



Bishop's *Circular*

For Priests / Sisters

Bishop George Rajendran sdb
Diocese of Thuckalay

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Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings and prayerful wishes from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

On 24 October 2024, Pope Francis released his fourth encyclical, *Dilexit Nos*, on the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus Christ. The release of this encyclical coincides with ongoing celebrations commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus' first appearance to St Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673.

The encyclical consists of five chapters. A brief introduction commences the letter, while the conclusion is a prayer wherein the Holy Father asks our Lord Jesus Christ to grant that his Sacred Heart may continue to pour forth the streams of living water that can heal the hurt people have caused, strengthen the ability to love and serve others and inspire to journey together towards a just, solidary and fraternal world. With this document, Pope Francis calls for a change of perspective, urging humanity to rediscover the most essential, namely, the heart. I shall attempt to summarise the encyclical for our reading and reflection on this important papal document on the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The encyclical opens with St Paul's declaration that "He loved us" (Romans 8:37), emphasising that nothing can separate us from Christ's love. This fundamental truth stands at the heart of the Christian faith and forms the foundation for understanding devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Francis begins by addressing the contemporary relevance of the heart as both a symbol and reality in human experience.

In our age of superficiality and frenetic activity, dominated by consumerism and technological distraction, there is an urgent need to rediscover the importance of the heart. The Pope traces the rich historical understanding of the heart, beginning with classical Greek thought, where *kardia* denoted the innermost part of human beings and served as the centre of physical and spiritual life. In the *Iliad*, thoughts and feelings proceed from the heart, appearing as the locus of desire and important decisions.

The biblical tradition deepens this understanding, speaking of the heart as the core hidden beneath outward appearances. The Bible presents the heart as where God's Word can judge our thoughts and intentions, where authentic encounters with the divine occur, and where our true character is formed. This is powerfully illustrated in the disciples' experience on the road to Emmaus, whose hearts burned within them in Christ's presence.

The Pope explains that the heart represents our interior reality, often concealed behind layers of "foliage" that make it difficult to understand ourselves and others. The heart is the ultimate judge of who we truly are, beyond what we show or hide from others. It is the foundation for any sound life project, as nothing worthwhile can be undertaken apart from the heart.

In our “liquid” modern world, we need to return to speaking about the heart as the place where every person creates a synthesis of their life and encounters the radical source of their strengths, convictions, and decisions. Contemporary society, dominated by narcissism and self-centeredness, risks becoming “heartless.” Depreciating the heart’s deep significance has a long history in various forms of rationalism and materialism, leading to unhealthy individualism and stunting personal integration.

The heart makes authentic bonding possible, as a relationship not shaped by the heart remains trapped in individualistic fragmentation. In each person’s heart, a mysterious connection exists between self-knowledge and openness to others. We become ourselves only to the extent that we can acknowledge others. In contrast, only those who can recognise and accept themselves can encounter others.

The encyclical emphasises the heart’s capacity to unify and harmonise our personal history, which may seem hopelessly fragmented. This is exemplified by Mary, who “treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.” The Pope points out that in this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity. No algorithm can capture the precious memories and experiences that shape our lives and find their unity in the heart.

Pope Francis emphasises that the heart represents the profound core of every man and woman, not just of the soul but of the entire person in their unique psychosomatic identity. Everything finds unity in the heart, which can be the dwelling place of love in all its spiritual, psychic and even physical dimensions. Every human being is created above all else for love, made to love and to be loved.

The document then explores how this understanding of the heart relates to spiritual life. Through the heart, we encounter Christ in a personal way that goes beyond intellectual concepts. When people think, question, and reflect on their true identity, strive to understand the deeper questions of life, and seek God, they realise that their fulfilment as human beings is found in love.

The Pope then examines how the heart of Christ represents the core of the Gospel message. Christ showed the depth of his love not through lengthy explanations but through concrete actions. The Gospel accounts present Jesus actively seeking people out, approaching them with openness to encounter. He demonstrates God’s closeness through physical touch, healing the sick, welcoming sinners, and showing compassion for the suffering.

