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Thuckalay Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



FROM FOUNDATION TO FULFILMENT
29 Years of God's Providence
for Thuckalay



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY
BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.
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Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

This year, 2025, marks the centenary of the canonisation of St Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897), whose life and spirituality continue to inspire the pursuit of holiness for countless souls around the world. Although she lived a hidden life behind monastery walls, away from the eyes of the world, her soul was filled with missionary zeal. She never travelled beyond the boundaries of her convent, yet her heart embraced the entire world. Her final words, 'My God, I love You,' perfectly embody the essence of her spirituality—a life of complete love for God expressed through the smallest actions undertaken with the greatest devotion.

The publication of her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, after her death sparked an unprecedented wave of devotion. Countless people reported receiving favours through her intercession, and she quickly became known as the 'Little Flower' who showered roses, graces, and blessings upon those seeking her help. The canonisation of St Thérèse took place on 17 May 1925, marking a historic moment in the life of the Church. The ceremony, held in St Peter's Square, was attended by an estimated 500,000 pilgrims from all corners of the world. Pope Pius XI, in his homily, praised her 'Little Way' as a path of spiritual childhood that was both profoundly simple and sublimely perfect.

In 1927, Pope Pius XI declared St Thérèse, along with St Francis Xavier, as co-patroness of all missions. This unprecedented honour acknowledged that her prayers, sacrifices, and spiritual teachings had contributed just as much to the dissemination of the Gospel as the physical journeys of the great missionary saints. During her lifetime, she adopted two missionary priests as her 'spiritual brothers'—Fr Maurice Bellière, who served in Africa, and Fr Adolphe Roulland, who worked in China. She corresponded with them regularly, encouraging them in their work and offering her sufferings and prayers for the success of their missions and the conversion of souls.

The universal importance of St Thérèse's spiritual teachings was further recognised when Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Church on 19 October 1997. She became only the third woman to receive this title, joining the ranks of the greatest theologians and teachers in Church history. This declaration acknowledged that her 'Little Way' is not merely a pious devotion but a profound theological doctrine with universal significance.

As we mark this centenary year of St Thérèse's canonisation, we recognise her lasting influence in the universal Church and its mission. She became saints by doing small things with extraordinary love. May her example of humble service, complete trust in God's merciful love, and generous response to God's call inspire us and our families! May the Holy Spirit fill young children in our families with missionary zeal and grant courage to respond generously to God's call, following the Little Way that St Thérèse has shown us—a way of love, sacrifice, service, and suffering offered joyfully for the salvation of souls!

With deep gratitude and love we at the diocese of Thuckalay remember and to pray for your special intentions.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



One Faith, One Mission: A Joyous Sangamam at Christurajapuram



The annual Priests and Religious Sangamam of the Diocese was held on 2 October 2025 at Christuraja Church, Christurajapuram. The gathering aimed to foster deeper communion and fraternal interaction among the priests and religious serving across the Diocese. This year's Sangamam was also a moment to offer warm felicitations to those celebrating significant milestones in their vocation. Among the Sisters, Sr. Therese CMC rejoiced in her Golden Jubilee, while Sr. Julit Maria SABS, Sr. Valanarasi SDS, and Sr. Emmanuel HC celebrated their Silver Jubilee of religious profession. The day began at 10.00 a.m. with a solemn concelebrated Holy Qurbana, presided over by the Bishop. Following the Holy Qurbana and a brief tea break, Fr. Printo Kurias animated the gathering with lively action songs and interactive games, setting a tone of joy and fraternity. A public meeting at 12.00 noon honoured the jubilarians for their years of dedicated and selfless service to the Diocese. The event concluded with an agape meal, marking the end of a day filled with gratitude, togetherness, and joy.





Clean Hands, Caring Hearts...

The Thuckalay Central Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society organized its annual one-day cleaning camp, "Deshathodu Orunaal," on Gandhi Jayanti, 2 October 2025, to promote social cleanliness and inspire its members to engage in acts of social charity. This year's camp was held at the Government Health Care Centre, Kulasekharam. The programme began with a welcome address by Mr. Rabi, President of the Central Council, and

was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Varghese Kottoor, Forane Vicar of Kaliyal Forane. The doctors and staff of the Health Centre extended their wholehearted support and cooperation, contributing to the smooth and effective conduct of the event. Nearly 100 members representing various Area Councils and Conferences under the Thuckalay Central Council took part in the cleaning drive with great enthusiasm and dedication.





