



# 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/157/2024**

30 April 2024

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

We are entering a favourite month for many Catholics. It is the month of MAY when the Church honours the Blessed Virgin Mary with special solemnity. We need to reflect on the importance of authentic Marian theology, devotion, and spiritual motherhood.

The Blessed Virgin occupies a place of singular privilege and reverence in our Catholic faith and tradition. She is rightly called the Mother of God (*Theotokos*), for it was from her immaculate womb that the eternal Son of the Father took on human flesh and entered this world (Jn 1:14). From the Annunciation until the hour of the Cross, the Virgin Mary cooperated in a wholly unique way in the work of our redemption through her virtues of faith, obedience, and self-giving love.

The Church has consistently upheld and extolled the Virgin Mary's preeminent dignity through its prayer and liturgy, the symbolic imaginations of artists, the reflections of saints and doctors, and the extraordinary phenomenon of authentic Marian apparitions over the centuries.

Solemnly defined dogmas like the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption illuminate the singular graces God bestowed on the woman chosen from all eternity to be the Mother of the Redeemer. While we rightly distinguish the veneration shown to Mary from the adoration owed to God alone, how could we not praise most excellently the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullest.

Mary's extraordinary cooperation in the Incarnation and her close spiritual union with her divine Son also ground the Church's teachings on her powerful role as intercessor and dispenser of grace. Receiving from Jesus on the Cross the supreme gift of spiritual motherhood for all believers (Jn 19:26–27), Mary is ever attentive as a loving mother to the needs and afflictions of her children on earth.

As the New Eve, whose obedience undid the knot first tied by the disobedience of the first woman (Irenaeus), she has been chosen by God to be "the Mother of the Living, the Life-Bearer, and Mother of Life" (Ephraim). It is therefore fitting and praiseworthy for us to seek her spiritual aid and intercession, entrusting ourselves and our pastoral ministry to her solicitous care and maternal mediation of the graces we so desperately need.

Popular devotions towards our Blessed Mother, like the Holy Rosary, the Brown Scapular, the Miraculous Medal, and the various feast days commemorating her Immaculate Conception, Nativity, Annunciation, and Assumption, have always occupied a privileged position in our Catholic spirituality and ought to remain

so. In our complicated times, we should have an even greater need for the aid of the all-holy Virgin, who at Fatima called the world to repentance, conversion, and fervent prayer.

In this context, considering the difficulties our Catholic families face in living together as husbands, wives, and children, let me share with you a brief history and devotion to Our Lady of the Knots. The devotion to Our Lady of the Knots has its origins in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century in Germany, later spreading to other parts of Europe and the Americas.

The devotion of Mary, Undoer of Knots, begins in Germany in 1615. A young couple, Wolfgang Langenmantel and Sophie, married only for three years, were having serious marital problems and were seriously considering getting divorced. However, before making a decision, they decided to visit an Austrian Jesuit priest, Jakob Rem, for guidance and prayer. They had several sittings with the priest. During their last meeting on 28 September 1615, they gave Father Rem their wedding ribbon. Wolfgang and Sophie tied each other together with this ribbon during their wedding ceremony as a symbol of their unity. The ribbon had many knots. Every time they quarrelled; Sophie would make a knot in the ribbon.

Father Jakob, who had a great devotion to Mary, prayed for the couple in front of the painting of Our Lady of Snow while holding the ribbon in his hands. He begged Mary to undo the knots, meaning the marriage difficulties of the couple. All of a sudden, he witnessed a miracle. The knots on their own became undone miraculously, one after the other until the ribbon was completely smooth. The couple was reconciled and lived a happy marriage until the end of their days.

In 1700, Father Jerome Ambroise von Langenmantel, grandson of the couple, ordered a painting to be done in memory of the miracle and to reinforce the devotion to the Virgin Mary. The painting shows Mary undoing knots, with two angels holding the ribbon. He named it “Mary, Undoer of Knots.”

