

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

NOVEMBER 2021 | VOL. 1 | ISSUE 9

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



Silver Jubilee

Celebrating the Showers of Blessing



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

NOVEMBER 2021 | Vol. 1 | Issue 9

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY
BISHOP'S HOUSE
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Message

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Words are not enough to express my gratitude and joy to write this message on the great occasion of the Silver Jubilee of our Diocesan family. The long preparations for the Silver Jubilee reached at its conclusion with a great celebration of Faith on 14th of this month. It is true that we have gone through months in which the pandemic has put us back in front of what is essential in life, but it forces us to open our eyes to the fact that existence does not belong to us and therefore makes us discover the value of God-given life. The pandemic has really taught us the great truth of the present time, of this precise moment in which we live. During the jubilee year, the merciful face of the Diocesan family was exposed to the society through different activities like constructing houses for the poor, volunteer teams for the pandemic emergency, medical kit, food and grocery distribution and so on.

The history of our Diocese during these 25 years and before as a mission territory makes us discover that the encounter with Christ opens up reason to see the ultimate depth of reality and that of our present, here and now. Our forerunners of this mission land did not flee in

front of the tragic contexts and situations but loved this land and brought it to completion as a kingdom of God. If we do not take this path of awareness, if we do not find an answer for us here and now, in our present, even if full of uncertainties, we risk not living with hope and repeating words that in the end do not even convince us.

The jubilee year was an opportunity to reflect on the mystery of our Diocese, to be increasingly rediscovered as a mystery of Communion. The Diocese is a communion. We are a Community of Faith, which is built on the Word of God and on the Sacraments. It is a building, in various respects, always under construction, and the builders are all the components, none excluded. We are called to cooperate jointly in the marvelous undertaking and then everything can become an object of love starting from this home.

I thank each and every one of you whole heartedly for helping us to build up this Happy Home with your spiritual as well as material assistances.

May God bless you all.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay





FINIS IUBILAEI

The Mission Continues...



The Silver Jubilee of the Diocese came to a close on 14 November 2021 with the solemn Holy Qurbana being celebrated simultaneously in every Parish at 9:00 am. The main thanksgiving Holy Qurbana was concelebrated by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and first Bishop of our Diocese at Little Flower Forane Church at Manjalumoodu.

The Cardinal and Bishops Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of Changanessery, Mar Thomas Tharayil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanessery and our own Bishop were given a warm reception at 8:45 am at the entrance. They were led in procession to the entrance of the Church and were welcomed with traditional dances by different groups of children, youth and mothers. A solemn liturgical procession for the Holy Qurbana began at 9:15 am. The Holy Qurbana was attended by priests and religious, all the faithful of Manjalumoodu, those of neighbouring parishes and mission centres and invited representatives from all the parishes and mission centres of the Diocese.

The Jubilee concluding public function began at 11:30 am. There were other dignitaries from the Catholic Fraternity of Kanniyakumari District, such as Bishop Vincent Mar Paulos of Marthandam Diocese, Bishop Emeritus of Kottar, Most Rev Peter Remigius, Rev. Fr Hilarius, Vicar General of Kottar Diocese and Rev. Fr Yesu Rathinam, the contact person of Kuzhithurai Diocese, joined the function.

With expressions of gratitude for the abundant blessings the Diocese has received through the years, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB welcomed all the dignitaries, priests and religious and faithful from all the parishes gathered for the function at Manjalumoodu and all those who were witnessing the YouTube live telecast from their respective parishes and all who were watching it from India and abroad.

The youth of our Diocese presented a wonderful visual exposition of the Jubilee Anthem on stage, which highlighted the different aspects of the ministry of the Diocese. The dignitaries who felicitated the gathering appreciated the dedication of our first Bishop, our present Bishop, all the priests and religious and the faithful for the tremendous efforts put in for the welfare of not only the Church and its faithful but also in the educational and socio-economic development of the people.





The Diocese seized the opportunity to release important publications for the spiritual growth of the faithful such as a History of Diocese, Blessing Book, Prayer cum Hymn Book and Prayers for funeral. One of the highlights of the Silver Jubilee was to construct 25 Homes for the poor and a token key was handed over to one of the beneficiary family. Arulin Osai, a CD with liturgical spiritual hymns was also released. In remembrance of the Silver Jubilee, all Catholic families belonging to the Diocese received a photo frame with Holy Family picture and a Jubilee sapling to be planted in the frontage or backyard of their homes; this being carried out simultaneously in all the parishes and mission centres along with the timing of the main function.