In the Silence of Grace...

The annual retreat for priests was held at Sangamam from 5 to 10 October 2025. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Jilson Mathew Kakkattupilly VC, whose inspiring reflections and spiritual guidance invited the participants to recognize and appreciate the shared priesthood of Jesus Christ and to deepen their commitment to a holy and dedicated life. Throughout the retreat, Fr. Jilson reflected on several key themes

— the mystical nature of priestly life, holiness, priestly communion, the importance of prayer, and evangelization. His talks offered profound insights that encouraged personal renewal and a stronger sense of fraternity among the priests. A total of 50 priests, along with the Bishop, took part in this grace-filled experience. All who attended returned strengthened in spirit and renewed in their priestly zeal.



Healthy Minds, Stronger Communities...



The Health Commission and AIDACT of the Diocese jointly organized a World Mental Health Day Seminar for special school teachers on 11 October 2025 at the KKSSS Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The seminar, held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., was presided over by Fr. Antony Mahesh, Director of the Health Commission and AIDACT. The chief guest for the event was Rev. Fr. Charles, Director of St. Xavier's Multi-Speciality Hospital, Chunkankadai, who inaugurated the programme. In his address, Fr. Charles emphasized the importance of nurturing mental health among differently-abled children and underscored the vital role of teachers in fostering their confidence and well-being. The resource persons for the

seminar were Dr. Leema Jayakumar, Professor and Consultant in the Department of Neurology at CSI Hospital, Karakonam, and Rev. Dr. Joseph Santhosh, Professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Poonamallee, Chennai. Dr. Leema Jayakumar spoke on "Neuropsychological Approach in Caring for Differently-Abled Children," while Rev. Dr. Joseph Santhosh addressed "Finding Meaning in Life through the Care for Others." Both sessions were lively, insightful, and interactive, with active participation from the teachers. The questions raised were answered with clarity and depth by the resource persons, making the day both enriching and inspiring.

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:
Fr. Liju Marattukalam
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

Together in Faith and Service...



A gathering of priests and religious serving in the Tenkasi Mission was held on 18 October 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at the FCC Convent, Kesavapuram. The meeting was presided over by the Bishop, and around 30 missionaries, including priests and religious, participated in the event. The programme began with a time of Eucharistic Adoration, led by Rev. Fr. Relin Jose MCBS, which created a prayerful atmosphere of unity and reflection. This was followed by the meeting, during which discussions were held on the activities of

various departments and pious associations. The missionary significance and pastoral initiatives of the Diocese in the Tenkasi region were also reviewed and highlighted. In his address, the Bishop emphasized the importance of evangelization, mission outreach, social service, and the proclamation of the Word of God within the specific pastoral context of the Tenkasi Mission. The gathering concluded with an Agape meal, fostering a spirit of fellowship and joy among the participants.



Marian Devotion in Motion...

A Rosary Procession was held in the Tenkasi Mission on 19 October 2025. The entire mission community gathered at Little Flower Church, Puliyarai, at 3:30 p.m., and from there, the faithful moved in procession, prayerfully reciting the Rosary, towards Pulari Matriculation School, Pudur. Nearly 200 faithful, including priests, sisters, and MCBS brothers serving in the Tenkasi Mission, participated in the devotion-filled procession. The devotees reached the Pudur campus by 5:30 p.m., where the concluding ceremony was held. The Bishop participated in the entire event and, in his concluding address, emphasized the role of Mother Mary in Christian life as a model of faith and discipleship. Fr. John Joseph delivered the message of the day, inspiring the participants to deepen their Marian devotion and live out their faith more profoundly. The programme concluded at 7:00 p.m. with an Agape meal, fostering fellowship, joy, and unity among all present.



Strengthening Mission Bonds...



An Extended Territory Mission Gathering was held on 21 October 2025 at St. Joseph's Mission, Rameswaram. A total of 15 participants, including 7 Fathers and 8 Sisters, took part in the meeting. The programme began with a concelebrated Holy Qurbana presided over by Fr. Thomas Kanjirakkatt, setting a prayerful tone for the day. This was followed by the public meeting, presided over by Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, the Procurator. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil extended a warm welcome to all present, and Fr.

