lord on 30 August 2026. Sr. Ancila CMC previously served at the Lalgudi Clinic and was a member of the Puliyarai Convent and the Asaripallam St. John Paul II Care Centre. At present, she is serving in the Iraq Mission. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Rev. Sr. Ancila CMC and her family. Let us pray that the merciful Lord may grant him eternal joy and everlasting peace.

Eight-Day Fast in Preparation for the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother: From 01 September 2026, we begin the traditional eight-day fast in preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of our Blessed Mother on 08 September. I earnestly request everyone to observe this traditional practice as much as possible, with prayer, fasting, and spiritual preparation, so that we may celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with renewed faith, devotion, and gratitude.

Mission Appeal Program: I will be leaving for the USA on 1 September, and will return on 5 October morning. During this period, I will be visiting our friends and benefactors who generously support the mission and pastoral activities of our Eparchy. During my absence, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General will take care of the ordinary administration of the Eparchy. Kindly approach him for any necessary permissions or pastoral and administrative matters. I earnestly request your prayers for me, for the success of my visit, and especially for our mission. Please be assured of my prayers for each one of you and your ministry.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date		Programme
01 September 2026	-	Eight Days Fast Begins
08 September 2026	-	The Nativity of Our Lady
16 September 2026	-	Priests' Conference

Priests' Conference

Venue: Sangamam, Thuckalay

Date: 16 September 2026

Time: 09.30 am – 01.00 pm

Priests' Annual Retreat 2026

Date: 04 - 09 October 2026

Place: Sangamam, Thuckalay

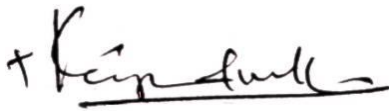
Please prepare spiritually for the retreat and pray for the preacher and its success

CONCLUSION

In August, we came together as fellow workers of the Eparchy to celebrate the feast of St John Maria Vianney. This celebration gave us an opportunity to reflect on our priesthood and to resolve to live it as St John Maria Vianney did, administering the sacraments, especially the sacrament of reconciliation, with greater dedication. Let us make use of occasions such as the feasts of our parishes' patron saints to strengthen the faith of our people. In September, we shall celebrate one of the important feasts of Our Blessed Mother, namely the Nativity of Mother Mary. The celebration of this feast is a wonderful opportunity for us to grow in Marian piety. Let us prepare our people well by encouraging them to keep the 8-day fast with greater earnestness. Let us make the celebration of this feast meaningful in our churches. Kindly keep the mission of the Church and the needs of our Eparchy in your daily prayers.

With my prayers and blessings,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ **George Rajendran SDB**

Bishop of Thuckalay



DIocese of THUCKALAY

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