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Thuck'alay Tidings

DIocese of THUCKALAY



Jubilee Year 2025 Inauguration

To Celebrate Jesus
To Celebrate Church
To Celebrate Faith



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Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

January 2025 | Vol. 5 | Issue 1

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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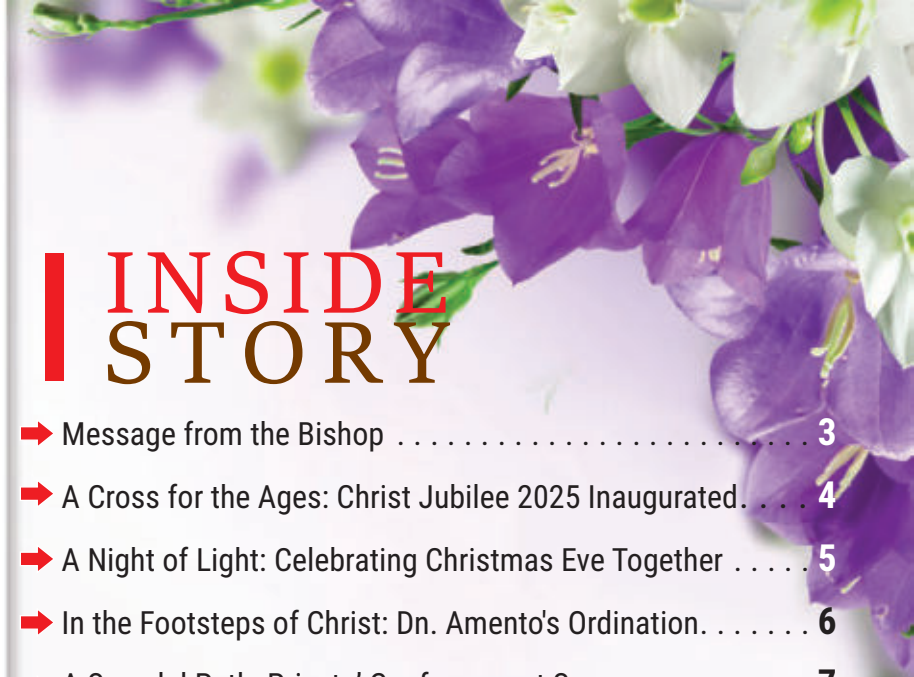
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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY
BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.
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Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Warm greetings and blessings to you as we joyfully welcome the New Year 2025!

As we look back at the year 2024, we are filled with immense gratitude for the remarkable growth the Diocese of Thuckalay experienced in its pastoral, spiritual, educational, and charitable ministries. This progress was made possible through your wholehearted support both financial and spiritual. Your generosity has been a source of strength and encouragement for us in our mission to serve and uplift our communities.

The pastoral ministry saw renewed participation from the faithful in liturgical celebrations and sacramental life, bringing about a spiritual revival in our parishes. Catechetical programs engaged children and adults alike, fostering a deeper understanding of the faith and a stronger commitment to living it out. Our youth ministry also flourished, with vibrant programs that inspired young people to take an active role in Church activities and their spiritual formation.

In the educational sector, we were able to support students and enhance the facilities of our diocesan schools, providing them with

opportunities to grow in knowledge and values. The charitable and social outreach carried out by KKSSS reached numerous lives, offering relief and hope to the needy and marginalized in our parishes. These achievements are a testament to the collective effort of our faithful and your continued generosity.

The year 2025 holds special significance as it marks the Jubilee Year, celebrating 2025 years since the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pope Francis has invited all Catholics to make this Jubilee a time of deep spiritual renewal, having dedicated two years of preparation leading up to this holy occasion. This Jubilee Year offers us a unique opportunity to grow closer to Christ, celebrate our faith meaningfully, and recommit ourselves to the mission of the Church.