Pope Francis emphasises that devotion to Christ’s heart is not the veneration of an organ apart from his person but rather the contemplation of the whole Jesus Christ represented by this privileged sign of his love. While sacred images serve as invitations to prayer, they point beyond themselves to encounter the living Christ. The heart continues to be seen in popular understanding as the affective centre of each human being, making it the best means of signifying Christ’s divine love united inseparably to his human love.

The encyclical explores how Christ’s pierced heart, flowing with blood and water, fulfils biblical prophecies about God’s love being poured out as living water for his people. This image has been richly interpreted throughout Christian history, from the Church Fathers through medieval mystics to modern saints, as both the source of grace and the invitation to intimate union with God.

The document traces how devotion to the Sacred Heart developed through history, particularly highlighting its explicit form in modern times through St Margaret Mary Alacoque’s mystical experiences. While acknowledging that private revelations are not essential to faith, the Pope explains how they can enrich spiritual life when properly understood within Church tradition. The core message remains Christ’s declaration of love and desire for human response.

Francis explores how various saints and spiritual writers have contributed to understanding this devotion. St Francis de Sales emphasised trust in God's mysterious working of grace rather than rigorous morality. St Claude de La Colombière stressed absolute confidence in Christ rather than self-reliance. St Thérèse of Lisieux focused on childlike trust and complete abandonment of God's mercy rather than emphasis on human effort.

The Pope explains that authentic devotion to Christ's heart has personal and social dimensions. Personal spiritual experience should naturally lead to missionary commitment and practical love of neighbour. He warns against disembodied spirituality that neglects human needs and excessive focus on external activities without interior depth. Contemplating Christ's heart should inspire concrete service to others, especially the poor and suffering.

The encyclical devotes significant attention to the theme of "reparation" to the Sacred Heart, offering a renewed understanding of this concept. Rather than focusing primarily on compensating for offences against divine justice, true reparation involves cooperating with Christ to build a "civilisation of love" amid the ruins caused by sin and social structures of evil. While Christ's sacrifice alone redeems us, we are called to participate in his healing and reconciling work.

Drawing particularly on St Thérèse of Lisieux's insights, Francis presents reparation primarily as removing obstacles to expanding Christ's love in the world through trust and self-giving. Rather than emphasising the satisfaction of divine justice, the focus is on allowing Christ's "waves of infinite tenderness" to overflow through us to others. This requires both personal transformation and social engagement.

The Pope explains how this understanding of reparation involves healing wounded hearts and relationships, acknowledging guilt, asking forgiveness, and working to restore what has been damaged in human relationships and social structures. This spirit of reparation leads to hope that every wound can be healed, even when complete restoration seems impossible.

Pope Francis emphasises how figures like St Charles de Foucauld and St Vincent de Paul understood that union with Christ's heart naturally leads to universal brotherhood and practical charity. Their examples show how contemplative love becomes missionary zeal that reaches out, especially to those on society's margins. The Pope explains that authentic devotion to the Sacred Heart must express itself in concrete acts of service and commitment to building a more just and fraternal world.

The encyclical explores how this devotion relates to the Church's mission. The flames of love from Christ's heart expand through the Church's missionary outreach, proclaiming God's love revealed in Christ. Mission becomes primarily a matter of love. It is not just teaching doctrine or enforcing rules but facilitating joyful encounters with Christ's love, which embraces and saves us.

The Pope emphasises that mission requires missionaries who love Christ and feel compelled to share the love that has transformed their lives. This sharing happens not through proselytism but through a witness who respects others' freedom and dignity while inviting them to discover the source of joy in their lives.

The document emphasises that missionary activity cannot be separated from community life and ecclesial communion. Mission is experienced in fellowship with our communities and with the whole Church. Francis warns that turning aside from the community means turning aside from Jesus himself. Love for brothers and sisters in the community becomes the fuel that feeds friendship with Christ and provides authentic witness to others.

The Pope connects devotion to the Sacred Heart with the social teachings in his encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*. We can build fraternity, recognise human dignity, and care for our common home by drinking from Christ's love. In a world dominated by the power of money and consumerism, where people's worth is increasingly measured by what they can accumulate, Christ's heart offers a different measure of value based on love.

