

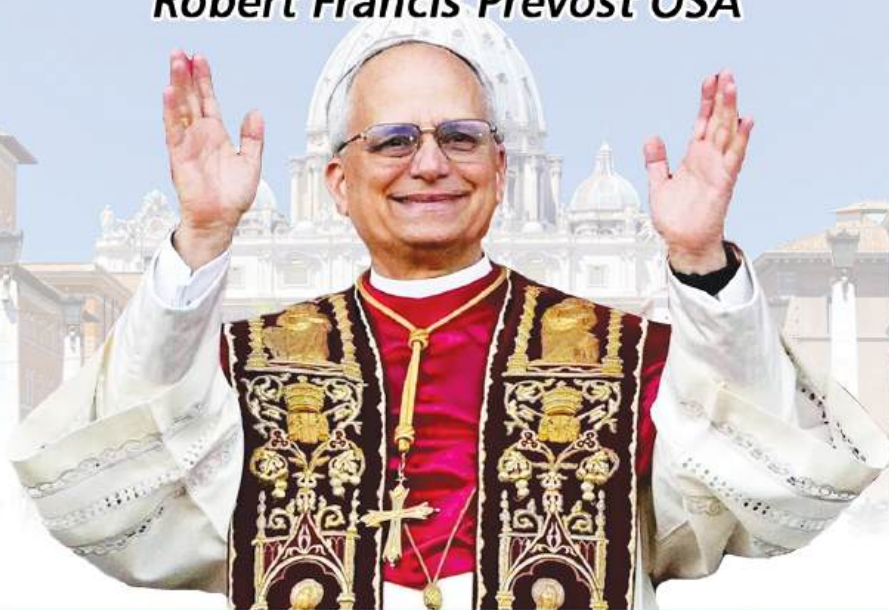


MST World

HABEMUS PAPAM

Pope Leo XIV (2025 May 08)

Robert Francis Prevost OSA



O God, Shepherd and Lord of all, look mercifully on your servant Pope Leo XIV, whom you have chosen as the head of the Church as her shepherd; grant that by word and example he may be of service to the entire humanity and those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Lord of all, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen

Heavenly Blossoms...



Fr Binoy Thazhathuveetil 1977-2024



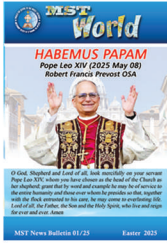
Fr Zacharias Thudippara 1940-2025



Fr Joy Kochuparackal 1952-2025



Fr Kurian Valiamangalam 1935-2025



MST WORLD

News Bulletin 01/2025
EASTER

Patron

Very Rev. Dr Vinson Joseph Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General MST

Chief Editor

Rev. Dr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General MST

Contributors

Members of the MST

Manager

Rev. Fr Thomas Olapurackal MST
Treasurer General

Lay out and DTP

Jibin Mathew

Printed at

Seraphic Press, Bharananganam

Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara P.O.
Bharananganam, 686 578

EASTER 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message of the Holy Father Francis	03
Message from the Director General	06
Change of Address.....	08
News from the Generalate	11
News from the Missions	18
A. St Paul Region, Ujjain	18
B. St Thomas Region, Mandya	20
C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli	21
D. MQM Region, New Delhi	27
E. St Joseph Mission, Odisha	29
Houses of Formation	31
A. Deepti Minor Seminary, Melampara	31
B. Jeevan Jyothi-MOC, Ganjam	34
C. Ruhalya Major Seminary, Ujjain	36
Overseas Ministries	47
In Memorium	53
Necrology	71
Appendices	73
1. CIRCULAR XI-11 Jan 17 2025.....	73
2. CIRCULAR XI-12 February 2025.....	74

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS FOR LENT 2025

Let us journey together in hope



Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:54-55). Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (cf. Jn 10:28; 17:3).^[1]

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means *to journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, *to journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in

this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good “examination of conscience” for all of us wayfarers.

Second, to journey *together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal^[2] Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters.^[3] Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. *Gal* 3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance.^[4] This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

Third, let us journey together *in hope*, for we have been given a promise. May *the hope that does not disappoint* (cf. *Rom* 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee,^[5] be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As Pope Benedict XVI taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, “the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (*Rom* 8:38-39)”.^[6] Christ, my hope, has risen!^[7] He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and

great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God's love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. *Rom* 5:5). Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul".^[8] It moves the Church to pray for "everyone to be saved" (1 *Tim* 2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: "Hope, O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one" (*The Exclamations of the Soul to God*, 15:3).^[9]

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 6 February 2025 Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs.

FRANCIS

^[1]Cf. Encyclical Letter *Dilexit Nos* (24 October 2024), 220.

^[2]Cf. Homily for the Mass and Canonization of Giovanni Battista Scalabrini and Artemide Zatti, 9 October 2022.

^[3]*Ibid.*

^[4]*Ibid.*

^[5]Cf. Bull *Spes Non Confundit*, 1.

^[6]Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi* (30 November 2007), 26.

^[7]Cf. Easter Sequence.

^[8]Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1820.

^[9]*Ibid.*, 1821.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



‘Through dawn and stone, our hope arose’.

Your Excellencies, Dear Fathers and Brothers,

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3).

Christ is truly risen! Alleluia!

The glorious celebration of Easter reminds us once again of the central truth of Christian faith: Jesus Christ, who was crucified, has risen from the dead. This is not just an event of the past, but a living reality that shapes our present and secures our future, for ‘through dawn and stone, our hope arose’.

As members of the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle, we are called to be bearers of this hope, especially in a world so often weighed down by fear, confusion, and suffering. Every day, we encounter people searching for light in the midst of darkness, peace in the midst of turmoil. What greater message can we offer than the Good News that Christ is alive and walks with us?

In this holy season of Easter, I invite each of you to renew your personal encounter with the Risen Lord. Like Mary Magdalene, let us seek Him with love. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, let our hearts burn with joy as He speaks to us through the Scriptures. And like St. Thomas the Apostle, our patron, let us move from doubt to faith, proclaiming with conviction, “My Lord and my God!” Let this hope in the Resurrection not remain a theological concept, but become the very force that drives our vocation and ministry.

Whether you are a priest in the mission field or a seminarian in formation, remember that we are not alone in our work. The Risen Christ goes before us, remains with us, and strengthens us. His victory over death assures us that no challenge is insurmountable when we walk with Him.