Throughout the Jubilee Year, our Diocese will be organizing special events and programs to deepen our faith and unity. These initiatives will focus on spiritual renewal, mission outreach, and fostering a sense of community among the faithful. Let us embrace this opportunity with open hearts and enthusiasm, making the Jubilee Year a time of grace and transformation for all.

As we embark on this grace-filled year, let us continue working together in faith and love, building on the blessings of the past year. On behalf of the Diocese of Thuckalay, I thank you once again for your continued support, and I assure you of my prayers for you and your families.

May the New Year 2025 bring you abundant blessings, peace, and joy. Let us journey together in faith, hope, and love, as we celebrate this Jubilee Year with renewed fervor and dedication.



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay

A Cross for the Ages

Christ Jubilee 2025 Inaugurated

The diocesan-level inauguration of Christ Jubilee 2025 took place simultaneously at three pilgrim centers on 29 December 2024 at 8:00 am. Rev. Bishop presided over the ceremony at St. George Shrine Church, Munchirai, while Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General, was the main celebrant at Holy Cross Shrine Church, Malaicode, and Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal at St. Alphonsa Shrine Church, Nagercoil. The

inaugural liturgical ceremony commenced at a designated location where the newly prepared Jubilee Cross was blessed. In a solemn procession, the faithful carried the cross to the respective Shrine Churches. The Jubilee Candle was then lit, symbolizing the start of the Jubilee Year, followed by the Solemn Holy Qurbana. The liturgy concluded with the recitation of the Jubilee Prayer and Jubilee Song.





A Night of Light

Celebrating Christmas Eve Together



The Christmas Eve celebration at Mathapuram began at 9:00 pm, bringing the faithful together to rejoice in the birth of Christ. The evening featured a solemn Holy Mass, celebrated with devotion and reverence, marking the pinnacle of the celebration. Following the Holy Mass, Christmas sweets were distributed to all attendees, adding a touch of festive joy to the occasion. The gathering reflected the spirit of unity and love that Christmas signifies. Rev. Bishop expressed heartfelt Christmas blessings, encouraging everyone to embrace the message of peace and hope that the season brings.



In the Footsteps of Christ

Dn. Amento's Ordination



The ordination of Dn. Amento was a solemn and joyous occasion, celebrated with reverence and gratitude. The sacred ceremony took place at Idukki, presided over by Rev. Bishop, with the participation of priests, religious, and the faithful. The ordination liturgy included the Rite of Ordination, during which Dn. Amento was anointed and consecrated to the priesthood, committing himself to a life of service to God and His Church. The congregation prayed fervently for his ministry, seeking the guidance and blessings of the Holy Spirit. Following the Holy Qurbana, a felicitation program was held to honor the newly ordained priest. Family members, friends, and parishioners expressed their joy and support, offering heartfelt congratulations and gifts. Rev. Bishop extended his blessings to Fr. Amento, encouraging him to live out his vocation with faith, humility, and love. Gratitude was also expressed to all who contributed to the preparation and organization of this memorable event.



A Synodal Path

Priests' Conference at Sangamam

A special Priests' Conference was held at Sangamam on 5 December 2024 to discuss the suggestions from the Presbyteral Council held on 31 July 2024 and to conduct a self-evaluation of priests. The conference began with an hour of Adoration, led by Rev. Fr. Toji Parambilparambil. Following a short break, the conference officially commenced at 11:00 am. Rev. Fr. Vicar General extended a warm welcome to all, and Rev. Bishop presided over the meeting. A special group discussion was organized, moderated by Rev. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil and Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil, the Presbyterium Secretary. Rev. Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil introduced the theme, while Rev. Fr. Justin Cheruvilil presented the points raised

during the Presbyteral Council. The main topic of discussion was "Concerns, Challenges, and Preoccupations of Priests Regarding Their Life and Ministry in the Diocese of Thuckalay." The priests were divided into three groups for discussion, with questions distributed to guide the conversation. The group discussions lasted for approximately 45 minutes. In the second half of the meeting, Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan presented a detailed diocesan action plan for the Christ Jubilee 2025. Representatives from the three groups then shared their findings in a common session. This was the first time the priests convened to discuss and collectively address current issues.



