



DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

# THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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**O SACRED HEART OF JESUS,  
I place my trust in YOU.**



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### THUCKALAY TIDINGS

November 2024 | Vol. 4 | Issue 11

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# Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,  
 Greetings and prayerful wishes, 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. 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).

**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).
- 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).

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



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



## Answering the Call: Celebrating the Vestition and First Religious Profession

On October 19, 2024, at 9:30 am, two novices from the FCC San Joe Province, Thuckalay - Simran M and Ajisha C - celebrated their Vestition and made their First Religious Profession at St. Michael's Church, Kattathurai. The ceremony began with a Solemn Holy Qurbana, presided over by Bishop George Rajendran and concelebrated by numerous priests. Warm congratulations were extended to the newly professed Sr. Josephin Simran and Sr. Ajisha Mary, along with heartfelt wishes for God's abundant blessings on their journey in religious life



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## Walking with Mary: Diocesan Rosary Procession Illuminates Faith



The Diocese, under the leadership of the Legion of Mary (Mariyayin Senai), organized the annual Rosary procession on October 27, 2024. The procession began at Lourdes Matha Church, Chenamcode, and ended at St. John Paul II Church, Kulasekharam, starting at 2:00 pm. Over one thousand faithful, including priests, sisters, and laypeople, participated in the event, prayerfully reciting the Holy Rosary along the way. Rev. Fr. Antony Jose gave the inaugural message, and Bishop George Rajendran delivered the presidential address at the concluding meeting held at Padanthalumoodu Parish.



# Guiding Lights:

## *Altar Boys Gather for Faith and Formation*



The Forane-level Altar Boys Seminar commenced on September 30, 2024, with its first session held at Soosaipuram for the Thuckalay-Pilankalai and Soosaipuram Foranes. The seminar continued on October 1, 2024, at Manjalumoodu Forane Church for the Manjalumoodu and Kaliyal Foranes, and on October 2, 2024, at Padanthalumoodu Forane Church for the Padanthalumoodu and Nithiravilai Foranes. During the sessions at Manjalumoodu and Kaliyal, 56 altar boys participated, while at Padanthalumoodu and Nithiravilai, 63 altar boys

took part. In total, 188 altar servers, comprising 178 boys and 10 girls, benefited from the seminar. Each session began at 9:30 am and concluded at 4:00 pm, addressing three primary 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's events culminated in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



## A Servant's Legacy: Diocese Commemorates Mar Mathew Kavukattu

The Diocese of Thuckalay continues to honor and remember the Servant of God, Mar Mathew Kavukattu, the first Bishop of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, for his invaluable contributions to mission work in the Kanyakumari district. Each year, the Diocese is invited to celebrate a commemorative Holy Qurbana at his tomb. On October 3, 2024, Bishop George Rajendran celebrated the Holy Qurbana at Mar Mathew Kavukattu's tomb at 5:30 pm. The concelebrants included Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Fr. Ginoy Thottiyil, Fr. Robins Kuzhikodil, Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal, and Fr. Liju Marattukalam. The choir was beautifully led by three members from the Kaliyal Forane Parish. The service was followed by the Office for the Dead, with all proceedings conducted in Tamil.



## A Sacred Pause:

### Priests Gather at Sangamam for Spiritual Renewal



The annual retreat for priests was held at Sangamam from October 6 to 11, 2024, with Rev. Fr. Jose Varikkasserril SDB serving as the retreat preacher. He guided the priests in deepening their understanding of the shared priesthood of Jesus and encouraged them to lead a life of holiness. The retreat covered key themes, including Holiness, Priestly Communion, the Importance of Prayer, Evangelization, and the power of the Word of God in the mission, drawing insights from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. A total of 50 priests, along with Bishop George Rajendran, participated in the retreat. All attendees experienced a renewed sense of enthusiasm for their priestly vocation.







## Youth in Action: Celebrating SMYM Annual Day 2024

The SMYM Annual Day 2024 was celebrated on October 12 at the Sacred Heart Forane Church campus in Padanthalumoodu. The festivities began with a folk-dance competition, inaugurated by Fr. Sumesh Valliyamthadathil, Forane SMYM Director of Padanthalumoodu. Bishop George Rajendran formally inaugurated the annual day celebrations, where the youth showcased their talents through various cultural performances. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the folk-dance competition, with Manjalumoodu receiving the first prize, Malaicodu the second, and Vayalinkarai and Pallappallam sharing the third prize. The outgoing central team was honored with gratitude and mementos, while the new central team was warmly welcomed.





