



Bishop's *Circular*

For Priests / Sisters

Bishop George Rajendran sdb
Diocese of Thuckalay

Bishop's House, P B No: 12, Thuckalay PO,
Kanya kumari Dt- 629 175, Tamil Nadu, India

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Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

We are entering the month of August, which is important for all of us on various counts. The month begins with the celebration of the feast of St John Mary Vianney, the patron of all priests, especially the diocesan priests. In the middle of the month, we have the twin solemnities of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Independence Day. In this circular, I want to highlight the significance of these events that we shall celebrate.

Born in 1786 in France, St John Mary Vianney overcame significant struggles in his studies to become a priest. As the parish priest of Ars, he transformed a spiritually neglected village into a model Christian community through his extraordinary dedication, preaching, and personal holiness.

Vianney was known for his profound humility, intense devotion to God, strict asceticism, and commitment to prayer. He possessed remarkable spiritual gifts, including the ability to read souls, prophetic insight, and miraculous healing powers. His ministry was characterised by long hours in the confessional, powerful preaching, and a deep zeal for saving souls.

Key aspects of Vianney's spiritual teachings included the universal call to holiness, the importance of prayer, the value of mortification, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, reverence for the Eucharist, and a passionate concern for the salvation of souls. Despite facing numerous challenges, including spiritual warfare, physical exhaustion, and misunderstanding from fellow clergy, Vianney persevered in his ministry.

His legacy includes the transformation of Ars into a vibrant Christian community, the renewal of sacramental life, and his ongoing influence as a model of priestly holiness. Today, Ars remains a popular pilgrimage site, with Vianney's incorrupt body serving as a sign of his sanctity.

Vianney's life is relevant for us priests. It emphasises the importance of personal holiness, dedication to prayer and penance, availability for confession, simplicity of life and message, perseverance in difficulties, and trust in God's grace. St John Vianney's extraordinary life continues to inspire every priest to deeper holiness and more ardent service to God and neighbour.

The Solemnity of the Assumption is a day of profound joy for the Catholic Church. This feast commemorates the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken body and soul into heavenly glory at the end of her earthly life. In 1950, Pope Pius XII formally defined this long-held belief as a dogma of the Catholic Church through his apostolic constitution, *Munificentissimus Deus*.

The Assumption holds deep theological significance. It affirms the dignity of the human body, demonstrating that there is a place for our physical selves in the spiritual realm. This dogma presents Mary as a maternal figure in heaven, offering comfort and hope to believers. The Church sees the Assumption as

a natural extension of Mary's unique role in salvation history, beginning with her Immaculate Conception and continuing through her life as the Mother of God.

The Catholic Church teaches that Mary's body was glorified immediately at the end of her earthly life, unlike other mortal beings who must wait until the end of the world for bodily resurrection. This divine gift is seen as fitting for the mother of Jesus. It's important to note that the Assumption differs from Christ's Ascension - while Jesus ascended to Heaven by His power, Mary was taken up by God's power.

Mary's Magnificat, her song of praise recorded in the Gospel of Luke, is seen as a portrait of her soul and personality. It highlights two key aspects of Mary's character: her desire for God to be magnified in the world and her life and her deep connection to God's word. These qualities make Mary a model of faith and humility for all believers.

The Magnificat reflects Mary's embrace of God's greatness, which stands in contrast to the fear that God might restrict human freedom - a fear often seen as a core element of original sin and a temptation of the modern age. Mary's example encourages believers to recognise God's greatness as essential for human dignity and as a guide for resolving disputes.

Mary becomes a model of one who lived immersed in God's word, which gave her wisdom, goodness, and strength. By affirming Mary's closeness to humanity despite her heavenly status, she becomes a mother figure to whom people can always turn. This aspect of Marian devotion provides comfort and inspiration to many believers.

The dogma of the Assumption, while not explicitly mentioned in Scripture, is supported by a long tradition of belief and practice in the Church. Early references to this belief date back to the second and third centuries, and a rich tradition of iconography depicts Mary entering Heaven bodily.

St John of Damascus, writing in the 8th century, recorded a tradition that Mary died in the presence of all the Apostles. However, when her tomb was opened at St Thomas' request, it was found empty. Thus, the Apostles concluded that her body had been taken up to heaven.