His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry delivered the Presidential cum Valedictory Address. He highlighted the hard work and dedication of all the missionaries and priests who have toiled hard for the development of the Church and its charitable activities. He was happy to recall his Episcopal ministry in the Diocese and the blessings of God in every step that the Diocese had taken for the development. He was very loud in articulating his appreciation for the present Bishop, all the priests and religious and the laity for their dedicated service for the cause of the Church and the people.

The conclusion of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations marked sharing of community meals arranged in all the parishes and mission centres.

After the community meal, the Cardinal blessed and inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Arch constructed in memory of the celebrations at the entrance to St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal.

May the Good Lord continue to bless the Diocese of Thuckalay.



Inauguration of Synod on Synodality

The Diocese of Thuckalay joined the Universal call of the Holy Father Pope Francis who has convoked a synod in the Church to be held in 2023. The Holy Father opened the process of preparing for the Synod in Rome on 10 October 2021 and directed all the dioceses to open the processes on 17 October 2021. The function to mark the same was held at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu. The Synodal Committee in the Diocese is headed by Rev. Fr Thomas Sathianesan, Chancellor of the Diocese. The inaugural Holy Qurbana began at 9.00 am. Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General and other Fathers joined His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB to concelebrate the Holy Qurbana. Sisters from various congregations represented the inaugural programme. The official inauguration of the diocesan preparations for the Synod was held soon after the Holy Qurbana. Rev. Fr Thomas Sathianesan gave an introduction on the Synod and its need as endorsed by the Holy Father. The programme which was attended by representatives from priests, religious and laity came to an end with special prayers for Synod.



Priests and Religious Sangamam and Jubilee Celebrations



The Priests and Religious Sangamam was held on 2 October 2021 at St Joseph Forane Church, Soosaipuram. It was truly a happy and memorable moment for all the Fathers and Sisters working in the Eparchy to come together and to experience the communion of love and oneness. It was an occasion to thank God and to celebrate the jubilees of Priests and Religious who serve in the Eparchy. The planning for the Jubilee Celebrations was highlighted in the seventh Issue of Tidings.

The solemn Holy Qurbana attended by all the priests and religious serving in the Diocese began at 10.00 am. We specially prayed for all of us and for those who help us in keeping our spirits alive through their constant support in different forms. The Holy Qurbana was followed by felicitation function for the Jubilerians. All the Jubilerians were appreciated and honoured with mementos.