Pope Francis emphasises that the Church herself needs this love to avoid becoming trapped in outdated structures or fanaticism that replace God's gratuitous love. He warns against reducing the Church's mission to organisational concerns or partisan interests that obscure the central reality of Christ's love.

The encyclical studies how devotion to the Sacred Heart relates to the Trinity. While Christological in nature, this devotion leads us through Christ to the Father and is animated by the Holy Spirit. The Pope explains how Jesus' human heart was constantly oriented toward the Father, expressing this relationship through the intimate address "Abba." Working in Christ's heart and ours, the Holy Spirit draws us into this filial relationship with the Father.

Pope Francis emphasises that our relationship with Christ's heart is transformed by the Spirit's action, which guides us to the Father as the source of life and ultimate wellspring of grace. Christ does not expect us simply to remain in him but desires that, compelled by the Spirit, welling up from his heart. We should ascend to the Father "with him and in him." Through the enlivening work of the Spirit, the liturgy always addresses the Father from the risen heart of Christ.

The Pope discusses how this Trinitarian dimension affects our understanding of reparation and mission. The reparation we offer to Christ's heart is ultimately directed to the Father, who is pleased to see us united to Christ whenever we offer ourselves through him, with him, and in him. Our missionary activity participates in the Son's complete commitment to the Father's Kingdom.

The encyclical concludes by addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities. In a world where everything is bought and sold, where people's sense of worth appears increasingly dependent on consumption, Christ's heart offers a different measure of value based on love. This love can give our world heart and revive it wherever we think it has been lost.

Pope Francis emphasises that the wounded side of Christ continues to pour forth streams of living water that can heal what we have broken and strengthen our ability to love and serve others. This ongoing outpouring of grace provides hope for renewal in life's personal and social dimensions. The Pope expresses confidence that Christ's heart can inspire the building of a more just and fraternal world.

The document closes with a prayer that the Sacred Heart may continue to pour forth streams of living water to heal our wounds, strengthen our love, and inspire us to journey together toward a just and fraternal world until we celebrate together in the heavenly kingdom where all differences are harmonised in the light radiating from Christ's open heart. The encyclical stands as a profound meditation on the centrality of Christ's human and divine love for Christian faith and life, calling for deep personal devotion and committed social engagement flowing from that love.

As we conclude the encyclical's summary, let me highlight how our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus demands three responses from us, although they were already discussed: compunction, reparation, and mission. We must teach our faithful these responses to spread the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus among them.

Compunction:

- It is natural to want to console Christ for His sufferings. This raises the question of how it is possible to console Him when He is already in His glory. But asking this question is not to understand love (DN 155). Also, it is impossible to completely sever the past from the present (DN 156).
- Jesus thirsts for our love, but according to an apparition to St Margaret Alacoque, He is sad because He receives nothing but indifference in return (DN 165-166).
- We acknowledge our sins in sorrowing and contemplating what Jesus endured for us (DN 158).
- Compunction is not a feeling of guilt or self-pity but a purifying experience in which we open our hearts to the workings of the Holy Spirit (DN 158). It is not a source of anxiety but a healing for the soul (DN 161).
- What comes after grief is complete trust, which in turn gives consolation. We find ourselves consoled by seeking to console Him (DN 161).
- After being consoled, we are called to console others (DN 163). Just as Jesus's pierced Heart became a fountain of living water, our hearts, through the Holy Spirit, may become fountains from which others can drink (DN 174).
- Compunction shifts our feelings from anger and scandal over our brethren's failings to weeping for their sins. This reverses our natural tendency to be indulgent and inflexible with others, leading us to be merciful and strict with ourselves instead (DN 190).

