

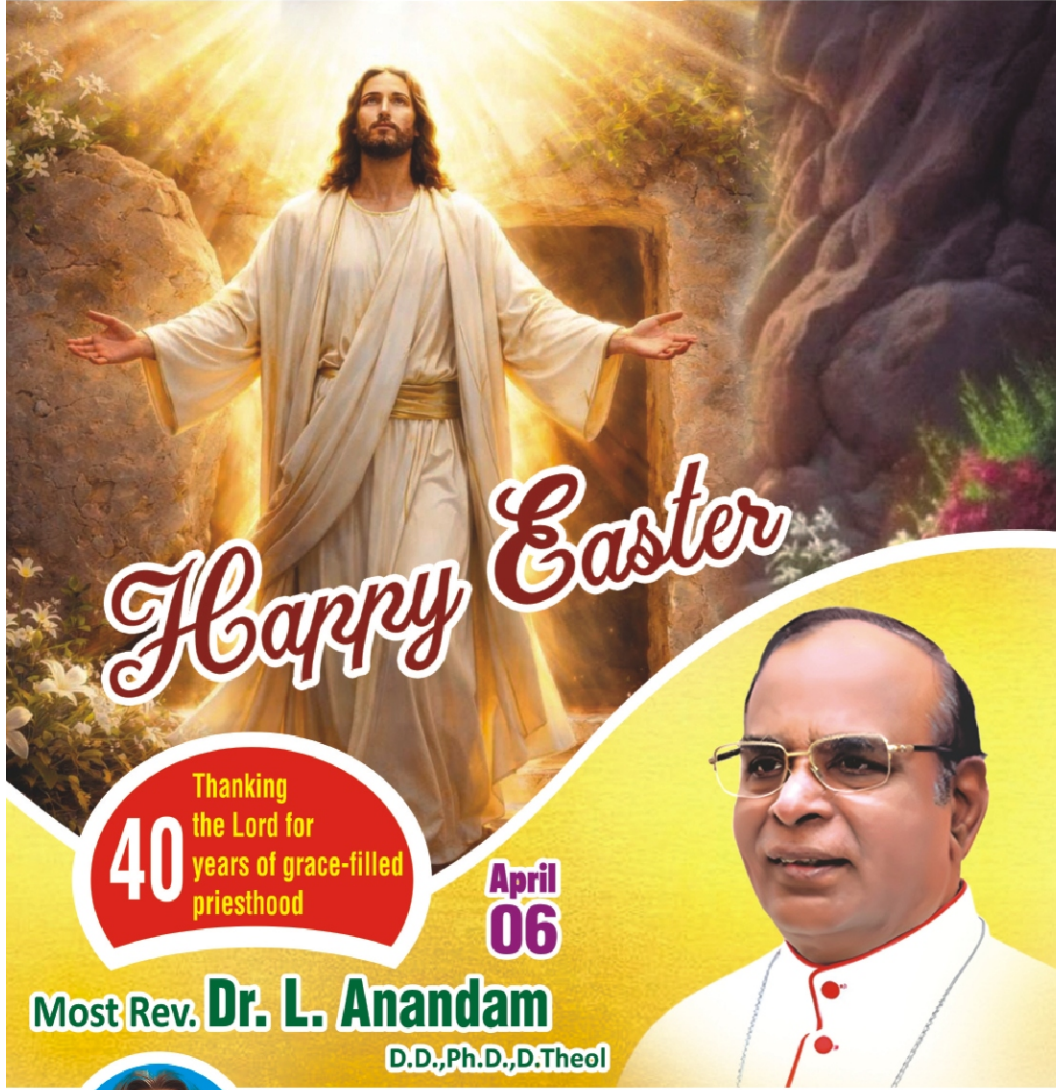


SIVAGANGAI DIOCESE

News Letter



April 2026



Most Rev. **Dr. L. Anandam**

D.D., Ph.D., D.Theol



பெண்களின் மாண்பும் பங்களிப்பும்

BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR APRIL - 2026

DATE	TIME	APPOINTMENT	PLACE
01	M	Finance Council Meeting	Bishop's House
	E	Blessing of the Way of the Cross	Ulaganathapuram
02		Maundy Thursday Service	Cathedral
03		Good Friday Service	Cathedral
04		Easter Vigil Mass	Cathedral
06		Groundbreaking Ceremony	Anjukottai
07		Consult Meeting	Bishop's House
08		Milk Plant Directors' Meeting	Bishop's House
09		Education Board Meeting	Bishop's House
10		Holy Mass & Inauguration of Pascha	Idaikattur
13	M	Pastor's Meeting	Sivagangai
	E	Feast Mass	Pamban
15-18		Meetings	Bangalore
19		Renovated Parish Church Blessing	Muthupattanam
20		Marriage Mass	Ramnagar
21		Seminarians Get together	VPC
24		Flag Post Blessing, Marudanthai	Gaspar Nagar
25	M	Teacher's Meeting	VPC
	N	Requiem Mass	Sivagangai
	E	Renovated Church Blessing, Kizhakku Thalir Marungoor	Kurumilangudi
26		Jesus, the Lord - Book Release	Chennai
27		Marriage Mass	Chrompet
29		Recollection - IVD Decons	Madurai
30	M	IVD - Priestly Ordinations	Madurai
	E	Feast Mass	Gnanolivupuram



Bishop Speaks...