Up until the twentieth century, the devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots, existed only in Germany. But in the eighties, when the future Pope Francis was finishing his thesis for his doctorate in Augsburg, near Munich, he was profoundly moved by the painting. The picture made an impression on him, who noted that Father Langenmantel based his actions on a quote from St Irenaeus: “The knot of Eve’s disobedience was untied by Mary’s obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith.”

The Pope said he liked the image so much that he started sending postcards of it, too. Replicas of the image were painted in the pope’s home country, Argentina, and devotion there spread. Once Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope in 2013, devotion to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots spread throughout the world.

Pope Francis has talked about this devotion throughout his pontificate, even praying specifically to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots in 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic.

In 1997, Father Ramon Celeiro wrote a novena, especially for Mary, Undoer of Knots. Even though it was initially written for parishioners, it was rapidly diffused worldwide.

The heart of the devotion involves meditating on the Virgin Mary’s compassion and power as the “Undoer of Knots” while seeking her intercession to undo or resolve various complicated knots or issues in one’s life, especially in relationships, marriages, families, and emotional and spiritual struggles.

Some of the common practices include:

- Praying novenas and rosaries to Our Lady of the Knots, asking her to untie specific knots in one's life
- Lighting candles before the image and affixing written knots/petitions to the image or a cord displayed nearby
- Reciting the ancient Marian prayer "The Undoer of Knots" as an individual or family. The prayer goes thus: "Through your grace, your intercession, and your example, deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God, so that we, free from sin and error, may find Him in all things, may have our hearts placed in Him, and may serve Him always in our brothers and sisters. Amen."
- Receiving sacramental blessings with devotional cords blessed by priests

Through this devotion, the faithful appeal to Mary's unfailing care and intercession as the compassionate spiritual mother who urgently seeks to undo the knots of sin, conflict, spiritual bondage, and human brokenness in our lives. Our Lady of the Knots brings healing, peace, and resolution when all seems tangled and hopeless. Although the feast of Our Lady of the Knots is celebrated on 28 September, the month of May is an excellent opportunity to spread this devotion and strengthen the quality of our families.

Dear Fathers, this month provides us with a singular opportunity to deepen the faith and Marian devotion of those souls entrusted to our pastoral care. I urge you to make the most of the month of May to:

- Encourage Marian devotions like the praying of the Rosary, consecrations, and processions in our parishes, uraviums, and homes.
- Propagate devotions to Our Lady of the Knots.
- Inspire our Catholics to enthrone images and statues of Our Lady in their homes and promote special Marian devotions daily.
- Instruct the people on the biblical foundations and authentic theology behind our Marian doctrines and piety. Mary leads us to Jesus; she does not obscure or replace him.
- Give good examples by manifesting your own childlike love for the Mother of God. She is not an optional devotion but part of the fullness of Catholic truth.
- Call upon Mary's aid in being faithful to our priestly commitment and ministry. We need her motherly assistance to be holy, faithful, and zealous ministers of the Saviour she bore into this world.
- Proclaim Mary's glories with fresh vigour and gratitude this May. She is our life, our sweetness, and our hope! We are her beloved sons.

Through the maternal hands, may the graces of this Marian month pour out in abundance on our Eparchy. United to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the chaste Heart of her divine Son, may we press on with renewed love and zeal towards the definitive victory already won in the Paschal Mystery we celebrate.

## NEWS AND EVENTS

**Priestly Ordinations:** Every priest is a cherished blessing to the Church, and we have ample reason to rejoice and offer gratitude to God for the gift of two new priests. On April 2, 2024, at St. Mary's Church in Kallupalam, Idukki, Deacon Kuruvila (Sanjo) Thenepalackal was ordained as a priest. The profound homily delivered by the Secretary General of MST, Rev. Fr. Lonappan Arangasserry MST, deeply touched the hearts of all those were present. The following day, April 3, 2024, Deacon Antony (Lintomon) Thakidiyel was ordained as a priest at St. Joseph's Church in Kozhimala. An inspiring homily was delivered by Rev.

