

JANUARY 2026  
VOL. 6 | ISSUE 1

# Thuck'alay

# Tidings

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

A photograph of a family of three walking away from the camera on a dirt path through a lush, green forest. The mother is on the left, wearing a light pink lace dress and brown boots. The father is on the right, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. A young child in a white shirt and shorts is in the middle, holding hands with both parents. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, dappled light effect.

**In the Holy Family of Nazareth,  
equality and respect  
were the foundation.**



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## THUCKALAY TIDINGS

January 2026 | Vol. 6 | Issue 1

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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**DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**  
BISHOP'S HOUSE  
P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175

## Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Warm greetings and blessings to you as we joyfully welcome the New Year 2026!

As you read through the Thuckalay Tiding of this year 2026 I am overwhelmed with joy and gratitude to God for giving another year with full of hope and promises. In this issue I wish to share some thought on family which is the cradle of the church. When a young boy was asked, "Who has the upper hand in your family-your father or your mother?" he sadly replied: "My father's hand is always raised to strike, and my mother's hand is always swollen from the blow."

To protect our families, we must move away from the You vs. Me competition and embrace the spirit of **You and I**. A man and a woman are like two halves of a whole; neither is complete without the other. A happy home is built when we stop trying to win arguments and start trying to win each other's hearts through mutual sacrifice.

In family life, **Chemistry** is far more important than **Mathematics**. **Mathematics** involves the brain-it is logical, calculates debts, and often leads to cold arguments. Chemistry, however, involves the heart. The brain looks for flaws, but the heart looks for strengths. While the brain demands its rights, the heart offers affection. There is no heart so hard that it cannot be softened by love. If we lead with our hearts, we lead a blissful life. As the Scripture says, "Love never fails."

In the Holy Family of Nazareth, equality and respect were the foundation. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus never hurt one

another with harsh words or cruel actions. They didn't have an EGO problem. In a spiritual sense, **EGO** stands for **Excluding God Out**. When we push God out of our homes, peace leaves with Him. When God is at the center, a peace that surpasses all understanding dwells within.

Children are the beautiful fruit of a marriage. The Tamil poet Valluvar wisely wrote:

*"The glory of a home is the character of the wife, and its true jewels are its good children." (Kural 60)*

We must follow the example of Joseph and Mary. When King Herod threatened the child Jesus, Joseph did not hesitate; he took his family to Egypt to keep them safe. Later, when twelve-year-old Jesus was lost in Jerusalem, they searched for Him with deep concern. Do we show the same protective love for our children today?

Some parents today are indifferent to their children's lives. There is a story of an elder asking a father how his sons were doing. The father replied, "The first is a monkey, the second is a buffalo, and the third is a pig!" Shocked, the elder asked, "Do you have children, or are you running a zoo?"

St. Paul reminds us: "*Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they will become discouraged*" (Col. 3:21). Our children are not animals to be managed, but souls to be nurtured. True faith is shown in how we treat our aging parents. It is a tragedy when people name their house "Mother's Home" but send their actual mother to an "Old Age Home."

As our parents age, their strength fades and their minds may grow tired. Children must understand this change and treat them with the same patience their parents once showed them. Those who honour their parents will be blessed with long lives and will receive that same love from their own children one day.

May God bless our families!

With gratitude and prayers,



+ **George Rajendran sdb**  
*Bishop of Thuckalay*

## EMPOWERING THE FAITHFUL: Pastoral Council Meeting



The fourth meeting of the Seventh Pastoral Council was held at Sangamam on 03 December 2025. The inaugural session began at 9:30 a.m. with a prayer led by Rev. Fr. Vinu D. Joseph. After the prayer, homage was paid to the deceased council members. Mr. John Kumari Thozhan and Mr. Shonic Regan, the Joint Secretary, welcomed the participants and presented the minutes of the previous meeting. The Bishop presided over the meeting and delivered the introductory address. The resource person for the day, Rev. Fr. Anil Raj Dominic, presented the theme "Syro-

Malabar Community Empowerment Year 2026," based on the handbook published by the Syro-Malabar Public Affairs Commission. Following the input session, the council members engaged in fruitful discussions inspired by his presentation and shared practical suggestions on how the Community Empowerment Year could be meaningfully lived out in our diocese. The concluding talk was given by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Mrs. Sujitha.





