



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

Ref. No. Priests/GR/175/2025

31 October 2025

Dear Rev. Fathers,

Greetings and Prayerful wishes from 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 on our Syro-Malabar Church, particularly through the Cherupushpam Mission League, which bears her name and draws deep inspiration from her missionary zeal and spiritual teachings.

The Cherupushpam Mission League (CML) was founded on 3 October 1947 as a lay initiative to inspire missionary zeal among church members, especially children and youth. Its founding date was particularly meaningful and divinely appointed. After India gained independence, foreign missionaries had to leave the

country, creating an urgent need to cultivate local vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In response to this critical period, the Mission League was established, not merely as an organisational effort, but as a Spirit-inspired movement to ensure the ongoing growth of the Church's mission in India through native vocations.

CML was founded through the shared vision and dedication of two remarkable individuals whose names deserve recognition. P.C. Abraham Pallattukunnel, affectionately known as 'Kunjettan' or 'Little Brother,' brought exceptional enthusiasm, organisational skill, and a deep love for souls to this mission. Working alongside him was Rev. Fr Joseph Maliparampil, who was then serving as Assistant Parish Priest at St Mary's Church, Bharananganam. Fr Maliparampil provided vital priestly guidance, spiritual direction, and ecclesiastical wisdom to the emerging movement. Together, these two visionaries established an organisation that would inspire young hearts with missionary fervour and prepare generations of children and youth for lives of service to the Church and the world.

From its inception, the Mission League was placed under the patronage of St Thérèse of Lisieux, taking its name 'Cherupushpam' (Little Flower) from her title. This choice was deliberate and purposeful. The founders recognised that St Thérèse's spirituality—her 'Little Way' of doing small things with great love, her missionary zeal despite never leaving her convent, and her confidence in God's merciful love—provided the perfect spiritual foundation for an organisation aimed at inspiring young missionaries. Along with St Thérèse as the main patron, the Mission League honours three co-patrons: St Thomas the Apostle, who brought Christianity to India; St Francis Xavier, the great missionary to the East; and St Alphonsa, India's first canonised saint.

The Mission League's motto, 'Love, Sacrifice, Service, Suffering,' reflects the core of Christian discipleship and missionary life, drawing directly from the example of St Thérèse and the Gospel itself. Love underpins all missionary efforts, demonstrating God's limitless love for humanity and our response to that love. Sacrifice calls members to give of themselves generously, denying themselves and taking up their cross daily to follow Christ. Service turns faith into tangible actions for the good of others. Suffering, when embraced in union with Christ's redemptive passion, becomes a powerful means of spiritual growth and participation in Christ's salvific work.

CML aims to nurture a missionary spirit among the faithful, helping them realise that evangelisation is not only the duty of priests and religious but of every baptised individual. It seeks to support missionaries through prayer and material aid, creating a network of spiritual and practical solidarity. Most importantly, it encourages vocations to the priesthood and religious life, recognising that the Church's mission relies on committed workers who dedicate their lives to serving the Gospel.

The Mission League's remarkable effectiveness led to its formal recognition at various levels of Church authority. On 6 April 1977, the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council officially recognised the Cherupushpam Mission League. This was followed in 1981 by recognition from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. In 1990, the KCBC included it in the Commission for Church's Extension and Vocation. Finally, in 2016, the organisation was brought under the direct administration of the Syro-Malabar Bishops' Council.

The Mission League organises a variety of activities focused on nurturing faith and missionary enthusiasm among its members. Monthly gatherings feature field trips, games, and fellowship, creating a lively community where faith and friendship flourish. Fundraising events such as bake sales and craft sales teach members the joy of supporting missionary work through their own efforts. Religious presentations and video screenings about the lives of saints motivate members with examples of heroic virtue. Special Lenten retreats provide occasions for deeper spiritual reflection and prayer. Mission Sunday programmes raise

awareness of global missionary needs. Active involvement in Church celebrations helps members deepen their understanding and love of the sacred liturgy. Charitable activities turn faith into practical action, enabling members to see and serve Christ in the poor, the sick, and the marginalised.

Today, the Cherupushpam Mission League is recognised as an important lay missionary organisation in Asia. It remains actively involved in Syro-Malabar parishes worldwide—spanning from India to the United States, and from Europe to Australia. Most importantly, throughout its history, the Mission League has played a crucial role in inspiring hundreds of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Many bishops, priests, and members of the religious orders within the Syro-Malabar Church trace their vocations back to their early years in the Mission League.