The Missionary's Tomb and Triumph

Just as Jesus rose bearing the wounds of His passion, the missionary priest also carries the marks of the cross—fatigue, misunderstanding, spiritual battles. But these wounds, too, proclaim the resurrection. For in every struggle, we become more like the One who sent us.

The missionary field is often a place of silence and hiddenness. Yet it is in these very places that the glory of the Risen Christ breaks through. A single baptism, a reconciled marriage, a healed heart—these are signs of Easter in the soil of mission.

In our communities, let us become signs of this hope—through our compassion, our joyful service, and our unwavering witness. The Resurrection calls us to rise above fear and mediocrity and to live with courage, integrity, and love. Our people need not only priests who teach, but missionaries who radiate the light of Easter.

As we journey together in faith, let us draw strength from our shared mission and from the example of St. Thomas the Apostle, who brought the Gospel to our land. May his bold faith continue to inspire us to go wherever Christ calls, even to the ends of the earth. The Church's future is missionary. Pope Francis reminds us: "I dream of a 'missionary option,' a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything." But this transformation starts in hearts ablaze with the resurrection.

Wishing you all a blessed and hope-filled Easter season. May the joy of the Risen Lord fill your hearts and renew your spirit.

In the peace and power of the Resurrection,

Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura MST
Director General of MST

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Fr Kalathoor Chandy: Ashadeep, Rajendra Housing Society,
Balaji Nagar, Sangli, Maharashtra, 416 416.

Fr Kannamundayil Bino: Shalom Nilaya C/o Kelsten power and
control Ltd, opposite to Kalinga High school, Jimidipeta,
Rayagada -765 002

Fr Kandamparampil Martin: Little Flower Forane Church,
Manjalumoodu P.O., Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu 629151

Fr Kollamattom Ambrose: Divine Oasis, Near Balaji College,
Pattabali Sahi, Phulbani, Khandamal Dt, Odisha, 762 001

Fr Kongatt Prayan: C/o Santhome Bhavan, P.B. No 227, Mothilal
Nehru Nagar, Ujjain Dt - 456010, Madhya Pradesh

Fr Kudiyiruppil John: C/o Sant Thoma Bhavan, P.B. 306, Raman
Mala, Kolhapur 416003, Maharashtra

Fr Kappiparambil Kuriakose: Sagrada Família Basilica, Parròquia
de la Sagrada Família, Sardenya 318, 08013, Barcelona,
Spain

Fr Madathiparampil Kuriakose: Namaste Maria Prayer Centre
Bilangzil P.O., Podagada Lamtaput, Koraput Dt., Odisha, 765 013

Fr Maruthumkuzhiyil Albin: Kristjyoti Catholic Mission MST house,
Dishalini, Rohru, Dt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 171 207

Fr Mathasseril Markose: C/o Santhome – IMPACT, Thevackal,
Vadacode P.O., Ernakulam Dt. - 682 021, Kerala

Fr Naduvilekizhakel George: C/o Santhome – IMPACT, Thevackal,
Vadacode P.O., Ernakulam Dt. - 682 021, Kerala

Fr Palackathadathil Kurian: C/o Sant Thoma Bhavan, P.B. 306,
Raman Mala, Kolhapur 416003, Maharashtra

Fr Pezhumthottiyil Sebastian: Santhome, Thannimood, Compayar
P.O., Nedumkandam, 685552, Idukki Dt., Kerala

Fr Puthenpurackal Dominic: C/o Santhome, P.B. No.42, Engineering College Road, Mandya Dt. 571401, Karnataka

Fr Varickickal Ajay: Nirmal Jyoty Mission, C/o St Thomas Catholic Church Baliguda - 762 103, Kandhamal (Dt), Odisha

Fr Valiyaparambil Libin: C/o Deepti Bhavan, Melampara, 686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala

Fr Vazhuthanappallyil Abin: St. Mary's Forane Church Kutrupady, Kadaba P.O., D.K.Dt, Karnataka, 574 221



NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

1) Fr Binoy Thazhathuveetil Rests in Peace (25/12/2024)



Rev. Fr Binoy Philippose Thazhathuveetil, MST belonging to St Paul Mission Region, Ujjain, passed away peacefully for his eternal reward at 3.00 am on December 25, 2024 at IHM hospital, Bharananganam. The body of Fr Binoy was taken to Nellippara, Idukki and the first part of the funeral rites on 25 December, 2024 was officiated by bishop Mar John Nellikunnel, at 7.30 p.m. On December 26, 2024 the body was brought to *Aaraam* at 8.30 am and was kept in the Generalate auditorium. The second part of the funeral liturgy was officiated by Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop at 1.30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana. Mar Joseph Kallarangattu prayed the Office for the dead. The final part of the funeral rites were presided over by the Director General, Fr Vinson Joseph Kadalikattilputhenpura. (see details on page 53)

2) Priestly Ordinations of MST Deacons (2024-2025)

Name/Date/ Prelate/Place

Ajith Thadathil/ 27/12/2024/ Mar George Njaralakkattu/
Angadikadavu, Tellichery

Sebastian Kanjirathamkunnel: 28/12/2024/ Mar Sebastian
Vadakel MST, Manakadavu, Tellichery

Joseph Vembenical: 30/12/2024 8.45 am, Mar George Njaralakkattu
Malom, Tellichery

Mathew Velloor: 01/01/2025 9.00 am, Mar George Vaniyapurackal
Azhangadu, Kanjirappally

Simon Paruthickal: 01/01/2025 2.30 pm, Mar Raphael Thattil
Manackachira, Changanachery

Michael Vettukallel: 02/01/2025 9.00 am, Mar James Athikalam
Peringulam, Palai

Chacko Makkiyil: 04/01/2025 9.00 am, Mar Prince Panengadan Parathanam, Palai

3) Conferring of *Karoyusa* (3/1/2025)

Brothers Nirappell and Kandathil, studying at Sacred Heart seminary Shillong, were conferred the order of *Karoyusa* by Mar Sebastian Vadakel MST, the bishop of Ujjain at Deepti Chapel on January 3, 2025.

4) Regional Assignments of New Priests (10/01/2025)

As per *Constitutions and Directives* (C70.2) the new priests are assigned to the following Regions.