“Rise with Christ: From Tombs to New Life, From Fear to Peace”

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,
Grace and peace to you in the Risen Lord!

As we celebrate the great mystery of Easter, the Church proclaims with joy: “*Christ is risen! He is truly risen!*” This is not merely an event of the past, but a living reality that must transform our lives today. The Resurrection is not only about Christ coming out of the tomb; it is also about each one of us being called to come out of our own tombs.

Saint Paul reminds us with power and clarity, “*If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile*” (1 Cor 15:17). And again he proclaims, “*Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life*” (Rom 6:4).

Called to Rise from Our Tombs

Easter invites us to a personal resurrection. Many times, we remain buried in the tombs of:

- ◆ selfishness and self-centeredness
- ◆ unhealthy attachments to persons or material things
- ◆ comfort zones that hinder mission
- ◆ discouragement, fatigue, and spiritual dryness

The stone that seals these tombs is often our fear, pride, or unwillingness to change. Saint Augustine challenges us with these profound words, “We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.” And elsewhere he reminds us, “Rise, let us leave the tomb; for we have been raised with Christ.”

To be an Easter people means to live as persons who have already begun to experience new life/freedom from sin, freedom from narrowness, and openness to God’s grace. Let us ask ourselves sincerely:



- ◆ What are the tombs in my life?
- ◆ What stones must be rolled away?
- ◆ Where is Christ calling me to newness?

The Resurrection in a World Wounded by War

As we celebrate Easter joy, our hearts cannot ignore the painful reality of our world. The ongoing war in West Asia has brought unimaginable destruction. Thousands have lost their lives; countless families are shattered; children - the most innocent - are the greatest victims.

War today is not just a conflict of nations; it is a tragedy of humanity. It destroys human dignity, social harmony, the future of generations. In the words of Pope Francis: “War is always a defeat... there is no just war; war is a failure of humanity.” War represents one of the gravest evils of human civilization. It leaves behind not only physical ruins but also deep wounds in the human heart - hatred, revenge, and division. Today, confusion and chaos seem to dominate the world. The wealth of the world built upon in course of several centuries is destroyed in no minute, thousands of precious human lives are annihilated, social order is disrupted, families are displaced, and humanity itself appears wounded.

The Relevance of the Risen Christ

In this context of war, violence and unrest, the message of the Resurrection becomes even more urgent and meaningful. What were the first words of the Risen Lord? “*Peace be with you*” (Jn 20:19). Not condemnation; Not anger; Not revenge; but peace. The Resurrection reveals a God who conquers hatred not with power, but with love; not with violence, but with forgiveness. Saint Paul beautifully expresses this mission, “*He is our peace... and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility*” (Eph 2:14).

The Risen Christ stands in the midst of a fearful world and offers peace. This peace is not mere absence of conflict, but a deep reconciliation - between God and humanity, and among human beings themselves and with the universe.

Resurrected People are Peacemakers

Dear fathers, brothers and sisters, if we truly share in the Resurrection, our lives must reflect it. One of the most essential characteristics of a resurrected person is being a peacemaker. Jesus himself declared, “*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God*” (Mt 5:9). To be peacemakers means, healing divisions in communities, reconciling broken relationships, promoting justice with compassion, witnessing to love in a world of hatred. Thus, peace is not passive; it is an active mission and engagement.

Saint Francis of Assisi Instrument of Peace

During this Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi, we are invited to rediscover the witness of the saint, a true icon of peace. In a time of conflict and division, he became a bridge-builder. His life was a living proclamation of the Gospel of peace. His famous prayer continues to inspire the world:

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.”

This is the spirituality of the Resurrection. This is the mission of every priest and religious.

The prayer of our National Poet, Nobel Laurate Rabindranath Tagore, should be our prayer and future vision:

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action-

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake (Gitanjali, No. 35).

Dear father, brothers and sisters, Easter is not just a celebration - it is a calling. Let us, come out of our personal tombs, renew our commitment to the Gospel, become signs of hope in a wounded world and be credible witnesses of peace and reconciliation. As Saint Paul urges us: “*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above*” (Col 3:1). And let us remember the powerful words often attributed to a great voice for peace, Martin Luther King Jr, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

A Call to Responsible Citizenship

As we journey in this Easter season, we are also mindful of an important moment in the life of our State. On 23rd April, Tamil Nadu will go for the Assembly Elections. This election is not merely a political exercise, but a crucial and, in many ways, an ideological moment that will shape the future of our state.

As responsible citizens and as people of faith, we are called to be actively involved in promoting the common good. Let us join with all people of goodwill in praying for the smooth, peaceful, and fair conduct of the elections.

