

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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MISSION SUNDAY

PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION



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Diocese of Thuckalay

THUCKALAY TIDINGS

October 2024 | Vol. 4 | Issue 10

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,
Greetings from the Diocese of Thuckalay!

We are going to celebrate Mission Sunday on 20 October. It is an occasion to pray for the missions, to contribute financially to missionary works, and above all, an opportunity to review our own attitude toward the evangelizing mission of the Church and reaffirm our commitment to furthering the missionary mandate of Jesus Christ. The Holy Father invites us to consider the *missio ad gentes* as a great and immense work of mercy, both spiritual and material. On this World Mission Sunday, we are all invited to "go out" as missionary disciples, each generously offering their talents, creativity, wisdom, and experience to bring the message of God's tenderness and compassion to the entire human family. By virtue of the missionary mandate, the Church cares for those who do not know the Gospel, because she wants everyone to be saved and to experience the Lord's love. She "is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel" (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 12) and to proclaim mercy in every corner of the world, reaching every person, young or old.

The Holy Father invites everyone—priests, religious, and lay people—to engage in the evangelizing mission of the Church. He provides the reason for the Church's

missionary activities, writing: "All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation, which is God's gift to every person. This is all the more necessary when we consider how many injustices, wars, and humanitarian crises still need resolution. Missionaries know from experience that the Gospel of forgiveness and mercy can bring joy and reconciliation, justice and peace." The Gospel's mandate to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20) has not ceased. Rather, this command commits all of us, amid the current landscape with all its challenges, to hear the call to a renewed missionary "impulse," as I noted in my Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*: "Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey His call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel" (20).

I earnestly invite all of you, dear friends, to proclaim Jesus Christ in season and out of season to our people, not only in our own settings but even by going to the peripheries, as Pope Francis invites us to do. We need to have the fire and intense desire for Jesus Christ, which can come only from a genuine personal experience of the Master. May this Mission Sunday that we are celebrating continue to be a moment of rededication to our Christian call. The diocese is marching forward with this command of Jesus to proclaim. I thank you for being a source of strength in the missionary activities of the diocese through your financial support and prayers.