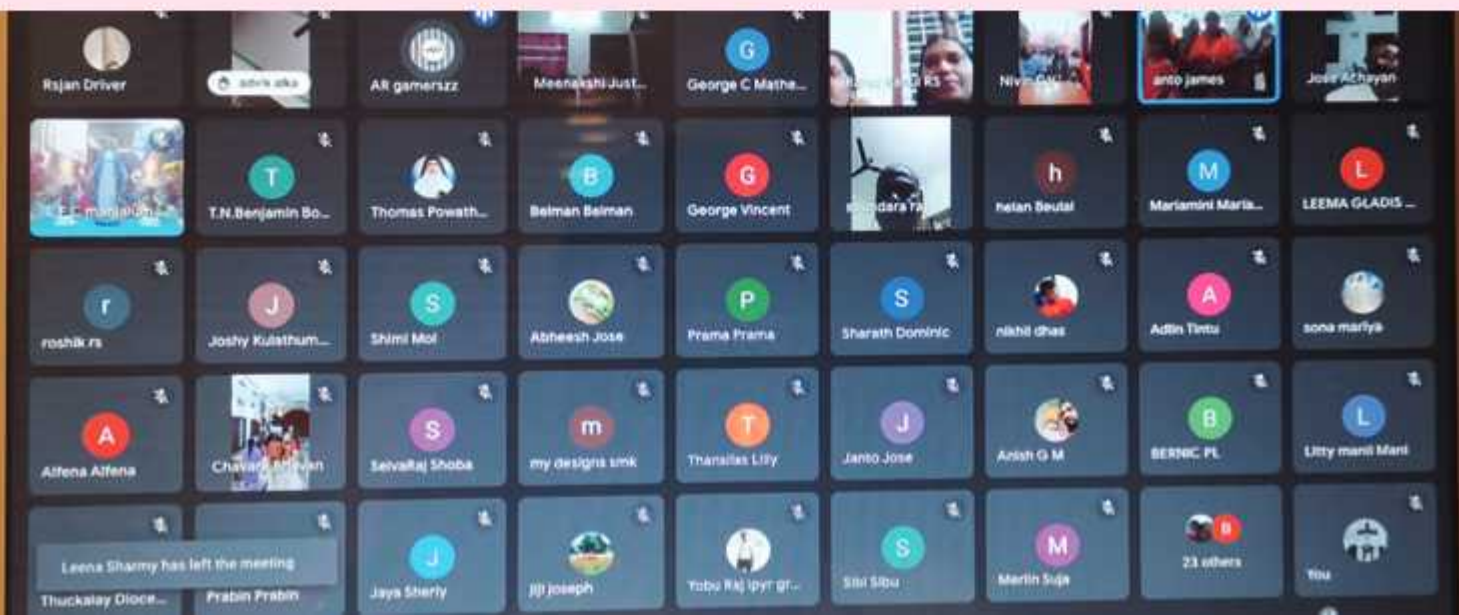


Shepherd with His Faithful



One of the action plans for the preparation for the Silver Jubilee of the Eparchy is that the Bishop visits all the parishes and meets the faithful and interacts with them. The pandemic lockdown restricted the physical movements to parishes. Hence, before the final celebration it was decided to organise the interaction online. A proper schedule was drawn from 13-19 October, 2021 according to the Foranes. All the Parish Priests prepared the faithful and helped them to attend the meeting online. In many parishes, the faithful gathered in the parish church and through TV or Video Projector participated in the meeting. Special attention was given to

Malayalam speaking communities and to the faithful in the extended territories. The general time table for these programmes was that by 6.45 pm people came online; by 7.00 pm the faithful recited community Rosary; by 7.35 pm a welcome was accorded to the Bishop and to the faithful; by 7.40 pm the Bishop addressed his faithful; and, by 8.05 pm the faithful interacted and shared their joy and concerns with the Bishop. The programme concluded with a blessing. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB appreciated the enthusiasm of the faithful to attend this special online meeting.



Jubilee Walk with Blessed Mother Mary

Month of October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The pious practice of praying the Holy Rosary takes on a special emphasis in this month in our families and parishes. The Diocese observed 24 October 2021 as a day for Chain Rosary in the Diocese. The event became truly meaningful as we are celebrating our Silver Jubilee. A great planning had taken place within the parishes as how the chain would be formed and the Rosaries recited with utmost piety. In some parishes, it was held Uravium wise with every Uravium being assigned their respective timings to come to the Church pray the Rosary, while in other parishes the timings were fixed to recite the Rosary family-wise from morning till evening.



Jubilee Hours in His Presence

All celebrations call for unceasing prayer to reflect the blessings of God. As part of the immediate spiritual preparation for the Jubilee Concluding Celebrations, the Diocese organised four days of chain adoration in all the parishes. It was held from 25-28 October 2021. All the parishes and mission stations were given 2 hours each from 7.00 am to 8.00 pm on these four days for all of us to kneel and surrender in front of the Blessed Sacrament, thank God for 25 years of blessings and pray for the Diocese and its continuous mission. It was indeed heartening to see that the priests, religious and faithful in every parish and mission station underwent this spiritual exercise religiously. The faithful came to their respective parishes at the allotted time to take part in the adoration.



EDUCARE Program for Children



Educare Program for some of the students who are sponsored for their education by various benefactors was conducted on 2 October 2021 for the purpose of preparing them to return in person to the classrooms as the Government was preparing to bring the young students back to schools. Miss Sheeji, the resource person from Don Bosco Vazhikatti conducted the motivational class on life skills and how the children need to be ready to face the real classrooms again. She also came up with a number of study tips for the students for their better performance. Thirty students participated in the event. It was also an opportunity for these students to submit the working models tasked to them by the animators during the pandemic lockdown.



You can come forward to partner the Educare Sponsorship Program of the Diocese of Thuckalay.

You can help a Child for Education at different levels.