Reparation:

- Reparation to the Sacred Heart means cooperating with Him to restore goodness to the world, building a civilisation of love, His Kingdom (DN 182).
- We must acknowledge that every sin, particularly those that harm our neighbours, affects the Church and society, constituting a social sin (DN 183).
- Our hearts' conversion and response to Jesus's love impose an obligation to try to repair the structures of sin (DN 183).
- Outward reparation isn't enough. Reparation obliges us to mend our wounded hearts (DN 185).
- Likewise, good intentions aren't enough. Our inward transformation must be expressed through outward actions (DN 187).
- Part of the spirit of reparation is to ask forgiveness, thus healing relationships, reopening dialogue and reestablishing bonds of charity (DN 189).
- Since Jesus respects our free will, He voluntarily limited the expansion of His love in this world to our free cooperation. Therefore, reparation can also mean removing the obstacles we place before the expansion of Christ's love in the world through our lack of trust, gratitude and self-sacrifice (DN 195).
- Though reparation does entail the desire to render compensation for the injuries inflicted by Jesus (DN 200), it should not be seen primarily as a way to satisfy Divine Justice. Rather, it should be seen mainly as allowing Jesus' love to spread freely (DN 195). The act of oblation of St Thérèse was not to His justice but to His merciful love (DN 198).

Mission:

- Our love for the Heart of Jesus must have a missionary dimension (DN 205).
- This devotion is not to be a refuge of pious thoughts, so one basks in private religious experience while ignoring its implications for society (DN 205).
- Equally, we should not obscure the religious inspiration of our works that may be inspired by this devotion (DN 205).
- We should not think of mission as something only between Jesus and ourselves. The mission must be experienced in the community (DN 212).
- The Sacred Heart's love spreads through the Church's missionary outreach (DN 207).
- The mission requires missionaries who love Christ and wish to share this love (DN 209).

- This is not proselytism, since lovers do not make demands nor oblige, but with respect for the freedom and dignity of others, lovingly wait for them to inquire about the love that has filled their lives with such joy, leading others to marvel at such love (DN 210).
- Those who do not carry out their mission on this earth will not find happiness, so we must be open to leaving our comfort zones and going on a mission, each carrying it out according to our way (DN 215).

NEWS AND EVENTS

Altar Boys Seminar in Forane level: The Forane-level Altar Boys Seminar began on 30 September 2024, with the first session held at Soosaipuram for the Thuckalay-Pilankalai and Soosaipuram Foranes. The seminar continued for the Manjalumoodu and Kaliyal Foranes on 01 October 2024 at Manjalumoodu Forane Church, and for the Padanthalumoodu and Nithiravilai Foranes on 02 October 2024 at Padanthalumoodu Forane Church. In the Manjalumoodu and Kaliyal Foranes, 56 altar boys participated, while in the Padanthalumoodu and Nithiravilai Foranes, 63 altar boys took part. Altogether, 188 altar servers, including 178 boys and 10 girls, benefited from these seminars. Each session began at 9:30 am and concluded at 4:00 pm, focusing on three main themes: vocation, social media and drug addiction, and liturgical services. The resource persons for the seminar were Fr. Mijo Puthenpurackal, Fr. George Kandathil, and Dn. Amanto, with Dn. Anoop facilitating the group activities. The day concluded with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. I extend my sincere gratitude to Fr. George Kandathil, the Vocation Director, and to all the Forane Directors for their efforts in organizing this seminar. I pray for God's abundant blessings upon them for the successful and fruitful execution of this event.

Cleaning camp at Government Hospital, Edaicode: Thuckalay Central Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society organizes a one-day cleaning camp every year under the title '*deshathodu orunaal*' on the day of Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October to promote social cleanliness and to engage its members in social charity. This year the cleaning camp was conducted on 2 October 2024 at Government Health Care Centre, Edaicode. Central Council President, Mr. Rabi welcomed all to the one-day camp and it was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Martin Kandampampil MST, the Forane Vicar of Manjalumoodu Forane. The doctors and staff of the hospital provided full support to the programme. Almost 100 members from different area councils and conferences of Thuckalay central council participated in the cleaning camp. I appreciate the Central Council leaders for organizing well the cleaning camp.