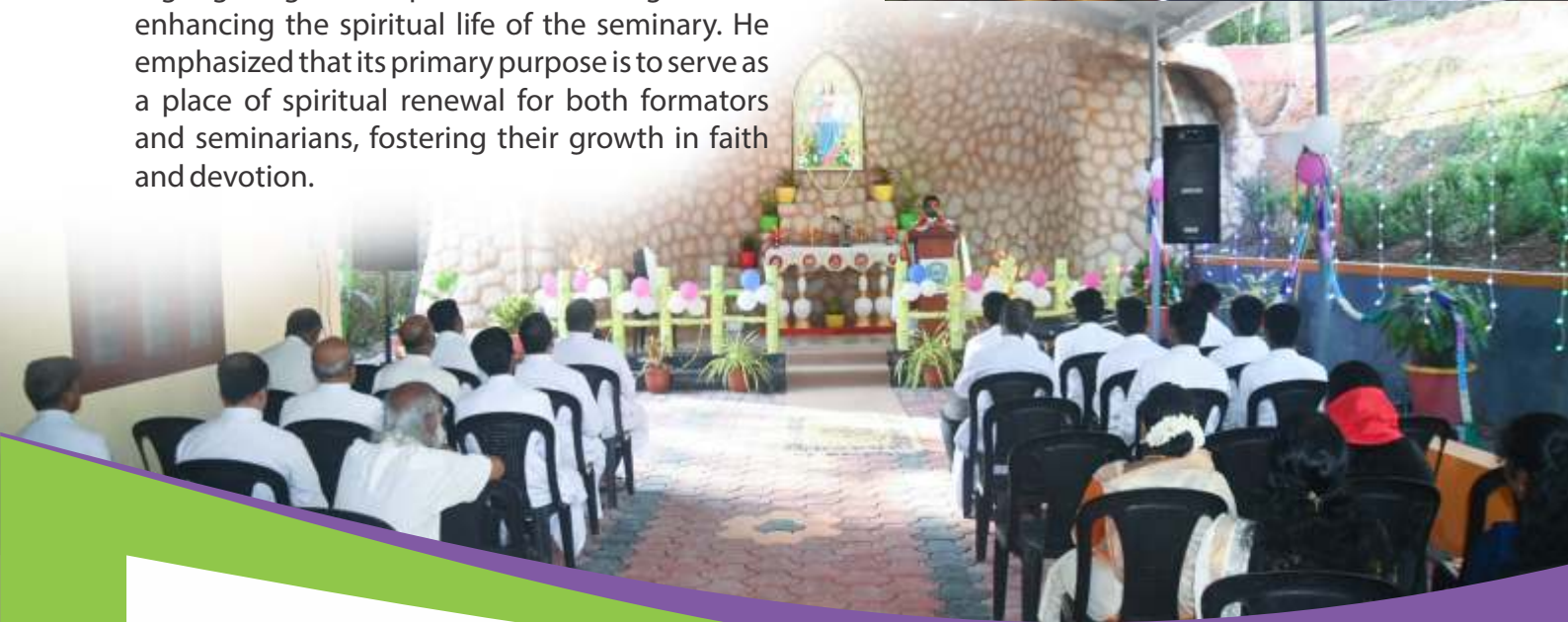


+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay

Under Mary's Mantle: A Grotto of Faith and Blessings

On September 13, 2024, at 4:00 PM, Bishop Mar George Rajendran inaugurated and blessed the newly constructed Grotto of Mother Mary in front of St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mukkoottukal. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Curia members, priests, and religious sisters from the Manjalumoodu Forane, along with the parents of the seminarians. Fr. George Kandathil extended a warm welcome to all those present, while Fr. Augustine Thalodil, the Rector, expressed his deep gratitude to everyone who contributed, especially those who provided financial support for the grotto's construction.

Following the blessing, Bishop Mar George Rajendran delivered a felicitation address, highlighting the importance of the grotto in enhancing the spiritual life of the seminary. He emphasized that its primary purpose is to serve as a place of spiritual renewal for both formators and seminarians, fostering their growth in faith and devotion.



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

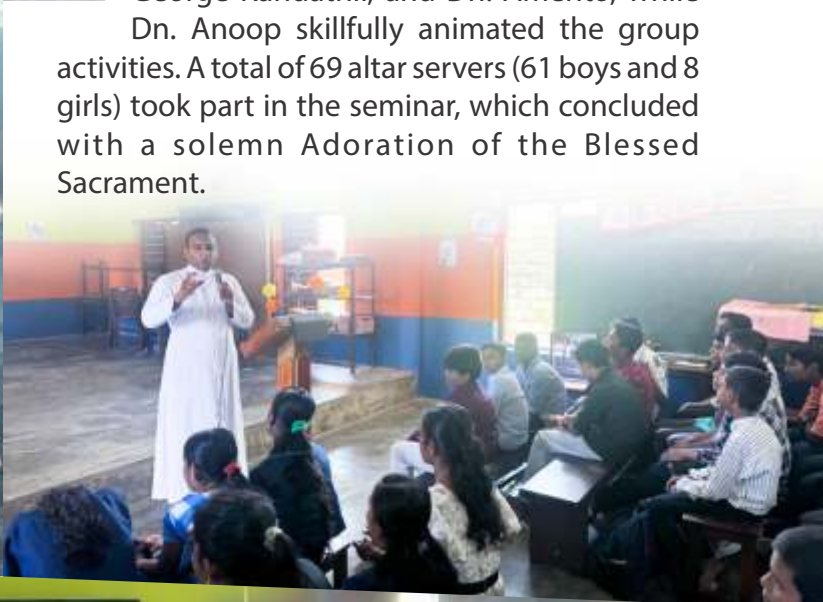
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Contact Mission Procure:
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 +91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;
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Called to Serve: Altar Boys' Fellowship

The Forane-level Altar Boys Seminar commenced on September 30, 2024, with its first session held at Soosaipuram, catering to participants from the Thuckalay-Pilankalai and Soosaipuram Foranes. The seminar ran from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, focusing on three key themes: vocation, social media and drug addiction, and liturgical services. The resource persons leading the sessions were Fr. Mijo Puthenpurackal, Fr. George Kandathil, and Dn. Amento, while Dn. Anoop skillfully animated the group activities. A total of 69 altar servers (61 boys and 8 girls) took part in the seminar, which concluded with a solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.