School Education : 5 - 7 Years

College Education : 3 Years

For details contact

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Youth Camp

A two-day Youth Camp was organised by TCYM at Sangamam from 14-15 October 2021 on the main theme "We, the youth, are the NOW of the Church". About 50 youth from the Diocese took part in the Camp. There were a number of sessions on the theme and some of the topics that were covered are Fr Stan Swamy's unfinished mission, need and importance of forming a youth movement and a goal-oriented youth according to Holy Father Pope Francis. Many resource persons were invited to take the sessions. All the sessions were very interactive in nature and the youth also received ample opportunity for undertaking quality deliberations among themselves. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB celebrated the Holy Qurbana for the youth on 15 October 2021 and interacted with them.



Visit of General Counsellor of the Salesians of Don Bosco



Rev. Fr Biju Michael SDB, General Counsellor for South Asia of the Salesian Congregation, visited the Diocese from 20-22 October 2021. Rev. Fr Biju Michael represents the Rector Major of the Congregation as he is making the extra-ordinary canonical visitation of the Salesian Province of Trichy under whose territory Thuckalay falls. The Bishop's House community welcomed him on 20 October at 7.30 pm. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB and Rev. Fr Robin Jose, Secretary to the Bishop accompanied Rev. Fr Biju Michael to some of our parishes and communities. He received a first-hand experience of the types of ministries we are doing in the Diocese. In the morning of 21 October, he visited CMC Provincial House and celebrated Mass. Rev. Fr Biju visited and

interacted at Arappalli, DNN, Karodu, St. Mary's Minor Seminary and SABS Regional House at Soosaipuram. He also paid a visit to St Alphonsa College of Arts and Science and delivered a talk to the teachers on "Reaching Out to Today's Youth" after which he visited Kanyakumari. The Diocese accorded him a reception and dinner at the Bishop's House in the evening, where the neighbouring religious communities and Forane Fathers were invited. On 22 October, Rev. Fr Biju Michael celebrated Holy Qurbana at FCC Provincial House and had an interactive session with the youth of our Diocese at KKSSS, Kalluvilai. He also jointly inaugurated the Don Bosco Vazhikatti. It was indeed a fruitful visit.



Psycho-Spiritual Refreshment Program



The Family Apostolate Department of the Diocese organised a two day camp on 29-30 October, 2021 for the mothers in the families on the topic "Psycho-Spiritual Refreshment". The initiative was taken in order to bring together and empower them on living the family life with enriched mind and heart. The program mainly focused on detoxification and then refilling of positive thoughts. The resource persons urged the mothers to use many techniques, therapy, yoga, meditation and so on in order to achieve the same. They were also taught to follow traditional methods in farming and cooking food with needed nutrients to the body. There were 20 mothers from various parishes who enriched themselves. The department will organise a follow up program after 90 days to ascertain and confirm the transformation. The department plans to conduct such programs to benefit all in the families.



Blessing of FCC Convent at Thenkasi Mission



The Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC) Sisters have been working in Thenkasi Mission for the last six years. The Sisters are serving in our Pulari School and carrying out pastoral ministry in Pudur and Sunderapandiyapuram Missions. All these years, the Sisters were staying in a rented house with minimum convenience. The Lord has been very good to them and the Sisters finally found a place near to the Pulari School and have constructed a Convent. The newly built Convent was blessed on 22 October 2021 by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB in the presence of Very Rev. Fr Thomas Pawathupampil, Vicar General of the Diocese, the Vice-Provincial of FCC Kanjirapalli Province, all the Priests, religious and some invited faithful of Thenkasi Mission. The Convent Chapel was blessed and the first Holy Qurbana was offered in the Chapel. Let us thank the Lord together with the Sisters for strengthening our mission in Thenkasi.

Jubilee Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana

The month-long final spiritual preparation for the closing of the Silver Jubilee of the Diocese began with on 14 November 2021 with all parishes and mission stations offering special Holy Qurbana and observing an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in order to thank God for the blessings showered upon the Diocese of Thuckalay for the last 25 years. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB offered the special Holy Qurbana on that day at Holy Family Church, Arukani.

It was also the occasion when the Bishop offered special prayers for late Rev. Sr Canciamma SH who reached her heavenly abode on 20 August 2021.



FDP Program in Save A Family Plan

The Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) organized Cluster Level Family Development Programs in 11 centres under the operational area of the Diocese through the month of October. The coordinator interacted with the families and ascertained their concerns and assisted 92 poor families throughout the program to draw up their family development action plans.



