



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/158/2024

31 May 2024

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

The 2024 edition of World Environment Day will be celebrated on 5 June. This year's celebration focuses on land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience under the slogan **"Our Land, Our Future. We are Generation Restoration,"** as the year marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Land restoration is an important pillar of the theme of World Environment Day 2024, and organisers want to unite people around the world to restore ecosystems.

According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, up to 40% of the planet's land is degraded, directly affecting half of the world's population and threatening roughly half of global GDP (US\$44 trillion). The number and duration of droughts have increased by 29% since 2000. Without urgent action, droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050. Land restoration is a key pillar of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems all around the world, which is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As we approach the annual World Environment Day on 5 June, I wish to share a passionate call from our Holy Father Pope Francis in his groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato Si'* (LS). It is the second encyclical of Pope Francis published on 18 June 2015. Though we have read this encyclical several times in the past, I want to highlight its key points once more to stimulate ourselves and become aware of our responsibility towards the care of nature. The encyclical, as we are aware, is a plea for all people to embrace an ecological conversion and radically reshape our relationship with God's creation. This urgent summons should penetrate the core of our vocation as Catholics and disciples of Christ the Redeemer, who came to "make all things new" (Rev 21:5).

In this encyclical, which is so rich in spiritual and moral teachings, Pope Francis refers to our Earth as "a sister with whom we share our lives and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us" (LS 1). Yet this maternal embrace grows faint as humanity's insatiable consumption and disregard for the inherent worth of creation reach increasingly unsustainable levels. Our world faces a tragic ecological crisis driven by human activity, evidenced by climate change, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and the unabated pollution of our land, air, and oceans (LS 20, 24). "Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last 200 years," the Pope laments (LS 53).

At its roots, *Laudato Si'* is a profoundly spiritual call to heed "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor," who suffer most acutely from environmental degradation (LS 49). Drawing from the rich tradition of Catholic social teaching, Pope Francis reminds us of "the inseparable bond between concern for nature,

justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace” (LS 10). We cannot remain indifferent to the global environmental crisis precisely because our faith impels us to love and defend the integrity of all creation as a mirror of the Creator’s glory. By ravaging the natural world through over-extraction, pollution, and destruction of habitats, we do violence to ourselves, our neighbours, and our covenant relationship with the God who is the “master of the universe and the author of all beauty” (LS 76).

Dear Fathers, this encyclical is a clarion call for decisive action rooted in spiritual renewal and upholding human dignity integrally with creation’s care. Our efforts must extend beyond secular environmentalism to an ecological conversion reshaping how we think, feel, and fundamentally relate to God’s creation (LS 216-221). This transformation begins with contemplation, reconnecting our spirits to the grandeur of the cosmos - what Pope Francis beautifully describes as “the caress of God” (LS 84). By cultivating a sense of awe before creation’s mysteries, we counter the contemporary mindset that views the material world as something to be mastered, commodified, and exploited without limit. Our liturgies, outdoor retreats, religious education programmes, and even church architecture should foster gratitude and reverence for the natural world, teaching our youth to become “protectors of God’s handiwork” (LS 64, 213-214).

From this spiritual grounding, we embrace the interconnected efforts of an integral ecology linking care for the environment to integral human development, social justice, and spiritual fulfilment (LS 137-162). Our parishes and institutions should be models of sustainability - cutting energy use, reducing consumption and waste, installing solar panels, recycling, and more. We must vigorously promote ecologically virtuous practices like prudence in the consumption of things, pollution reduction, water conservation, composting, and investment in clean, renewable energy sources. However, these efforts are incomplete without solidarity with the poor, who suffer most acutely yet contribute least to environmental devastation. How can we claim to protect creation while turning a blind eye to the environmental racism that disproportionately burdens underserved communities with polluting industries, toxic dumps, and resource extraction projects?

These initiatives in our parishes and communities should engage people of all ages, but special efforts must be made by all of us to accompany our youth, who have been so passionate about environmental advocacy. Like St Francis of Assisi and “the many young people who paradoxically succeeded in rebelling by showing society the way,” our young people today “rebel against the reality that generations have destroyed and forgotten” (LS 53, 179). Let their prophetic witness and activism inspire us out of complacency while also holding us accountable for passing on a thriving planet brimming with the Creator’s glory. Their energy and moral clarity have already galvanised environmental movements worldwide, reminding us as adults of our solemn duty to future generations.