Faithful Stewards:

Priests' Assembly at Kalluvilai

The monthly Priests' Conference was held at Kalluvilai on September 3, 2024, commencing at 9:30 AM. The day began with a period of adoration led by Fr. Lijo Thekkel, followed by confessions, which established a prayerful atmosphere. Official proceedings began at 11:15 AM, with Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the Chancellor, coordinating in the absence of the Vicar General, and Bishop Mar George Rajendran presiding over the conference. A warm welcome was extended to Rev. Fr. Thomas Kanjirakkatt, the Mission Coordinator of the Cumbum–Theni Missions, attending for the first time, along with Fr. Prince Maliyil and Fr. Shoji Puthenpurackal, who were visiting from Ireland. Special appreciation was expressed to Fr. Mathew Kuzhinjalil for his generous donation of land for the TPWA project in Kumarakovil.

Following introductions, department heads and association leaders provided updates on upcoming events, while Mission Coordinators shared their experiences and developments from various mission stations. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal presented a summary of the Fifth Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, accompanied by a video presentation. In his address, Bishop Mar George Rajendran discussed recent Synodal developments and the expectations set forth by the Synodal Fathers regarding the life and ministry of priests. The conference concluded with a festive Onam Sadhya at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai, marking a successful gathering enriched by the active participation and meaningful contributions of all attendees.





Together for Change: *Social Sensitization at Cumbum*

On September 8, 2024, ten MBA students from Kuttikanam Marian College visited the Cumbum Mission for a social sensitization programme. Under the guidance of Fr. Thomas Kanjirakkatt, the students were introduced to the various activities and initiatives of the Cumbum Mission. Sr. Elsy SH demonstrated several projects, including hairband making and in-skirt production, showcasing the mission's commitment to skill development and empowerment.

In the afternoon, the students participated in a case study focused on the various issues and challenges faced by the Cumbum region, gaining valuable insights into the community's needs. Dn. Amento provided support throughout the programme, enhancing the students' learning experience.





Fostering Community: A Mission Journey to Cumbum

On September 17th, a group of enthusiastic Sunday School students from Kaithotty Parish embarked on a mission experience to Cumbum Mission. This visit aimed to provide the students with a firsthand understanding of mission work, community service, and the vital role they can play in their communities as future leaders in faith. The event was organized to inspire, educate, and engage the students in meaningful activities that embody the spirit of service and compassion.

Leading with Faith: KKSSS Leadership Training for Parishes

KKSSS has initiated a series of parish-wise leadership training sessions aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of parish council leaders. The first session was conducted at Paraicode Parish on September 1, 2024, followed by Marappady on September 15, and Mukkoottukal on September 19. The training focused on equipping leaders to better support economically disadvantaged and vulnerable families within their communities. Discussions emphasized the crucial role parishioners play in empowering these families and preventing children from being placed in childcare institutions due to familial challenges. The program aims to foster a spirit of community support and collaboration in addressing the needs of those most at risk.





A New Chapter:

Inauguration of the Laity Council Office

On September 16, 2024, a new office for the Laity Council was inaugurated and blessed by Bishop Mar George Rajendran at 10:00 AM in Kalluvilai, located within the existing building of the Catechism Department. Approximately 15 members of the Laity Council attended the ceremony, where Fr. Vinu D. Joseph, the Director, extended a warm welcome to all present. This office will be staffed by a full-time assistant

available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Its primary purpose is to provide support and guidance to the community in understanding and accessing various government welfare schemes. Bishop Mar George Rajendran encourages all Fathers to inform the parishioners about this valuable resource and to assist them in effectively utilizing these government initiatives.





One Vision, Many Voices: **A Collaborative Interdepartmental Gathering**

An interdepartmental meeting for the directors of various departments and pious associations was held on September 18-19, 2024, at the Bishop's House. On the first day, Bishop Mar George Rajendran met with the directors of the KII, SMYM, and Catechism Departments to evaluate their activities and provide essential guidelines for strengthening their efforts. On the second day, the Bishop engaged with the directors of the Vocation Department, Family Apostolate, Uravians, Vincent de Paul Society, Mariyayin Senai, Laity Council, Ecumenism, and the Health Commission. A collaborative sharing session took place, yielding valuable suggestions for enhancing coordination among departmental activities. The meeting report has been circulated to all directors for further study and implementation.