Commemoration Holy Qurbana of Mar Mathew Kavukattu at Changanacherry: The Diocese of Thuckalay remains ever indebted to the Servant of God, Mar Mathew Kavukattu, the first Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, for his contributions to the mission work in the Kanyakumari district. Each year, we are invited to celebrate a commemorative Holy Qurbana at his tomb. On 03 October 2024, I celebrated Holy Qurbana at Mar Mathew Kavukattu's tomb at 5:30 pm. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Fr. Ginoy Thottiyil, Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, and Fr. Liju Marattukalam concelebrated with me. It was followed by the Office for the Dead, and all proceedings were conducted in Tamil. Three choir members from Kaliyal Forane Parish led the choir beautifully. I extend my appreciation to the choir members and the Fathers who took the initiative to participate in this meaningful ceremony.

Annual Retreat for Priests at Sangamam: The annual retreat for priests took place at Sangamam from October 06 to 11 2024. Rev. Fr. Jose Varikkasserril SDB was the preacher of this retreat. He guided the Priests in recognizing and appreciating the shared priesthood of Jesus and in leading a holy life. The retreat preacher focused on various themes including Holiness, Priestly communion, the Importance of Prayer, Evangelization, and the power of the Word of God in our mission based on the gospel of Mathew and Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. A total of 50 priests and myself participated in the retreat. All priests who attended the retreat experienced a renewal of enthusiasm for their dedicated priestly life. We are grateful to

the Lord for providing us with such a heavenly experience. I extend my thanks to Fr. Vinod Kanakkalil and his team for making the necessary arrangements at Sangamam for the retreat.

SMYM Annual Day 2024: SMYM Annual Day was celebrated on 12 October 2024 at Sacred Heart Forane Church campus, Padanthalumoodu. The event started with a folk-dance competition, inaugurated by Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, Forane SMYM Director of Padanthalumoodu. The annual day celebrations were formally inaugurated by me. The youth showcased their talents through various cultural programmes. Prizes were distributed to the competition winners: First prize: Manjalumoodu, Second prize: Malaicodu, Third prize: Vayalinkarai and Pallappallam. The outgoing central team was felicitated with gratitude and mementos, while the new central team was warmly welcomed. I thank Fr. Joseph Santhosh, the Director and the entire team behind for coordinating well the celebration.

National Youth Conference at Bangalore: The first National Youth Meet was organized by SMYM Global Team in collaboration with SMYM Mandya Diocese in Camillian Pastoral Centre, Bangalore on 12-13 October 2024. Some 85 youth took part in the event. From our diocese, Fr. Antony Thakidiyel, Sr. Eliza FCC, SMYM Animator and Mr. Sujith participated in the event as representatives. The meet brought together bishops, directors, sisters, and youth from various Syro Malabar Dioceses. I appreciate the participants from our diocese for their enthusiasm in participating the national level programmes for the youth.

Rosary Procession in Tenkasi Mission: Rosary procession has been conducted in Tenkasi mission on 13 October 2024. The whole of mission gathered at Little Flower Church, Puliyaarai at 04.00 pm and from there, the faithful moved in procession reciting rosary towards Pulari Metric. School, Pudur. There were almost 200 faithful including Fathers, Sisters and MCBS Brothers who are rendering service in Tenkasi mission. The procession reached at Pudur campus by 05.30 pm. I took part in the entire event and in the concluding talk I emphasized the role of Mother Mary in the Christian life. The entire programme ended by 07.00 pm with an agape meal sponsored and prepared by the youth of St. Mary's Church, Aryankavu of the archdiocese of Changanacherry. I congratulate Fr. Dency Mundunadaackal, the mission coordinator and all the Fathers and Sisters of the mission for coordinating the event in a fruitful manner.

Catechesis Writing competitions: Bible Fest Forane Level Writing Competition was held on 13 October 2024. It was conducted under the guidance of forane Catechesis directors in different centres of each forane (Arukani Forane: Holy Family Forane Church, Arukani; Kaliyal Forane: St Mary's HSS, Kaliyal; Manjalumoodu forane: Holy Family HSS, Mukkoottukkal; Nithiravilai Forane: Jayamatha HSS, Chriturajapuram; Padanthalumoodu forane: Sacred Heart HSS, Padanthalumoodu; Soosaipuram forane: APJM HSS, Soosaipuram; Thuckalay-Pilankalai forane: St. Micheal's HSS, Kattathurai). In Tenkasi mission it was conducted at Pulari Matric. School, Pudur. Around 600 students participated in the competition. Competitions were held on colouring, pencil drawing, easy writing and poetry writing. I appreciate the forane catechesis directors and the team behind.