Ultimately, this ecological conversion involves not merely external programmes and initiatives but “a profound interior conversion” rooted in prayer, fasting, and spiritual disciplines that reshape our disordered desires, distancing us from God and creation (LS 217). At its core, *Laudato Si’* calls for an “ecological spirituality grounded in the convictions of our faith” - one that grasps the sacred unity of all life as gifts of the same Creator (LS 216). By imbibing the spirit of St Francis, who saw all creatures as kin, we begin to awaken anew to “the divine and the transcendent amid a living world that speaks of God’s love” (LS 233, 12).

Our current alienation from the cycles and rhythms of nature reveals the spiritual sickness Pope Francis diagnoses as “modern anthropocentrism” – an unhealthy optimism severing us from our proper place and purpose within God’s expansive creation (LS 115). With humility and grace, we relearn the truth echoed across the world’s spiritual traditions: The human person is fundamentally “a creature of this world, a being

fashioned from the dust of the earth,” sharing existential bonds with all living beings (LS 115, 211). Genesis reveals man as a co-partner fashioned from the same clay as all creatures, a calling we have perverted by lording over the rest of creation in domination and ceaseless exploitation.

An authentic integral spirituality resists this disordered view, recovering a “contemplative outlook that does not simply gaze from outside but takes up residence within and alongside the world” (LS 233). Its essence is relationship - the dynamic interplay between the God of abundant grace, all creatures, and the human person animated by the spirit “present in the whole of reality” (LS 80). We relearn the sacramental truth that “the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or nature” (LS 216). Spiritual masters like St Bonaventure and Blessed Duns Scotus revealed this intrinsic bond by perceiving the footprints of the Creator in the beauty of creation itself (LS 79, 234).

In prayer and contemplation, we come to grasp how the degradation of our common home and human lives are intertwined tragedies. Environmental destruction diminishes the capacity of all people. In Pope Francis’ words, “to contemplate the Creator in the beauty of created reality” and “to return to their transcendent fullness” (LS 99, 105). This interior poverty manifests as an exterior dispossession as pollution robs people of clean land, water, and air while climate change dispossesses the poor and vulnerable from their homes and ancestral lands. Yet in this apparent desolation, we glimpse the profoundly liberating spirit of the Gospel - that stripping away vain attachments to ephemeral luxuries affords the freedom to encounter the Divine Mystery in all its splendour within creation itself. In Christ’s own poverty and utter reliance on the Heavenly Father, the way opens to recovering our true identities as creatures hardwired for communion with our common home and all beings.

By walking this path of interior metanoia, outer actions for ecological sustainability flow from wellsprings of spiritual renewal. Divestment from extractive industries, civil initiatives to clean up polluted lands and waterways, and advocacy for policies protecting ecosystems - these outward commitments stem from a cohesive worldview intimately binding our spiritual and bodily lives to the cycles of creation. As Pope Francis writes, “An integral ecology is inseparable from the notion of the common good, a central and unifying principle of social ethics” (LS 156).

Our efforts for ecological justice should ultimately bear witness to the breadth of human dignity, encompassing the sanctity of the body and “the human vocation to cultivate and steward the garden of the world” while mystically participating in Christ’s cosmic labour, renewing all things (LS 124, 236). Just as we profess God as the Creator of the visible and invisible universe, of matter and spirit intertwined, so too must we reject any reductive view divorcing our bodily, spiritual, and civic lives from the rest of God’s creation, groaning for redemption alongside us (Rm 8:18)