At the same time, let us encourage our faithful to exercise their franchise responsibly, discerning wisely and voting conscientiously. Participating in the democratic process is not only a civic right but also a moral responsibility. May each one fulfil this duty for the best interest and welfare of our State.

May the Risen Christ remove the stones that bind us; may He free us from all that imprisons us; may He fill our hearts with His peace. And may we, as resurrected people, go forth into the world as bearers of hope, as ministers of reconciliation and as instruments of peace. Let our lives proclaim with conviction: Christ is risen, and we shall rise with Him!

Wishing you all a grace-filled and transformative Easter!

+ **Lourdu Anandam**
Bishop of Sivagangai.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

CBCI Centre, 1 Ashok Place, New Delhi - 110 001, India

CBCI STATEMENT

37th General Body Meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI)

A call to live our identity as authentic Christians and responsible citizens of India

We, the 202 Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) who gathered together for the 37th General Body Meeting held from 4 -10 February 2026 at St. John's Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, prayerfully reflected on the *theme "Faith and the Nation: The Church's Witness to India's Constitutional Vision."* In the present socio-cultural and political scenario of our country, we discern how important it is to renew our commitment to the message of Jesus Christ and also to the guiding principles enshrined in our Constitution.

1. Proud Indians and authentic disciples: We are grateful to the Almighty for our wonderful nation, where our Christian community co-exists amidst people of various cultures, languages, and religious traditions. With joy and hope, we contribute to India's growth, harmony, and unity, and cherish the freedom to practice our faith. However, alongside growth and aspiration, we witness rising inequality, ecological degradation, misinformation, polarization, and anxiety about identity and belonging. In this context, the Church is expected to offer a mature, hopeful, and credible public witness, as we are called by our Lord to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world" (Mt 5, 1314).

We are urged to stand ever more steadfast in our Christian identity, drawing strength from our rich spiritual heritage. Each time our faith is questioned, or our Christian way of life is confronted, we are presented with a providential moment to deepen our relationship with Christ, who unfailingly grants us the grace needed to persevere (Cf. 2 Cor. 12:9). Instead of being silenced or withdrawing from our mission, we are urged to live our Christian identity with courage and conviction, so that the fragrance of Christ (Cf. 2 Cor. 2:15) may permeate every aspect of society, inspiring hope and promoting unity among all peoples.

2. Safeguarding Constitutional values: Genuine Christian living inspires us to be law-abiding citizens who promote peace and defend human rights. Fidelity to the Constitution of India flows from our Christian faith and our commitment to the common good, freedom of conscience, the dignity of every person, and the protection of India's plural, secular, and democratic character. The socially uplifting initiatives of the Church spring from our deep rootedness in Christ and our faithfulness to the Constitutional values. We encourage all the faithful to continue participating actively in nation-building, guided by truth, compassion, and moral courage.

At a time when freedom and human rights are increasingly disregarded, we reaffirm our faith in the Constitution of India which envisions our country as "a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic" which secures to all its citizens "justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity" (Cf. *Preamble to the Indian Constitution*). Whenever Constitutional rights are unjustly restricted, particularly concerning the poor, the marginalised, the Dalit and tribal people, it is important to advocate for the protection of fundamental rights for all individuals, regardless of caste, creed, and language. The denial of rights to Dalit Christians continues for decades as an indirect form of discrimination, despite numerous appeals for equality and justice. We express our concerns about the denial of rights to the minorities, as

such acts weaken the democratic fabric of our society. While maintaining our commitment to eliminate any type of discrimination existing in the ecclesial communities based on caste or language, we urge the leaders to take some necessary mean to uphold the dignity of life. As many innocent individuals are incarcerated based on unfounded allegations of forceful religious conversions, we strongly demand the repealing of legislations which are inconsistent with religious freedom and right to privacy. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees that, "all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion". Let us remember the great example of Mahatma Gandhi whose entire life was for forming "an India in which the people shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice, an India in which there shall be no high class and low class of people" (*Young India*, 10-9-31, p. 255).

3. Development of leadership among the youth: We give special attention to young people, who face uncertainty due to unemployment, migration, digital vulnerability, and social pressures. They look not only for opportunities, but meaning and moral direction. We continue our commitment to accompany youth through leadership formation, civic education, and ethical engagement and encourage them to participate actively in public life and democratic processes. It has become the need of the hour that our youngsters, as exemplary Christians and as responsible citizens of India, actively engage in politics as a vocation to service.

4. Option for the poor: We reaffirm the vital role of Christian educational and social institutions in forming conscience, and ethical leadership. Academic excellence must be inseparable from inclusivity, justice, and a preferential option for the poor. We uphold the vision set by Pope Leo XIV: "Wherever access to education remains a privilege, the Church must push open doors and invent new pathways because to 'lose the poor' is to lose the very meaning of the school" (*Drawing New Maps of Hope*, 2025). While acknowledging the immense contributions of our church towards the betterment of the poor and the marginalised, we realise that the forms of poverty also get diversified as plurality of deprivations, "where the lack of a voice is often more devastating than the lack of bread" (*Dilexi te*, 1.14). We pledge to undertake more endeavours to uplift the poor through our faith communities and institutions. We also acknowledge that the Church's moral credibility in society is inseparable from justice, transparency, accountability, and ethical governance within her own institutions.