Name	Region
Fr Joseph (Ajith) Thadathil	- Mary Queen of Missions, Delhi
Fr Sebastian (Abin) Kanjirathamkunnel	- St Paul, Ujjain
Fr Joseph Vembenickal	- Mary Queen of Missions, Delhi
Fr Mathew (Gintumon) Velloor	- St Alphonsa, Sangli
Fr Simon (Binil) Paruthickal	- St Alphonsa, Sangli
Fr Michael Vettukallel	- St Thomas, Mandya
Fr Chacko (Amal) Makkiyil	- St Paul, Ujjain

5) New Priests' day and Benefactors' Day (11/1/2025)

The New Priests' and Benefactors' Day were celebrated on January 11, 2025.



The seven New Priests together with the Director General offered Holy Qurbana in

the seminary chapel. We prayed in a special way for all MST benefactors past and present. After the Holy Qurbana, a meeting was held to felicitate the new priests in the Seminary auditorium.

The benefactors were greeted and thanked and they shared their experiences. A memento and the MST planner were



gifted to the benefactors and New Priests as token of our appreciation and gratitude. After the meeting all enjoyed a sumptuous meal in the Generalate Refectory. Around 35 sponsors attended the function as well as the fathers and brothers on Deepti Mount.

6) Meeting with Mandya Mission Region (18/2/2025)

The General Administration met the missionaries of St Thomas Region, Mandya on February 18, 2025 in the Regional House. The missionaries shared their concerns with the Central Administration. On the following day, the team visited few mission stations.

7) Foundation Day (22/2/2025)

The foundation day was celebrated in a moderate way with Solemn Holy Qurbana presided over by the Director General. Fr

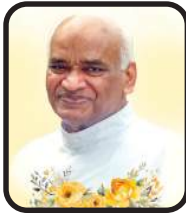


Thekkekarottu delivered the homily. The Associate Missionaries were also invited for the celebration. The celebration concluded with dinner in the Generalate refectory.

8) House Picnic (27/2/2025)

The Annual Picnic of the resident priests at Deepti Mount was organised to Munroe Island, Kottavanchi Adavi, Jatayu's Earth's Centre and Quilon Sea

shore. All came back refreshed.

9) Fr Zacharias Thudippara Rests in Peace (8-10/3/2025)

Rev. Fr Zacharias Thudippara (85) MST belonging to St Paul Mission Region, Ujjain, is called for his eternal reward at around 8.00 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam. The body of Rev. Fr Zacharias Thudippara was brought from IHM hospital to *Aaram* on Monday (10/03/2025) at 8.00 am and thereafter the body was kept for public viewing in the open auditorium of the MST Generalate. The funeral service started at 1.30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana and burial in cemetery on Deepti Mount (see details on page 56)

10) Fr Joy Kochuparackal Rests in Peace (15-17/3/2025)

Reverend Fr Joy (Joseph) Kochuparackal 1952-2025), a member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle and assigned to St Thomas Mission Region, Mandya, is called for his eternal reward at around 5.20 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Nirmala Hospital, Marykunnu, Kozhikode. The body of Rev. Fr Joy Kochuparackal was brought to *Aaram* from IHM hospital on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 8.00 am and thereafter the body was placed for public viewing in the open auditorium at the MST Generalate. The funeral service started at 1.30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana and burial at the cemetery on Deepti Mount. The Society remembers with gratitude Cardinal Mar George Alencherry and Mar Joseph Kallarangattu (Palai) who came to Deepti and prayed the office for the dead and Mar James Athikalam



who presided over Holy Qurbana. (see details on page 61)

11) Fr Kurian Valiamangalam Rests in Peace (10-12/4/2025)

Rev. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam, former Director General (1978-1988) of the MST, belonging to St Paul Mission Region, Ujjain, was called for his eternal reward at 7.15 am on Thursday April 10, 2025 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam. The mortal remains of Rev. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam were preserved at IHM hospital. The body of Fr Kurian



Valiamangalam was taken to St Maria Vianney parish, Kalathookadavu for the first part of the funeral service on Saturday (12/04/2025) at 6.30. The body was brought to *Aaram* at 8.00 am and thereafter, the body was kept for public viewing in the open auditorium at the MST Generalate. (see details on page 66)

ON-GOING FORMATION PROGRAMMES

1) Ongoing Formation of Formators

The Formators' Meet 2025 was held on 2 April 2025, at Ruhhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain, bringing together the MST formators for a day of reflection and discussion. There were 23 participants including all formators of Ruhhalaya, four from Deepti College, Melampara and one each from Jeevan Jyoti, Mandya and Vikas Maitri, Kotra. The programme commenced at 9.30 a.m. with a prayer song. The welcome address was delivered by Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott, Vice Director General and the Formation Secretary, followed by the inaugural address by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel. The resource person was Very Rev. Fr Francis Athikalam, Rector of KPRT Ashta, who led two insightful sessions until noon focusing on the theme: "Formative Pathways of Spiritual Accompaniment amidst the Complexities of Cyber Space."

Afternoon sessions were presided over by the Director General and were devoted to structured discussions based on critical themes. Key concerns include strengthening faith formation through deeper spiritual practices, reviewing the Animator and evaluation systems for greater transparency and effectiveness, and addressing the gap

between traditional methods and the expectations of the new generation. Ensuring a balance between intellectual, spiritual and pastoral formation, the meeting emphasizes the need to evaluate programmes like the summer mission exposure and explore how to make them more transformative. Special attention is also drawn to forming late-vocation candidates with tailored approaches that respect their maturity and unique backgrounds.

Equally important are discussions on how formators themselves can be more effective through ongoing renewal, specialization, and collaboration. The meeting addressed the urgency of enhancing missionary orientation, particularly in direct preaching and community building. The complexities of running a seminary in the evolving Indian context of growing animosity were thoroughly explored. The members also deliberated on the need for training for formators in formative pedagogy, and academic specializations required for future formators, especially for the philosophy section. The meeting fostered a spirit of mutual listening and shared responsibility in the formative mission of the MST.

2) Mission Meet (21/01/2025)

The Department of Mission Expansion and Preaching Ministry, in collaboration with the on-going programs of the MST, organized a four-day mission meet from January 21 to 24, 2025, at St. Vincent Retreat Centre, Gopalpur, Odisha. This event brought together 33 missionaries from across the country, including the Director General, General Councillors, Regional Directors, and representatives from various apostolates.