## **Igniting Hearts and Minds: A Powerful National Youth Meet Experience**

The first National Youth Meet, organized by the SMYM Global Team in collaboration with SMYM Mandya Diocese, was held at the Camillian Pastoral Centre in Bangalore on October 12-13, 2024. Approximately 85 youth participated in the event, which brought together bishops, directors, sisters, and young representatives from various Syro Malabar dioceses. Representing the Diocese of Thuckalay, Fr. Antony Thakidiyel, Sr. Eliza FCC (SMYM Animator), and Mr. Sujith attended the meet.

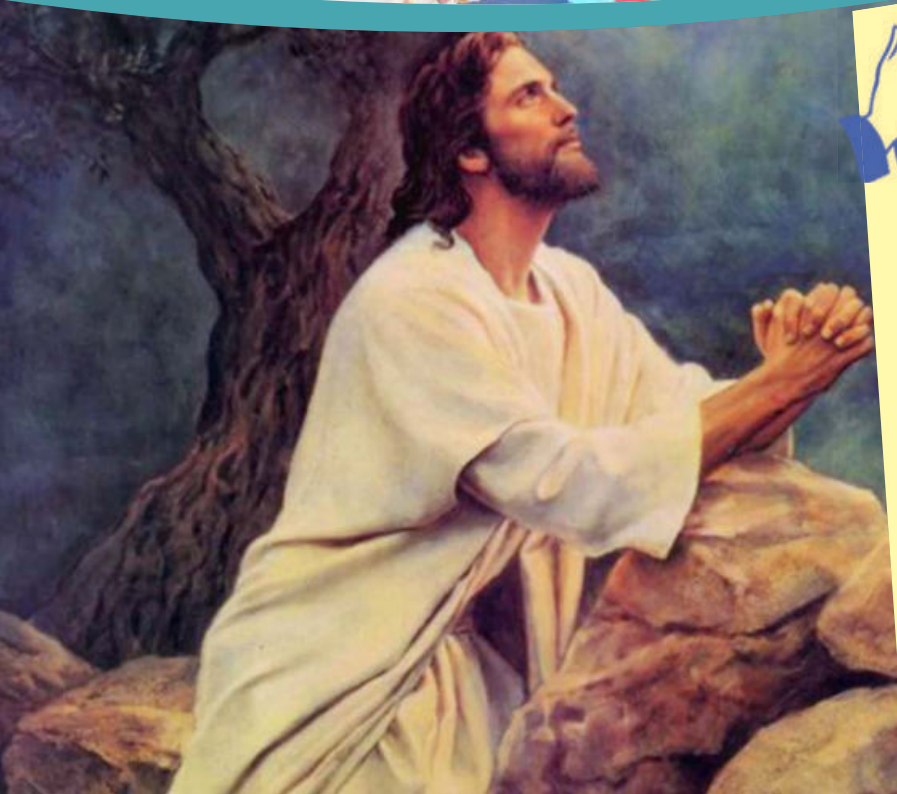


# Faith on the Move

## Rosary Procession Unites Tenkasi Mission




A Rosary procession was held in the Tenkasi mission on October 13, 2024. The faithful gathered at Little Flower Church in Puliyarai at 4:00 pm and proceeded, reciting the rosary, towards Pulari Metric School in Pudur. Nearly 200 people, including priests, sisters, and MCBS brothers serving in the Tenkasi mission, took part in the procession. The group reached the Pudur campus by 5:30 pm, where Bishop George Rajendran participated in the event and delivered a concluding talk, highlighting the significance of Mother Mary in the Christian life. The program concluded at 7:00 pm with an agape meal, graciously sponsored and prepared by the youth of St. Mary's Church, Aryankavu, from the Archdiocese of Changanacherry.



### NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

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In detail you wish to express,

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## Anchatheer – Bible verse writing competition

The Family Apostolate organized the "Anchatheer" competition for Mathru Jyothis members at the forane level on October 20, 2024. Participants were invited to memorize Bible verses containing the word "anchatheer" and write them down on paper during gatherings in their respective foranes. The member who recorded the most verses was awarded the first prize. The event saw enthusiastic participation, with around 200 members taking part.



# Deshathodu Orunaal – Cleaning Drive at Edaicode



The Thuckalay Central Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society organized its annual one-day cleaning camp, 'Deshathodu Orunaal,' on Gandhi Jayanti, October 2, 2024, at the Government Health Care Centre in Edaicode. The event, aimed at promoting social cleanliness and encouraging members to engage in charitable service, was attended by nearly 100 participants from various area councils and conferences of the Thuckalay Central Council. The Central Council President, Mr. Rabi, welcomed everyone to the camp, and the event was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Martin Kandampampil MST, Forane Vicar of Manjalumoodu Forane. The doctors and hospital staff extended their full support to the program, ensuring its success.



## Strengthening the Mission: Virudunagar Hosts Extended Territory Meet

An Extended Territory Mission gathering was held on October 22, 2024, at St. Joseph's Mission Church in Virudunagar, with 17 participants, including 7 Fathers and 8 Sisters. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General. The gathering began with an hour of Adoration and Confession, followed by a warm welcome extended by Fr. Tobin Alapurackal to all those present. During the meeting, participants shared their experiences and discussed the current situations and challenges faced in various missions. One key issue raised was the lack of financial resources, which hinders the effectiveness of mission work. Missionaries suggested that Foranes could support missions through prayer, visits, and financial assistance.



# Faith in Costume: Jesus Kids Shine in All Saints Fancy Dress Competition



The "Jesus Kids All Saints Fancy Dress Competition" was a wonderful event, and it was celebrated beautifully across all parishes. Children participated enthusiastically, dressing up as various saints, showcasing their creativity and reverence. The competition

added a vibrant spirit to the celebrations, helping to instill in the children a deeper appreciation for the lives of the saints. It's heartening to see such engaging and meaningful activities being celebrated so well in the parishes.



## **A Missionary's Legacy: First Death Anniversary of Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel**

The first death anniversary of Fr. Thomas Muttathukunnel, our former Vicar General and a dedicated missionary, was commemorated on October 22, 2024. On this solemn occasion, Bishop George Rajendran celebrated a requiem Holy Qurbana at Soosaipuram Parish. Representatives from the Diocese also participated in the requiem Holy Qurbana at Ponkunnam Parish and in the Office for the Dead near Fr. Thomas' tomb. With deep gratitude, we remember his selfless service and pray for the eternal rest of his soul.





# Mission Speaks:

## Echoes of Compassion and Commitment in Action

### Kayathar

The palliative care works of the Kayathar mission are progressing well. The mission continues to provide compassionate care and support to individuals in need, offering comfort to patients and their families. This initiative, grounded in the mission's commitment to serving the sick and vulnerable, is making a meaningful impact in the community. It is encouraging to see the dedication of the mission team in carrying out this important work with love and devotion.



### Thirunelveli

The Thirunelveli community is actively involved in the palliative care mission, contributing significantly to the efforts of providing comfort and support to the sick and suffering. This community has embraced the mission's work with compassion, offering assistance to patients and their families, and helping in various ways, such as providing care, emotional support, and even practical help to those in need. Their dedication to this cause reflects a strong commitment to service, enhancing the overall impact of the palliative care mission in the area.



### Cumbum

MathruJyothis from Podimattom Church, Kanjirapally, recently visited Cumbum Mission. It is happy that they successfully obtained permission from the District Collector to serve in the tribal colonies. This marks an important step in their ongoing efforts to support and serve marginalized communities, particularly the tribal populations. Their initiative reflects a strong commitment to social service and mission work, bringing hope and assistance to the underserved communities in the region.



## In Memory of a Life Well Lived



**Mr. Sam Marence**  
Father of Sr. Sam Priya FCC



**Mr. K A Thomas**  
Brother in Law of Fr. Antony Chundelikattu





**THUCKALAY**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



*Wishing*

**Mar Thomas Tharayil**  
**our new Archbishop a**  
**Future Full of Hope and**  
**Fulfillment**

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