Fr. Moban Chooravady, Director of Lourdes Cancer Centre in Trivandrum. As an eparchy, we extend a warm welcome to Rev. Fr. Sanjomon and Rev. Fr. Lintomon, praying that they may receive God's choicest blessings in their pastoral ministry.

**Presbytery Blessing at Kazhuvanthittai:** On April 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm, a new Presbytery was blessed at Kazhuvanthittai. I blessed the Presbytery and celebrated Holy Qurbana. Many Fathers and the entire parishioners were present for this significant event. The occasion was concluded with an agape meal, fostering fellowship and joy among all present. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvelil for his efforts in constructing such a beautiful presbytery, providing a comfortable residence for priests.

**Seminar on Vatican II Constitutions:** In preparation for the celebration of the Christ Jubilee year 2025, in accordance with the intention of the Holy Father, a two-day seminar on the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council was held on April 12th and 13th, 2024, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The first day took place at Sangamam, and the second day at Padanthalumoodu. Participants included priests, religious, representatives of the laity, including students from Sinai Theological Institute, department leaders, members of pious associations, and other nominated lay faithful, who attended either of the aforementioned days of the seminar. The resource person for the two-day seminar was Rev. Dr. Santiyago Raja, Professor of St. Paul's Seminary in Tiruchirappally. Following the inauguration ceremony, presided over by myself, three sessions were conducted—two in the morning and one in the afternoon—to elucidate the four constitutions: *Lumen Gentium*, *Dei Verbum*, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, and *Gaudium et Spes*. The seminar proved to be fruitful in deepening understanding of these documents, benefiting almost 200 participants. I extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the Jubilee 2025 committee for their coordination of the entire event.

**Vocation camp:** The Vocation Commission of the Eparchy successfully organized three vocation camps of which two at St. Mary's Minor Seminary in Mukkoottukal and one at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Soosaiapuram this year. All camps were held on the theme: Listen to the voice of God. The first camp took place from April 16 to 18, 2024 and was specifically tailored for students in classes X, XII, and those who had completed their degree. The camp welcomed 14 boys from the Eparchy, all eager to discern their vocation. The camp was inaugurated by Fr. Isaac Punnoor CMI, Rector of Minor Seminary and skilfully animated by major seminarians. Our Fathers also played an integral role in delivering enlightening sessions. On the final day, I celebrated Holy Qurbana and had individual interviews with each candidate, providing them with guidance and support as they discerned their vocational paths. The second camp, held on April 19, catered to students in classes VIII, IX, and XI. It served as a life orientation and vocation motivational camp, empowering participants to explore their personal calling and life goals. Twenty-five students enthusiastically attended this camp, gaining valuable insights and inspiration for their future. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil along with Dn. Sunil Antony animated the sessions. The Third camp held for girls was conducted at St. Joseph's Forane Church campus, Soosaiapuram. 24 girls participated in the camp. Fr. Sajan Nettareppu and Fr. Shijo Aikarakkunnel animated the sessions. I extend my sincere gratitude to Fr. Josemon Paul Purayidathikunnel for his remarkable efforts in organizing and coordinating the camp. I would also like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the entire team behind, whose hard work and dedication contributed to the positive outcomes of the camp.

**Mr. Mariadas in FABC Mission Conference in Thailand:** The Syro-Malabar Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants (CEPCM) received a request from the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) to send two religious or lay missionary representatives from the Syro-Malabar Church to attend a three-day gathering of full-time missionaries in Bangkok, Thailand, from April

19-21, 2024. This gathering aimed to recognize, honour, and celebrate their contributions and share best practices in evangelization. The Commission for Evangelization solicited a list of potential candidates from all the eparchies in India who could participate in this International Conference of missionaries and share their missionary life experiences, as well as new missionary methods adopted in their missions. From this list, Mr. Mariadas was selected to attend the conference. Along with another priest, he represented the Syro-Malabar Church at the missionary meeting of FABC in Bangkok. He departed on April 17, 2024, and returned on April 22, 2024. During the meeting, Mr. Mariadas shared his mission experiences, and his contributions were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. We extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his efforts in participating in the conference, traveling alone, and for his dedication to motivating the new generation to actively engage in evangelization.