A Marian Celebration

Legion of Mary's 23rd Anniversary



The 23rd Anniversary of the Thuckalay Group, Legion of Mary, was celebrated at St. Alphonsa College of Arts and Science, Soosaipuram, on 7 December 2024, beginning at 9:30 am. The event commenced with the recitation of the Rosary, followed by the inaugural session. Rev. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil delivered an inspiring Marian message during this session. The Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil.

The anniversary celebrations resumed at 2:00 pm with a public meeting presided over by Rev. Bishop. Members of Mariayin Senai presented a variety of cultural programs based on Marian themes, showcasing their devotion and creativity.



Joy Across Borders

Extended Christmas Celebrations in Theni

The Diocese hosted an Extended Territories Christmas Gathering at Theni, celebrating the joy and unity of the Christmas season with the faithful from the newly incorporated regions. The event brought together members of the community for a day of prayer, fellowship, and festive cheer. The gathering began with a Christmas message delivered by Rev. Bishop, emphasizing the themes of hope, love, and unity. Cultural programs showcasing the talents and traditions of the extended territories added vibrancy to the celebrations. Carol singing, Nativity skits, and Christmas-themed activities highlighted the spirit of the season. A special agape meal was shared, fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness among all participants.



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

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

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

Contact Mission Procure:
Fr. Liju Marattukalam
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com

A Child's Christmas

Celebrating Together with Catechism and Jesus Kids



The Combined Christmas Gathering for Catechism students and Jesus Kids was joyfully celebrated at Kalluvilai, bringing together children and families to commemorate the birth of Christ. The event featured a lively carol service, engaging performances, and a Nativity play that captured the essence of the Christmas story. Special activities were organized for the children, including Christmas-themed games and gift exchanges, fostering a sense of excitement and camaraderie. Rev. Bishop addressed the gathering with a heartfelt Christmas message, encouraging the young participants to live in the light of Christ's love and share His joy with others. The celebration concluded with the distribution of Christmas sweets and blessings, leaving everyone with a sense of happiness and community spirit.