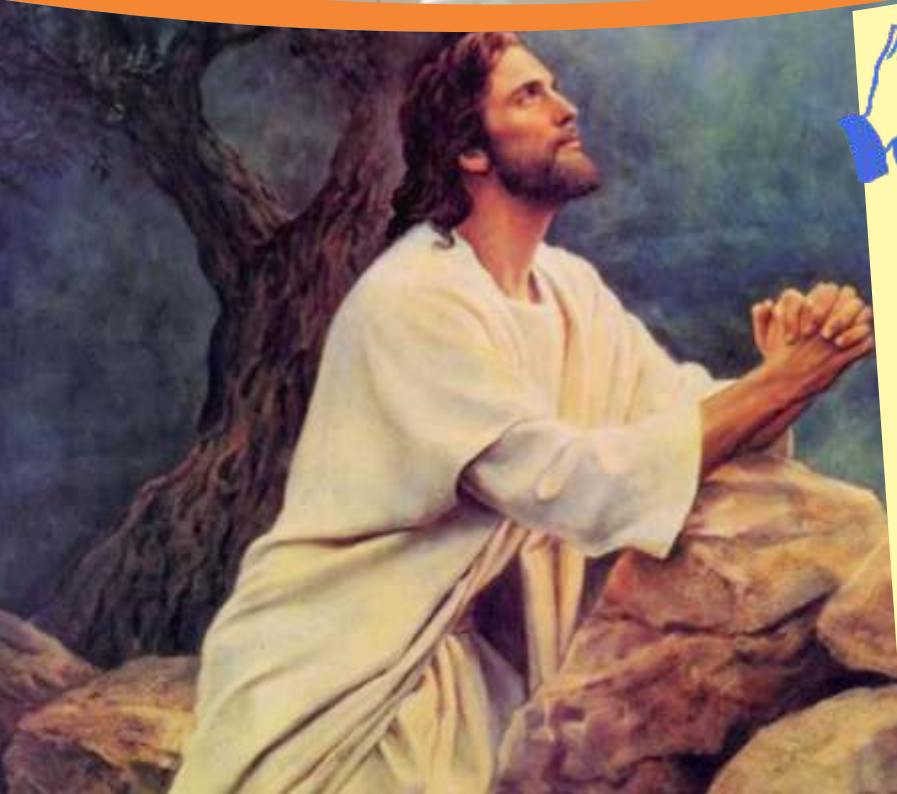


Silver Milestone: Honoring 25 Years



The CMC Convent in Kalluvilai celebrated its Silver Jubilee on September 14, 2024, marking 25 years since its establishment. The first house was founded at Arasuvelai on June 12, 1999, and in 2006, the Sisters relocated to a rented house in Kalluvilai. The current convent was blessed in 2013, symbolizing the growth and commitment of the community over the years.


The Silver Jubilee Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana was celebrated at 11:00 AM, presided over by Bishop Mar George Rajendran, with Forane Vicar Fr. Joshy Thevalakkara CMI and Vicar Fr. Aby Poovathummoottil as concelebrants. Following the Mass, Sr. Maria Mathew, the Superior of the convent, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all attendees for their participation in the joyous celebration. The event concluded with a communal agape meal, fostering a spirit of unity and fellowship among all present.



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



Golden Milestone: ASMI Congregation's 50th Year Celebration

The Apostolic Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI) celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their congregation on September 21, 2024, at their Generalate House in Cheeranchira, Changanacherry. Founded by Cardinal Mar Antony Padiyara on September 21, 1974, the congregation currently comprises 100 sisters actively engaged in various ministries. The ASMI Sisters began their mission in the Kanyakumari region on January 26, 1978, providing exceptional service in the parishes of Nithiravilai, Annikkarai, Vayalinkarai, and Cheenivilai. Their dedicated work at Karunayillam is particularly commendable, focusing on serving the mentally and physically differently-abled, offering

palliative care, social services, conducting house visits, and providing counseling support.

The Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana commenced at 3:30 PM, with Mar Joseph Perumthottam as the main celebrant and Bishop Mar George Rajendran concelebrating alongside him. Following the Mass, a public Jubilee meeting was held, presided over by the Bishop. In his presidential address, he expressed the gratitude of the diocese to the Superior General, Rev. Sr. Mercy Maria ASMI, and to the entire congregation for their invaluable contributions to the diocese and the Church at large.





Bringing Health to the Heart: Medical Camps by the Health Commission

The Health Commission, in collaboration with Helson Healthcare, conducted a free medical camp at the Mukkoottukal Holy Family Church campus on September 29, 2024, benefiting 75 individuals. Additionally, on the same day, the Health Commission organized an awareness camp in Vayalinkarai that focused on addiction and parenting. Led by Fr. Subin, Director of the Health Commission, the session attracted 25 mothers from the parish, fostering a supportive community and empowering them with valuable insights.