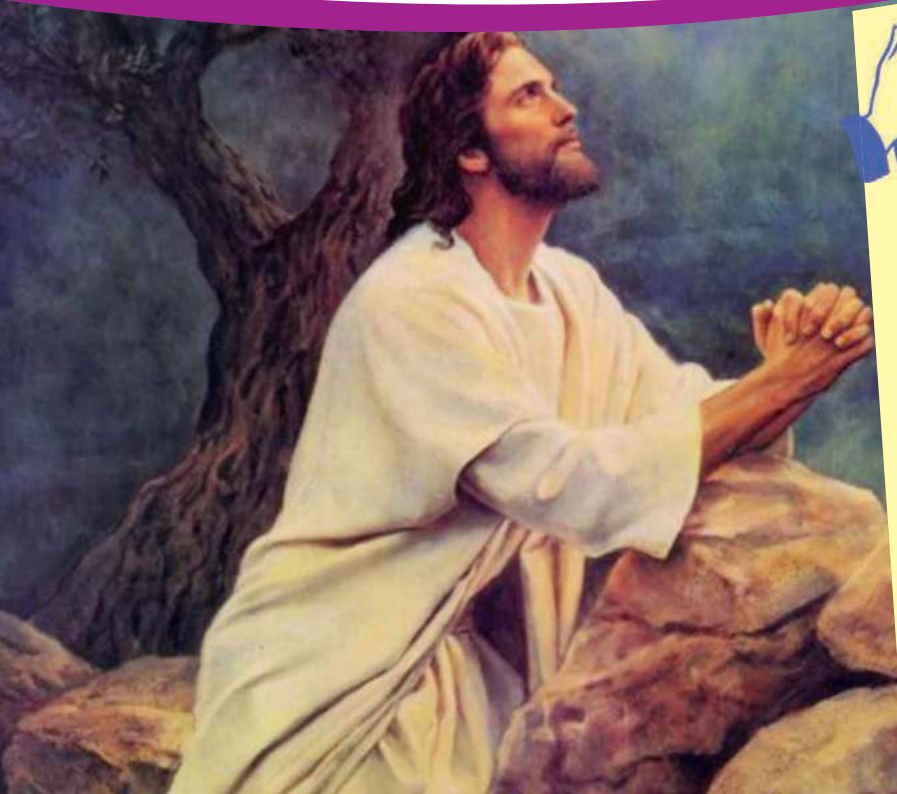
Jebanesh, the Secretary, presented the report of activities. During the discussions, participants shared their missionary experiences and reflected on the current challenges faced in the various mission areas. Several valuable suggestions emerged from the meeting, including the inclusion of a special prayer in the Karosoosa for missions during the celebration of Holy Qurbana in mission stations, the establishment of pious associations in mission parishes, and the organization of a pilgrimage to Mylapore.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace...

Each year, under the leadership of the Legion of Mary (Mariyayin Senai), the Diocese organizes a solemn Rosary Procession. This year's procession was held in conjunction with the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the establishment of the Mariyayin Senai Comitium in the Diocese. The event took place on 26 October 2025, beginning from Little Flower Forane Church, Manjalumoodu, and concluding at the Holy Cross Pilgrim Church, Malaicode. The procession was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Vicar General of the Diocese, while Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil, Forane Vicar of Manjalumoodu, offered a felicitation message on St. Mary. More than one thousand faithful, including priests, sisters, and lay members, participated in the procession, prayerfully reciting the Holy Rosary throughout the journey. At the concluding




gathering held at Malaicode Parish, the Bishop presided over the meeting, with Mr. Eugene from the Diocese of Kottar serving as the chief guest. As part of the Silver Jubilee inauguration, the Jubilee Prayer was recited in unison, and the Bishop blessed seven statues of Mother Mary, which were entrusted to the various curiae to be taken in procession while praying the Rosary in their respective parishes. The entire programme concluded at 4:00 p.m. with an Agape meal shared by all the participants.



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

Tiny Feet, Great Faith...

In connection with the Christ Jubilee Year and the Month of the Holy Rosary, the KII (Jesus Kids), organized a special programme encouraging children to visit the Pilgrim Churches of our Diocese during the month of October. The initiative aimed to nurture in children a deeper love for Jesus and devotion to Mother Mary, while also helping them to experience the spiritual richness of the Church's sacred places. Accompanied by their parish priests, animator sisters, and teachers, the children joyfully visited the various Pilgrim Centres across the Diocese. At each site, they spent time in prayer, reciting the Holy Rosary, and offering their intentions for the Church, their families, and the world. The visits became beautiful moments of faith formation, allowing the young participants to grow in reverence, gratitude, and missionary zeal. Their enthusiasm and innocence brought great joy to the communities they visited, reminding all of the childlike faith that is so precious in the eyes of God.