I am delighted to share that the Mission League is thriving within our Eparchy. The spirit that motivated its founders in 1947 continues to flourish in our parishes, inspiring our children and youth to passionately embrace the missionary calling. I was actively involved in this association during my youth, and I have seen firsthand the positive impact it has on our children and young people. The formation I received through the Mission League played a vital role in my journey to becoming a priest. Participating in Mission League activities, learning about great missionaries and saints, making small sacrifices for the missions, praying for vocations, and serving others through charitable works planted seeds in my heart that eventually grew into a priestly vocation.

Every year, our Eparchy hosts the Mission League Rally. This event gathers children and young people from all our parishes for a day of celebration, testimony, and renewed commitment to the missionary calling. This year’s rally, scheduled for 16 November 2025, is particularly significant as it marks the centenary of St Thérèse’s canonisation. This coincidence is providential, giving us a special opportunity to deepen our devotion to the Little Flower, consider her ongoing relevance to our lives and ministry, and reaffirm our dedication to the missionary mission she exemplified so perfectly.

I earnestly urge each of you, dear Fathers, to ensure that the children and young people in your parishes are well-prepared to actively participate in this year’s rally. Your role in this preparation is essential. Please take the time to catechise the children about the missionary nature of the Church and their role in God’s mission. Help them understand that every Christian, by virtue of baptism, is called to be a missionary—to witness to Christ in words and deeds, to share their faith with others, and to work towards the coming of God’s kingdom.

Please share with the children the life and spirituality of St Thérèse of Lisieux, especially emphasising the significance of this centenary year of her canonisation. Help them understand that her ‘Little Way’ is not a path of mediocrity or minimal effort, but a way of excellence in love—that small acts performed with great love are more pleasing to God than large acts performed with little love. Narrate the inspiring history of the Cherupushpam Mission League and its founders, helping the children understand that they are part of a living tradition rooted in Indian Catholic spirituality and the missionary zeal of St Thérèse.

Encourage active participation in Mission League activities throughout the year, not just during the rally. The rally is important, but genuine formation occurs in the monthly gatherings, service projects, fundraising efforts, and daily living of the Mission League motto. Foster a spirit of prayer, sacrifice, and service among the youth, showing them that these are not burdens but privileges that bring joy and purpose to life. Help them understand that in a world often characterised by self-centredness and materialism, the Mission League offers an alternative vision—one of generosity, self-giving, service, and living for something greater than oneself.

Most importantly, personally support and mentor the young members of the Mission League in your parishes. Your priestly example and guidance are invaluable to their growth. When they observe your love for Christ, your passion for souls, your dedication to the mission, and your joy in priestly service, they will be inspired to follow your example. Some may even be called to follow you into the priesthood or religious life.

Through these activities and your pastoral care, our young people learn to live their faith actively and develop a genuine love for missions. They discover that even small acts of love and sacrifice, offered with pure intention, can produce extraordinary results for the Kingdom of God—just as St Thérèse taught and lived. Through the Cherupushpam Mission League, we help our children realise this calling and equip them to respond generously, shaping them as authentic missionary disciples who will transform our parishes, our Eparchy, and ultimately our world.

As shepherds of God's flock, we have the sacred duty to nurture vocations and ignite missionary enthusiasm among our youth. **The Mission League Rally on 16 November** offers us a special chance to demonstrate our faith and inspire the next generation of missionaries. Let us approach this duty with renewed dedication and passion, motivated by this centenary year of St Thérèse's canonisation.

May St Thérèse of Lisieux, our heavenly patroness, intercede for us and all participating children! May her example of humble service, complete trust in God's merciful love, and generous response to God's call inspire us towards greater missionary fervour! May St Thomas the Apostle, St Francis Xavier, and St Alphonsa also guide and protect our Mission League members! May the Holy Spirit fill young hearts 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!