The meet commenced with prayer and dynamic interactions, setting a reflective tone for the participants. The highlight of the day was the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided over by His Excellency, Right Rev. Dr. Sarat Chandra Nayak, Bishop of Berhampur. Following the Eucharist, the inaugural session was presided over by the Director General, Very Rev. Fr. Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura. Bishop Sarat inaugurated the gathering with an inspiring address, emphasizing the urgent need for evangelization



and community formation. His enlightening session, titled “*Living the Missionary Call in the Present Context of India*”, challenged participants to respond to contemporary missionary demands with faith and zeal.

The second day featured an invigorating input session by Rev. Fr. Francis Kanampuzha CM. He urged the missionaries to move beyond pre-evangelization activities, such as social and educational programs, and focus on forming vibrant faith communities through these ministries. The subsequent sessions were dedicated to sharing, discussions, and strategic planning. Key topics covered included:

- * Apostolates for the Formation of Faith Communities
- * Revisiting *Mission Ad Gentes* in the *Constitution and Directives* of MST
- * Scope and Strategies for Community Formation in MST Regions
- * Proposals for Future Actions in Community Formation and Preaching Ministries

Participants actively engaged in the sessions, presenting insights and formulating actionable strategies.

The concluding session was presided over by Fr. J. Ayyankanal, Mission Expansion in-Charge. The Director General delivered the

final address, summarizing the discussions and offering an exhortation on the topics covered. Fr. Ivan Muthanattu, Councillor-in-Charge of On-going Formation, expressed gratitude and appreciation for the meeting's fruitful outcomes. Fr. J. Ayyankanal extended thanks to all participants and well-wishers.

The meet reignited the missionary spirit among the participants, who expressed satisfaction with the outcomes. Resolutions included:

- * Organizing similar meetings with the same theme in all MST regions.
- * Strengthening formation programs to equip aspirants with missionary zeal and skills for community formation.
- * Expanding efforts in evangelization and faith community building.
- * Include sessions with same theme in other ongoing formation meetings.

Set against the vibrant backdrop of St. Joseph's Mission Coordination in Odisha and embraced by the serene breeze of Gopalpur Beach, the gathering inspired participants to renew their passion for Christ's mission and reaffirm their commitment to the MST's apostolic mission.



NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

1. Visit of Major Archbishop of Syro Malabar Church

His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil visited MST Regional House Ujjain on 18 January and gave an inspiring message, recognising



contributions of MST and assuring support for MST mission endeavours.

2. Mission Tour to Gorakhpur Nepal



MST Fathers working in Ujjain Region had a mission tour to Gorakhpur diocese from 4-6 February. We had an opportunity to visit the birthplace of Shri Buddha in Nepal.

3. Foundation Day gathering of MST Fathers

A gathering of all MST Fathers working in Ujjain Region was held on 19 February at Regional House Ujjain. We had an input session by Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel on Mission Ad Gentes in the light of



M S T
Constitutions and
Directives. We
had Foundation
Day Holy
Qurbana during
which we

prayerfully remembered pioneer members who have gone for eternal reward

4. MST Brothers Gathering

MST Foundation Day gathering of MST brothers was held at Regional House Ujjain on 1 March. All brothers studying in Ruhailaya conducted group games and prayer session. Their gathering was concluded with dinner

5. Visit to North East missions by Regional Director

Fr Sebastian Pullatt visited Assam Meghalaya in view of starting works of Evangelisation in Meghalaya and Assam. Accompanied by Rev Fr Jose Palackeel who is the resident professor at Sacred Heart Theological College Shillong, I visited many places in view of exploring areas for Evangelisation.



We had meetings with many bishops of Assam and Meghalaya. I visited our Fathers working in

Itanagar diocese and Fr Nidhin Kuttippalackal studying in Tura. All of them are highly enthusiastic about starting MST mission in Meghalaya. I thank all Rev. Fathers in North East for accompanying me in exploring mission possibilities in North East



B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

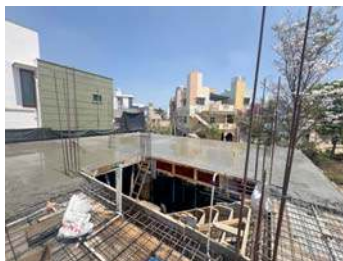
1. Visit of the General Team



Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkatilputhenpura, our Director General, General Councillors and Treasurer General visited Mandya Mission on 18th February, 2025. In the evening all the MST priests working in Mandya Region gathered together to listen to the general team and share their experiences and ideas. It was a beautiful time to discuss with them various matters and developments that are taking place within the region.

2. New Constructions

The second floor of the school building of Santhome Public School



Bannur started and the concrete work is completed. Now the class rooms are under construction with three labs. Along with it the construction of income generation program for our work, among the differently abled, is also going on. The concrete work of the

ground floor is completed and first floor construction is under progress.

3. MST Foundation Day 2025



MST Foundation Day was celebrated solemnly on February 22, 2024. In the morning there was solemn Holy Qurbana in which the whole community thanked God

and asked God's grace to proclaim the good News with more zeal. In the evening all fathers of the region came together for prayer and dinner thereafter, at Jeevan Jyoti Seminary.

C. St Alphonsa Region, Sangli

1. SANPHO-2 Inter-School Football Tournament

The SANPHO-2 Interschool Football Tournament was successfully held at Santhome School, Sangli, bringing together schools under



the Sangli Mission Society for a competition aimed at growing unity among the schools. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from both boys and girls teams.

Rev. Fr Tom

Mangalathil, the president of Sangli Mission Society, inaugurated the tournament, marking the beginning of exciting football matches. Alphonsa School, Kolhapur, emerged champion in the boys' category. Alphonsa School, Yadrav, and Alphonsa School, Miraj, secured second and third place respectively. In the girls' category, St. Thomas School, Ratnagiri, took home the trophy. Alphonsa School, Jath and Alphonsa School, Kolhapur, claimed the second

and third place respectively. The event was concluded with a sense of achievement and pride, as the young athletes exhibited their skills and talents as well as passion for football.

