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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

Thuckalaya Tidings



**A Child is Born
OUR SAVIOUR**





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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

December 2025 | Vol. 5 | Issue 12

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings of peace and joy in the Lord!

As we stand at the season of Annunciation and preparing ourselves for the mystery of incarnation I write to you with a heart filled with gratitude for your prayers and support to the Diocese of Thuckalay. The year 2025 draws to a close, the Diocese of Thuckalay wishes to express its deepest thanks and gratitude to all of you dear benefactors and cherished friends for your constant support, both financial and through your prayers that has been a true blessing. Every activity undertaken within the diocese this year -from our charitable works to our spiritual programs- was made possible because of your kindness and commitment. We are grateful for your support in our mission and pray that God blesses you abundantly for your goodness.

Christmas should ignite within us a profound sense of wonder and gratitude for our Christian vocation. Reflect on the mystery: the Eternal Word, through whom all things were created, became flesh and dwelt among us. He who holds the universe in his hands allowed himself to be embraced by a young mother. He whom angels serve became the servant of all. This exemplifies the pattern of family life-radical humility, complete self-gift, a descent into the human condition to elevate humanity to God.

As we celebrate the glorious mystery of Christmas, our hearts are focused on the manger in Bethlehem. we must journey with the Magi, those wise men from the East, whose story culminates in a powerful moment captured in Mt. 2:12: *"and having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another way."* The journey of the Magi was marked by three essential missions, which should also be our own:

The Mission of seeking and journeying: The Magi were not complacent; they saw a star and recognized its divine significance. They were willing to leave the comfort of their homes and undertake a difficult, risky journey based on faith. This calls us to be intentional seekers of Christ within our families. It means finding out time for family prayer, fostering virtues, and prioritising moments that lead us to encounter God together, moving away from the "Herods" of our modern life, the distractions and self-centeredness, that seek to kill the spirit of Christ.

The Mission of adoration and offering: Upon finding the Christ Child, they did not just offer a casual respect; they fell down and worshiped him and offered their most precious gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were not leftovers; they were tokens of royalty, divinity, and sacrifice. In Our Families what are the most precious gifts we are offering to our loved ones and to God? Is it our time (gold), our sincere prayers (frankincense), or our patient endurance of hardship (myrrh)? True adoration begins in the family, making our homes a sanctuary where Christ is truly acknowledged as King.

The Mission of "going by another way" (Mat 2:12): This is the climax. Having encountered Christ, the Magi could not go back to Herod. Their encounter necessitated a change of direction. They returned to their country, but they were not the same men who left. In Our Families When we truly encounter Christ at Christmas, we must resolve to go home "by another way." This means leaving behind old habits of impatience, unforgiveness, and selfishness. It means dedicating 2026 to a new way of loving, communicating, and sacrificing for one another, creating a truly Christ-centered family.

Dear Friends, as we journey towards Christmas, may we walk with Mary and Joseph towards Bethlehem, fasting from everything that hinders our pilgrimage, longing for the Lord's coming with pure hearts so that when we celebrate Christmas, may we rediscover the joy and humility in our families at the manger of the Infant King.

Wishing you and everyone in the family Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2026.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay



A Joyful Yes to the Lord

On 08 November 2025, at Providence Home, Perumchilambu, Sr. Mary Tessa, a novice of the Little Servants of Divine Providence (LSDP), Kunnamthanam, joyfully received her religious habit and made her First Profession. The solemn liturgical celebration, presided over by His Excellency, began at 10:00 AM. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Parish Priest of St. Thomas Mission Parish, Perumchilambu, welcomed the gathering. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam and Rev. Fr. Ajeesh Attiyil concelebrated the Holy Qurbana. Following the liturgy, a brief

felicitation programme was held during which Rev. Fr. Mathew Arekalam CMI, representing CRI, offered his felicitations. A parishioner from Karode, her home parish, also congratulated the newly professed Sister. Sr. Mary Tessa expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all who supported her on this blessed occasion. We extend our warm congratulations to her and pray that she may continue to radiate the values of her vocation throughout her religious journey.





Marching for Mission with Joy



The CML Mission Rally 2025 was held on 16 November 2025, beginning from CSI Church, Karungal and concluding at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Soosaipuram. The rally was flagged off at 2:00 PM by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General. His Excellency participated in the rally from start to finish, encouraging the young missionaries throughout the event. Children from each forane marched in a disciplined and orderly manner behind their respective banners and flex boards. The rally culminated with a public meeting on the Soosaipuram Church campus, during which His Excellency addressed all the CML missionaries, offering them words of inspiration and guidance. CML members from every parish, along with priests, sisters, teachers, and parents, took part in the rally, making it a vibrant and faith-filled event. Prizes were awarded for the best plot and for active participation.