Let us unite all the initiatives that we take to safeguard the environment with prayer, fasting, and spiritual discipline so that we can transform our interior dispositions towards creation. By embracing an “ecological spirituality” grounded in the Gospels and following in the example of saints like St Francis of Assisi, we can reawaken the truth that “the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or nature” (LS 216, 237). In prayer, let us rediscover our deep communion with the Maker of Heaven and Earth, restoring the severed bonds between God, neighbour, and creation.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Pastoral Council at Sangamam: The first meeting of the seventh Pastoral Council was held at Sangamam on May 1, 2024. The 7th Pastoral Council is constituted with 102 members who belong to three categories: ex-officio members, elected members, and nominated members. The inaugural session began at 9:45 AM with a prayer, and Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan welcomed all the members. I presided over the meeting and inaugurated the 7th Pastoral Council of the diocese. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil welcomed the resource person of the day. Soon after the inaugural session, two great lay missionaries, Mr. Mariadas and Mr. Edwinston, were honoured in the Pastoral Council. Mr. Edwinston received the missionary award at the Great Gathering of Missions (GGM) introduced by Fiat Mission, and Mr. Mariadas represented the Syro Malabar Church at the missionary meeting of FABC in Bangkok, Thailand, held on April 19-21, 2024. A short video narrating their missionary achievements was presented to the council, and Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the chancellor, felicitated them. In the second session, after the tea break, the resource person, Adv. Joji Chirayil, PRO of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, conducted an enlightening session on the definition, aim, and mode of operation of the Pastoral Council and Forane Council. In the third session after lunch, the resource person was Rev. Fr. Hillarius, the former Vicar General of the Diocese of Kottar, who presented very well on the theme of the Pastoral Council and the role of laity in the life of the diocese. At the end, suggestions were solicited from the members for the fruitful journey of the Pastoral Council. I thank Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, and Mr. John Kumari Thozhan for coordinating the entire election process of the 7th Pastoral Council and organizing its first meeting so well.

Home day of Snehavilla, Moolamattam: Snehavilla, a home for senior citizens of the Diocese of Thuckalay situated at Moolamattam, celebrated its second Home Day on May 1, 2024. The home is named after the late Mr. Jose Tharian, husband of Mrs. Mercy Jose. As per her wish, it has been decided to nominate St. Joseph as the patron saint of Snehavilla and to celebrate Home Day every year on May 1. I celebrated the Solemn Holy Qurbana in the chapel of Snehavilla at 7:00 PM, followed by a public meeting and a cultural programme presented by the students of Geetha Village. Fr. Kurian Kalayil, the Forane Vicar of St. George Forane Church, Moolamattam, Sr. Sible Rose, Superior of Geetha Village, along with other Fathers and Sisters of Moolamattam Forane, and around 300 people attended the function. Mrs. Mercy Jose, the donor, appreciated the efforts taken by the diocese to carry forward the project. The meeting concluded with an agape meal. As a diocese, we once again thank Mrs. Mercy Jose for her generosity in continuing to provide financial help to the diocese. I also thank Fr. Ginoy Thottiyil for coordinating the Home Day celebration so well.

New Priests' Day celebration at Bishop's House: On 08th May 2024, a warm reception was accorded to the newly ordained priests - Fr. Antony Thakidiyel and Fr. Sanjo Thenepackal - at the Bishop's House. The event commenced with a solemn celebration of the Holy Qurbana by the newly ordained priests, followed by a joyous agape feast. The Holy Qurbana was graced by the presence of the faithful from St. Mary's Church, Thuckalay. Fr. Linto was the main celebrant and extended heartfelt gratitude to everyone present at the end, while Fr. Sanjo delivered an enlightening homily. The reception was attended by Forane Vicars, Fathers from Thuckalay-Pilankali Forane, Provincial Superiors, and Sisters from nearby convents, adding to the significance of the occasion. During the ceremony, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil felicitated the new priests, acknowledging their dedication and commitment. As a mark of honour, I presented them with a traditional shall. With utmost sincerity, we extend our prayers and best wishes to these new priests, seeking God's abundant blessings upon their future ministry.

Result of Classes X and XII Students: The results of the Class XII and X examinations, conducted by the Tamil Nadu Education Board, were announced on May 6 and 10, 2024, respectively. I am happy to share that all our schools have achieved remarkable performance in these examinations. These excellent results are a testament to the unwavering commitment of the diocese towards providing quality education to our children. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our dedicated Fathers and Sisters who have played an integral role in nurturing and guiding our students towards academic success.