Psycho-Social Training to SHG Animators

The Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), the social arm of the Diocese organised a Psycho Social Training Program for SHG Animators on 21 October 2021 at Kalluvilai. Mr. Sudhakar, the resource person stressed the importance of mental health along with physical health for a joyous and successful life. He provided tips through various activities for maintaining good mental health. The participants appreciated the program.

Visit of Apostolic Nuncio


His Excellency Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India, visited the Diocese of Kottar on 2 October 2021. The Bishops of the four Catholic Dioceses of Kanyakumari District were invited for to meet the Nuncio. It was a friendly visit and all the Bishops had some time for interaction with the Nuncio. Bishops had some private time to discuss about the pastoral, religious and political situations in Tamil Nadu. The Nuncio exchanged the greetings and love of the Holy Father to all the Dioceses of Kanyakumari District.



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

Celebration of World Mental Health Day

The TNBC Health Care Commission had directed all the Dioceses of Tamilnadu to observe the World Mental Health Day on 10 October and to promote mental health among the faithful. The Diocesan Health Care Commission under the leadership of the Secretary, Rev. Fr Abin Poovathumootil observed the day on 9 October 2021 at Devasahayam Nalvazhvu Nilayam (DNN) with a programme. About sixty teachers from seven special schools of the Diocese participated in the programme which began at 10.00 am with a brief inauguration. The resource person, Rev. Sr Josephine Mary CTC, Secretary, TNBC Health Commission presented at detail the importance of nurturing good mental health in one's life. After a short break, the teachers and inmates of DNN had a concelebrated Holy Qurbana. The inmates of DNN put up an entertainment programme highlighting the importance of mental health in the afternoon.



HOME for the Homeless



One of the ambitious projects as part of the Silver Jubilee of the Diocese is to build 25 houses for the homeless in our Diocese. Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) had identified the families with the help of the parish priests and the construction works are going on. We had been making all efforts to complete all the homes before the concluding function of the Silver Jubilee celebrations, though we are facing incessant rains in some of the areas where the constructions are on. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB blessed and inaugurated one such home for a poor family in Chenamcodu Parish on 20 October, 2021



One Day Training Program on Preparation of Milk and Milk Products

Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) organised a one day Training Program on preparation of milk and milk products at Jayamatha Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Christurajapuram on 30 October 2021. The program was conducted in collaboration with Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Parakai affiliated to Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai. Rev. Fr Jose Muttathupadam, Correspondent of the Jayamatha School and Rev. Fr Thomas Sebastian, Director of KKSSS inaugurated the session. The resource person, Prof. Hudson explained at length the importance of milk and milk products for enhancement of livelihood opportunities for women. He assured all support from the Veterinary University Training and Research Centre and encouraged the women to start income generation units for their economic independency. The program was of great benefit to the SHG women.



5 Days Training Program on Hen Rearing

Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS) organized 5 days certificate course cum training program on hen rearing to SHG women during 25 - 30 October 2021. The program was conducted in collaboration with Veterinary University Training and Research Centre, Parakai affiliated to Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai. The venue for the training program was the KKSSS Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The resource persons, Dr. Selva Kumar and Prof. Hudson explained the possibilities of starting income and employment generation units through practical approach in hen rearing.



Inauguration of Don Bosco Vazhikatti



It was a long cherished dream of the Diocese to set up a Students' Help Desk at TCYM Office, Kalluvilai in order to provide constant guidance to the youth about higher studies, scholarships and employment opportunities. In collaboration with the Salesian Province of Trichy Vazhikatti, the Diocese inaugurated the office on 22 October 2021. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB blessed the office and Rev. Fr Biju Michael SDB inaugurated the project by cutting the ribbon in the presence of Rev. Fr Agilan SDB, Provincial of Trichy, Rev. Fr Thomas Pawathuparampil, Vicar General, Rev. Fr Joseph Santhosh, Director of TCYM, Rev. Fr Arul Antony SDB, Director of Vazhikatti Trichy and several priests and young people. This office will cater to the needs of the young people in the Diocese in Career Guidance and Placement and procuring scholarships. Don Bosco Vazhikatti has appointed a staff in order to carry out this project in the Diocese. A short public meeting was organised in order to felicitate Rev. Fr Biju Michael and Rev. Fr Agilan.