**Blessing of SDS Hostel at Padanthalumoodu:** On April 22, 2024, at 5:30 pm, I blessed the newly constructed Chapel and Hostel building adjacent to the existing Alphonsa Mary Gnanodaya Working Women's Hostel of the Sisters of Divine Savior (SDS) at Padanthalumoodu. Following the blessing ceremony, I celebrated the Holy Qurbana, which was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan. The event concluded with an agape meal, fostering fellowship and joy. I extend my appreciation to Rev. Sr. Anisha Nedungattil, the Provincial, and her team for organizing the entire ceremony with precision and care.

**Feast day Celebration of St. George:** On April 24th, 2024, I was deeply moved by the unexpected Feast Day celebration held at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai, honouring not only my own patron, St. George, but also the second patron of the Eparchy. The surprise celebration truly touched my heart, as I had no prior knowledge of the event. I extend my sincere gratitude to Fr. Sajan Nettareppu and his team for organizing a prayer session at 11:15 am, before the public meeting. The presence and felicitation by Rt. Rev. Bishop Peter Remigius, as well as the attendance of Rt. Rev. Bishop Albert George Anastas, Bishop of Kuzhithurai, filled me with immense joy. I am grateful to the representatives of the Fathers, Sisters, and laity who offered their felicitations and prayers on this special occasion. The entertainment programmes presented by students and the songs performed by Sisters were exceptionally well-prepared and added to the joyous atmosphere. I am truly humbled by the generosity and thoughtfulness of everyone involved in organizing this celebration. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all for your kind wishes and prayers. It is clear to me that the driving force behind this grand celebration is none other than our Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. I extend my thanks to him and all who collaborated with him to make this event a memorable one. Once again, I thank you all and humbly request your continued prayers for me.

**Tenkasi Mission Meet:** The Tenkasi mission meet for the month of April took place at Pudur on April 25, 2024. The event commenced at 10:00 am with a concelebrated Holy Qurbana, which I presided over. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Rev. Fr. Thomas Pottampampil, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, and Fr. Antony Mahesh joined in concelebration. Sisters and Major Seminarians also attended the Holy Qurbana. Following the Holy Qurbana, a meeting was held for Fathers and Sisters engaged in various mission activities across Tenkasi. I presided over this meeting, during which Fathers shared updates on the activities of different departments within the mission. The Curia members offered encouragement for collective efforts towards advancing the Kingdom of God. In my presidential address, I emphasized the importance of coordinating retreats and other common activities, as well as supporting each other in addressing the challenges faced by specific mission areas. During the second session of the meeting, Major Seminary brothers joined us to celebrate my Feast Day and extend their wishes. The programme concluded with an agape meal. I extend my gratitude to Fr. Dency Mundunadackal, the mission coordinator of Tenkasi mission, for effectively organizing the mission meet.

**Major Seminarians' work camp:** This year's work camp for major seminarians took place at Pulari Matriculation School in Pudur, Tenkasi mission, from April 14th to April 25th, 2024. Thirteen brothers, including 2 deacons, arrived on the evening of Saturday, the 13th, and commenced their ministry the following Sunday morning. During their stay, the brothers participated in a three-day retreat conducted by Fr. Daniel Poovannathil. Unlike previous years, the focus this year shifted from physical labour to intellectual work. The primary ministry of the brothers was providing English classes for the students and children of the school and surrounding villages, with additional training sessions offered to the teachers. The brothers organized the students into different age groups and led engaging classes, providing a unique opportunity to spread the Gospel through both words and actions to approximately 80 students. The work camp concluded on April 25th with a meeting of the major seminarians, attended by curia members and myself. During the meeting, the brothers shared their experiences, and the curia members expressed appreciation for their hard work. Overall, the work camp proved to be a fruitful experience for the school, students, and the participating brothers. I extend my gratitude to the Fathers who visited the brothers during the work camp, and I offer special thanks to Fr. Dency Mundunadackal and Fr. Prince Cherippanatt for their excellent coordination of the camp.