VPV in Parishes: Every year, we organize the *Visuvasa Payirchi Vizha* (VPV) during the first two weeks of May. This year was no exception, as the VPV was successfully conducted in various parishes from April 28, 2024, to May 12, 2024. Recognizing the profound impact of VPV on the faith formation of our children, all the Fathers collaborated wholeheartedly to ensure its seamless execution. Even in our extended mission territories, such as Virudhunagar and Theni, the VPV was conducted with great enthusiasm and dedication. I express my heartfelt appreciation to *Narcheythinilayam* for their timely intervention in providing textbooks and facilitating training programme for the VPV. The dedication and commitment demonstrated by all the Fathers in organizing the VPV is commendable. It is through collaborative efforts like these that we can effectively contribute to the spiritual growth of our children.

Retreat for Catechism teachers at Kalluvilai: A two-day retreat for all catechism teachers was organized by the Catechesis Department of the Diocese at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai, on May 17-18, 2024. The retreat was conducted separately in Tamil and Malayalam. Fr. George Chinnappan SDB led the retreat in Tamil, while Fr. Robin Koorumullil animated the Malayalam session at St. Mother Theresa Church, Kalluvilai. A total of 250 teachers participated in the retreat, seeking spiritual nourishment and renewal. I attended the concluding session and expressed the gratitude of the diocese to the teachers for their dedicated service in the faith formation of our children. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Director of Catechesis, the Forane Directors, and the entire team for their excellent coordination in organizing this retreat.

Inauguration of the Academic Year of Catechesis, CML & KII: I officially inaugurated the catechetical year 2024-25 and the activities of CML and KII on May 18, 2024, at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai. During the inauguration, Fr. Vicar General, Directors of the three departments and the Headmasters (HMs) took part in lighting the lamp, symbolizing the sharing of knowledge, and they passed the light to all the teachers. The teachers, holding the lighted candles, took an oath to fulfil their responsibilities. For the parish level inauguration, the catechetical department provided guidelines to ensure uniformity in the inaugural sessions across all parishes. The solemn ceremony will include an inaugural address by the unit director, the lighting of the lamp, the teachers' oath with lighted candles, and the blessing by the parish priest. I extend my appreciation to all the parish priests and everyone involved in diligently providing a fruitful catechetical formation to our children. Their hard work and dedication play a significant role in nurturing the faith of our young ones.

SPARK 2024 at Kalluvilai: KKSSS successfully hosted the annual Educare Residential Camp (Spark) from May 12-19, 2024, benefiting 52 students. Under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Poovathummoottil, Director of KKSSS, and Sr. Merin Ros ASMI, Coordinator of the Educare programme, the camp aimed to enhance language fluency for students from Tamil Medium schools. Additionally, Educare seeks to foster skills and talents through public speaking, theatre performances, and other activities. This year's programme was expertly animated by Mr. Jerom and Mr. Joshua, both Ph.D. scholars. The valedictory ceremony featured a keynote address by Rev. Fr. Augustine Thalodil, the new Rector of St. Mary's Minor Seminary, who praised the Educare programme as a valuable initiative that helps children develop their abilities and navigate the challenges of life. All participants received gifts and prizes, commemorating their achievements and progress. The students expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Merin Ros, who has

tirelessly served the Educare programme for five years, for her dedication and selflessness. As she departs due to transfer, the KKSSS family honored her with a farewell ceremony, acknowledging her remarkable contributions to the organization and the Educare programme. I thank Fr. Aby for coordinating the entire event very well.

Send off to Rev. Fr. Benny Thattampampil: A send-off celebration was organized for Fr. Benny Thattampampil at Theni on May 18, 2024, and at Cumbum on May 19, 2024, along with the first First Holy Communion celebration. At the gathering held in Theni, Fr. Tobin Alapurackal, the mission coordinator of extended territories, represented the diocese and expressed our gratitude to Fr. Benny. The next day, on May 19, Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Fr. Benny, during which, for the first time, First Holy Communion was given to a girl at the Cumbum mission. The Holy Qurbana was followed by a public meeting where Sr. Elsy SH welcomed everyone, and Fr. Shan Ayalloor, along with a representative from the village, thanked Fr. Benny. Theni district was entrusted to the Diocese of Kanjirappally in June 2019, and as the first mission coordinator of Theni district, Fr. Benny Thattampampil was appointed. Residing in Kumali Parish, he oversaw the missions. Later, through his initiative and coordination, a new presbytery was built at Jangalpatti, Theni, and it was blessed on February 26, 2023. Fr. Benny Thattampampil served five years in the Theni mission and two years in the Cumbum mission. Under his leadership as the first mission coordinator of the Cumbum-Theni mission, the mission gained new vigour and enthusiasm, leading to evangelical awakening and spiritual growth. I wish to extend heartfelt thanks for the dedicated service rendered by Fr. Benny Thattampampil as mission coordinator of the Cumbum-Theni missions. We are truly indebted to him for his exemplary leadership and commitment.