The Church sees scriptural support for the Assumption in passages that emphasise Mary's perfect union with Jesus' destiny as the Saviour. This union is evident throughout Scripture, from Jesus' birth to after his death, as seen in Mary's miraculous conception of Jesus, her prompting of Jesus during his first miracle at Cana, her witness to his crucifixion, and her presence at Pentecost after Jesus' death.

The timing of the dogma's formal definition in 1950, coming in the wake of World War II and at the onset of the Cold War, can be seen as a spiritual affirmation of hope and the ultimate triumph of good over evil. It offers a powerful counter-narrative to the materialistic and often hopeless worldviews that gained prominence in the 20th century.

15 August also marks India's Independence Day, commemorating the nation's liberation from British colonial rule in 1947. This event was the culmination of a long and often difficult struggle for freedom, led by figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and countless others who dedicated their lives to the cause of Indian sovereignty.

The path to independence was complex, involving strategies of non-violent resistance, civil disobedience, and negotiations with the British government. While independence brought joy and pride to millions, it was also accompanied by the painful partition of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan, leading to one of the largest mass migrations in human history and tragic communal violence.

Prime Minister Nehru's famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech captured the spirit of the moment: "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." This moment marked a major shift in global politics and inspired anti-colonial movements worldwide.

In the decades since independence, India has emerged as a significant player on the world stage. The country has produced leaders who have made their mark in global politics and whose vision encompassed every sphere of citizens' lives. The nation takes pride in its rich diversity - cultural, geographical, and natural - from the Himalayas to its rivers, flora and fauna, agricultural lands, and mineral resources.

While celebrating its independence and achievements, modern India also faces numerous challenges. These include threats to its unity in diversity, concerns about media independence, economic pressures on the poor, ongoing border issues, disparities in education access, high unemployment rates, environmental degradation, and social issues such as human trafficking and corruption.

Natural disasters, floods, and droughts are becoming more common, while pollution levels and destruction of ecosystems continue to rise. The education system, which has the potential to liberate and promote growth, is not accessible to many rural masses. Unemployment, especially among the educated, poses dangers for the country's future.

As we reflect on India's journey since independence, we are called to be active participants in addressing these challenges. In the spirit of nation-builders like Dr Ambedkar, who gave India its Constitution, we must work towards building a society that upholds the ideals of freedom, justice, and equality for all.

The teachings of saintly educators like St Philip Neri and St John Bosco, who made their students become good Christians and honest citizens, can inspire us in this task. As educators and citizens, we are called to build bridges rather than walls and to contribute significantly to uplifting the poor and marginalised.

While the Assumption of Mary and India's Independence Day may seem unrelated, they both represent significant moments of transformation and hope. They remind us of the diverse ways in which human history unfolds, encompassing both spiritual and political dimensions. Both events speak to the human quest for dignity, freedom, and transcendence.

As we commemorate these events, we are invited to reflect on our role in building a better world. Whether through spiritual devotion inspired by Mary's example or through active citizenship in the tradition of India's freedom fighters, we are called to contribute to the ongoing story of human progress and liberation.

In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, we pray, "Into that heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake." This sentiment echoes both the spiritual elevation celebrated in the Assumption and the aspirations of a free India, uniting our earthly struggles with our highest ideals. As we face the challenges of our time, may we draw inspiration from both our spiritual traditions and our national heritage to work towards a more just, compassionate, and harmonious world.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Sabhadinam Celebration at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad: 3rd July is marked as *Sabhadinam* in our Church. As it was the custom, the feast of Dukrana was celebrated at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad on 3 July 2024. Representatives from each Diocese of the Syro Malabar Church participated in the event. From our Diocese following members participated: Sr. Ancil SABS, Sr. Divya CMC, Sr. Cicy Maria FCC, Mr. Dhanasing (Varuthattu), Mr. Sajan (Mukkoottukal), Mrs. Sujitha (Cheenivilai), Mrs. Mary Shyla (Vayalinkarai). After the Solemn Razza Qurbana, our Major Archbishop, Mar Raphael Thattil inaugurated the public gathering which was followed by an agape meal. I extend my gratitude to all the participants for their representation of our eparchy at the *Sabhadinam* celebration.