5. Dialogue and reconciliation: In a context of polarisation and mistrust, we maintain the Church's calling to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and fraternity. The Christian faith has always inspired us to seek the way of forgiveness whenever we have been deprived of human dignity and rights. We take upon sustained inter-religious dialogue and civil-society engagement, standing in solidarity with all those who face injustice or exclusion, and working together for peace, social harmony, and the protection of human dignity.

6. Rooted in Christ and faithful to the Constitution, we recommit ourselves to be a Eucharistic presence in the heart of the nation - serving the common good with humility, courage, and wisdom. Entrusting our mission to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and seeking the maternal protection of Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace for our country, we move forward in solidarity with all people of goodwill, working for a just, inclusive, and fraternal India. "*Hope does not disappoint us*" (Romans 5:5).

✠ Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath
President



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Secretary General

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"As long as you did it to one of these My least brethren, you did it to Me"

54A, A.J.C. Bose Road,
Kolkata – 700016
West Bengal, India

19 March 2026

TO WHOMSOEVER THIS MAY CONCERN

I would be most grateful for your kind attention to a matter of great concern for us Missionaries of Charity. We have come to know that numerous organizations have been using Mother Teresa's name and image without permission and engaging in fundraising activities

The Missionaries of Charity are the only religious congregation founded by Mother Teresa who dedicated her life to the humble service of the poorest of the poor. She depended solely on Divine Providence and strictly forbade her name or image to be used in connection with fundraising as it was totally against her principles and conviction. The Missionaries of Charity in keeping with Mother Teresa's principles, do not fundraise but rely solely on Divine Providence in the form of freewill offerings of those who are moved to support our mission.

To safeguard the values which she upheld, Mother Teresa bequeathed in her last Will and Testament, and in numerous public statements, all rights related to the ownership or use of her name, image or writings to her successors in the office of the Superior General of the Missionaries of Charity. She prohibited the use by any individual or organization of her name or image for any purpose without the express permission of the Missionaries of Charity. In her public statement on 14th October 1984, Mother Teresa clearly expresses her mind on the matter:

"...it has happened quite often that the use of my name, even when it has involved the solicitation of funds for worthy charitable purposes, has conflicted with my religious beliefs and those of my Order. I have, therefore, strived to prevent the use of my name in those instances. I realise that there may be some who would seek to use my name after my death, and I feel strongly that the exclusive right to control the use of my name should be vested in my successor from time to time in the office of the Superior of the Missionaries of Charity. This right is to be exercised in the absolute discretion of my successor, to the end that consent to the use of my name will be withheld or granted in accordance with the religious beliefs which I have held in common with my Order and expressed during my lifetime."

The misuse of Mother Teresa's name or likeness in promotional materials or appeals for donations misleads the public and violates the principles she embraced. Some organizations are staging lavish, media-covered ceremonies and functions in luxurious settings at which awards in Mother Teresa's name are conferred on individuals and groups. Such extravagance runs totally counter to the spirit of poverty, humility and simplicity as lived by Mother Teresa.

The Missionaries of Charity and Mother Teresa's genuine followers are deeply pained by the abuse of Mother Teresa's name, image, words and persona by individuals and groups who employ these methods to gain money and recognition on websites and social media platforms. Since this abuse has gone on so long and so far and in spite of many communications and warnings are continuing, we as an organization have finally decided to take legal action against some organizations. We, therefore, advise all organizations who are using Mother Teresa's name in the title of their organizations without our express written permission, or are using Mother Teresa's name or that of the Missionaries of Charity for their promotional and fundraising activities, to immediately cease and desist and rename their organizations. This will give due honour to her wishes and support the Missionaries of Charity. May her life of sanctity and her message continue to inspire all of us in humble and loving service.

God bless you,

Sr. M. Joseph M.C.
Superior General

Having seen the above letter and recognizing the gravity of the matter stated therein, I hereby endorse it and earnestly recommend that it be widely disseminated by those in positions of authority, and that due attention be given to the Will of St. Teresa of Calcutta, popularly known as Mother Teresa.

Given at Archbishop's House, 32 Mother Teresa Sarani, 700 01.6 - Kolkata, on the 19th day of March, in the year 2026.

Most Rev. Elias Frank
Archbishop of Calcutta

Papal Intention - April 2026
For priests in crisis
Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer



THE MOST REV. DR. LOURDU ANANDAM Ph.D., Dr.Theol
Bishop of Sivagangai

Bishop's House, Britto Nagar, Melur Road, Sivagangai - 630 561, Tamilnadu, India.

மேதகு ஆயர் அவர்களின் மடல்
உலகல் போர்கள் நிறுத்தப்படவும் அமைதி நிலைநாட்டப்படவும்

அன்பிற்கினிய குருக்களே, இருபால் துறவியரே, சகோதர, சகோதரிகளே.