Priests' Conference at Sangamam: The Priests' Conference of the month was held at Sangamam on May 22, 2024, at 9:30 AM. As usual, it started with the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, animated by Fr. Vinu D. Joseph, and confessions. The conference, coordinated by the Vicar General and presided over by me, began at 11:00 AM. During the meeting, the following major events took place:

- Rev. Sr. Lisieux Maria CMC, director of Ramalloor Retreat Centre, shared her God experience based on the importance of the Word of God in her life.
- Welcome: The Presbyterium wholeheartedly welcomed two newly ordained priests: Fr. Antony Thakidiyel and Fr. Sanjo Thenepackal. We pray that they receive God's choicest blessings in their pastoral ministry. The Presbyterium also welcomed Fr. Thomas (Shinto) Sauriyamkuzhi, who newly joined for pastoral ministry from the Diocese of Idukki. Additionally, the Presbyterium welcomed Fr. Alex Puthettu, who has successfully completed his licentiate in Biblical Theology at Angelicum University, Rome, and is here on vacation. Fr. Vinod Kanakkalil welcomed and felicitated all of them on behalf of the diocese.

After the initial programmes, the directors of departments presented their future plans and upcoming programmes. The fruitful suggestions from our priests were helpful in planning the future programmes of the departments. I thank all the Fathers who attended the conference and contributed their valuable suggestions for the good of the diocese.

Transfers 2024: I have made some transfers this year, which came into effect on May 24, 2024, unless otherwise indicated. I would like to express my gratitude to the Fathers who have served our people with commitment throughout the years and have now transferred to their new ministry places. May they continue to be blessed abundantly by God in their new ministry.

Teachers' Meet at Kalluvilai: A one-day seminar was organized for the Tamil and English medium teachers at Sinai Retreat Centre, Kalluvilai on May 30, 2024. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil welcomed the gathering and I presided over the meeting. The resource person Rev. Fr. Bobby SDB skilfully animated the sessions on the moral eligibility of teachers and skills to be developed to be a good teacher. Almost 700 teachers participated in it. During the concluding meeting, I officially inaugurated the academic year and presented certificates to the teachers who had attended counselling courses. I thank Fr. Justin Sutheesh for coordinating the one-day animation programme for our teachers.

Hearty Welcome to the Diocese: We wholeheartedly welcome four Fathers who have joined our diocese for pastoral ministry this year.

- Rev. Fr. George Kalangara SDB, belonging to the Bangalore Salesian Province and a native of Edathuva, previously worked at Mangalam Parish in the Diocese of Alleppy and served as Vice Principal of Don Bosco School, Vaduthala.
- Rev. Fr. Thomas (Bibin) Kanjirakat, from the Diocese of Kanjirappally and a native of Kannampally, previously served as Parish Priest of Chittar and Meenkuzhi Parishes and as the director of SMYM of Kanjirappally.
- Rev. Fr. Thomas (Shinto) Sauriyamkuzhi, from the Diocese of Idukki, previously worked as Parish Priest of Thookkupalam Parish.
- Rev. Fr. Joseph (Bibin) Kocheethra, from the Archdiocese of Changanacherry and a native of Thuruthy Parish, previously served in Madappally Parish.

We welcome all these dear Fathers and wish them a blessed stay and fruitful ministry in our diocese.