## ROOTED IN THE WORD, RENEWED BY THE SPIRIT:

### Diocesan Bible Convention:

The 25th Eparchial Bible Convention was held from December 5–7, 2025, at the Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. To ensure greater participation, this year's convention was conducted in the evenings on the first two days, followed by a full-day programme on Sunday, the final day. The retreat was animated by Rev. Fr. Raphael Koothur, VC, Director of the Popular Mission Retreat Centre, Chennai, along with his team. Each day began with the celebration of the Holy Qurbana — presided over by the newly ordained priests and Forane Vicars on the first two days — while I presided over the concelebrated Holy Qurbana on the final day.



A special retreat for CML students was held simultaneously on Saturday and Sunday at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai, led by Bro. David and Bro. Rajan. On the final day, around 460 students participated. In addition, Fr. Toji Kozhuvakandathil and the SABS Sisters organized a retreat for the children of Kuzhanthai Yesuvin Iyakkam at St. Mother Teresa Mission Church, Kalluvilai, in which 370 children took part. The convention witnessed an excellent turnout, with the faithful from all parishes actively participating and benefitting spiritually from the proclamation of the Word of God.



## **UPHOLDING TRUTH THROUGH SERVICE:** **Diocesan Legal Cell Office Blessed**

The Diocesan Legal Cell Office was officially blessed and inaugurated on 09 December 2025, at Kuzhithurai. The ceremony began with a blessing of the office by me, followed by the official ribbon-cutting performed by senior advocate Adv. David. The event was graced by the presence of several priests, sisters, and other distinguished guests. The primary aim of the

Legal Cell is to provide reliable and accessible legal aid to those in need in our diocese. By offering professional guidance with trust and feasibility, the cell aims to ensure justice and support for the community. It was the effort of Fr. Printo Kurias, Director of Legal Cell, to begin this fruitful initiative for the good of the people.



# ONE FAMILY IN CHRIST:

## Celebrating the Joy of the Incarnation

The Diocese of Thuckalay hosted a beautiful and diverse series of pre-Christmas celebrations across various locations, bringing the joy of the season to every corner of the community. These gatherings reached out to all groups within the Church, including children in the Catechesis and Kuzhanthai Isso lyakkam, youth in the SMYM and CML, and the elderly and families through the Family Apostolate. Special events were held for the heads of institutions and charitable organizations at Sangamam, as well as for the medical fraternity, seminarians, and religious brothers and sisters. The celebrations also extended to the Tenkasi and Madurai missions, ensuring the spirit of Christmas was shared far and wide. With inter-religious gatherings and events for the local neighborhoods, the Diocese successfully promoted a message of peace and unity, made possible by the dedicated efforts of the clergy, religious, and lay faithful.



**Family Apostolate**



**Heads of Institutions**



**Kulandai Iso lyakkam (KII)**



**CRI Thuckalay**



**Educare students**



**Extended Territory Mission**



**Seminarians, at Minor seminary**



**Mathru Jyothis**



**Bishop's House Neighborhood**



**Presbyterium**



**Madurai Mission**





## **YOUTH ON FIRE FOR CHRIST:** **Celebrating SMYM Annual Day**

On Sunday, 14 December 2025, the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) organized a "Five-in-One" grand celebration at the Pilankalai Forane Church campus. The programme combined the SMYM Annual Day, Christmas Celebration, Conclusion of the Jubilee Year, Farewell to the Outgoing Office Bearers, and the Oath-Taking Ceremony for the New Office Bearers. The event commenced at 1:00 p.m. with registration, followed by the inaugural ceremony. Star-Making and Carol Song competitions were then conducted for the youth. After the competitions, a special Adoration was held to mark the conclusion of the Jubilee Year. The Annual Day celebration began at 6:00 p.m., and the Bishop presided over the function. Sr. Jeena FCC, the Youth Animator, offered felicitations. The celebration was colourful and lively with various cultural programmes. During the event, mementos were presented to the outgoing office bearers,



and the new team officially took their oaths of office. The programme concluded with the distribution of prizes to the winners. The event was organized by Rev. Fr. Anil Raj, the Director of SMYM