NEWS AND EVENTS

Priests and Religious Sangamam at Christurajapuram: The Priests and Religious Sangamam of this year was held on 2 October 2025 at Christuraja Church, Christurajapuram. The event was organized with the primary objective of fostering deeper interaction and communion among the priests and religious serving in the Diocese. It was also an occasion to extend warm felicitations and congratulations to those celebrating the Silver or Golden Jubilee of their ordination or religious profession. This year, there were no priests celebrating jubilees. However, among the Sisters, we had jubilarians. Sr. Therese CMC marked her Golden Jubilee, while Sr. Julit Maria SABS, Sr. Valanarasi SDS, and Sr. Emmanuel HC celebrated their Silver Jubilee. The day began at 10.00 a.m. with a solemn concelebrated Holy Qurbana, which I presided over. Following the Holy Qurbana and a brief tea break, Fr. Printo Kurias led everyone in lively action songs and interactive games, creating a joyful and fraternal atmosphere. The public meeting commenced at 12.00 noon, during which the jubilarians were honoured for their dedicated and selfless service to the Diocese. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Fathers, especially Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the then Parish Priest of Christurajapuram, and Rev. Fr. Joshy, our Chancellor, for their meticulous planning and coordination of the entire programme. The Sangamam concluded with an agape meal, providing a fitting close to a day filled with joy, gratitude, and fraternity. The success of the event was due in large measure to the enthusiastic participation of all the Fathers and Sisters, whose active involvement and cheerful spirit added vibrancy and warmth to the occasion.

Cleaning camp at Government Hospital, Kulasekharam: The Thuckalay Central Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society organizes a one-day cleaning camp every year under the title "Deshathodu

Orunaal” on Gandhi Jayanti, 2 October, to promote social cleanliness and encourage its members to engage in acts of social charity. This year, the cleaning camp was held on 2 October 2025 at the Government Health Care Centre, Kulasekharam. The programme began with a welcome address by Mr. Rabi, the Central Council President, and was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Varghese Kottoor, the Forane Vicar of Kaliyal Forane. The doctors and staff of the Health Centre extended their full support and cooperation for the success of the programme. Nearly 100 members from various Area Councils and Conferences under the Thuckalay Central Council actively participated in the cleaning drive. I sincerely appreciate the Central Council leaders for their commendable efforts in organizing the camp efficiently and for fostering a spirit of cleanliness and community service among the members.

Commemoration Holy Qurbana of Mar Mathew Kavukattu at Changanacherry: The Diocese of Thuckalay remains ever grateful to the Servant of God Mar Mathew Kavukattu, the first Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, for his invaluable contributions to the missionary endeavours in the Kanyakumari district. Each year, we are invited to offer a commemorative Holy Qurbana at his tomb in remembrance of his dedicated service and missionary zeal. On 3 October 2025, representing our Diocese, Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, the Procurator, celebrated the Holy Qurbana at the tomb of Mar Mathew Kavukattu at 5:30 p.m. He was joined by Fr. Sunil Antony and Fr. Augustine Thathappally as concelebrants. The celebration was followed by the Office for the Dead, offered in prayerful remembrance of the Servant of God. I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Fathers who took the initiative to participate in this meaningful and spiritually enriching ceremony.

Annual Retreat for Priests at Sangamam: The annual retreat for priests was held at Sangamam from 5 to 10 October 2025. Rev. Fr. Jilson Mathew Kakkattupilly VC was the preacher for the retreat. Through his inspiring reflections and spiritual guidance, he helped the priests to recognize and appreciate the shared priesthood of Jesus Christ and to deepen their commitment to a holy and dedicated life. The preacher focused on several key themes, including the mystical nature of priestly life, holiness, priestly communion, the importance of prayer, and evangelization. A total of 50 priests, along with myself, participated in the retreat. All who attended experienced a renewal of spiritual fervour and enthusiasm in their priestly vocation. We are deeply grateful to the Lord for granting us such a grace-filled and enriching experience. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal for coordinating the retreat in the absence of the Vicar General, and to Fr. Vinod Kanakkalil and his team for their diligent efforts in making all the necessary arrangements at Sangamam.

Last respects to Rev. Sr. Mary Thomas SDS (83): It is with deep sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing of Sr. Mary Thomas SDS on 06 October 2025. Sr. Mary was a native of Koratty, Kanjirappally diocese. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese for almost 44 years: at Manjalumoodu (1978 – 1986; 1989 – 2009; 2013 - 2025) and at Padanthalumoodu (2009 - 2013). The funeral service took place on 08 October 2025 at 10:30 am at the SDS Convent Chapel, Manjalumoodu. The first two parts of the ceremony were presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, and I presided over the Holy Qurbana, delivered the homily and the remainder of the funeral rites. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the SDS Sisters. Let us thank God for her service in our diocese and pray that the Merciful Lord may grant her eternal joy.