Earlier, on September 3, 2024, the Health Commission, in partnership with the Changing

the Way We Care (CTWWC) team from Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS), organized a parents-teachers awareness meeting at Karunalayam, Kalluvalai, a school dedicated to the care and education of children with intellectual disabilities. The session witnessed active participation from 33 parents and 11 teachers, all eager to enhance their understanding of child-rearing in the context of mental health and family values. These initiatives underscore the Health Commission's commitment to promoting health and well-being within the community.



Voices of Tomorrow: SMYM Forane and Central Elections 2024-2025

The Forane and Central elections for SMYM leaders took place in September 2024. The Arukani Forane election was held on September 1, followed by the Kaliyal Forane election at Marappady on September 8. The central team elections occurred on September 22 at Kalluvilai, with forane executives from all seven foranes in attendance.

The newly elected members are: President - Manoj (Munchirai), Deputy President - Anjana MS (Vayalankarai), Vice President - Subila (Paraicode), Secretary - Jino (Pilankalai), Joint Secretary - Ebin Joseph (Arukanai), and Treasurer - Steffin Rex (Soosaipuram). Additionally, the director nominated the following members as councillors: Merin Sujith, Ajith K, Mary Jency, Aswin C R, and Vijil. Mr. Jino from Manjalmoodu was appointed as the lay animator, alongside Sr. Elysa FCC, the sister animator. Congratulations are extended to the newly elected members, wishing them God's blessings in their new roles and responsibilities.





Wellness on Wheels: A Day of Care in TN Kulam

On August 31, 2023, a successful medical camp was organized in TN Kulam by the Himadri Ayurveda Doctors, providing much-needed healthcare services to the local community. The event aimed to offer free medical check-ups and assistance to those who may not have regular access to healthcare. A total of 230 patients received free consultations, including health screenings and personalized health advice, highlighting the importance of preventive care. The doctors also conducted health awareness sessions, educating participants about maintaining a healthy lifestyle through nutrition and stress management. Additionally, the camp distributed essential medical supplies, including

herbal medicines and health brochures on Ayurvedic practices. A significant aspect of the camp was the donation of wheelchairs to individuals with mobility challenges, which greatly enhanced their quality of life and independence. The event received positive feedback from participants, many of whom expressed gratitude for the services provided, emphasizing the positive impact on their health and well-being. Overall, the medical camp underscored the importance of accessible healthcare and community support, with plans for similar initiatives in the future to continue serving and uplifting the community.



In Thankfulness: Celebrating 12 Years of Episcopal Service



I thank and praise our Lord Almighty for the blessings and graces that I have received in the last 12 years of my episcopacy and ministry in the Diocese of Thuckalay. My motto has been – **With God All Things are Possible** – and God has been very benevolent to me since my calling to catholic faith, the gift of priestly vocation with the Salesians of Don Bosco and choosing me to lead the Diocese of Thuckalay. I gratefully acknowledge that the priests and religious serving in the diocese have been walking with me in the fulfilment of my mission as the second bishop of the diocese. Every encounter with you has taught me lessons to be faithful to the mission. I have learnt a lot from your love for the Church and the people and I continue to learn from your life and works. All of you have effectively shared the mission of the diocese with dedicated service. I implore every one of you to continue your selfless assistance in carrying forward the mission that has been entrusted to us by Our Lord Jesus in our diocese. Your support has been immense and is highly appreciated by me. Thank you for your wishes and prayers of the day, on 16 September 2024.



1. Fr. Thomas Thekkekottaram (89)
former Parish Priest of Holy Family Forane Church,
Arukani



2. Mrs. Saramma Thomas (95),
mother of Sr. Listom Vettuparampil SABS



3. Mr. Appachan Anithottam (88),
father of Fr. Joseph Anithottam CMI



4. Mrs. Mariakutty Thomas (90),
grandmother of Fr. Thomas Souriyamkuzhy



5. Mr. Thomas Chacko (94),
grandfather of Fr. Thomas Souriyamkuzhy



6. Mrs. Mary Joseph (82),
mother of Sr. Lysa FCC



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**"Our Lady has never refused me a grace
through the recitation of the rosary."**

- St. Padre Pio

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