**VPV Training at Kalluvilai:** On April 27th, 2024, a VPV training course for catechism teachers was held at the Aseer Auditorium in Kalluvilai. The training programme commenced with an inaugural session led by Fr. Aby Poovathummoottil. Following the inauguration, the teachers were divided into four groups, and classes were conducted to provide effective tips for conducting VPV sessions. Mr. Edwinson, Mr. Vijayarajan, Mr. Shonic Reagan, and Mrs. Jeyarani facilitated these sessions. In the afternoon, the training programme was guided by major seminarians. Over 120 teachers participated in the programme, which concluded by 4:00 pm. I express my gratitude to the director, Fr. Abilash Xavier, and the catechetical team for conducting the course efficiently.

**Vocation Month Celebration:** For promoting vocations to priesthood and religious life, and in view of world vocation Sunday on 21 April 2024, the vocation commission of the eparchy organized a vocation month from 07 April 2024 to 28 April 2024. Inaugural and concluding celebrations were done in each parish. On the 07th of April, the vocation month observation was inaugurated in each parish with the lighting of the lamp during the Holy Qurbana. To ensure a wider reach and greater impact, a special circular was drafted by me and read out in all parishes on the same day. From the inaugural day until the conclusion, the prayer of vocation was recited every day in our parishes, uniting us in our mission to promote vocations. On the 28th of April, the concluding day of the vocation month, intercessory prayers were offered during the Karosusa prayer of the day. In all parishes, the parish priests delivered sermons on vocation, highlighting its significance in our eparchy and encouraging young people to consider this noble calling. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the Fathers who took personal initiatives to promote vocations and effectively utilized the tools provided by the vocation commission. In particular, I extend my special thanks to Fr. Josemon Paul Purayidathilkunnel, whose prompt actions in organizing the vocation month was instrumental in making this initiative a success.

**SMYM camp orientation programme:** In view of the camp to be held in the month of June, 2024, from 7 to 9, forane level orientation programmes were conducted. The camp will have the aim of imparting Christian leadership qualities to today's youth. The objectives will include directing life to God, vocational and career discernments, awareness on job market, responding the challenges emerging from the current society positively and helping the other youth. The forane gatherings were conducted on April 7, 2024 at Nithiravilai, April 14 at Manjalumoodu, April 21 at Pilankalai and April 28 at Karode. The gathering started at 2 pm with animation, led by the trained central team. Then respective forane vicars addressed the group and motivated them to act together for the cause of Christ and His Church. The diocesan director Fr. Joseph

Santhosh, guided the youth to listen to the voice of Christ which is inside of every person and to set the life in accordance to His voice. He touched on socio-political, economic, psychological problems faced by Z generation and trained them to have a personal relationship with God. The meetings got over by 4.30 pm with the final blessing. I thank Fr. Joseph Santhosh for organizing the orientation programmes in forane wise.

**Staff Day and Retirement Celebration at Kalluvilai:** On April 29th, 2024, the staff day and retirement celebration for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Schools of the Diocese were held at the Aseer Auditorium in Kalluvilai. Before the commencement of the public meeting, a one-hour seminar was conducted from 9:30 am to 10:30 am for the teachers. Fr. Printo Kurias and Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal addressed the teachers on the Safe Environment Policy of the diocese and its importance in every educational institution. The public meeting was presided over by myself, and Fr. Justin Suthesh, the correspondent of aided schools, extended a warm welcome to all attendees. During the meeting, I expressed gratitude to the staff members who retired this year after their dedicated services in our institutions and distributed mementos to them. The following teachers retired this year: Bay Suseela S, Florence Jaya Bai S, Vincent Raj K, Baby G, Glory Hepsy Bai P, Russel Raj C, Pushpam N, Sr. P. Thanka Rathinam, Christal Jaya L, Baby A, Sr. Mariamma Thomas, Cisily P. James, Babu Thomas, and Annamma James. Representatives from the teachers also offered their felicitations to the retirees. I extend my thanks to Fr. Justin Suthesh, the correspondent, for organizing the celebration in a systematic manner.