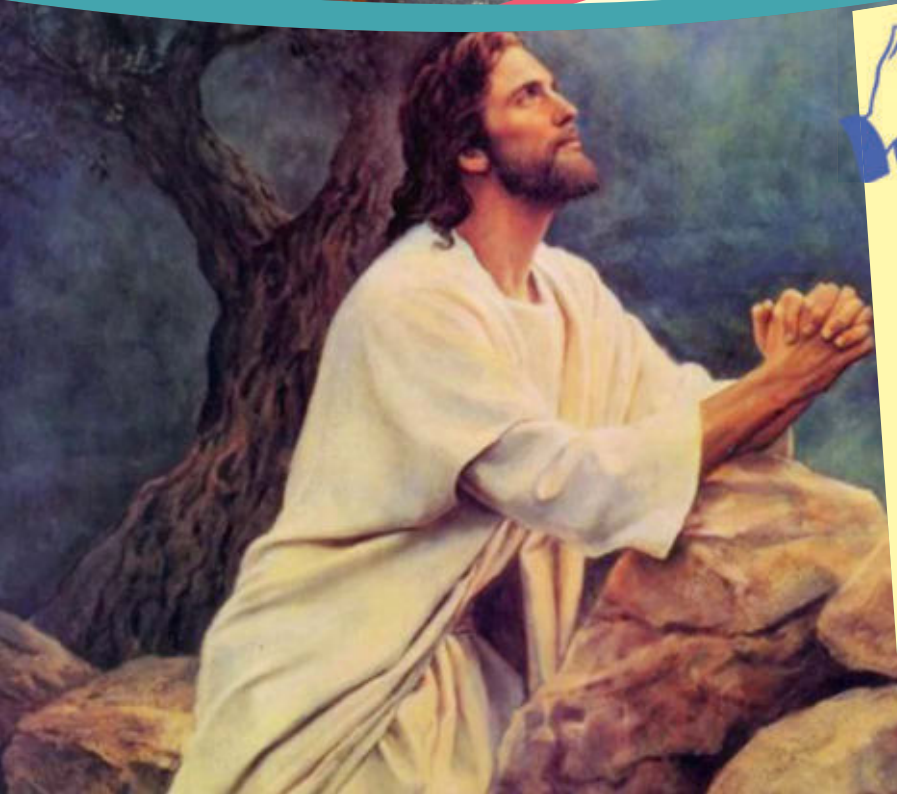


Savoring the Season

Family Apostolate Smart Christmas at Soosaipuram




The Family Apostolate Smart Christmas Celebration was held at Soosaipuram, blending festive cheer with creative activities that brought families together in the spirit of Christmas. A highlight of the celebration was the Food Fest, which showcased a variety of delicious dishes prepared by families and parishioners. The fest provided a platform for culinary creativity and fostered a sense of togetherness as participants shared meals and conversations. Rev. Bishop delivered a special Christmas message, emphasizing the importance of family bonds and living out the values of love, peace, and joy exemplified by Christ's birth. The event concluded with blessings and the exchange of Christmas greetings, leaving everyone with cherished memories of the occasion.



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

A Christmas of Fellowship

Tenkasi Mission Gathering



The Tenkasi Christmas Gathering was held at Pudur, beginning at 4:00 pm, bringing together the faithful for a joyous celebration of the birth of Christ. There was variety of activities, including a vibrant carol service, cultural performances, and a Nativity play that beautifully depicted the story of Christ's birth. Rev. Bishop delivered a heartfelt Christmas message, emphasizing the themes of hope, love, and renewal that the season embodies. The gathering provided an opportunity for community members to share in the festive spirit and strengthen their bonds of fellowship.



Joyful Hearts: Educare Students Celebrate Christmas Together



The Educare Students Christmas Gathering was a vibrant and heartwarming celebration, bringing together students and mentors to rejoice in the spirit of Christmas. The event featured carol singing, a Nativity play, and interactive activities that highlighted the joy and meaning of the season. Students participated enthusiastically in various cultural performances and games, showcasing their talents and creativity. A special Christmas message was shared, encouraging the students to embrace the values of hope, kindness, and love exemplified by the birth of Christ. The celebration concluded with the distribution of Christmas gifts and sweets, creating a festive and joyful atmosphere.





Sharing the Christmas Spirit

Presbyterium's Christmas Gathering

The Christmas Gathering for the Presbyterium was a solemn and joyful event, uniting the clergy in celebration of the birth of Christ. The gathering began with a time of prayer and procession and recreating nativity, fostering spiritual renewal and gratitude for the gift of priesthood. Rev. Bishop shared a heartfelt Christmas message,

encouraging the priests to continue their mission with love and dedication, inspired by the humility and service of Christ. The gathering also included moments of fellowship, with carol singing and an exchange of Christmas greetings. A festive meal was shared, strengthening the bonds of fraternity and unity among the clergy.



A Christmas of Togetherness

Celebrating with Neighborhoods

The Christmas Celebration with Neighborhoods brought together families and individuals from local communities to share in the joy and unity of the season. The event featured a carol service, Nativity enactments, and community-led performances that reflected the diverse talents and traditions of the neighborhoods. The celebration emphasized the spirit of togetherness, with interactive games, gift exchanges, and Christmas-themed activities fostering a sense of camaraderie among participants. A special message was shared, highlighting the importance of neighborly love and the call to embody Christ's message of peace and goodwill. The gathering concluded with the sharing of Christmas sweets and a festive meal, creating an atmosphere of warmth and celebration.