SMYM Animators' Meeting: The Diocesan Animators' meeting was held on July 6, 2024, at the Kalluvilai SMYM office at 2:00 pm. Twenty-five religious and lay animators participated in the meeting. The director, Fr. Joseph Santhosh, spoke about the peculiarities of today's youth and ways to interact with them and gather them into groups. Following the diocesan animators' meeting, forane-level animators' meetings were

held at Manjalumoodu on July 10, 2024, at Soosaipuram on July 21, and at Pilankalai on July 27. The animators received orientation on youth animations and meetings. They were also asked to submit monthly reports from their respective units at the end of each month. I thank Fr. Joseph Santhosh for coordinating the youth through various activities.

Forane Priests' Conferences: On July 10, 2024, the Forane-level Priests' Conference for the Arukani, Kaliyal, and Manjalumoodu Foranes was held at St. Mary's Forane Church, Kaliyal, starting at 6:00 pm with a solemn recitation of Ramsa. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Protosyncellus, graced the occasion as the curia representative. On July 15, 2024, at 10:30 am, the Forane Priests' Conference for the Padanthalumoodu and Nithiravilai Foranes was conducted at St. Martin De Porres Church, Kazhuvanthittai. On the same day in the evening, the Forane Priests' Conference for the Thuckalay, Pilankalai, and Soosaipuram Foranes was conducted at St. Joseph's Forane Church, Soosaipuram. Curia members also participated in these conferences. The following topics were discussed in all the meetings: the visit of the Major Archbishop, the statutes of the Forane Council, the celebration of St. Alphonsa's Feast Day, and account submission details. All the priests actively engaged in discussions concerning pastoral coordination among the parishes. Thanks to the smaller number of participants and the 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 these meetings.

Meeting of Uraviyam Forane directors at Padanthalumoodu: The Uraviyam Forane Directors' meeting was held on July 11, 2024, at Padanthalumoodu. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Vicar General, presided over the meeting. It was the first meeting conducted after appointing the Forane directors of Uraviyams for the first time. A fruitful discussion took place to strengthen the Uraviyams at the parish level. During the meeting, it was suggested that Uraviyams should be functioning in all the parishes and that parish priests ensure the active participation of all families in every Uraviyam and conduct Uraviyam meetings regularly. I thank Fr. Robin Koorumullil for coordinating the Uraviyams and all their activities.

CRI Recollection at Sangamam: A recollection for the Sisters was held at Sangamam on July 13, 2024. Rev. Fr. George Kalangara, SDB, gave the recollection talk, followed by adoration and confession. Nearly 80 sisters participated in the retreat. After the confession, Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Fr. Lijo Thekkel, followed by an agape meal.

Inauguration of Hairband project at Cumbum: The Hairband Project is a transformative initiative that empowers unemployed women by providing them with the skills and resources needed to create a sustainable source of income. The project was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the Chancellor, on July 13, 2024, at S.H. Centre in Cumbum Mission. Mission Coordinator Fr. Thomas Kanjirakkatt welcomed all attendees to the program. During the inauguration, Dn. Amanto presented the concluding remarks of a survey on the life and situation of the people in different villages of Cumbum, which was conducted with the help of some MSW students. Rev. Fr. Joseph Vellamattam, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Kanjirappally, felicitated the occasion. Rev. Fr. Thomas Poovathanikunnel, the Forane Vicar of Kumali Church, and counsellors from SH Vimala Province, Kanjirappally, were also present for the function. Children from the mission stations presented some entertainment programs as well. I thank Fr. Thomas Kanjirakkatt and the Rev. Sisters of Cumbum Mission for all their initiatives taken for social welfare and evangelization.

Annual General Body Meeting of SML: On July 14, 2024, the Annual General Body Meeting of the Sirumalar Mission League (SML) was held at Padanthalumoodu at 2:30 pm. Forane directors, forane animators, animators, organizers, and student representatives from various parishes participated. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil presided over the meeting. Mission collections taken in the parishes were

brought to the meeting. The meeting prepared action plans to be executed and evaluated parish-level activities. I thank Fr. Printo Kurias for coordinating the meeting well.