Heartfelt Gratitude to Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil: Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil is relieved from the Office of the Vicar General of the Diocese with effect from 10 October 2025. He had been serving as the fifth Vicar General of the Diocese since 24 May 2019. Before assuming this great responsibility, he had rendered 26 years of commendable service as the Parish Priest of St. Alphonsa Pilgrim Church, Nagercoil, and as the Correspondent of Alphonsa School. It is well known to all of us that the Alphonsa Pilgrim Church and School in Nagercoil have become a significant sign of the presence of the Diocese of Thuckalay in Kanyakumari district, thanks to the hard work, dedication, prayerful life, and

deep faith of Rev. Fr. Thomas, who always relied on God in all his activities. As Vicar General, over the past six and a half years, he has carried out his vital responsibilities with great maturity and commitment. In my pastoral ministry as bishop, he stood by me like a shadow, offering valuable guidance and support whenever needed. Journeying together with priests, religious, and the faithful, he used his rich experience and spiritual strength solely for the growth and welfare of the Diocese. Recently, due to health reasons, he underwent specialized medical treatment, and the doctors have advised him to take complete rest for a period of time. Therefore, from 10 October 2025 onwards, he has stepped back from all the responsibilities of the Vicar General and will be in a period of medical rest as prescribed by the doctors. In grateful remembrance of all his services and spiritual ministry, I, on behalf of the entire people of God of the Diocese of Thuckalay and in my personal capacity, extend my heartfelt thanks and prayers for abundant blessings upon him. We also pray that he may recover soon and return to active ministry in the diocese in the near future.

World Mental Health Day Seminar: 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 of the event was Rev. Fr. Charles, Director of St. Xavier’s Multi-Speciality Hospital, Chunkankada. In his inaugural address, Rev. Fr. Charles highlighted the importance of maintaining sound mental health among differently-abled children and emphasized 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, Department of Neurology, CSI Hospital, Karakonam, and Rev. Dr. Joseph Santhosh, Professor, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Poonamallee, Chennai. Dr. Leema Jayakumar spoke on the topic “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 the participants actively engaging in discussions. The queries raised by the teachers were addressed with clarity and depth by the resource persons. I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Antony Mahesh for organizing the entire programme in such a fruitful and impactful manner.

Last respects to Rev. Sr. Tresa Joseph SDS (86): It is with deep sorrow that we received the sad news of the passing of Sr. Tresa Joseph SDS on 13 October 2025. Sr. Tresa was a native of St. Nicholas Church, Karumady in the archdiocese of Changanacherry. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese for almost 34 years: at Manjalumoodu (1979 – 1987; 2024 – 2025) and Karode (1987 - 1996; 2008 - 2024). The funeral service took place on 16 October 2025 at 02:00 pm at the SDS Convent Chapel, Manjalumoodu. The first two parts of the ceremony were presided over by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the Chancellor, and Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam presided over the Holy Qurbana and delivered the homily. The remainder of the funeral rites were presided by me. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the SDS Sisters. Let us thank God for her service in our diocese and pray that the Merciful Lord may grant her eternal joy.

St. Devasahayam: Patron Saint of the Laity in India: With immense joy we received the happy news that our own Saint Devasahayam, who was canonized on 15 May 2022, has been declared by Pope Leo XIV as the Patron of the Laity in India. With the approval of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Holy Father officially proclaimed St. Devasahayam as the Heavenly Patron of the Laity in India on 16 July 2025. The official proclamation of this great event took place during the Solemn Holy Qurbana at St. Mary’s Cathedral, Varanasi, on Wednesday, 15 October 2025. There is no doubt that this historic declaration will further inspire devotion to St. Devasahayam and strengthen lay apostolic initiatives throughout the nation. Let us dedicate our diocese—especially all lay faithful and lay organizations—to the intercession of St. Devasahayam. May his powerful intercession obtain for the Church many zealous and committed lay apostles.

Tenkasi Mission Meet: 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. I presided over the meeting. Altogether, around 30 missionaries, including priests and religious, participated in the gathering. The programme began with a time of Eucharistic Adoration, led by Rev. Fr. Relin Jose MCBS, creating 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 works of the Diocese in the region were also reviewed and highlighted. In my address, I emphasized the importance of evangelization, mission outreach, social service, and the proclamation of the Word of God within the specific context of the Tenkasi Mission. The gathering concluded with an Agape meal, fostering fellowship and joy among the participants. I take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil for his dedicated efforts in organizing the Tenkasi Mission gathering so effectively and meaningfully.