INFORMATION

- **Fr. Alex Puthettu**, after completing successfully licentiate course in Biblical Theology, came back to the diocese for two months' vacation on 2 May 2024. We welcome him and wish him a blessed stay at diocese.
- **Sr. Ancilin FDSHJ**, who served one year in Snehavilla, Moolamattam has been transferred on 03 May 2024. 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. Treesa FDSHJ** assumed her ministry at Snehavilla, Moolamattam on 03 May 2024. We warmly welcome her and offer our prayers for God's abundant blessings upon her new ministry.
- **Pastoral Visit to St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai** was conducted on 05 May 2024.
- **Mr. Joseph Parappallil** (84), the beloved father of Sr. Elseena SH and brother of Sr. Roselin SH, was called to eternal rest on 08 May 2024. We express our sincere condolences and prayers to Srs. Elseena and Roselin and their family and pray for the departed soul.
- **Golden Jubilee** of Sr. Annie Deepa CMC and Silver Jubilee of Sr. Silvy Therese CMC and Sr. Emily Rose CMC were celebrated on 09 May 2024 at CMC Chavara Provincial House, Thuckalay.
- **Bro. Jubin Joseph** received the Minor Order of Karoyusa on 09 May 2024 at Pontifical Urban College, Rome from Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop of the Syro Malabar Church.
- **Pastoral Visit to KKSSS**, Kalluvilai was conducted on 10 May 2024.
- **Major Seminarians** visited the Major Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Mar George Alencherry on 13 May 2024 at Kakkanad Mount St. Thomas.
- **Fr. Ginoy Thottiyil** went to Italy for one month on 15 May 2024.
- **Pastoral Visit to St. Xavier's Church, Varuthattu** was conducted on 19 May 2024.
- **Study of Sacrosanctum Concilium in Uraviyams:** We are preparing for Jubilee 2025 in different phases. On 19 May 2024 you got the leaflets in Tamil and Malayalam on Sacrosanctum Concilium

prepared by Fr. Justin Cheruvelil, to be studied by the departments and uraviams. I request all Fathers to go through it and implement in your parishes.

- **Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal** went to Saudi Arabia on 20 May 2024 to substitute Fr. Seby Manimalakandathil during his vacation period.
- **TPWA Group insurance** is active from 21 May 2024 onwards for all the members of TPWA. I request to make you to make use of the insurance by following the regulations given in the statutes of TPWA.
- **Finance Council** was held at Bishop's House on 23 May 2024.
- **Final Profession Celebration of Sr. Abisha FCC** was held on 24 May 2024 along with Holy Qurbana at FCC San Jose Province, Azhakiyamadapam.
- **Fr. Seby Manimalakandathil** reached at diocese for his annual retreat and vacation on 28 May 2024. We welcome him and wish him a happy stay at diocese.
- **Sr. Flowerlet ASMI**, has been transferred from the diocese on 30 May 2024. 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. Merin Ros ASMI**, who served at KKSSS office has been transferred on 30 May 2024. 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.
- **Rev. Fr. Jose Mampuzhackal OSH (59)** was called to eternal abode on 30 May 2024. The funeral service was held on 31 May 2024 at S. H. Mount Monastery Chapel, Kottayam. Fr. Jose Mampuzhackal served as the Parish Priest of Pathukani Parish for 3 years, from 2009 to 2012 and Parish Priest of Arukani Forane Parish for 2 years from 2010 – 2012. Let us thank God for his service in our diocese and pray that the Risen Lord may grant him eternal joy.
- **Two Committees** were formed during the Meeting of Forane Vicars held on April 18: Forane Council Statute Committee consisting of Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil (convener), Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose and Mr. John Kumari Thozhan and Document Preparation and Revision Committee consisting of Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan (convener), Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and Rev. Fr. Augustine Thalodil.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

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| 18 June | - | Priests Conference |
| 30 June | - | Animation Programme for Kaikars and accountants |

Recollection & Priests' Conference

Place: Sangamam

Date: 18 June 2024

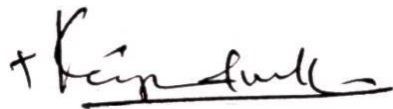
Time: 09.30 am – 01.30 pm

CONCLUSION

We have concluded the month of May. Through various devotional practices, I am sure you have honoured our Blessed Mother during May. Now, in June, we are presented with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We celebrate the solemnity of the sacred heart of Jesus on 7 June. As I conclude the letter, I cordially invite all of you, dear Fathers, to foster devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus. We should take the initiative to foster such an important aspect of our Catholic spirituality. Hence, I invite all of you to promote devotional

practices to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, like the dedication of the family, inculcating Friday devotions, etc., among the Catholics in your respective parishes or institutions. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be the source of the fire of love for the mission that ought to burn bright and warm in our hearts!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