# Jubilee 2025:

**A journey of hope concluded, a mission of love renewed**



The diocesan-level conclusion of Christ Jubilee 2025 was held on 07 December 2025 along with the conclusion of Bible Convention at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai, in the presence of the priests, religious, and faithful of the diocese. A tableau presentation of the Jubilee emblem was organized under the guidance of the CMC Sisters, and the diocesan Jubilee Anthem was sung by the choir formed by Fr. Antony Madapurackal. In the presidential address, the Bishop recalled the major initiatives undertaken by the diocese to make this year truly fruitful and expressed his gratitude to the entire diocesan family for their efforts to make meaningful spiritual use of the Jubilee Year.

The parish level conclusion of the Jubilee 2025 was held on 28 December 2025 in all the parishes along with the solemn thanksgiving Holy Qurbana. It started with the lighting of the Jubilee candle by the main celebrant followed by an introduction to the Holy Qurbana highlighting the graces we received in the jubilee year. The Sanctuary Hymn was sung along with the kissing of St. Thomas cross. During the Karosoosa, special payers were recited and at the conclusion of the Holy Qurbana, the Jubilee prayer was recited and the Jubilee Anthem was sung. In many parishes, special meeting was conducted with the sharing of Jubilee year experience by children, youth and religious.

**You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminarian in his formation:**

Please write / mail to us for any enquiry / details. We shall contact you with all further details soliciting your generous support:

**Postal Address:**  
Bishop's House, P.B. 12, Thuckalay,  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

**Contact Mission Procure:**  
Fr. Liju Marattukalam  
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;  
Email: [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)

# THE WORD IN ACTION:

## Celebrating Biblical Excellence

This year the Forane level Catechism Bible competitions were held on 27 - 31 December 2025. All the parishes took part in the various competitions. Narcheithi Nilayam organised the competitions. The themes for the various competitions were taken from the Bible itself. This helped the children to read the Bible and to engender love for the Word of God. All the children after much preparation and rigorous practice took part in the competitions. Rev. Fr. Abilash Xavier, Director, and Rev. Fr. Jacob

Ayyamathra, Assistant Director, of Catechism Department for organising the events in a professional manner. The events were held at APJM School, Soosaipuram; St Michael School, Kattathurai; Holy Family School, Mukkoottukkal; St John Paul II School, Kulasekharam; Sacred Heart School, Padanthalumoodu; Jaya Matha School, Christurajapuram and St. Francis Assisi School, Mezhacode. The Rank list of each Forane is listed below:



Foranes	Rank-1	Rank-2	Rank-3
Kaliyal	Marappady	Pallikonam	Kaliyal
Manjalumoodu	Manjalumoodu	Malaicode	Mukkoottukal
Nithiravilai	Varuthattu	Nithiravilai	Cheenivilai
Padanthalumoodu	Annikkarai	Padanthalumoodu	Thettiyode
Soosaipuram	Soosaipuram	Mankarai	Palappallam
Thuckalay-Pilankalai	Kattathurai	Pilankalai	Paraicode
Arukani	Arukani	Mezhacode	Netta