மத்திய கிழக்கில் நடந்துவரும் போர்கள் குறித்துத் திருத்தந்தை 14 ஆம் லியோ அவர்கள் அருட்தந்தையர்களை உடனடியாக ஆலயங்களில் கதவுகளைத் திறந்து புனித செபமாலை செபிக்கவும், நற்கருணைக்கு முன் மண்டியிட்டுச் செபிக்கவும் அழைப்பு விடுத்துள்ளார்கள். தமிழக ஆயர் பேரவையும் மத்திய கிழக்கு (வளைகுடா) நாடுகளில் நடைபெறும் போர் உடனடியாக நிறுத்தப்படச் செபிக்க அழைப்பு விடுத்துள்ளது.

மத்திய கிழக்கிலும் உக்ரைன் மற்றும் கிரிமியாவிலும் போர்கள் மிகவும் தீவிரமாகி வருவதை தடுக்கவும், உலகத்தை ஆண்டவருடைய கருணையால் நிரப்பவும், ஆட்சியாளர்கள் நன்மை பற்றிய அறிவைப் பெறவும், உலக அமைதி மற்றும் அன்புக்காக ஒன்றிணைந்து போராடவும், தூய ஆவியார் அவர்களுக்கு அறிவூட்டவும் நாம் கடவுளிடம் மன்றாட வேண்டும் என்று திருத்தந்தை கேட்டுக்கொண்டுள்ளார்.

மூன்று முறை இயேசு கற்பித்த செபத்தையும், மூன்று முறை மங்கள வார்த்தை செபத்தையும் செபித்து, இறைவன் தம் தூய ஆவியாரை பூமிக்கு அனுப்ப மன்றாடுவோம். மாதிரி செபம்:

வல்லமையுள்ள மூவொரு இறைவா! கிறிஸ்துவின் விலையேறப்பெற்ற இரத்தத்தால் அலகையின் சூழ்ச்சிகளை அழித்து, உலகை ஆள்பவர்களின் போர் குணத்தை முடக்கியருளும்.

மரியாளின் மாசற்ற இருதயமே! உலக அமைதிக்காகவும் மாந்தர் அனைவரும் சகோதர, சகோதரிகளாக வாழவும் மன்றாடும்.

அதிதூதரான புனித மிக்கேலே! அலகையை அடக்கி ஆள்பவரே, தீமையின் சக்திகள் பயனற்றுப்போகச் செய்யும் - ஆமென்.

மேலும் வரும் வெள்ளிக்கிழமை (06.03.2026) அன்று ஒருசந்தி இருந்து இக்கருத்துக்காக மன்றாட இறைமக்களுக்கு அழைப்பு விடுக்க பங்குத்தந்தையர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

08.03.2026 வரும் ஞாயிற்றுக்கிழமை எல்லாத் திருப்பலிகளையும் இக்கருத்துக்காக ஒப்புக்கொடுத்து செபிக்கவும், நம்பிக்கையாளரின் மன்றாட்டில் சிறப்பு கருத்தாக இதனை இணைத்துக்கொள்ளவும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

வளைகுடா நாடுகளில் பணியாற்றும் நம் பிள்ளைகள், அங்கு வாழும் குடும்பங்களின் பாதுகாப்பு பற்றி உதவி தேவைப்படுவோர் SMSSS - ஐ அருளுவாராக!

நாள்: 03.03.2026
இடம்: சிவகங்கை



+ Anandam

✠ லூர்து ஆணந்தம்
சிவகங்கை மறைமாவட்டம்.

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ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Fr. Ambrose Louis L.	-	03.04.2005
Fr. Bhaskar David T.	-	03.04.2005
Fr. Raja Jegan S.	-	03.04.2005
Fr. Sahaya Joseph M.	-	03.04.2005
Fr. Sahaya Xavier Raj J.	-	03.04.2005
Fr. Vincent D. Rajan	-	06.04.1986
Fr. Arul Jothi Michael Raj A.	-	06.04.1997
Fr. Charles I.	-	06.04.1997
Fr. Ignatius Xavier V.	-	06.04.1997
Fr. Clement Raja A.	-	06.04.1997
Fr. Maria Dellus R.	-	06.04.1997
Fr. Santiagu Raja S.	-	06.04.1997
Fr. Augustine Irudhayam S.	-	07.04.2002
Fr. Jebamalai Suresh M.	-	07.04.2002
Fr. John Robert A.	-	07.04.2002
Fr. Joseph L.	-	07.04.2002
Fr. John Vasantha Kumar S.	-	07.04.2002
Fr. Iniko Anand K.	-	07.04.2024
Fr. Kiritharan J.	-	07.04.2024
Fr. Arul Jeeva S.A.	-	10.04.1983
Fr. Susaimanickam V.	-	10.04.1983
Fr. David Kulandai Nathan S.	-	11.04.1999
Fr. Francis Thairia Rayan S.	-	11.04.1999
Fr. Jesu M.R.	-	11.04.1999
Fr. Saminathan R.	-	11.04.1999
Fr. Antony Raj G.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Arockia Amirtha Raj S.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Arul John Kennedy G.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Basil I.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Jeyaseelan S.M.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Maria Packianathan P.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Savarimuthu M.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Thomas Paribalan A.	-	11.04.2010
Fr. Francis Jeyapathi M.	-	14.04.1991
Fr. Irudayaraj D.	-	14.04.1991
Fr. Kulandai Samy F.	-	14.04.1991
Fr. James Sahayaraj C.A.	-	14.04.1991
Fr. Jesuraja V.	-	14.04.1999
Fr. Arockia Anand R.	-	15.04.2007
Fr. David P.	-	15.04.2007