Mission Sunday Celebration: Mission Sunday 2025 was celebrated with deep faith and missionary zeal across all parishes and units of the Diocese of Thuckalay on 19 October 2025. The celebration was marked by meaningful activities that reflected the missionary spirit and the commitment of the faithful to the Church's evangelizing mission. The day began with the flag hoisting ceremony, symbolizing the call to proclaim the Good News to all nations. The Mission League members from each unit led the gathering in the Mission Pledge, reaffirming their dedication to live and spread the message of Christ through their actions and service. Special prayers were offered for the mission and missionaries working in different parts of the world, invoking God's blessings and protection upon them. The Mission Sunday collection was taken up in every parish and unit to support the missionary works of the Church, and the faithful generously contributed to this noble cause. The entire celebration was animated by the Mission League units under the guidance of their parish directors and animators. Through their enthusiastic participation, they highlighted the importance of missionary awareness and the need for every Christian to be a witness to Christ in their daily life. I wish to express my gratitude to Fr. Printo Kurias and Fr. Shijo for his proactive efforts in organizing programme for CML children.

Rosary Procession in Tenkasi Mission: A Rosary Procession was conducted 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 procession. The devotees reached the Pudur campus by 5:30 p.m., where the concluding ceremony was held. I participated in the entire event, and in my concluding address, I 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. The programme concluded at 7:00 p.m. with an Agape meal, fostering fellowship and joy among all present. I take this opportunity to congratulate Rev. Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, the Mission Coordinator, and all the Fathers and Sisters of the mission for their dedicated efforts in organizing the event in a prayerful and fruitful manner.

Catechesis Writing competitions: Bible Fest Forane Level Writing Competition was held on 19 October 2025. It was conducted under the guidance of forane Catechesis directors in different centres of each forane (Arukani Forane: Holy Family Forane Church, Arukani; Kaliyal Forane: St Mary's HSS, Kaliyal; Manjalumoodu forane: Holy Family HSS, Mukkoottukkal; Nithiravilai Forane: Jayamatha HSS, Chriturajapuram; Padanthalumoodu forane: Sacred Heart HSS, Padanthalumoodu; Soosaipuram forane: APJM HSS, Soosaipuram; Thuckalay-Pilankalai forane: St. Micheal's HSS, Kattathurai). In Tenkasi mission it was conducted at Pulari Matric. School, Pudur. Around 600 students participated in the competition. Competitions were held on colouring, pencil drawing, easy writing and poetry writing. I appreciate the forane catechesis directors and the team behind.

Leadership Training and Central Executive Committee Election of SMYM: A one-day leadership training and the Central Executive Committee election of the SMYM) of the Diocese were held on 20 October 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the SMYM Office, Kalluvilai. The programme was presided over by Fr. Anil Raj, the diocesan Director of SMYM. Mr. Jino, the Diocesan Animator, delivered the welcome address. Fr. Anil Raj, Fr. Joshy Thevalakkara CMI, Director of the Pilankalai Forane and Fr. Jiji Puthenpurayil, Director of the Padanthalumoodu Forane encouraged the youth through the input sessions. By noon, I also met the youth and spoke about leadership focusing on Jesus the leader. Afternoon, the Central Executive Committee election was conducted. The following members were elected: President: Ajith (Killiyoor); Vice President: Jebrin Jo Dinesh (Marapadi); Vice President: Jenila (Kattathurai); Secretary: Geo Jose (Netta); Joint Secretary: Senika (Pilankarai); Treasurer: Vijin (Palukal). Following the election, the feast of St. John Paul II, the heavenly patron of the youth movement, was celebrated. A total of 35 office bearers and 8 animators participated in the event. I thank Fr. Anil Raj, the Director for organizing the entire day in a fruitful manner.

Extended Territory Mission Meet at Rameswaram: Extended Territory Mission gathering was conducted on 21 October 2025 at St. Joseph's Mission, Rameswaram. There were 15 participants including 7 Fathers and 8 Sisters. The gathering started with concelebrated Holy Qurbana presided by Fr. Thomas Kanjirakkatt. It was followed by the public meeting. Rev. Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, the Procurator presided over the meeting. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil extended a warm welcome to all present and Secretary Fr. Jebanesh presented the report. All shared their experiences and Discussions took place about present situations and challenges in various missions. During the meeting, they suggested to include a special prayer in the Karosoosa for the missions while celebrating Holy Qurbana in mission places, to start important pious associations in the mission parishes and organize a pilgrimage to Mylapore. I appreciate Fr. Tobin for coordinating the mission gatherings in extended mission territory and Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil for having arranged everything in Rameswaram.