World Food Day Celebration by KKSSS: On October 16, 2025, the Kanyakumari Social Service Society's (KKSSS) Self Help Group (SHG) observed World Food Day across Kanyakumari district. The event focused on marginalized communities, including elderly individuals in old age homes and psychiatric patients living on the streets. Aligning with the global mission to combat hunger, KKSSS SHG members distributed food kits and lunch to patients. Twenty-four teams, comprising SHG women and animators, covered the operation area, spreading awareness about the importance of healthy diets for all and envisioning a hunger-free world.

Vestition & First Profession at Kattathurai: On October 19, 2024, at 9:30 am, two novices of the FCC San Joe Province Thuckalay, Simran M and Ajisha C, made their First Religious Profession and Vestition

at St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai. The ceremony commenced with a Solemn Holy Qurbana presided over by myself, with many Fathers as concelebrants. We extend our warmest congratulations to the newly professed Sr. Josephin Simran and Sr. Ajisha Mary and offer our heartfelt wishes for God's blessings to accompany them in their religious life. I also wish to express my gratitude to Rev. Sr. Celia, the Provincial Superior, and her team for their effective coordination of the ceremony.

Mission Sunday Celebration: Under the guidance of the Sirumalar Mission League (CML) of the diocese, specific guidelines were provided to ensure the effective celebration of Mission Sunday in every parish on October 20, 2024. CML students actively engaged in various parish-based activities, which included flag hosting, honouring elder missionaries, collecting contributions for missions, offering prayers for mission stations and missionaries, and sharing photographs of these activities. I wish to express my gratitude to Fr. Printo Kurias for his proactive efforts in organizing programme for CML children.

It's important to note that the special collection gathered through mission envelopes on that day is intended to support mission work globally and will be sent to Rome. Therefore, I kindly request all the Fathers to promptly submit the Mission Sunday collections to the Diocesan Procurator.

'Anchatheer' Competition by Mathru Jyothis: A competition called 'Anchatheer' was conducted by the Family Apostolate for Mathru Jyothis members at the forane level on 20 October 2024. Participants were asked to memorize Bible verses containing the word 'anchatheer' and write them down on paper when gathered in their respective foranes. The member who recorded the most verses received the first prize. Around 200 members participated in the competition. I extend my gratitude to Fr. Jimmy for his initiatives in promoting the spiritual renewal of the Mathru Jyothis members.

Extended Territory Mission Meet at Virudunagar: Extended Territory Mission gathering was conducted on 22 October 2024 at St. Joseph's Mission Church, Virudunagar. There were 17 participants including 7 Fathers and 8 Sisters. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General presided over the meeting. The gathering started with an hour of Adoration and Confession. Fr. Tobin Alapuraackal extended a warm welcome to all present. All shared their experiences and Discussions took place about present situations and challenges in various missions. Absence of financial resources was also highlighted as a hindrance to the effective mission works. Missionaries suggested that the Foranes can take care of a mission through prayer, visit and help. I appreciate Fr. Tobin for coordinating the mission gatherings in extended mission territory.

Rosary Procession: Every year under the leadership of Legion of Mary (Mariyayin Senai), the Diocese organises Rosary procession. This year it was held on 27 October 2024 from Lourdes Matha Church, Chenamcode to St. John Paul II Church, Kulasekharam at 02.00 pm. More than one thousand faithful participated. All the people along with the Fathers, Sisters and lay people prayerfully recited the holy rosary. Rev. Fr. Antony Jose gave the inaugural message and in the concluding meeting held at Padanthalumoodu Parish, I delivered the presidential address. I congratulate and express my gratitude to the Mariyayin Senai members and especially to its President Br. Thomas Paneerselvam and the Spiritual director, Rev. Fr. Antony Jose for having organised it well.