Cricket Tournament at Mankarai: The SMYM of St. James Church, Mankarai, organized a friendly cricket tournament at the Mankarai School campus on 17 and 19 July 2024. 18 teams from various parishes participated in the matches. The tournament concluded with a meeting presided over by the Parish Priest, where the winners were honoured. Netta Parish emerged victorious and secured the first prize, while Kulasekharam and Chenamcode Parishes showcased their talent and clinched the second prize. I appreciate Fr. Toji Sebastian for his efforts in organizing the event, and heartfelt congratulations to the deserving winners!

St Alphonsa Nadaipayanam: As part of the celebration of the feast of St Alphonsa, every year we organize *Nadai Payanam* to St Alphonsa Shrine, Nagercoil under the guidance of SMYM of the Diocese. This year it was held on 20 July 2024 at 6:30 am. It started from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay. In the morning everyone was served breakfast at Bishop's House. Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Protosyncellus started the event by offering prayers and blessings. There was another group of youth and faithful who took the Colachal road to Nagercoil. On reaching the Shrine, Fr. Linto Thakidiyel conducted the Navanal, followed by the Holy Qurbana celebrated by Eparchial SMYM Director, Rev. Fr. Joseph Santosh. Then everyone was served lunch. Around 450 youth and faithful took part in this pious journey. I thank the Fathers for taking initiative to bring the faithful for *Nadaipayanam* and special thanks to Fr. Santhosh, the director of SMYM for coordinating the programme.

Catechetical Orientation Programme at Tenkasi Mission: Catechetical Orientation Programme for students as well as teachers conducted at Pulari social service centre in Tenkasi mission on 21 July 2024. Mr. Vijayakumar, Mr. Vijayarajan, Mr. Vincent Raj, Mr. Selvakumar were the Resource persons who led the orientation programme. 35 students and 25 teachers participated in the programme. The orientation programme was coordinated by Fr. Prince, Tenkasi mission catechetical director. I thank the catechetical department for the efforts taken to provide orientation to teachers and students.

KKSSS: Changing the Way We Care Project Review: The Changing the Way We Care Project, funded by CRS, aims to reunite vulnerable children with their families and provide support systems to these families through government and private linkage programs. As part of the annual review, on 23 July 2024 the CRS team visited target areas, including Kattathurai parish, where the project is successfully running. They met with Fr. Abilash, the parish priest, and parish council members to evaluate project progress. The parish council in Kattathurai is actively supporting children in need, providing assistance with studies and daily needs through Vincent De Paul and other pious associations. The review team consisted of Fr. Thomas Poovathummoottil, Fr. Subin Puthenpurackal from KKSSS, Fr. Celestine, the CRS consultant for this project, and CRS representatives. Currently, KKSSS supports over 300 children through this project.

Golden Jubilee of SMSM in Chennai: The congregation of Seva Missionary Sisters of Mary (SMSM) celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the congregation on 24 July 2024 in their Generalate House at Manali New Town, Chennai. This congregation is founded by Msgr. John Kottaram on 26th of July, 1974 with the Charism "To make Christ known and loved wherever He is not known". It is a diocesan congregation under the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore. In our diocese, at Christurajapuram Parish and school, the SMSM sisters are rendering their valuable service from 2010 onwards by residing in a rented house. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal participated in the celebration representing the diocese and expressed our gratitude to the Superior General and to the entire congregation. We wish them God's abundant blessings on this occasion.

St. Alphonsa Feast Celebrations: The celebration of the feast of St. Alphonsa began at St. Alphonsa's Shrine, Nagercoil, on July 19, 2024. Shrine Vicar, Rev. Fr. Sanal Panthichirackal, hoisted the flag. It was

heartening to see thousands of faithful coming to the shrine during the ten days of celebrations to pray and receive blessings from God through the intercession of St. Alphonsa. Almost all the priests and faithful from our diocese were present for the various spiritual events, especially during the Forane-level Holy Qurbana celebrations. On July 26, 2024, Most Rev. Dr. Albert Anasthas, Bishop of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai, visited the shrine and celebrated the Holy Qurbana. Over five thousand faithful from different rites participated. On July 28, 2024, the last day of the feast, the faithful, the religious, and the priests from all our parishes reached the shrine by 9:30 am. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil led the novena in honor of the saint. This was followed by a solemn concelebrated Holy Qurbana, with Mar Paul Alappatt, Bishop of the Diocese of Ramanathapuram, as the main celebrant. I delivered the homily during the Holy Qurbana. After the Holy Qurbana, there was a procession and an agape meal for all the pilgrims. In the evening, another Holy Qurbana was celebrated. Soon after, the flag was lowered, and the celebrations came to a happy conclusion. I gratefully appreciate the involvement and hard work of Rev. Fr. Sanal Panthichirackal, Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Sanjo Theneplackal, Assistant Parish Priest, the Rev. Sisters, and the faithful of St. Alphonsa Shrine during the days of celebration.