2. Jubilee Celebration of Fathers and Sisters

St. Alphonsa Region celebrated the Jubilee of Priests and Sisters at Vishwadeepti, Kolhapur. The joyous event was attended by the missionaries of the region who gathered to honour the Jubilarians. Rev. Fr Kurian Ammannathukunnel who completed 50 years in priesthood was the main celebrant. Fr Sabu Njarolical, the silver Jubilarian, delivered an inspiring homily. In the programme that followed to felicitate the Jubilarians, Rev. Fr Tom Mangalathil,



Regional Director, felicitated the priests and sisters who completed 50 and 25 years of dedicated service in the

vineyard of the Lord. The celebration was an occasion of great joy and gratitude, not only for the Jubilarians but also for the entire St. Alphonsa Region, Sangli. It served as a reminder to strengthen one's vocation and to continue serving the Lord with renewed vigour and dedication.

3. Fanning the Flame: MST Renewal Journey

The Alphonsa Region experienced spiritual rejuvenation thanks to the interactions with the MST Renewal Team. The first phase of the renewal program was held in the Konkan area



from January 9-13, 2025 while the second phase took place in the Kolhapur-Sangli area from February 3-6, 2025. The program was attended by all members working in the Region, who wholeheartedly engaged in the renewal process. Through the MST Renewal programme the members had the opportunity to reflect, renew, and recommit themselves to the mission of the Church and the Society. The program provided a platform for members to share their concerns and ideas for improving the society, fostering a sense of ownership and collaboration.

The successful completion of the MST Renewal Journey with the team in the Alphonsa Region marked a significant milestone in the efforts of the society to revitalize and strengthen its members and the Region as a whole.

4. Silver Jubilee Celebration of Anugraha Special School

The Anugraha Special School celebrated its Silver Jubilee on February 7th with great enthusiasm. The program was inaugurated by Nithin Pandurang Bhoyar, Police Inspector of Khed, who was the chief guest for the occasion. Rev. Fr Tom Mangalathil, President of Sangli Mission Society, presided over the function, while Rev Fr Ivan Muthanattu, Councilor Incharge of Social Work of the Missionary Society of St. Thomas, was the guest of honor. The students of the special school and KG section showcased their talents through various cultural activities that captivated the audience. The event highlighted the school's commitment to providing holistic education and nurturing the creative potential of its students. The audience was entertained by the energetic and soulful performances. The celebration concluded with a solemn supper, marking the end of the jubilee celebration. The Silver Jubilee is a milestone achievement for the Anugraha Special School, reflecting its dedication to serving children with special needs. The event was a grand success, and the school's commitment to empowering its students was evident throughout the celebration. Overall, the Silver Jubilee celebration was a memorable occasion that honored the school's 25 years of service to the community.

5. Bedshi Jai Matha Church Silver Jubilee Celebration

Jai Matha Church, Bedshi celebrated the Silver Jubilee and the Feast from February 6th to February 16th. The celebration was filled with



spiritual fervour and community bonding. On the 16th of February, concluding day, Mar Thomas Elavanal, the Bishop of Kalyan, presided over the Holy Qurbana and delivered the message. Special jubilee program was

organized, showcasing the community's talent and spirit. The event concluded with Agape, filling the hearts of the congregation with love and gratitude. The Silver Jubilee celebration was a memorable occasion, marking the perseverance of the community in faith for the past 25 years.

6. MST celebrates 57th Foundation Day

St Alphonsa Region of the MST celebrated 57th Foundation Day with great fervour and enthusiasm. The occasion was marked by a



series of events aimed at inspiring and renewing the members of the society along with monthly recollection. The Holy Qurbana was presided over by Rev. Fr Tom Mangalathil who invited the congregation to pray for the intentions of the society, its founders,

the departed and the active members, seeking blessings and guidance for their continued mission. The event concluded by cake-cutting followed by dinner.

7. MST explores Ways to enhance Performance

The Director General and the General Councillors of MST visited the Region and met the missionaries at Vishwadeepti Kolhapur on



March 6, from 4 pm to 10 pm. The gathering facilitated a productive exchange of ideas, focusing on the overall performance of

the society and potential strategies for enhancement. The discussion delved into various aspects of MST's ministry such as direct preaching, schools social work, migrants' care, and community development. The attendees shared their insights and expertise, exploring innovative approaches to optimize these initiatives. The event provided a platform for the General Team to engage in a constructive dialogue, fostering collaboration and teamwork.

8. Visit of Regional Education Committee

In a bid to maintain the highest standards of education, the Sangli Mission Society's Department of Education conducted its Regional



Education Committee (REC) visit for the academic year 2024-2025. The REC, comprising the Trust President, Councilors, Education Secretary, and other education committee members, aimed to inspect and evaluate the functioning of various schools under the Sangli Mission Society.

The primary objective of the REC visit was to assess the quality of education imparted by these schools, ensuring compliance with the guidelines set by the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle and Sangli Mission Society. The committee conducted a thorough inspection of documents, facilities, and infrastructure, followed by interactions with the school management, staff, and students.

9. Procedures and Agenda of REC

The REC visit followed a structured procedure, as follows:

1. Meeting with the Manager and Principal to discuss academic activities, staff management, conveyance, financial constraints, relationships, and future development plans.
2. Verification of essential documents, including school records, land documents, and other relevant papers.
3. Classroom inspections and interactions with students from selected classes.
4. Meetings with teaching and non-teaching staff members to gauge their perspectives and concerns.
5. Personal interactions between the Trust President, Manager, and Principal.

The REC visited all the schools of the Region between March 18 and April 9, 2025. By conducting these visits, the Sangli Mission Society's Department of Education reaffirmed its commitment to providing high-quality education and ensuring that its schools maintained the highest standards of excellence.

D. MQM Region, New Delhi

St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, Dehlon, Ludhiana

1. Republic Day Celebration



St. Thomas Convent School celebrated Republic Day on 25th January with great zeal and patriotism. The event began with the flag hoisting by Chief Guest Dr. Sandeep Kaur, followed by the National Anthem. Students presented patriotic songs, dances, and speeches, paying tribute to India's unity, freedom, and heritage.

The event began with the flag hoisting by Chief Guest Dr. Sandeep Kaur, followed by the National Anthem. Students presented patriotic songs, dances, and speeches, paying tribute to India's unity, freedom, and heritage.