Fr. John Kennedy S.	-	15.04.2007
Fr. Justin Thiraviam V.	-	15.04.2007
Fr. Robert Rajasekaran S.	-	15.04.2007
Fr. Titus Amalraj S.	-	15.04.2007
Fr. Xavier Arockiasamy S.	-	15.04.2007
Fr. Jali Mari Valan A.	-	15.04.2018
Fr. Jesu Retchahar A.	-	15.04.2018
Fr. Santiago A.	-	16.04.1978
Fr. Jeganathan G.	-	17.04.1994
Fr. Singarayar A.	-	17.04.1994
Fr. Xavier Sathiya Moorthi S.	-	17.04.1994
Fr. Xavier Arulraj A.	-	18.04.1982
Fr. Vincent Amalraj G.	-	18.04.1982
Fr. Deva Sahayam F.	-	18.04.2004
Fr. John Melkies S.	-	18.04.2004
Fr. Stanislaus Michael A.	-	18.04.2004
Fr. Suvakin Jebamalai A.	-	18.04.2004
Fr. Kulandaiyesu Babu S.	-	18.04.2021
Fr. Mekkenro J.	-	18.04.2021
Fr. Antony Raja I.	-	19.04.1998
Fr. Arputha Arasu S.	-	19.04.1998
Fr. Britto Jeyabalan S.	-	19.04.1998
Fr. Edward Jeyakumar S.	-	19.04.1998
Fr. Jesudoss R.	-	19.04.1998
Fr. Amala A. Singarayar	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Antony Michael Xavier J.	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Arockia Samy & Aron T.	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Arul Arivu M.	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Jesu Jeyaraj S.	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Justin Diraviam A.	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Ramesh Raja M.	-	19.04.2009
Fr. Arulanandam A.	-	20.04.1975
Fr. Amalraj L.	-	21.04.1985
Fr. Augustine I.	-	21.04.1985
Fr. Saamu Idhayan S.	-	21.04.1985
Fr. Emmanuel Dosan A.	-	21.04.1996
Fr. Pascal Dhanapal T.	-	21.04.1996
Fr. Charles Kennedy J.	-	21.04.1996
Fr. James Ponnaiah K.	-	21.04.1996
Fr. John Britto M.	-	21.04.1996
Fr. Michael Raj S.	-	21.04.1996

Fr. John Antony Das G.	-	22.04.2001
Fr. Susai Michael A.	-	22.04.2001
Fr. Amalraj A.	-	22.04.2001
Fr. Christhu Raj R.	-	23.04.2006
Fr. Densingh Rajan J.	-	23.04.2006
Fr. Joseph John Kennedy J.	-	23.04.2006
Fr. Bastin Bharathi	-	23.04.2023
Fr. Clinton Rajan	-	23.04.2023
Fr. Maria Antony	-	23.04.2023
Fr. Maria Ashok Metha	-	23.04.2023
Fr. Praveen Arul Selvan	-	23.04.2023
Fr. Stephen	-	23.04.2023
Fr. Arul Dass S.	-	25.04.1993
Fr. Santiago M.	-	25.04.1993
Fr. Remigius A.	-	25.04.1993
Fr. Jesuraj K. Christy	-	26.04.1987
Fr. Arul Joseph R.	-	26.04.1987
Fr. Raymond Joseph I.	-	27.04.1986
Fr. Amaladass P.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Arul Santiago A.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Arulselvam A.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. James Arockia Samy A.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Jude Antony M.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Lourdu Raj S.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Philip Xavier A.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Viagula Amirtharaj L.	-	27.04.2003
Fr. Stephen A.	-	27.04.2025
Fr. Arockiasamy A.	-	29.04.1979
Fr. Pushparaj V.	-	29.04.1979
Fr. Sebastin S.	-	30.04.1995
Fr. Paulraj M.	-	30.04.1995
Fr. Savarimuthu A.	-	30.04.1995
Fr. Diraviam A.	-	30.04.1995
Fr. James Anthuvandass S.	-	30.04.1995
Fr. Sengole Vedamanickam V.	-	30.04.1995
Fr. Amalan A.	-	30.04.2000
Fr. Gnanadasan M.	-	30.04.2000
Fr. Jones Martin J.	-	30.04.2000
Fr. Maria Arul Stephen K.	-	30.04.2000
Fr. Maria Antony Irudaya Raj J.	-	30.04.2000

Hearty Congratulations!