Junior Priests' On-going Formation Programme: A two-day ongoing formation program was held for the Junior Priests at Sangamam on July 29-30, 2024. All Junior Priests – Frs. Abilash, Shijo, Toji, Jose Paul, Mahesh, Georgekutty, Prince, Ajin C., Liju, Linto, and Sanjo – were present for the orientation course. The programme was inaugurated by me. On the first day, Rev. Fr. Peter Arockiaraj, SDB, Academic Coordinator of Don Bosco College, Keela Eral, conducted a session on priestly life and ministry and the challenges faced by new generation priests. In the evening, Curia members, along with myself, met with the junior priests, who shared their pastoral experiences and concerns. On the next day, July 30, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal led a session on the clarification of pastoral issues from the canonical aspects, followed by a session led by Rev. Fr. Johnsilal Arackaparampil, who addressed all account-related doubts of the priests. I congratulate and thank all the junior priests for their active participation.

Presbyteral Council at Sangamam: The II General Body Meeting of the 2nd Presbyteral Council was held on 31 July 2024 at Sangamam, commencing at 10:00 am. Among 18 members, 17 were present for the meeting. The purpose of the gathering was to reflect and deliberate on the following agenda: 1) Concerns, challenges and preoccupations of Priests upon their life and ministry in the Diocese of Thuckalay; 2) Reevaluating the Minor Seminary Formation; 3) Education Policy of the Diocese and 4) Forane Councils. Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, the Secretary, presented the agenda and invited the members to engage in an open discussion. Actively participating in the discussions, the members offered fruitful suggestions for the benefit of the diocese. From these suggestions, decisions were made, and the outcomes will be communicated in the next priests' conference. I express gratitude to Secretary Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal and all the members whose active intervention in the discussions contributed to making the Council fruitful for the well-being of the diocese.

INFORMATION

- **The feast of Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil**, the Protosyncellus was celebrated at Bishop's House on 03 July 2024. I wish God's blessings to him and all Fathers who celebrated their feast on the same day.
- **Mr. Robin Jose (27)**, the nephew of Fr. Albert Jose CMI was called to the eternal on 04 July 2024. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to him and the family members and pray for the departed soul.
- **Mr. Joseph P. Mamman (88)**, the elder brother of Fr. Chacko Puthiyaparampil (minor seminary spiritual father) was called to the eternal abode on 07 July 2024. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to him and family members and pray for the departed soul.

