

SEPTEMBER 2025

VOL. 5 | ISSUE 9

Thuckalay Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



**THIRTEEN YEARS OF
GRACE AND GRATITUDE**



Published by:
THUCKALAY MISSION
Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

September 2025 | Vol. 5 | Issue 9

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

On 29 September we observe the World Heart Day, as we focus on the health of the organ that first forms within us, let us also consider its spiritual significance. The **heart**, a gift from creation, is more than just a biological pump; it is the core of our being, intricately connected to our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. It is a powerful force, often considered to hold a greater strength than the mind itself.

The Bible frequently speaks of the heart not just as a physical organ, but as the seat of our emotions, will, and spiritual life. It is where our faith resides and where we connect with the divine. The health of our spiritual heart is just as important as the health of our physical one.

A heart that is at peace is a heart of great inner strength. In our chaotic world, this peace is not easily found, but it is the highest spiritual practice we can seek. A truly spiritual person's most important task is to free their mind and heart, allowing them to rest in a state of tranquility. When our hearts are filled with peace, we gain a power that can withstand life's challenges.

The Bible reassures us of this connection between faith and peace. The psalmist writes, "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation." (Psalm 13:5). This verse reminds us that a heart that

trusts in God's love will be set free. It is a heart that will rejoice in salvation, not be weighed down by fear or anxiety. Conversely, a heart that does not listen to the divine voice can become hardened, as stated in Acts 28:26, a state where our spiritual and emotional senses become dull.

The joy of our heart is directly linked to our spiritual health. A heart filled with praise and gratitude radiates a joy that enlivens our entire being. "Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure." (Ps 16:9). This passage highlights how a joyful heart brings security and well-being to our physical bodies.

Let us be like those who seek the Lord, as their hearts will rejoice (Ps 105:3). Our trust in the divine can make our hearts steadfast and committed, as we read in Psalm 112:7, "Because they trust in the Lord, their hearts will be steadfast." This steadfastness is the spiritual foundation that supports us through every challenge.

Dear friends, on this World Heart Day, let us commit to nurturing both the physical and spiritual health of our hearts. Let us pay attention to every heartbeat, recognizing it as a gift that allows us to pursue both earthly and heavenly riches. May our hearts be filled with peace, trust, and joy, making them strong and free. I take this occasion to thank all of you for your love and generosity towards the Diocese of Thuckalay. In turn, we are keeping your intentions in our daily prayers. May the grace of God be with you always and in all your endeavors.

Yours in Christ,



+ George Rajendran sdb
Bishop of Thuckalay



A New Church for **Sundarapandiyapuram Mission Centre**

The new church at **Sundarapandiyapuram Mission Centre**, a milestone in the spiritual journey of the local community. The ceremony, marked by prayerful participation and heartfelt devotion, was presided over and blessed by the Bishop himself. Sundarapandiyapuram Mission had long awaited a proper place of worship, and the realization of this new church was the fruit of years of faith, sacrifice, and collaboration by the faithful. The church now stands as a visible sign of God's grace and the growing vitality of the mission.





Nurturing Young Talents in Faith and Culture

The successful conduct of the **24th St. Alphonsa Academy for Excellence Cultural Competitions** on 9 August 2025 at St. Alphonsa Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil. More than 2,000 students from 80 schools and 15 colleges in Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli districts had gathered to showcase their skills. Competitions in elocution, quiz, essay writing, solo singing, drawing, and dance created

an atmosphere of youthful vibrancy and healthy competition.

The Bishop inaugurated the event, while Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil served as the chief guest. Later, the Academy Award Day was held on 23 August, presided over by Dr. N. Ayyappan, Principal of S.T. Hindu College, who distributed the prizes.





Catechetical Annual Day A Festival of Faith at Kalluvilai



The **Catechetical Annual Day and Christ Jubilee 2025 of Catechesis**, held on 10 August 2025 at the Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The event was enriched by colourful cultural performances from students representing various parishes, which gave the gathering a festive and inspiring atmosphere.

The Bishop presided over the event, with Rev. Fr. Sathish Kumar Joy of the Diocese of Kottar as chief guest. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil distributed the Mission Quest prizes. The Bishop had the joy of felicitating jubilarians who completed 25, 40, and 50 years of faithful catechetical service and awarding trophies to the best Sunday Schools.





Training for Healing Communities

The Bishop reported on the **Training of Trainers Programme** organized by the TNBC Health Commission on 12–13 August 2025 in Trichy. The programme brought together 120 participants, with seven representatives from the Diocese of Thuckalay. The focus was on the pressing theme "*Addiction among Children and Youth Today*." Eminent resource persons offered insightful sessions, equipping participants to become trainers in their own communities and to foster resilience and wellness.



You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminararian 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,
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+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



Remembering

Venerable Mar Thomas Kurialacherry

The **Eucharistic Convention and Centenary Death Anniversary of Venerable Mar Thomas Kurialacherry** took place at Soosaipuram on 16 August 2025. The day began with Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, followed by the Solemn Holy Qurbana, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal with concelebrants Fr. Geo Choozhikunnel and Fr. Lijo Thekkel.

In the afternoon, the Bishop presided over the public meeting, with Rev. Sr. Emily Theketheruvil SABS as chief guest. Felicitations were offered by religious and lay representatives. The highlight was a well-prepared drama on the life of Mar Kurialacherry, along with cultural programmes by parish communities.