Bible Fest 2024

The Forane-level Catechism Bible competitions for this year were held from 27 to 30 December 2024, with enthusiastic participation from all parishes. Organized by Narcheithi Nilayam, the competitions centered on themes drawn from the Bible itself, encouraging children to engage deeply with Scripture and nurture a love for the Word of God. Children participated with dedication and enthusiasm, showcasing the results of their thorough preparation and rigorous practice. The events were held at multiple venues: APJM School, Soosaipuram; St. Michael School, Kattathurai; Holy Family School, Mukkoottukkal; St. Mary's School, Kaliyal; Sacred Heart School, Padanthalumoodu; Jaya Matha School, Christurajapuram; and St. Francis Assisi School, Mezhaicode.



Honoring a Life of Service

Fr. John Thekkel's First Death Anniversary



The first death anniversary of Fr. John Thekkel was commemorated on 21 December 2024 at St. Francis Assisi Church, Mezhacode. Rev. Bishop celebrated the remembrance Holy Qurbana at 7:30 am, with Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathupampil, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam, Rev. Fr. Jose Vayalil, and Rev. Fr. Vinod Kanakalil as concelebrants. Rev. Fr. Jose Muttathupadam delivered a heartfelt homily, reflecting on the life and contributions of Fr. John Thekkel. Following the Holy Qurbana, the Office for the Dead was recited by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathupampil, and a prayer service for the deceased was conducted at the presbytery by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal.



Innocence and Faith

Holy Childhood Day Celebration

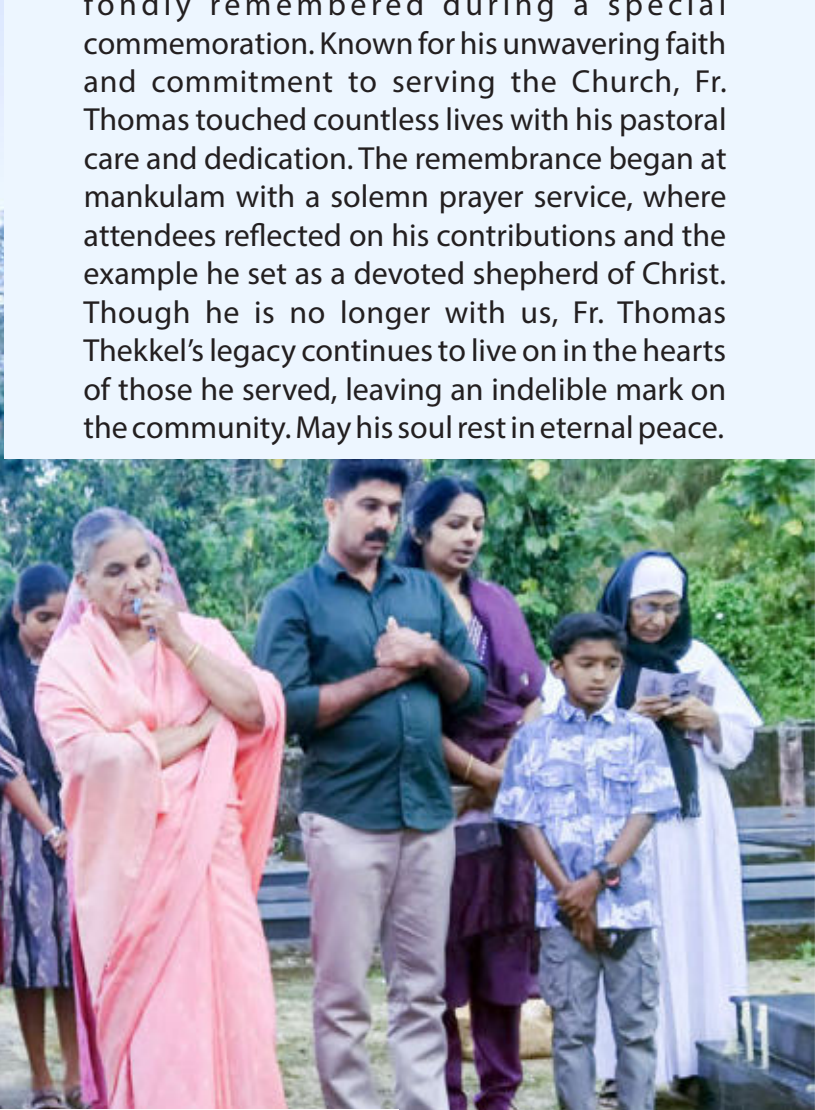
Holy Childhood Day was joyfully celebrated across our parishes on Sunday, 29 December 2024, during the Holy Qurbana. The celebration began with a meaningful introduction, setting the tone for the day dedicated to the spiritual growth and mission of children. The ceremony included the lighting of the lamp, symbolizing Christ as the light of the world. During the offertory procession, children actively participated by presenting their offerings with reverence and devotion. After the Holy Qurbana, a special blessing was imparted to all the children, invoking God's guidance and protection over their lives.