Forane Priests' Conferences: On October 21, 2025, Forane level Priests' conference for Thuckalay Pilankalai - Soosaiapuram Foranes was held at KKSSS, Kalluvilai, starting at 10:00 am with adoration of Blessed Sacrament. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General, participated as the curia representative. On the same day afternoon at 05.00 pm, Manjalumoodu – Kaliyal – Arukani Forane Priests' Conference was held at St. Mary's Church, Kaliyal in the presence of the Vicar General. On 22 October 2025, the Forane Priests' Conferences for Padanthalumoodu – Nithiravilai Foranes was conducted at Jaya Matha Forane Church, Nithiravilai. Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan represented the Curia in this meeting. The attendees actively engaged in discussions concerning pastoral coordination among the parishes and departmental activities. The discussions were done mainly on CML Rally, Diocesan Day celebration, Rosary Procession, Diocesan Bible Convention, evaluation of Christ Jubilee Year celebration etc. Thanks to the smaller number of participants and ample time allotted, the atmosphere was lively, resulting in numerous suggestions for the betterment of pastoral activities. Heartfelt gratitude goes to the Forane vicars for their effective coordination of the meeting.

SMYM Patron's Day Celebration: The SMYM of Thuckalay celebrated the feast day of its heavenly patron on 26 October 2025. This celebration unfolded in parish units and featured several activities, including the offertory during the Holy Qurbana, a special prayer for the youth, Arts Competitions, house visits, drug awareness seminars, and medical camps. I express my appreciation for the efforts of the SMYM Director, Fr. Anil Raj, in organizing these initiatives.

Rosary Procession and Inauguration of Silver Jubilee of Mariyayin Senai: Every year, under the leadership of the Legion of Mary (Mariyayin Senai), the Diocese organizes a Rosary Procession. This year, the event was held in conjunction with the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the establishment of Mariyayin Senai *Commitium* in the Diocese. The procession took place on 26 October

2025, from Little Flower Forane Church, Manjalumoodu, to the Holy Cross Pilgrim Church, Malaicode. The procession was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, the Vicar General, and Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil, the 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 event, prayerfully reciting the Holy Rosary throughout the procession. At the concluding gathering held at Malaicode Parish, I had the joy of presiding 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 together, and I blessed seven statues of Mother Mary, which were then entrusted to the different curiae to be taken in procession while praying the Rosary in the parishes under their care. The entire programme concluded at 4:00 p.m. with an Agape meal shared by all the participants. I congratulate and express my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of Mariyayin Senai, especially to Br. Thomas Paneerselvam, the President, and Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil, the Spiritual Director, for their dedicated efforts in organizing the event in a devout and meaningful manner.

INFORMATION

- **Fr. Jose Muttathupadam** is appointed Protosyncellus (Vicar General) of the Diocese with effect from 10 October 2025. Along with extending our greetings to him, let us pray that his ministry may be filled with God's blessings.
- **Fr. Josy Puthenpurackal** returned to Germany after his annual vacation on 13 October 2025. We wish him God's blessings in his ministry abroad.
- **CML Central team visit:** The central team of the Mission League department has started the unit visit. The executive members have visited and verified the documents of Padanthalumoodu Forane (07/10/2025), Soosaipuram Forane (11/10/2025), Thuckalay–Pilankalai Forane (18/10/2025), and Nithiravilai Forane (20/10/2025).
- **Second Death Anniversary of Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel**, our former Vicar General and a great missionary, was commemorated on 22 October 2025.
- **Fr. Jose Vayalil** is appointed Parish Priest of Christuraja Church, Christurajapuram, Correspondent of Jaya Matha School, Christurajapuram and Nithiravilai Forane Director of Uraviyam with effect from 27 October 2025.
- **Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil** is appointed Parochial Administrator of Holy Cross Pilgrim Church, Malaicode, Priest in Charge of Kuzhinjavilai Mission and Manjalumoodu Forane Director of Family Apostolate with effect from 27 October 2025.
- **Fr. Bobby Kochuparampil MST** is appointed Director of Major Seminarians with effect from 27 October 2025.
- **Fr. Jose Muttathupadam** is relieved of the office of the Parish Priest of Christuraja Church, Christurajapuram, Correspondent of Jaya Matha School, Christurajapuram and Nithiravilai Forane Director of Uraviyam with effect from 27 October 2025
- **Fr. Jose Vayalil** is relieved of the office of the Parish Priest of Holy Cross Pilgrim Church, Malaicode, Priest in Charge of Kuzhinjavilai Mission and Manjalumoodu Forane Director of Family Apostolate with effect from 27 October 2025.
- **Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal** is relieved of the office of the Director of Major Seminarians with effect from 27 October 2025.
- **Mrs. Annakutty Scaria (82)** the beloved mother of Sr. Annie Grace CMC slept in the Lord on 27 October 2025. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Annie Grace and her family members and pray for the departed soul.
- **We express our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Viji SDS** who served as the animator in Sangamam Garments Unit for the last two years and is relieved from the office on 31 October 2025.