### INFORMATION

- **Rev. Fr. Mathew Anthiyamkulam CMI** (87) was called to eternal abode on 03 April 2024. The funeral service was held on 05 April 2024 at St. James Church, Karikkattoor. Fr. Mathew Anthiyamkulam was an ardent missionary of our diocese. He served as the Parish Priest of Kaliyal Parish for 9 years, from 1972 to 1981. Additionally, he held the offices of house superior of Kaliyal and Netta Ashrams and correspondent at Kaliyal and Netta schools. Throughout his tenure, he provided pastoral care as vicar in various mission places including Netta, Penu, Muzhucode, and Pallikonam. Let us thank God for his service in our diocese and pray that the Risen Lord may grant him eternal joy.
- **Rev. Sr. Domini Kalapurackal SABS** (83) was called to eternal abode on 05 April 2024. She rendered her service at Mankarai from 2013 - 2014 and at Soosaipuram during the period of 2014 - 2016. The funeral service took place on 06 April 2024 at Little Flower Convent Chapel, Vazhappally. Let us thank God for her service in our diocese and pray that the Risen Lord may grant her eternal joy.
- **St. Alphonsa College of Arts and Science**, Soosaipuram conducted its 6<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony on 05 April 2024.
- **Santhi Nilayam**, School for the Mentally Challenged, Paruthivilai celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual day on 05 April 2024.
- **St. Alphonsa College of Arts and Science**, Soosaipuram celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual day *Sacfiesta '24* on 06 April 2024.
- **Pastoral Visit to Holy Family Forane Church, Arukani** was conducted on 07 April 2024.
- Career guidance programme for the catechism students of Fathima Matha Church, Fathimapuram was conducted by SMYM on 07 April 2024 at Fathimapuram (Kudukkachivilai) and fifteen students participated and got benefited.
- **Sr. Vincy Antony FCC**, the inaugural superior of the FCC Convent (Idukki Province) in Theni, has been transferred on 09 April 2024. She dedicated five years of service to the mission in Theni, and

we extend our heartfelt gratitude to her for her selfless contributions to our diocese. We wish her God's grace and blessings in her new ministry.