Remembering the legacy

Fr. Thomas Thekkel

The life and legacy of Fr. Thomas Thekkel were fondly remembered during a special commemoration. Known for his unwavering faith and commitment to serving the Church, Fr. Thomas touched countless lives with his pastoral care and dedication. The remembrance began at mankulam with a solemn prayer service, where attendees reflected on his contributions and the example he set as a devoted shepherd of Christ. Though he is no longer with us, Fr. Thomas Thekkel's legacy continues to live on in the hearts of those he served, leaving an indelible mark on the community. May his soul rest in eternal peace.





A Season of Joy

Christmas Celebrations Across the Diocese

The Diocese came alive with joy and celebration as Christmas gatherings were held in various parishes and institutions, uniting the faithful in the spirit of the season. Each event reflected the diversity and vibrancy of the diocese, fostering a sense of togetherness and devotion.



A New Beginning

Congratulations to the New Provincial Teams



CMC Chavara Province, Thuckalay

Rev. Sr. Dr. Jessy Therese CMC (Provincial Superior), Sr. Anija CMC (Vicar Provincial) Sr. Alphonse Jose CMC, Sr. Soona Rose CMC and Sr. Reeja Paul CMC (councillors), Sr. Anie Lins CMC (Internal auditor), Sr. Krupa Rose CMC (Finance Secretary) and Sr. Germi Maria CMC (Provincial Secretary)



SABS St. Chantal Province, Thuckalay

Rev. Sr. Rosemartin SABS (Provincial Superior), Sr. Elaise Kunnath SABS (Vicar Provincial) Sr. Leena Anpathilchira SABS, Sr. Amala Jose SABS and Sr. Roselin Kallarakavunkal SABS (councillors), Sr. Grace Vettethel SABS (Finance Officer) and Sr. Geo Maria SABS (Provincial Secretary)

A Life Well Lived...



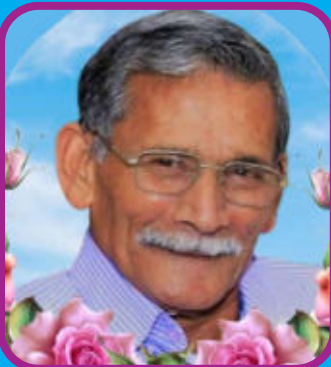
Mrs. Annamma Joseph Thudiyamplackal (75)
The mother of Sr. Anitha SH