- **New batch at Sinai Theological Institute** started the classes on 07 July 2024 at Padanthalumoodu. We wish them God's blessings!
- **New *Kodimaram* and *Karsiluvai*** were blessed in St. James Church, Mankarai on 19 July 2024 by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil.
- **Mr. Sundar Raj (72)**, brother of Sr. Amala SABS was called to the eternal abode on 22 July 2024. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to her and the family members and pray for the departed soul.
- **Rev. Fr Joseph Aruviyil CMI (78)** a member of CMI Sevagram, Vettimukal, belonging to St Joseph Province, Kottayam was called to eternal reward on 24 July 2024. He served as the Parish Priest of Mukkoottukal Parish and Professor in St. Mary's Minor Seminary for 6 years, from 01 June 2007 to 30 June 2013 and he was the Spiritual Father in the Minor Seminary from May 2014 - December 2014. A good number of parishioners from Mukkoottukal Parish and the representatives from Minor Seminary participated in the funeral ceremony. Let us thank God for his service in our diocese and pray that the Risen Lord may grant him eternal joy.
- **Rev. Sr. Tresa Martin FCC** was called to eternal abode on 25 July 2024. She rendered her service at Nagercoil as superior for six years from 1990 - 1996. Let us thank God for her service in our diocese and pray that the Risen Lord may grant her eternal joy.
- **Mission USA:** I have returned to the diocese on 27 July 2024, after completing nearly 55-days of Mission Appeal Programme and meeting with our benefactors in the USA. By God's grace, everything went smoothly and according to plan. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Vicar General who took care very well the ordinary governance of the diocese in my absence and to other curia members. I am grateful dear Fathers, for your prayers and blessings, which accompanied me throughout my mission.
- **From 1 August we begin the 15-day fast.** I request you to observe this traditional practice as much as possible in order to celebrate the feast of our Blessed Mother on 15 August.
- **TNPSC and SSC Coaching Programme:** It has long been a cherished dream of our diocese to establish a TNPC coaching centre, where we can train our youth and help them secure government jobs. By the grace of God, we have now been given this wonderful opportunity from 20 August 2024 onwards. I kindly request you to take an extra step to explain the benefits of this coaching programme to the young people in your parish, highlighting the bright future it can offer them. If any of our youth are unable to attend the course due to financial constraints, the diocese will provide support, provided they submit an application with a recommendation from their parish priest. Let us pray for the success of this new initiative of our diocese and executed by SMYM.
- **The Syro-Malabar Synod** begins on 19 August 2024. I request you to pray for our Church and for the success of the Synod.
- **The Major Archiepiscopal Assembly** will be held from 23 to 25 August 2024 at Alphonsin Pastoral Centre, Palai. Following are the representatives from our diocese: Mar George Rajendran sdb (Bishop), Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal (Chancellor), Rev. Fr. Joseph Santhosh (Presbyter delegate), Mr. John Kumari Thozhan (Secretary, Pastoral Council), Mr. Shonic Regan (Lay delegate) and Mrs. Juliet (lay delegate). I request your prayers for the success of the Assembly.
- **Support and Prayer for Vayanad:** I am writing to you with a heavy heart as we witness the devastating impact of the landslides in Wayanad. Our brothers and sisters there are enduring immense sorrow and pain, and it is our duty as a community of faith to stand in solidarity with them during this challenging time. I have reached out to the Bishop of Mananthavady Mar Jose Porunnedom to offer our prayers and support. He has conveyed their need for assistance in the rehabilitation of the affected people. In response, I am requesting that we take a special Sunday collection on 11 August 2024 to support the relief efforts in Wayanad. Please announce this special collection in your churches this coming Sunday. Additionally, in the circular that will be read in the parishes on 04 August on the visit of the Major Archbishop, I have mentioned this initiative. Let us come together in prayer and action to support those who are suffering in Wayanad.

FORTHCOMING MAJOR EVENTS

- 03 August - Vianney Day Celebration at Minor Seminary
- 04 August - Chapel Blessing at Chembagatharissu Mission
- 10-11 August - Visit of the Major Archbishop
- 10 August - Priests and Religious Sangamam at Padanthalumoodu
- 23-25 August - Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly

Visit of the Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil

10 August 2024

Padanthalumoodu

04.00 PM – Personal Meeting

04.30 PM – Tea

05.00 PM – Prayer Service

05.30 PM – Public Meeting

07.00 PM – Dinner

11 August 2024

Nithiravilai

02.00 PM – Reception

02.30 PM – Holy Qurbana, Felicitation Gathering, Dinner

CONCLUSION

St John Mary Vianney exemplified extraordinary holiness and dedication in his priestly ministry. His life offers profound inspiration for priests and lay Catholics alike. His extraordinary life as the Curé of Ars continues to challenge and inspire both clergy and laity. His single-minded devotion to God, sacrificial service to his flock and channels of supernatural grace make him a model for priests and a powerful intercessor for the whole Church. As we celebrate his feast day, may his example spur us all to deeper holiness and more ardent service of God and neighbour. In an age of increasing secularisation and challenges to faith, the witness of St John Vianney reminds us of the transformative power of a life fully dedicated to God. His legacy calls each of us to pursue sanctity with renewed vigour and to work tirelessly for the salvation of souls. Likewise, may the Solemnity of Assumption and the Independence Day celebration reawaken our desire for true freedom, which is realised in our love for God and exemplified in our service to humanity!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



† **George Rajendran SDB**
Bishop of Thuckalay