Motherhood in the Bible: A Theological and Cultural Reflection

The Bible, one of the oldest literatures in the world, speaks highly about the motherhood in connection with womanhood as the image of God and equal to man (Gen 1:27). The Bible presents motherhood as a sacred and life-giving vocation rooted in God's plan of creation. From the very beginning, motherhood is associated with the gift of life, as seen in Eve, who is called the "mother of all the living" (Genesis 3:20). In fact, throughout Scripture, mothers are portrayed not only as bearers of children but also as nurturers of faith, protectors of family, and participants in God's saving work. And so, we shall see how the Bible is presenting motherhood.

1. Motherhood as a gift and vocation

Motherhood in the Bible is not merely biological; it is deeply theological. From the opening chapters of Genesis, motherhood is presented as part of God's creative plan. In Genesis 3:20, Eve is called "the mother of all the living," indicating that motherhood participates in God's life-giving power. Throughout Scripture, mothers are seen as: a) Bearers of life (Gen 21:13 Sarah); b) Nurturers of faith (2 Tim 1:5 Eunice and Lois); c) Instruments of God's promise (1 Sam 1 Hannah)

Motherhood is, therefore, both a gift and a vocation, often intertwined with suffering, sacrifice, and hope.

2. Motherhood in Semitic Social and Religious Culture

In ancient Semitic culture (Israel and surrounding regions), motherhood held immense social, familial, and religious significance.

a. In the Social Dimension

- ◆ A woman's dignity and honor were often tied to her ability to bear children.
- ◆ Barrenness (e.g., Sarah, Rachel, Hannah) was seen as a source of deep sorrow and even social shame.
- ◆ Mothers were central to the continuity of lineage, especially in a patriarchal society where inheritance and identity passed through the family line.

b. In the Religious Dimension

- ◆ Children were viewed as a blessing from God (Psalm 127:3: "Children are a heritage from the Lord").
- ◆ Mothers played a key role in religious formation, teaching the Law and traditions (Prov 1:8; Deut 6:67). In fact, each child whether male or female was always under the care of mother till the age of five, and each mother had to teach the child the shema Israel (Hear, O Israel), along with the basic moral and social relationships.
- ◆ The mother was often seen as a partner in God's covenant, especially in raising children faithful to Yahweh.

c. In the Emotional and Symbolic Role

- ◆ The love of a mother became a metaphor for God's love (Isaiah 49:15: "Can a mother forget her child?").
- ◆ Motherhood symbolized compassion, fidelity, and enduring care.

3. Motherhood in Biblical Wisdom Literature

The Wisdom books (Proverbs, Sirach, Wisdom, Ecclesiastes) present motherhood with moral and spiritual depth.

a. The Ideal Mother : The most striking example is Proverbs 31:10-31, which describes the "virtuous woman": She is industrious, wise, and compassionate; She manages the household with strength and dignity; "Her children rise up and call her blessed" (Prov 31:28).

b. Moral and Educational Role

- ◆ Mothers are teachers of wisdom: "Do not forsake your mother's teaching" (Prov 1:8).
- ◆ They shape the character of the next generation through discipline, instruction, and example. No morality is possible without a mother's instruction at the early stage of a child.

c. Honor and Reverence

- ◆ Honoring one's mother is a moral obligation (Sirach 3:16).
 - ◆ The mother-child relationship is seen as sacred and foundational for societal stability.
- Thus, wisdom literature elevates motherhood as a source of wisdom, virtue, and moral formation.

4. The Motherhood of Mary in Comparison

The motherhood of Mary represents the fulfillment and transformation of all biblical ideals.

a. Motherhood as Divine Calling

Unlike many Old Testament mothers who longed for children, Mary receives motherhood as a divine mission (Luke 1:26-38).

- ◆ Her response: "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).
- ◆ Motherhood becomes an act of faith and obedience.

b. Spiritual Motherhood

Mary's motherhood transcends biology:

- ◆ She becomes the Mother of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- ◆ At the Cross (John 19:25-27), her motherhood is extended to all believers.

c. Model of Discipleship

- ◆ Mary "pondered all these things in her heart" (Luke 2:19), showing contemplative faith.
- ◆ She accompanies Jesus from birth to the Cross, embodying faithfulness in suffering.

d. Comparison with Wisdom Literature

Aspect	Wisdom Literature Mother	Mary, Mother of Jesus
Role	Teacher of wisdom	Bearer of Divine Wisdom
Virtue	Industrious, Wise, honorable	Humble, Obedient, faithful
Influence	Shapes children morally	Forms the Savior of the world
honor	Praised by children	Blessed by all generations (Luke 1::48)

Mary is thus the perfect embodiment of biblical motherhood:

- ◆ She unites faith, obedience, suffering, and love.
- ◆ She elevates motherhood into a salvific participation in God's plan.