2. Sports Festia 2025 – 15th February

The Annual Sports Day of St. Thomas Convent School for Nursery to Class 7 showcased energetic participation, discipline, and team spirit. The march past displayed vibrant house pride, with Honest House securing 1st place, followed by Bravery House (2nd) and Loyalty House (3rd).



3. Day of Star Awards – 28th February

The month concluded with the prestigious “Day of Star Awards” at



St. Thomas Convent School, celebrating student excellence in academics and co-curriculars. Chief



Guest Rev. Fr. Jomon delivered an inspiring speech encouraging students to strive for greatness.

4. Women's Day – 8th March

On the occasion of International Women's Day, St. Thomas Convent School students delivered powerful speeches and presented heartfelt cultural performances, highlighting the achievements and



strength of women in society.

5. Cleanliness Awards – 19th March

To promote hygiene and responsibility, St. Thomas Convent School hosted the Cleanliness Awards Ceremony, recognizing students from Nursery to Grade 7 for their consistent efforts in keeping the campus clean and organized.



6. Full Attendance Awards – 19th March



Students of St. Thomas Convent School with the highest attendance throughout the year were awarded medals as a token of appreciation for their dedication and consistency.

7. Academic Year Ending Ceremony – 19th March

St. Thomas Convent School concluded the academic year with a thanksgiving prayer service, offering gratitude to God for all the blessings and graces received. The celebration also included beautiful performances by students, marking a joyful end to the school year.



8. Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies



The Director of the Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), Fr M.D Thomas MST published its 10-Yearly

Souvenir titled 'Pursuing Harmony and Peace'. In addition, he delivered five Lectures on various topics and nine Video Messages on various topics on various platforms. He also published four articles on various topics in various journals.



Reported by Fr Sogin Chirayil MST

E. St Joseph Mission, Odisha

1. Blessing of the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel

A moment of profound spiritual joy was experienced at the Namaste Maria Centre with the blessing of the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel on February 1, 2025. Envisioned as a sanctuary for perpetual adoration, the chapel's journey began with the laying of the foundation stone by His Excellency Bp. Bosco Puthoor on November 1, 2023. The newly completed chapel was solemnly blessed by His Excellency



Bp. Prince Antony Panangadan, Bishop of the Eparchy of Shamshabad. This sacred space now stands as a beacon of prayer and contemplation, inviting the faithful to encounter the merciful love

of Christ through adoration.

2. Spiritual Formation & Lenten Retreat for Catechists

Catechists from Kundra, Podagada, Laxmipur, J.K. Pur, Bissamcuttack, Jimidipeta, and Balimela participated in two enriching programs held at the Namaste Maria Centre. From February 18 to 20, Fr. George Tigga and Fr. Libin Valiyaparambil led sessions focused on enhancing pastoral skills and deepening personal holiness.

From March 25 to 28, a Lenten retreat was conducted for 47



catechists, guided by Fr. Joseph Soren, Sr. Anitha, and Sr. Susama. The retreat

included Eucharistic Adoration, the Way of the Cross, Holy Mass, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, helping participants prepare spiritually for Easter. These programs reflect the Namaste Maria Centre's commitment to holistic evangelization and the strengthening of faith communities across Odisha.

3. ALOK 2K24 – Odisha Youth Camp



The ALOK 2K24 youth camp was held at Namaste Maria Centre, drawing together 69 enthusiastic young participants 27 boys and 42 girls from various mission stations across Odisha. Over four days, the camp offered enriching spiritual experiences including Holy Qurbana, rosary processions, inspiring spiritual sessions, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The participants pledged to live as authentic witnesses of Christ in their communities, demonstrating deep spiritual enthusiasm and maturity.

HOUSES OF FORMATION

A. Deepti Minor Seminary, Melampara

1. New Priests' Day and Benefactors' Day Celebration

The New Priests' Day of our beloved newly ordained priests in conjunction with Benefactors' Day, was solemnly celebrated at



Deepti Seminary on January 11, 2025.

The celebration was marked by deep spiritual joy and heartfelt gratitude. In the presence of their mentors, formators,

fellow seminarians, and cherished family members, the newly ordained stood at the altar of Deepti for the first time in persona Christi, offering the Holy Sacrifice with reverence and awe. It was a sacred moment—where years of prayer, formation, and silent surrender blossomed into the beautiful mystery of priesthood.

Following the solemn Eucharistic celebration, the community gathered in the seminary auditorium to extend heartfelt felicitations to the new priests and to honor the benefactors whose generous support continues to sustain and inspire the mission of formation. The atmosphere was filled with joy, gratitude, and brotherhood. The day concluded with a solemn and sumptuous festive meal, bringing together all present in a spirit of communion and celebration. Truly, the New Priests' Day was a grace-filled and encouraging moment for the entire seminary community.

2. Euphoria- 2K25

The Seminary Day of Deepti Seminary, titled 'Euphoria 2K25,' was celebrated with great solemnity, joy, and spiritual fervor on 25th January 2025. This special occasion stood as a profound expression of gratitude for the gift of vocation and a celebration of the journey

of priestly formation. It offered a vibrant platform for the seminarians to exhibit their God-given talents, share the richness of their experiences, and deepen their connection with the wider community that supports and walks with them in faith. More than just an event, Seminary Day served as a sacred reminder to nurture vocations, to thank the many generous benefactors, and to renew our collective commitment to the spiritual and pastoral mission of the Church.

The celebration was honored by the gracious presence of His Excellency Mar Jose Pulickal, Bishop of the Eparchy of Kanjirappally, who served as the chief guest. Very Rev. Dr. Vincent Kadalikkaattilputhenpura, Director General of MST, presided over



the event with paternal warmth and wisdom. Msgr. Dr. Joseph Kaniyodickal, Syncellus of the Eparchy of Palai, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Their inspiring presence and words added depth and dignity

to the event. Euphoria 2K25 was enriched by the presence of many esteemed guests, priests, religious sisters, and our beloved neighbours who came to share in our joy and support the mission of formation.

The seminarians presented a wide array of cultural programs, blending creativity, tradition, and spiritual reflection. Among the highlights was the thrilling ‘Chendamelam’



performance, which captivated everyone present. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to our brothers for their tireless efforts, creativity, and commitment that made Euphoria 2K25 a resounding success. Their dedication truly reflected the spirit of unity, discipline, and joy that is nurtured within the walls of Deepti Seminary.