Priests' Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat for the priests of the Diocese becomes a significant one especially as the Diocese celebrates its Silver Jubilee. It was a moment to thank the Lord for the blessings that have been lavished upon the Diocese and to prepare for the continued ministry. The annual retreat was held from 3-8 October 2021 at Sangamam. Rev. Fr Dominic Valamnall and his team from Marian Retreat Centre, Anakara, animated the retreat. It was a hallowed opportunity for the priests to have a saintly person like Rev. Fr Dominic Valamnall as the preacher. He guided the priests to acknowledge and to appreciate the shared priesthood of Jesus and to lead a holy life. Opportunities were given to all the priests for personal counselling by professional counsellors from Anakara Retreat Centre. All the priests met Rev. Fr Valamnall personally and received his special prayers and blessing. We thank the Lord for giving us such a heavenly experience.





School and College Teachers Appraisal

The Thuckalay Diocesan Education Commission has decided to conduct a teachers' appraisal programme in all our schools and the college. In order to implement this programme, separate sets of tools have been prepared for the self-assessment of teachers, assessment by the Principal and the Correspondent. This exercise would help the teachers to know their areas of strengths and weaknesses and accordingly take steps for improving the service to the students and to the society. An online meeting of all the Principals and Correspondents of our educational institutions was held on 19 October 2021 in which Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General and Manager of the College and all English Medium Schools, presented the Commission's programmes to them and asked them to follow strictly. All of them welcomed the idea of teachers' appraisal and assured to execute the same in the coming days. They requested the Bishop and the Manager to interact school-wise to all the teachers.

In unique sets of events, Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB and Very Rev. Fr Thomas Powathuparampil held virtual teachers meetings institution-wise for all the English Medium Schools and St Alphonsa College of Arts and Science. They highlighted the need and importance of the appraisal for personal and institutional growth and progress. On 23 October 2021, all the schools organised offline staff meeting in which the Bishop and Vicar General joined using Google meet and the similar set up was made for the College on 25 October 2021. The Vicar General explained to the teachers the need and importance of teachers' appraisal programme in the Schools and the College. While thanking all the staff members of our Schools for their commitment to education during the days of the pandemic, the Bishop exhorted everyone to give whole-hearted cooperation in implementing the appraisal program in the Schools and the College.

Golden Jubilee of Rev. Sr Nirmala Mathew



Rev. Sr Nirmala Mathew from at Barpetta Road, Assam, our sponsor for Nirmala Home: A Home for Destitute Women (under construction) at Nanguneri in our Diocese, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of her Religious Profession on 30 October 2021. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB, accompanied by Rev. Fr Robin Jose attended the celebrations. Most Rev. Thomas Pullupillil, Bishop of Bongaigaon, was the main celebrant. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran SDB preached the homily. After the Holy Mass, a short public meeting was organised in which many dignitaries, friends and well-wishers of Sr Nirmala Mathew congratulated her and wished her a long life and fruitful ministry for the welfare of the people. Our Bishop thanked Rev. Sr Nirmala Mathew for her great support to our Mission in our Diocese.



**APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
IN INDIA**

No. 546.772

From the Vatican, 30 September 2020



**THE MOST REVEREND GEORGE RAJENDRAN
BISHOP OF THUCKALAY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY, HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS SENDS PRAYERFUL GREETINGS TO YOU, THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND LAY FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE.

HE JOINS YOU IN GIVING THANKS FOR THE GRACES WHICH THE LORD HAS BESTOWED UPON THE DIOCESE OVER THESE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, AND HE PRAYS THAT THE CELEBRATION OF THIS LEGACY OF FAITH WILL BE FOR ALL OF YOU AN INCENTIVE TO RENEWED AWARENESS OF YOUR CHRISTIAN DIGNITY AND MISSION.

ENTRUSTING THE DIOCESAN COMMUNITY TO THE INTERCESSION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE HOLY FATHER WILLINGLY IMPARTS HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING AS A PLEDGE OF PEACE AND JOY IN THE LORD.

**CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN
SECRETARY OF STATE**



THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

**Holy Mary,
Mother of Christ and
Image of the Church
Pray for Us**



**The Territorial Jurisdiction
of the Diocese of Thuckalay**

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