SMYM Patron's Day Celebration: The SMYM of Thuckalay celebrated the feast day of its heavenly patron on October 27, 2024. This celebration unfolded in parish units and featured several activities, including the offertory during the Holy Qurbana, a special prayer for the youth, Arts Competitions, house visits, drug awareness seminars, and medical camps. I express my appreciation for the efforts of the SMYM Director, Fr. Joseph Santhosh, in organizing these initiatives.

Forane Priests' Conferences: On October 25, 2024, Forane level Priests' conference for Arukani – Kaliyal - Manjalumoodu Foranes was held at St. Francis Assisi Church, Mezhacode, starting at 10:00 am with adoration of Blessed Sacrament. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, participated as the curia representative. On October 28, 2024, the Forane Priests' Conferences for Padanthalumoodu – Nithiravilai Foranes was conducted at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu and for Soosaipuram – Thuckalay Pilankalai Foranes at St. Alphonsa Shrine Church, Nagercoil. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal participated as the curia representatives in both the conferences respectively. The attendees actively engaged in discussions concerning pastoral coordination among the parishes and departmental activities. The discussions were done mainly on CML Rally, Diocesan Day celebration, Rosary Procession, Diocesan Bible Convention, Role of Forane Vicars, Monthly Bible Convention at Sinai, Kalluvilai, Cardinal's visit and Forane level coordination of departments and suggestions to the Curia. Thanks to the smaller number of participants and ample time allotted, the atmosphere was lively, resulting in numerous suggestions for the betterment of pastoral activities. Heartfelt gratitude goes to the Forane vicars for their effective coordination of the meeting.

Mar Thomas Tharayil, our new Archbishop: Mar Thomas Tharayil was enthroned as the fifth Metropolitan Archbishop and the ninth head of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry in a ceremony held at St Mary's Metropolitan Church in Changanacherry on 31 October 2024. The enthronement ceremonies were officiated by Major Archbishop Raphael Thattil, head of the Syro-Malabar Church. The outgoing Metropolitan Mar Joseph Perumthottam and Mar Joseph Kallarangat, the Bishop of Pala Diocese participated as co-celebrants. The ceremonies began in the morning with a procession of the celebrant Bishops to the Metropolitan Church from the Archbishop's House. Mar Joseph Perumthottam welcomed the gathering, followed by Fr. Isaac Alencheri reading the appointment letter. During the Holy Mass that followed, Cardinal Mar Raphael Thattil officially crowned Mar Thomas Tharayil as the Metropolitan. This followed a holy mass presided over by Mar Thomas Tharayil Metropolitan, who then proceeded to sign the Metropolitan appointment documents. Fr. Thomas J Netto, the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Latin Archdiocese of Thiruvananthapuram delivered the keynote address. Archbishop Rev. Leopoldo Girelli, the Apostolic Nuncio to India, delivered a message. George Kurian, Union Minister of State for Minority Welfare, inaugurated the public meeting held at noon. CBCI president Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath delivered the keynote address. The farewell ceremony for the outgoing head of the archdiocese, Mar Joseph Perumthottam, was also held on the occasion. I took part in the entire events and from our diocese number of priests and sisters participated in the ceremony. Around 20 representatives of laity from our diocese belonging to different departments and pious association joined in the celebration. We thank God Almighty for the new archbishop Mar Thomas Tharayil and wish him God's abundant blessings.

INFORMATION

- **Fr. Josy Puthenpurackal** came back from Germany for his annual vacation on 04 October 2024 and returned on 29 October 2024. We wish him God's blessings in his ministry abroad.
- **Eparchial Directory 2024** is available at Bishop's House from 12 October 2024 onwards. Those who didn't get a copy till now can collect it from the Bishop's House. My sincere thanks to Fr. Lijo Thekkel and the entire team worked behind it.
- **First Death Anniversary of Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel**, our former Vicar General and a great missionary, was commemorated on 22 October 2024. I celebrated requiem Holy Qurbana at Soosaipuram Parish on that day and representatives from our diocese participated in the requiem Holy Qurbana celebrated at Ponkunnam Parish and in the office for the dead near his tomb. With deep gratitude we do remember him and pray for his eternal rest.