3. Aloha 2K25

On April 07, with hearts full of gratitude and emotion, Deepti



seminary bid a loving farewell to its senior batch of 14 minor seminarians as they completed the initial stage of their priestly formation and prepared to step into the next chapter of their sacred journey. Over the years, they had walked closely with all—growing not

just in knowledge and discipline, but more so in faith, fraternity, and missionary zeal. Their presence has been a blessing to the seminary community: they led with humility, served with joy, and inspired with quiet strength. Whether in prayer, study, or simple daily moments, they have left behind them footprints of dedication and love. The Seminary Community thanked them for all that they have been to the community.

4. Annual Seminary Magazine – ‘Arun’

The Annual Magazine of Deepti Seminary, ‘Arun,’ was officially inaugurated by Very Rev.Dr. Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, the Director General of MST during the farewell ceremony on 07 April. The event marked a significant moment of intellectual and creative celebration, showcasing the talents, reflections, and spiritual journeys



of the seminarians over the past year. The magazine, a beautiful blend of theological insights, literary expressions, artwork, and community life, stands as a testimony to the

vibrant spiritual and academic environment of the seminary. The release of the Annual Magazine was not merely an event but a celebration of thought, faith, and fraternity, echoing the ongoing formation of minds and hearts at Deepti Seminary.



B. Jeevan Jyothi-MOC, Ganjam

1. MST Foundation day

Most of the MST priests working in Mandya Region were gathered at Jeevan Jyoti for the MST Foundation day on 22 Feb 2025. After



the tea at 5 .00 pm, we spent almost an hour in adoration. It was followed by friendly chit-chat and useful discussions. Later, we had the

agape meal and the get together got over by 10.00pm. Special thanks to the Mandya Regional team, for arranging MST foundation day at Jeevan Jyoti.

2. Thanks to the Rector and Staff of Vikas Maitri Seminary, Kotra

Due to unprecedented situation, in the academic year 2024-25 we had to send our MOC brothers to Vikas Maitri Seminary, Kotra to continue their formation. We are very much indebted to the Rector Rev. Fr Shoney and other members on the staff of Vikas Maitri Seminary, Kotra for accepting our brothers to the seminary. Our brothers stayed in the Vikas Maitri Seminary almost seven months and after the entrance exams to the Ruhalya seminary they came back to Jeevan Jyoti, Ganjam.

After coming to Jeevan Jyoti they had classes on MST Constitutions and Directives and Kannada Language. They were also given the opportunity to visit the villages.

3. Mysore Picnic

At the completion of the classes and final exams, our MOC brothers had some leisure time in visiting the important historic and tourist destinations in and around Srirangapatna and Mysore.



4. Visit to the Missions

As part of formation, the brothers had the opportunity to visit the mission stations in Mandya. It was an enriching experience from



the missionary perspective, since it gave them an opportunity to witness the lives and contexts of our missionaries. Dear

Missionaries thanks a lot for your uninterrupted support and encouragement given to our brothers at Jeevan Jyoti Seminary.

5. Farewell to the 37th batch of MOC

On Thursday 10th April 2025, a small get together was arranged in the presence of our Regional Director and his team, to give a send-off to the outgoing students of Jeevan Jyoti of the academic year



2024-25. Rev. Fr Rector welcomed everybody to the session.

Rev. Fr Sojan Aikkarakunnel

gave a meaningful message to the brothers highlighting the need of having strong conviction about priesthood. Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal also addressed the brothers. Brothers sang a Kannada song taught by Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal and they proposed a vote of thanks. An agape meal was arranged to mark the occasion.

As they embark on a new stage of formation in the future, we wished them all the best for their future endeavours. “Stay true to yourself and your values and you will surly go ahead in your life”, whispered everyone to them. Thanks Good bye dear 37th batch of MOC.

Brothers began their vacation on 12th April 2025.

C.Ruhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain

1. Christmas Celebrations at Ruhalaya

The Christmas season at Ruhalaya was a joyful and spiritually enriching time, marked by a series of celebrations involving both



the seminary community and the surrounding faithful. The festivities began on December 19th with a vibrant community gathering where brothers and fathers sang carols, exchanged gifts, and enjoyed a festive cake-cutting ceremony. On December 25th, the solemnity of Christmas was celebrated with Holy Mass, followed by Christmas get-

together. The celebrations extended to the wider community on December 29th, when Christian families from around Ruhalaya were welcomed for a special programme featuring cultural and spiritual performances, culminating in a joyful Christmas dinner.

2. New Year Celebration

The dawn of the New Year was welcomed at Ruhalaya with deep spiritual fervor and joyful celebration. The seminary community gathered on the night of December 31st for a solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This time of prayerful reflection provided an opportunity to thank the Lord for the graces received throughout the past year and to entrust the coming year to His divine providence. As midnight approached, the community came together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, marking the beginning of the New Year with a spirit of gratitude and hope. Following the Mass, the atmosphere turned festive as the seminary family and the faithful around gathered for a joyful New Year get-together. The celebration included the sharing of greetings, light refreshments, and moments of fraternity and joy. It was a time to strengthen the bonds of community and to step into the new year with renewed commitment and enthusiasm.

3. Philosophical National Conference on 'Frontiers of Transcendence'

A two-day National Conference on *Frontiers of Transcendence*:



Explorations into Philosophy, Theology, Science, and Art was held at Ruhailaya Philosophate, Ujjain, from 14th to 15th January. The event brought together scholars, theologians, scientists,

artists, and students from across the country to engage in meaningful dialogue on the intersections of these disciplines. The conference commenced with a formal inaugural session. Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector extended a warm welcome to all participants and dignitaries. The conference was formally inaugurated by His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel, whose words of encouragement set a reflective tone for the proceedings. Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura, delivered the Presidential Address. A major highlight of the inaugural session was the Keynote Address delivered by Dr Tessy Thomas, widely known as the “Missile Woman of India.” Her insights bridged science and spirituality, emphasizing the harmony between technological advancement and transcendent values.