Mrs. Chinnathai (85) - Mother of Sr. Valan SDS



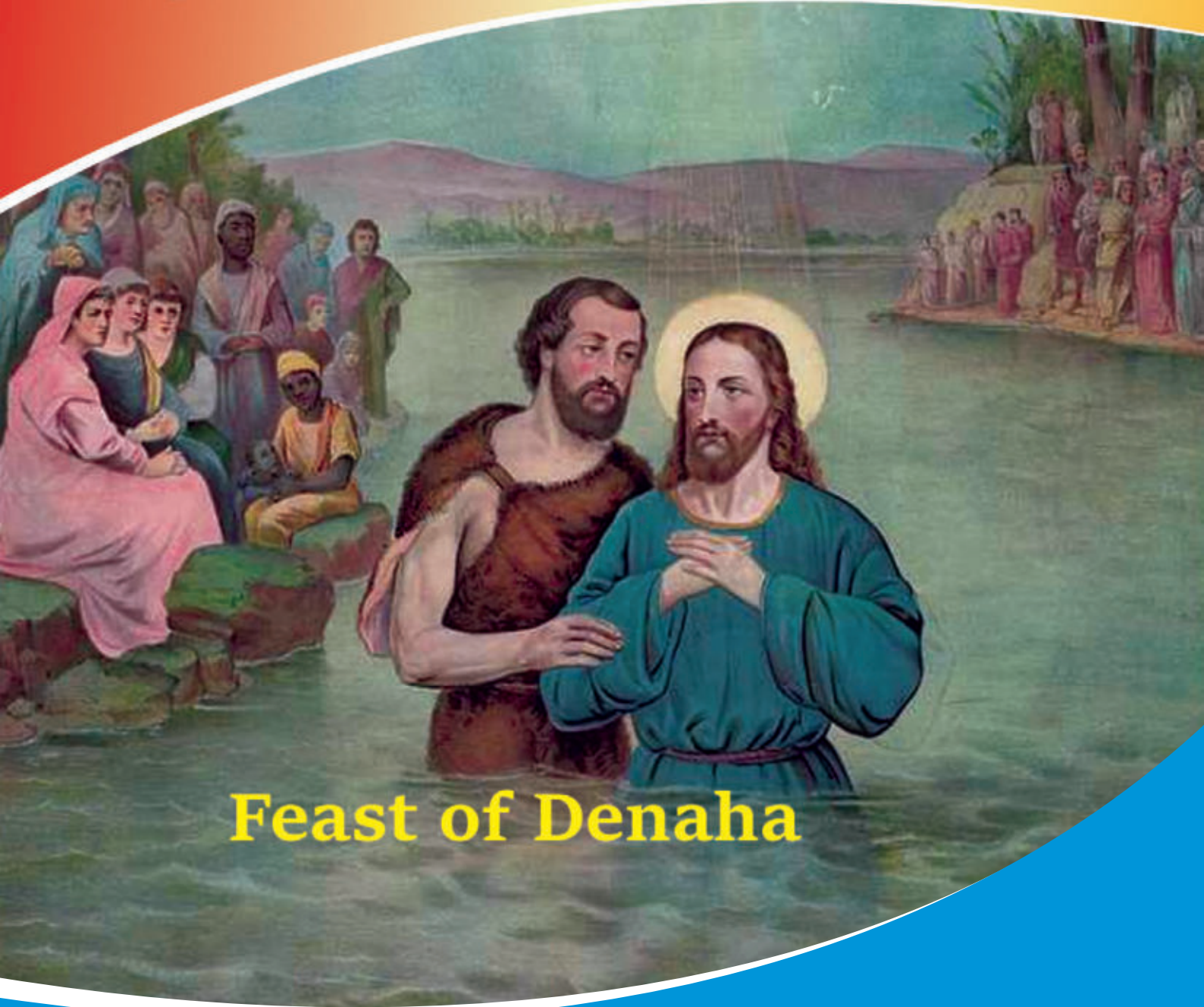
Mr. K. J Baby (84) - Father of Sr. Elaise Kunnath SABS



Mr. C. S. Mathew (80) - Father of Sr. Ann Maria CMC



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