- **Mr. Sam Marence (74)**, the beloved father of Sr. Sam Priya FCC, was called to the eternal abode on 24 October 2024. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Sr. Sam Priya and her family members and pray for the departed soul.
- **Half day recollection** and a get together with me were organized for priests after 20 years of ordination at Bishop's House on 30 October 2024.
- **KII visit to the sick**: In connection with the month of Rosary, the children visited the sick and bedridden persons within the respective parishes and pray the Rosary along with the family members. In all the parishes KII children along with sisters, Fathers and organizers visited the home and prayed.
- **Diocesan Bible Convention 2024**: An hour of adoration, along with the proclamation of the Gospel is being carried out in all our parishes as part of the preparations for the Diocesan Bible Convention to prepare all the faithful. The team is conducting it every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in the month of October and also during the first week of November. For those not yet conducted, I kindly to inform the committee convener and fix a date on which you would like to hold the programme in your parish.
- **Diocesan Day**: In preparation for the 28th Diocesan Day celebration, a chain of Eucharistic adoration is taking place in every parish and convent and it will come to end on 09 November 2024. I have already sent a personal letter to all the Parish Priests on how to organize the Diocesan Day on 10 November 2024, Sunday in your parish. Please follow the instructions given in the letter and make it a memorable day for our faithful.
- **Visit of Cardinal Mar George Alencherry**: Our beloved Cardinal Mar George Alencherry will be visiting our diocese from 15 to 22 November 2024. It is a moment of great joy and blessing for us that our first Bishop and Major Archbishop Emeritus remains with us for a week. On 16 November 2024 at 10.30 am he will be meeting the Priests and Religious at Sangamam. I invite all of you to this gathering to express our gratitude to our beloved cardinal. The entire programme of his visit will be published in our WhatsApp group. You may also meet him personally as per his schedule. We welcome wholeheartedly our Major Archbishop Emeritus to the Diocese.
- **CML Rally**: We all are waiting for the CML Annual Rally on 17 November 2024. The rally will begin at 2:00 PM from Holy Trinity Church, Thiruthuvapuram, and conclude at 4:00 PM at Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu. This year's rally is particularly special due to the presence of our Major Archbishop Emeritus, Cardinal George Alencherry. It is a rare opportunity and a proud moment for us to walk alongside our former shepherd of the Diocese. Therefore, in addition to all the Mission League children, I warmly invite the participation of Maximum faithful of the Eparchy in the concluding meeting at Padanthalumoodu. Fathers are requested to give the number of faithful from your parishes as per the directions from the Vicar General.
- **Appointment**: Fr. Ajeesh Attiyil is appointed as the Director of Arputhar garments unit at Vayalinkarai with effect from 21 October 2024.
- **Fr. Jose Muttathupadam** is relieved from the office as the Director of Arputhar garments unit at Vayalinkarai with effect from 21 October 2024.
- **Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil** enrolled for MA in Christian Scriptures via distance education. We wish him God's blessings!

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

01 November	-	Pastoral Council
10 November	-	Diocesan Day
16 November	-	Priests and Religious Meeting at Sangamam
16 November	-	Consecration of Christ the King Church, Paraicode
17 November	-	CML Rally
29-30 November	-	Bible Convention at Padanthalumoodu.

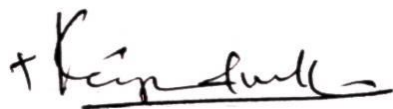
Priests & Religious Meet
16 November 2024
10.30 am @ Sangamam

CONCLUSION

As we conclude October, a month during which we honoured our Blessed Mother through the recitation of the Holy Rosary, let us ask her to intercede for all the intentions of our Eparchy. With the celebration of our Diocesan Day fast approaching, let us now redouble our efforts to build up the kingdom of God with greater commitment and enthusiasm.

May our Blessed Mother intercede for each one of us!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