Little Hands, Big Imagination



The Children's Day and 'Varnam' Competitions were joyfully celebrated on 15 November 2025 at KKSSS, Kalluvilai. This year's event saw the enthusiastic participation of 178 children, including those from SHG families, Educare students, and SAFP beneficiary children, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Mahesh Antony. The programme commenced with a prayer song rendered by the children of the Manjalimoodu SHG. The event was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Vicar General, in the presence of Fr. Mahesh Antony, Director of KKSSS, through the

lighting of the lamp. A variety of competitions—drawing, colouring, and fancy dress—provided a vibrant platform for the children to express their creativity and confidence. During the valedictory session, Mrs. Sakeela Banu, Child Protection Officer of Kanyakumari, addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of child safety. Prizes were distributed to the winners, and all participants received gifts as a token of encouragement. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.





A Sacred Beginning for a Healing Mission

A significant milestone in the mission at Rameswaram was marked with the blessing of the new LSDP Convent and Providence Home at Vedalai, Rameswaram, on 22 November 2025. The initiative began when Rev. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil, one of the great missionaries of our diocese, generously donated 1.25 acres of land to the LSDP Congregation on 27 July 2024, envisioning a Providence Home for persons with multiple disabilities and a centre for family apostolate in the mission region. With episcopal permission, the foundation stone for the new building was laid on 25 February 2025, and under the dedicated supervision of Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil, the construction was swiftly completed. At 3:00 PM, His Excellency blessed the chapel and celebrated the Holy Qurbana. Later, at 5:00 PM, the Providence Home was solemnly blessed by Rt. Rev. Dr. Lourde Anandam, Bishop of Sivagangai, in the presence of numerous priests, religious sisters, villagers, and guests from within and beyond the diocese. Representatives from the curia and missionaries from extended mission territories also graced the occasion. A public meeting followed, during which Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil warmly welcomed the assembly. In his felicitation, Bishop Lourde Anandam assured the full support of the Diocese of Sivagangai for the charitable works undertaken by the LSDP Sisters and our diocese in Rameswaram. In the presidential address, His

Excellency highlighted the unique charism of the LSDP Sisters, especially their compassionate ministry to persons with multiple disabilities.

The programme was further enriched with cultural performances by differently abled children and by children from neighbouring villages of Vedalai. An agape meal was served to all, and nearly 250 people from the surrounding villages participated in the celebration.



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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Contact Mission Procure:

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



Saints in the Making...

In anticipation of the Feast of Christ the King celebrated on 23 November 2025, the KII units across the diocese organized a special Fancy Dress Task at the parish level throughout the month of November. The initiative aimed to deepen the faith of children by helping them learn about and imitate the lives of the saints.

Children came dressed in the attire of various saints—ranging from early martyrs to

modern-day missionaries—and participated in the Holy Qurbana in their saintly costumes. Their enthusiastic presence added a unique spirit of devotion and joy to the liturgy, inspiring the faithful and bringing the lives of the saints closer to the community. Catechists, parents, and parish leaders encouraged and guided the children in preparing for this meaningful activity.





Deliberations for the Good of the Diocese

The Fourth General Body Meeting of the 2nd Presbyteral Council was convened on 24 November 2025 at Sangamam, beginning at 10:15 a.m. Of the 17 members, 14 were present for the session. The meeting focused on offering reflections and recommendations to His Excellency concerning three key agenda items:

Ongoing formation of priests, Creation and strengthening of a diocesan resource team, and

Allowance for priests. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Secretary of the Council, presented the agenda and encouraged the members to engage in open and meaningful discussion. The members participated actively, offering several valuable and insightful suggestions aimed at the spiritual, pastoral, and administrative strengthening of the diocese.





Serving Truth and Justice Through Law



The Diocesan Legal Cell, situated near the Court Complex, Kuzhithurai, was solemnly blessed by His Excellency the Bishop. The initiative aims to provide legal guidance and support, especially to the poor and the marginalized, and to assist the diocese in legal matters. Adv. Fr. Printo Kurias has been appointed as the Director of the Legal Cell, which will function as a resource centre for legal awareness, assistance, and justice-oriented services. The blessing ceremony was attended by priests and well-wishers, marking an important step in strengthening the Church's commitment to justice and social responsibility.