5. Conclusion

From the above discussion, we understand that motherhood in the Bible begins as a natural and social reality, deeply rooted in Semitic culture, where it carries honor, responsibility, and religious significance. In the Wisdom tradition, it becomes a moral and spiritual vocation, shaping individuals and society. However, in Mother Mary, motherhood reaches its highest fulfillment:

- ◆ It becomes a divine calling
- ◆ A path of discipleship
- ◆ A participation in salvation history

Thus, biblical motherhood is not only about giving life but also about forming life in faith, culminating in Mary, who gives the world its Savior, Jesus Christ.

Rev. Fr. R. Maria Dellus, Chancellor

From the Procurator's Desk

Greetings in Christ..

All Parish Priests and Correspondents are hereby earnestly instructed and solemnly urged to submit the comprehensive, accurate, and meticulously prepared accounts of the Parish, Primary, Middle, High, and Higher Secondary Schools without fail on or before 15 April 2026. Kindly treat this matter with utmost seriousness and immediate priority. Your wholehearted cooperation and swift action in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

Surplus Masses Remitted to Procurator

Name	Holy Masses	Amount
1. Carmel Convent	134	20,100
2. Kallal Parish	40	6,000
3. Sarugani Parish	102	15,300
4. Kalaiyarkoil Parish	600	90,000
5. Puliya Parish	267	40,000
6. Fr. Maria Dellus, Bishop's House	12	1,700

Contribution to the Diocese

Carried Forward	Rs. 68,31,000 00
Fr. Suvakin Jebamalai, USA	4,00,000
Kallal Parish	25,000
Fr. AnandRaj, USA	4,08,000
Total	Rs. 76,64,000 00

Ananda Lunch Scheme Fund

Carried Forward	Rs. 8,25,000 00
Vallani Parish	5,000 00
Fr. Amalraj OSM, Suriyankudiyiruppu	10,000 00
Mr. Siluvai Doss - Mrs. Siriya Pushpam	10,000 00
Thangachimadam Parish	10,000 00
Fr. Dhanaraj, France	10,000 00
Alangara Annai Cathedral, Sivagangai	1,40,000 00
Sacred Heart Church, Sarugani	15,000 00
Total	Rs. 10,25,000 00

Cathedral Construction Fund

Superior General, Bon Secours	Rs. 5,00,000 00
Provincial, Madurai Capuchin Society	2,00,000 00
Total	Rs. 7,00,000 00

Bishop Anandam Charity Fund

Carried Forward	Rs. 16,92,000 00
Fr. Dhanaraj, France	15,000 00
Total	Rs. 17,07,000 00

Necrology

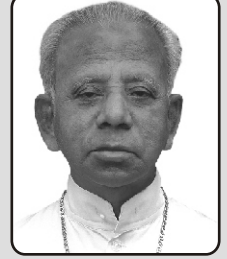
Bishop Edward Francis	-	11.04.2017
Fr. K.M. Sengole	-	13.04.2016

May their souls rest in peace!

Death Anniversary - 11.04.2017

Let us join together in prayer for the repose of the soul of late Bishop S. Edward Francis, our first bishop and the architect of our diocese.

May his soul rest in peace!



திருமணத் தயாரிப்புப் பயிற்சி வகுப்புகள்

ஏப்ரல் - 2026

எண்	தேதி	நாள்	இடம்
1.	11.04.2026 12.04.2026	சனி ஞாயிறு	பரமக்குடி

அருள்திரு. S. ஸ்ரீபென், செயலர், குடும்ப நலவாழ்வுப் பணிக்குழு

அலைபேசி : 9677950941

(For private circulation only)

Prepared by : Chancellor, Bishop's House, Sivagangai. Cell : 0091- 8807440484, 9715842573

E-Mail : svgbishop@gmail.com

Website : www.rcdioceseofsivagangai.org

Birthday Wishes



Fr. Joseph John Kennedy J.
01.04.1978



Fr. Sahaya Joseph M.
02.04.1977



Fr. Arockiasamy T.
03.04.1979



Fr. Maria Packianathan P.
03.04.1981



Fr. Basil I.
05.04.1982



Fr. Justin Thiraviam V.
07.04.1978



Fr. Raja Jegan S.
09.04.1977



Fr. Sebastin S.
11.04.1967



Fr. Mekkenro J.
12.04.1989



Fr. Edward Jeyakumar S.
13.04.1971



Fr. John Britto A.
13.04.1981



Fr. Arul Jothi Michael Raj A.
24.04.1969



Fr. Stanislaus Michael A.
24.04.1975



Fr. Jeganathan S.
29.04.1981

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILARIANS



Fr. John Antony Doss



Fr. A. Amalraj



Fr. A. Susai Michael

We offer our hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilarians. May the Lord bless them with good health and long life. **Ad Multos Annos!**



Women's Day Celebration (SC, ST Commission), Ramnagar



Lenten Retreat Mass, Thangachimadam



Inauguration of Renovation of St. James's Church, Mookaiyur



Palm Sunday, Sivagangai



Pastoral Visit, Vallani



Servant of God Leveil's Day, Sarugani



Clergy Recollection, VPC