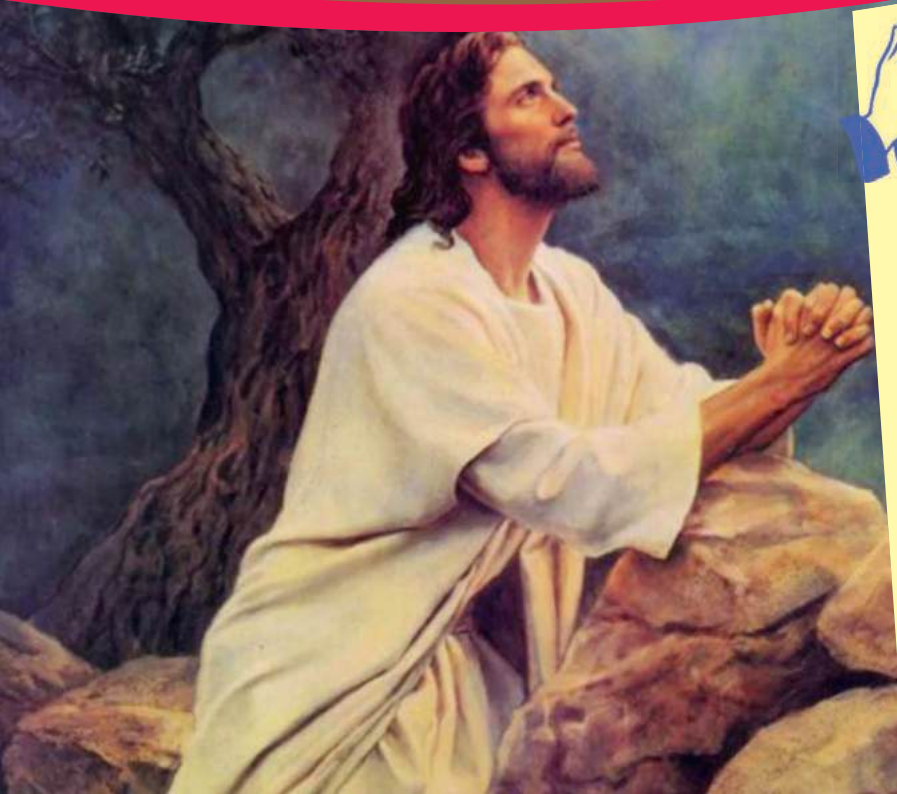
### Honoring a Life of Service: Fr. John Thekkel

Second Death Anniversary Remembrance Holy Qurbana for Fr. John Thekkel was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam on 22 December 2025 at St. Francis Assisi Church, Mezhacode.



### Fr. Ludovic Pathickal CMI (91)


was called to eternal reward on 23 December 2025. Fr. Ludovic was the Parish Priest in Netta for three years. The Diocese expresses the heartfelt gratitude for all his services in the Diocese. Let us pray that the merciful Lord grant him eternal joy.



### 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](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)



**Sr. Leo CMC (87)** was called to eternal rest on 27 December 2025. As a religious sister, she served in our diocese for almost 9 years in three different places: Muzhucode, Puliyarai and Coutrallam. Let us thank God for her selfless sacrifices for the good of our diocese. May God grant her eternal rest and welcome her into His loving embrace.

## A Life Well Lived...



**Mr. Cheriyan Joseph (86),**  
 brother of Sr. Agnetta CMC, on 01 December 2025.



**Mrs. Rachel Aaron (90),**  
 grandmother of Fr. Abilash, on 08 December 2025.



**Mrs. Paul Thankam (75),**  
 beloved mother of Fr. Albert Jose CMI on 28 December 2025.

## Identity and Unity



### **SYRO MALABAR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT YEAR - 2026**

The Syro-Malabar Church has declared 2026 as the Syro-Malabar Empowerment Year, and we shall observe it with dedication throughout our Eparchy. This year calls on us to empower our faithful through deeper catechesis, enhanced participation in Church life, and stronger engagement with the social realities of our time. In light of *Dilexi Te*, let this empowerment particularly focus on enabling our communities to become agents of justice and mercy, walking alongside the poor and marginalised in authentic solidarity.



**THUCKALAY**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

## ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL Karungal, Soosaipuram

### Cathedral Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony

We are delighted to share a momentous milestone in the history of our Eparchy. With hearts full of joy and gratitude, we announce the commencement of our dream project.



#### Event Details

**Occasion :** Laying the foundation stone of our Diocesan Cathedral.

**Location :** Soosaipuram.

**Date :** 17 February 2026.

**"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." (Psalm 127:1)**

***Let us join together in prayer and celebration as we embark on this sacred journey of faith.***

**All are Welcome!**

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