Caring Beyond Boundaries...

A free medical camp was jointly organized by the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) and St. James Church, Mankari, on 5 October 2025, in collaboration with Mookambika Medical College, Kulasekharam. The camp aimed to provide accessible healthcare services to the rural community.

A medical team comprising six doctors and twelve staff members from the medical college actively participated in the programme. Departments such as General Medicine, Dental, and Ophthalmology rendered their services, offering dental check-ups, eye examinations, ECGs, and general health consultations. A total of 89 patients from the Mankari region benefited from the free medical camp, receiving treatment, guidance, and follow-up advice from the medical professionals.

The programme was presided over and blessed by Rev. Fr. Toji, Parish Priest of St. James Church, Mankari. Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony, Director of KKSSS, visited the camp and appreciated the collaborative effort of the parish and medical team. The camp concluded successfully, fostering community well-being and reflecting the continued commitment of KKSSS and St. James Church toward promoting health awareness and social service in the region.

Family Bond through Digital Balance...

The CTWWC team conducted a series of awareness campaigns from 10 to 22 October 2025 in seven villages — Palugal, Mankarai, Manjalumoodu, Munchirai, Marapady, Cheivilai, and Mathapuram — facilitated by Ms. Suji Laxmi and Ms. Rasmitha with the support of KKSSS SHG Animators. Around 250 SHG members participated in the sessions.

The campaign focused on strengthening family relationships and addressing the issue of mobile phone addiction among children. The facilitators emphasized parental guidance, responsible phone use, and family values such as love, understanding, and mutual respect. Participants were educated about the harmful effects of excessive screen time and were encouraged to adopt healthy digital habits.

The program was well-received and inspired families to balance technology use while nurturing stronger emotional bonds — aligning with CTWWC's vision of building caring and resilient families.



Dreams Take Flight...

The Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) conducted the selection programme for the new Educare students (Sixth Batch) on 30 September 2025 at the KKSSS Campus. A total of 38 students and 35 parents participated, along with KKSSS staff, the Educare Coordinator, and senior Educare students.

The programme began with a prayer song, followed by a welcome address and an inspiring message by Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony, Director of KKSSS, who explained the vision and achievements of the Educare scheme. Former Educare student Ms. Jeni shared her success story, motivating the new students. Rev. Sr. Selva Mary, Educare Coordinator, outlined the programme's rules and expectations.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, a tea break, and the completion of application formalities. The day ended on a note of joy and hope, as students and parents looked forward to a new beginning with Educare, continuing KKSSS's mission of empowering youth through education and holistic formation.



Together for Wellness...

A free medical camp was organized on 12 October 2025 at Varuthattu by the Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) in collaboration with St. Xavier's Church, Varuthattu. The programme was presided over and blessed by Rev. Fr. Shijo, Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church. Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony, Director of KKSSS, visited the camp and encouraged the team for their dedicated service to society, especially their care for the poor and marginalized.

The medical services were provided by a dedicated team from St. Xavier's Multi-Speciality Hospital, Chunkankadai, consisting of two doctors and twelve medical staff members. Special consultations were offered in Gynecology and General Medicine, along with free medicines, blood sugar tests, and eye check-ups for all participants.



A total of 148 patients from the Varuthattu region benefited from the camp, receiving valuable medical guidance and treatment. The entire programme was well-coordinated by Mrs. Bai, KKSSS Animator, who ensured excellent arrangements. The camp was a great success, reflecting the continued commitment of KKSSS and St. Xavier's Church to promote the health and well-being of the rural community.

Shining in Service...



Sr. Tessa SABS, Principal of APJM Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Soosaipuram, has been honoured with the Best Principal Award by the Indian Talent Olympiad. The award was presented by Dr. Kiran Bedi and Ms. Saina Nehwal during a prestigious ceremony held on November 5, 2025, in Mumbai.

This recognition celebrates Sr. Tessa's exceptional leadership, dedication, and

commitment to fostering academic excellence and holistic education. Her tireless efforts have inspired both staff and students to strive for greater achievements. Heartfelt congratulations to Sr. Tessa SABS on this well-deserved recognition that brings pride and joy to the entire diocesan educational community.



Rev. Fr Jacob Vellaringatt
Former Missionary of Thuckalay

We Remember...



Mrs Annakutty Scaria
Mother of Sr. Ann Grace CMC



THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



A Season of Prayer for Souls in God's Embrace

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