Rejoicing in 29 Years of God's Providence

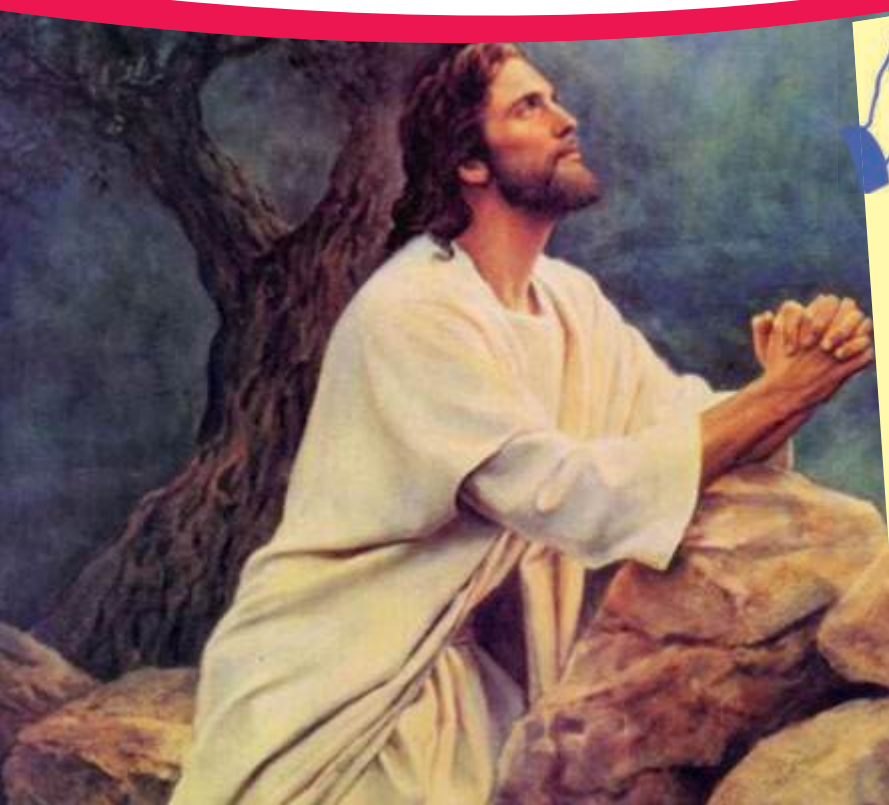
In commemoration of the Diocesan Foundation Day on 11 November, the 29th Diocesan Day of the Diocese was joyfully celebrated on Sunday, 09 November 2025. For the second time in the history of the Diocese, the celebrations were held at the parish level, enabling the active participation of the entire faithful across all parishes.

As a spiritual preparation for the Diocesan Day, an hour of Eucharistic Adoration was observed on 07 November 2025 in all parishes and convents. This initiative greatly contributed to the spiritual renewal and unity of the faithful.

On Diocesan Day, every parish marked the occasion with the solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana. Prior to the Qurbana, a special introduction highlighted the significance of the day, followed by a symbolic offertory procession. Representatives lit the lamp, and special prayers were included during the Karosoosa. A pastoral circular letter, prepared by His Excellency highlighting the major events and developments of the Diocese over the past year, was read after the homily.

The Holy Qurbana was followed by a public meeting, during which the Diocesan Annual Report, prepared by the Chancellor, Fr. Joshy


Kulathumkal, was presented either in audio/video format or read aloud. Adding to the festive spirit, students presented cultural programmes centred on the theme, "Celebrate Christ and Celebrate Faith through the Diocese." Each parish concluded the celebration by providing meals or refreshments according to local convenience.



NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

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Place:

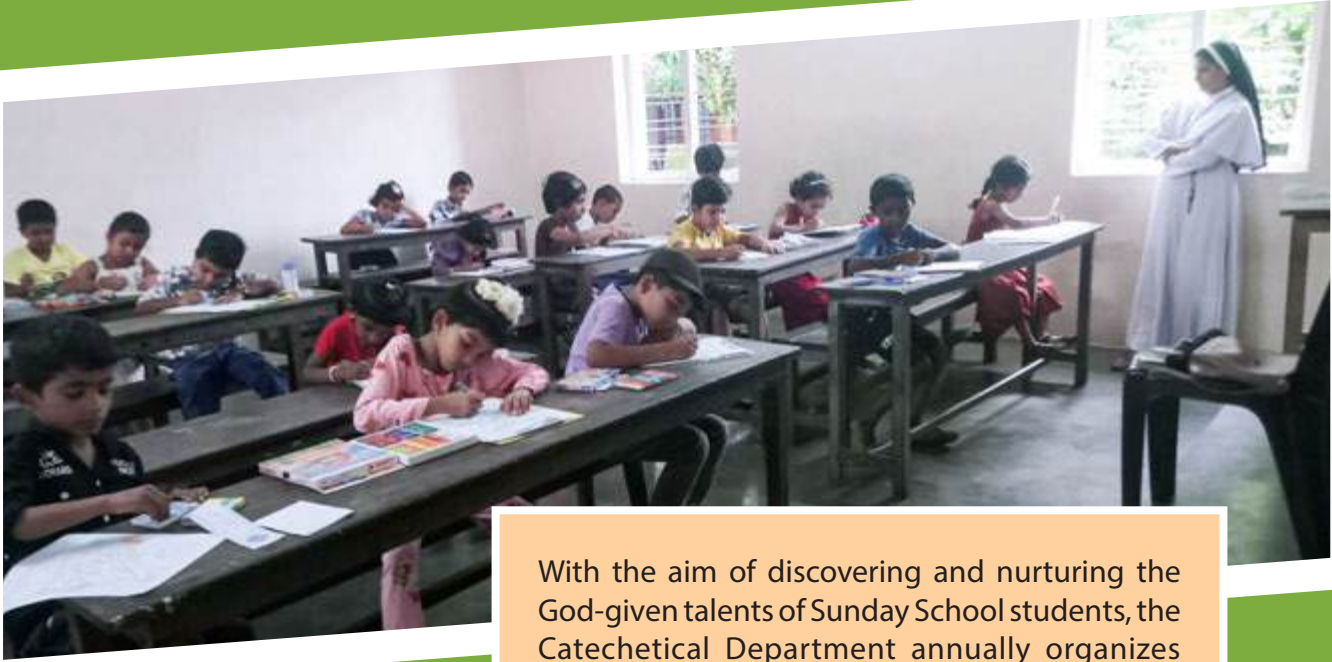
Intentions:

In detail you wish to express,

 : bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

Bible Fest

Talents in Ink and Imagination



With the aim of discovering and nurturing the God-given talents of Sunday School students, the Catechetical Department annually organizes writing competitions as part of its formative programme. Accordingly, the Diocesan-level Bible Fest Writing Competition was conducted on 23 November 2025 at the Padanthalumoodu Forane Church campus. Participants for the diocesan-level event were the first- and second-place winners from the respective forane-level writing competitions. The competitions included colouring, pencil drawing, essay writing, and poetry writing, offering students a wide platform to express their creativity and faith. A total of 168 students enthusiastically took part in the competition, making the event vibrant and enriching.





Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life

KKSSS organized an awareness programme on a drug-free generation, aiming to educate and sensitize young people and families about the dangers of substance abuse. The programme was led by Rev. Fr. Mahesh, Director of KKSSS, along with Sr. Josephine CTC, who handled the awareness sessions. Through interactive classes and practical guidance, the speakers highlighted the harmful effects of drugs on individuals, families, and society, while motivating the participants to choose a healthy and value-based lifestyle. The programme encouraged children and youth to become responsible citizens and ambassadors of a drug-free future.

The initiative was well received and contributed meaningfully to promoting awareness and prevention within the community.





Celebrating Scripture, Celebrating Talent

The Bible Fest Cultural Competition of the Tenkasi Mission was successfully conducted on 30 November 2025 at Pulari Matriculation School, Pudur. A total of 57 students enthusiastically participated in the various competitions, showcasing their talents and biblical knowledge. The programme was organized under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Amanto Edakkoottathil, Catechetical Director of the Tenkasi Mission. A supportive team from Narcheithi Nilayam was present on-site and contributed significantly to the smooth conduct and success of the event.



In Memoriam

Adv. Justinar



It is with profound sorrow that the diocese received the sad news of the demise of Adv. Justinar (95) of Nagercoil Parish, who was called to his eternal reward on 19 November 2025. A faithful Syro-Malabar Catholic, he served the diocese with great dedication as one of its official advocates, handling diocesan legal matters with integrity, commitment, and deep ecclesial loyalty. Adv. Justinar took immense pride in his identity as a Syro-Malabar Catholic of the Diocese of Thuckalay and rendered his services with unwavering zeal and responsibility. His life was a testimony to faith, professionalism, and service to the Church.

A Faithful Shepherd Called Home...



Fr. Mathew Cheruthannickal, of the Diocese of Kanjirappally was called to eternal reward on 22 November 2025. Fr. Cheruthannickal served in our Diocese from 1973 to 1980 as the Parish Priest of Holy Family Forane Church, Arukani. The present Arukani Church was constructed during his period. The Funeral Liturgy was held on Monday, 24 November 2025, at 1.30 pm at the house in Erattayar, followed by the final rites at 2.00 pm at St. George Forane Church, Kattappana. A group of parishioners and religious sisters from Arukani Parish attended the funeral service. Let us thank God for his service in our diocese and pray that the Risen Lord may grant him eternal joy.

In Memory of a Life Well Lived



Mr. Cheriyan Joseph (86)
brother of Sr. Agnetta CMC



Mrs. Rachel Aaron (90)
Grandmother of Fr. Abilash Xavier



THUCKALAY
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