- **Sr. Ruby FCC**, who previously served in the Virudunagar mission, assumed the role of the new superior at the Theni convent on 09 April 2024. We warmly welcome her and offer our prayers for God's abundant blessings upon her new ministry.
- **14 Regency Brothers from the Archdiocese of Changanacherry** came for mission visit in our diocese from 10 to 12 April 2024.
- **Catechism Promoters Meet with Curia members** was held on 10 April 2024 at Bishop's House.
- **Mr. Edwinson** has been honoured with the Missionary Award at the Great Gathering of Mission (GGM) introduced by Fiat Mission on 13 April 2024. This award recognizes his invaluable contributions to the realization of the Kingdom of God. The diocese extends its heartfelt congratulations to him and wishes God's continuous blessings on his missionary efforts.
- **Pastoral Visit to St. Thomas Church, Muzhucode** was conducted on 14 April 2024.
- **Retirement celebration to honour Sr. Mariyamma Thomas (Vijaya) FCC** was held at St. Mathew's Middle School, Annikkarai on 16 April 2024 in recognition of her 22 years dedicated service as headmistress. We express our gratitude to Sr. Vijaya for her invaluable services.
- **Pastoral Visit to St. Mathew's Church, Annikkarai** was conducted on 21 April 2024.
- **The Thuckalay Youth Educational Services (TYES)** conducted a campus interview in collaboration with Winners Institute of Communicative English on April 22, 2024 at SMYM office, Kalluvilai. A few youth attended the interview and got benefited.
- **Mathru Jyothis Day** was celebrated in all the parishes on 28 April 2024.
- **Three brothers - Bro. Justin Thomas, Bro. Tebin Thomas and Bro. Sreejith S.** - who have completed successfully their minor seminary formation will enter into Major seminary. Bro. Justin will be sent to Ruhalya Major Seminary, Ujjain; Bro. Tebin to St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Mangalappuzha and Bro. Sreejith to Mary Matha Major Seminary, Trissur for philosophical studies.
- **Bro. Godwin Christudhas** who has completed the regency ministry will be sent to St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor for theological studies.
- **Regents:** This year we have six brothers for regency: Bro. Josbin Mathew will begin his regency ministry at KKSSS, Kalluvilai; Bro. Sibin CK at Sangamam; Bro. Antony at Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal; Bro. Melvin at Puliয়ারai, Tenkasi; Bro. Monish at Bishop's House; Bro. Josbin Joseph at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu. I wish them all the best and pray that the good Lord may strengthen them in their pastoral ministries!
- **Degree students** – Bro. abishwin and Bro. John will be residing at St. Alphonsa Shrine Church, Nagercoil for their studies from May onwards.
- **VPV in Parishes:** As our students are enjoying their summer vacation, with the help of the Catechetical Department of our Eparchy, the VPV (*Visuvasa Paiyrchi Vizha*) classes have begun in all our parishes. We need to encourage our children to attend the classes so that they can learn much about our Catholic Faith during these days of intensive catechesis. Let's make use of this golden opportunity and give Jesus to our children. Our young candidates for the priesthood, who are now on holiday from their respective seminaries, are in various parishes our diocese helping the fathers to organise VPV classes. Let's continue to pray and promote priestly and religious vocations.
- **Transfers 2024:** Since we carried out most of the transfers last year, there will be only a few transfers this year. I have already communicated with the concerned persons. The transfers will take effect from May 24th, 2024 unless otherwise indicated. Kindly follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) already in place in our Eparchy when people are transferred. I am deeply grateful to the Fathers who have served our people with unwavering commitment in the past years and will now be moving to new places of ministry.



- **Jubilee 2025:** We are preparing for Jubilee 2025 in different phases. During the first phase that had already ended, the priests and the religious completed the study of the four Constitutions of Vatican II. In the next phase, these documents will be studied by the departments and uraviyams. We shall soon initiate this phase in our preparation for Jubilee 2025.

### **FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS**

01 May	-	VII Pastoral Council at Sangamam
01 May	-	Home Day celebration of Snehavilla, Moolamattam
17-18 May	-	Retreat of Catechism Teachers at Kalluvilai
22 May	-	Recollection and Priests' Conference
23 May	-	Finance Council at Bishop's House
24 May	-	Transfers
27 May	-	Chapel Blessing at Chembakatharissu
29 May	-	Meeting with Priests of 12-20 Years of Ordination

#### **Recollection & Priests' Conference**

**Place: Sangamam**

**Date: 22 May 2024**

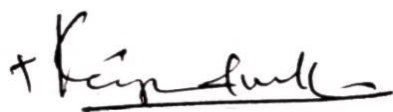
**Time: 09.30 am – 01.30 pm**

### **CONCLUSION**

We are still in the Easter season. Easter is the most joyful time of celebration of the church year. Celebrated against the background of the shadows and darkness of Lent and Holy Week, this season truly becomes a living expression of the hope that God has brought into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Since this hope of renewal and new life, both present and future is at the heart of the Good News that the Church is commissioned to proclaim and live in the world, every possible avenue of proclaiming that Good News should be utilized. Let us make use of the various aspects of worship that this season offers, especially the Marian month that we are beginning tomorrow, to become vehicles for God's grace and transforming work in the world and among our people!

Entrusting you and your flocks to the loving mantle of Our Lady,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**  
Bishop of Thuckalay