- **We welcome wholeheartedly Sr. Daya George CHF**, the new animator of Sangamam Garments Unit who took charge on 31 October 2025.
- **KII visit to Pilgrim Centres:** In connection with the Christ Jubilee Year and Rosary month, kids were asked to visit the Pilgrim Churches of our diocese in the month of October. Along with their parish priest, animator sister, and teachers, they visited the Pilgrim Churches and prayed.
- **Diocesan Day:** In preparation for the 29th Diocesan Day celebration, an hour of Eucharistic adoration will be conducted in all parishes and convents on 07 November 2025. I have already sent a personal letter to all the Parish Priests on how to organize the Diocesan Day on 09 November 2025, Sunday in your parish. Please follow the instructions given in the letter and make it a memorable day for our faithful.
- **CML Rally:** We all are waiting for the CML Annual Rally on 16 November 2025. The rally will begin at 2:00 PM from CSI Church, Karungal, and conclude at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Soosaipuram. I would like to specially remind all the Parish Priests to ensure the maximum participation of all Mission League children in the rally.
- **Diocesan Bible Convention 2025:** An hour of adoration, along with the proclamation of the Gospel is being carried out in all our parishes as part of the preparations for the Diocesan Bible Convention to prepare all the faithful. The team is conducting it as per the request of parish priests. For those not yet conducted, I kindly remind to inform the committee convener and fix a date on which you would like to hold the programme in your parish.
- **Year Plan 2026:** Directors of departments and Pious Associations are requested to submit the Year Plan of your respective department/pious association for the year 2026 to the Chancery without delay.
- **Mission Sunday Collection:** I kindly request all the Fathers to submit the Mission Sunday Collection immediately to the Diocesan Procurator.
- **Registers and Certificates:** Following registers and certificates are available at Bishop's House and you are requested to get it updated in your parish: Death Register, Solemn Holy Communion Register, Cemetery Register, Athmasthanthi Register and Baptism Certificate.
- **Diaconate Ministry:** Three of our deacons have successfully completed their seminary formation and have come back to the diocese for the diaconate ministry in the following places: Dn. Tony Kallampampil at St. Alphonsa Shrine, Nagercoil, Dn. Bibin Vettakonam at Little Flower Forane Church, Manjalumoodu and Dn. Bibin Koikkakudiyil at Holy Cross Pilgrim Church, Malaicode. We wish him a fruitful ministry ahead.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

07 November	-	Adoration in preparation for Diocesan Day
08 November	-	Vestition and First profession at LSDP, Perumchilambu.
09 November	-	29 th Diocesan Day
13 November	-	Priests Conference
16 November	-	CML Rally
24 November	-	Presbyteral Council

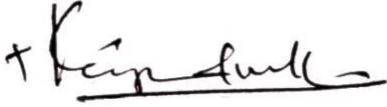
Priests Conference
13 November 2025, Thursday
@ Sangamam
 Time: 09. 30 AM

CONCLUSION

As we conclude October, a month during which we honoured our Blessed Mother through the recitation of the Holy Rosary, let us ask her to intercede for all the intentions of our Eparchy. As we prepare to celebrate our Eparchy's 29th Foundation Day, let us strengthen our resolve to build God's kingdom with renewed fervour and dedication, especially across the expanding territories entrusted to our care. Let us move forward together as faithful stewards of the Gospel, bringing Christ's love to every part of our ecclesial community.

May our Blessed Mother and St Thérèse of Lisieux intercede for each one of us!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