Youthful Energy on the Cricket Ground

The **SMYM Cricket Tournament** organized by St. James Church, Mankarai, on 16–17 August 2025 at the St. Alphonsa College ground, Soosaipuram was a wonderful event. Sixteen teams, including a team of priests, played with passion and fraternity. The Bishop himself visited the ground, encouraging the players and appreciating their sportsmanship. Mankarai Parish emerged as champions, with Thettivilai Parish as runners-up.





Awareness for a Better Tomorrow

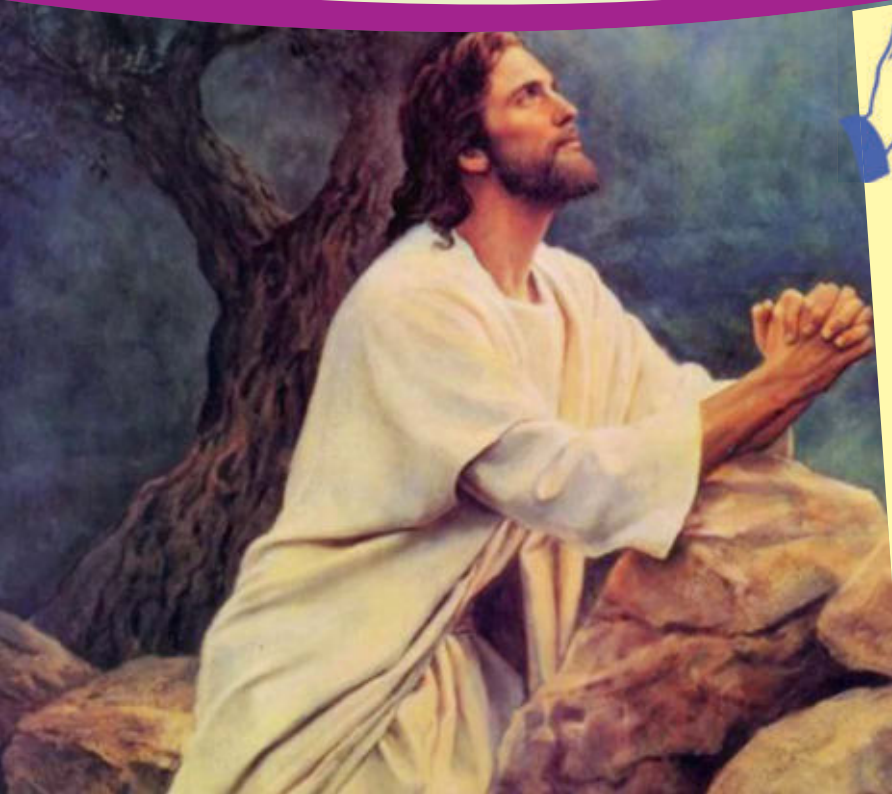
On 16 August 2025, KKSSS organized a **seminar on Organ Donation** at Kalluvilai, with speakers including Fr. Peter, a kidney donor, and Mrs. Maruthammal of Aravind Eye Bank, Tirunelveli. More than 100 participants learned how volunteering for organ donation could save lives. On 17 August 2025, the Diocesan Health Commission conducted a **seminar on Addiction among Students** at Mathrujyothis office, Kalluvilai. Rev. Dr. Christine spoke powerfully on the dangers of addiction affecting children. Over 150 mothers benefitted from the session.



Synod Decisions: A Milestone for the Syro-Malabar Church



The Bishop reported on the **XXXIII Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church** held at Kakkanad from 18–29 August 2025. The Synod marked a historic moment, with the appointment of two new bishops—Rev. Fr. James Patteril CMF as Bishop of Belthangady and Rev. Fr. Joseph Thachaparambath CMI as Bishop of Adilabad—and the establishment of four new ecclesiastical provinces.



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

Forming Faith Educators



The **Basic Training for Catechism Teachers (BTCT)**, 8th batch, held at Padanthalumoodu and concluded on 31 August 2025. Among the 27 participants, 19 successfully received certificates. The Bishop recalled that he had personally visited the trainees during the inaugural session and encouraged them. He congratulated the participants and thanked the resource persons for imparting valuable formation to catechists, who play a vital role in handing on the faith

Obituary



Mrs. Theyyamma Joseph (73),
Elder sister of Sr. Elsy Mathew CMC



Sr. Barthamma FCC (78),
Elder sister of Sr. Josmy FCC and Sr. Pavana FCC

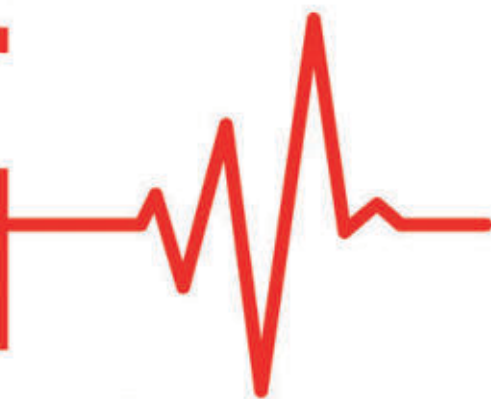


Mr. C. J. Chacko (87)
Elder brother of Sr. Zeliguirine CMC



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WORLD HEART DAY



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