The conference dynamics and the thematic framework were introduced by Dr Veenus Karamullil, setting the stage for two days of scholarly engagement. A series of academic papers were presented by



distinguished scholars and researchers, including Dr Martin Sankoorikal, Dr Treejo Chakkalackal OFM Cap., Prof. C.D. Sebastian MST, Dr Sabeesh Vettiyadan CMI, Dr Justin Vettukallel, Dr Manjit M. Bhatti, Dr Jose Aryankalayil MST, Bro. Don Karivelickal, and Dr Veenus Karamullil. These sessions explored a

wide range of topics that linked philosophical inquiry, theological depth, scientific reasoning, and artistic expression.

The concluding ceremony was graced by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, who served as the Chief Guest. In his concluding address, he commended the organizers and participants for their valuable contributions to the advancement of interdisciplinary academic discourse. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by Rev. Fr Johnson Pullatt, the Vice Rector of Ruhhalaya Philosophate, expressing gratitude to all speakers, participants, and collaborators for making the conference a stunning success. The conference witnessed the enthusiastic participation of fathers, brothers, sisters, and lay scholars from near and far, making it a vibrant platform for intellectual and spiritual enrichment.

4. Visit by Mar Raphael Thattil & Official Declaration of Ruhhalaya as Institute of Theology

The declaration of Ruhhalaya as an Institute of Theology by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-



Malabar Church, on 16th January 2025 is a truly historic moment in the life of Ruhhalaya Major Seminary. This milestone recognises Ruhhalaya's enduring journey of academic and spiritual growth and affirms its commitment to fostering theological excellence. The event was graced by the presence and inspiring messages of His Beatitude



Mar Raphael Thattil and His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel, Bishop of the



Eparchy of Ujjain. We also gratefully acknowledge Very Rev. Fr Pauly Maniyattu, the President of the Pontifical Oriental Institute of Religious Studies, Kottayam, for highlighting the ongoing collaboration between the two

institutions. The celebration was further enriched by the presence of Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General of the MST; Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector of Ruhhalaya; Rev. Fr John Kudiyiruppil, the Director of the Institute of Theology and many other priests, religious, formees and seminarians. This declaration stands as a call to continue Ruhhalaya's mission with ecclesial zeal and academic commitment.



5. Challengers' Cup 2025 - Ruhhalaya Philosophate

The much-awaited Challengers' Cup 2025, Ruhhalaya's annual batch-wise sports tournament, commenced with great excitement and anticipation on 22nd January. The tournament was officially inaugurated by Dr Martin Sankoorikal, whose encouraging words



set the tone for a spirited and thrilling competition. This year, the tournament featured a basketball championship, and the court quickly turned into an arena of energy, teamwork, and healthy rivalry. Each batch brought their best game forward, competing with determination, discipline, and incredible

enthusiasm. The matches were intense and closely contested, showcasing not just athletic skill but also the unity and brotherhood that define Ruhalaya. The tournament reached its thrilling climax with a nail-biting final between the Third Year and First Year brothers. In a high-energy match that kept the spectators at the edge of their seats, the Third-Year brothers emerged victorious, lifting the prestigious Challengers' Cup with pride and joy.

6. Football, Volleyball and Basketball Matches at Avantika University

The football, volleyball and basketball teams of Ruhalaya Major Seminary participated in the competitions conducted by Avantika University, Ujjain on 1st and 2nd February 2025. Brother from both the Philosophate and the Theologate comprised of the teams. Rev. Frs Manoj, John, Joby, Jubil, Joyal accompanied the teams that got a great opportunity to play standard games with standard teams in standard atmosphere.



7. Basketball Match at Chandukhedy

Brothers from Ruhalaya Theologate went on 6th February 2025 to St Joseph's Mission Station at Chandukehdy and played a friendly

basketball match between Ruhalaya A team and B team. It was the inaugural match held in the newly built basketball court of the school at



Chandukhedy mission station. Frs Manoj and Joby accompanied the brothers. Rev. Fr Binish Cherucheruppil, the priest in charge of

the mission station, welcomed the fathers and brothers from Ruhalaya and introduced them to the staff and students of the school who enjoyed the match that also inspired them to play basketball.

8. Ruhalaya Inter-Seminary Bible Quiz 2025

On 9th February 2025, Ruhalaya Major Seminary witnessed the



final round of Ruhalaya Inter-Seminary Bible Quiz 2025. Eleven brilliant participants from different seminaries from various parts of the country participated in the final round. Rev. Fr Joyal Anjilithoppil MST was the Quiz Master. Bro. Alphons Vazhakkuzha, belonging to the Eparchy of Ujjain and doing third year theology course at Ruhalaya Major Seminary, secured first prize. He had also won the first prize in 2023. Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector of Ruhalaya Major Seminary, welcomed the participants



and His excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakkal and Very Rev. Fr Sebastian Pullatt, the MST's Regional Director in Ujjain, distributed the prizes. All fathers and brothers of Ruhalaya and sisters and formees from neighbouring convent communities were present during the quiz. The contestants were taken for an *Ujjain Darshan* after the programme.

9. RCLA Concluding Ceremony

The Concluding Ceremony of the Ruhalaya Cultural and Literary



Academy (RCLA) and Home Herald 2024-25 was held with much enthusiasm and grace on 13th February 2025, marking the culmination of a vibrant year of cultural

and literary expression at Ruhelaya Philosophate. Throughout the academic year, Thursday afternoons were reserved for cultural performances, where brothers showcased their creativity, teamwork, and talent through music, drama, dance, and thought-provoking skits. Simultaneously, the Home Herald Literary Board witnessed weekly contributions, with brothers exhibiting their flair for writing, poetry, essays, and reflections, all compiled and displayed with care and creativity.

The grand finale was graced by Sr Merlin SABS, Principal of Christu Jyoti Convent School, Ujjain, as the Chief Guest. In her inspiring address, she encouraged the brothers to continue nurturing their artistic and literary gifts, reminding them that these are vital tools for effective and compassionate ministry in today's world. The brothers lit up the event with a colorful array of cultural performances, displaying the fruits of their consistent efforts throughout the year. A special highlight of the ceremony was the formal release of the 2024-25 edition of *Home Herald*, a beautifully handwritten collection of the year's best literary pieces, reflecting the depth, creativity, and spiritual insight of the seminary community. The entire ceremony served as a joyful reminder that cultural and literary activities are not just extracurricular, but formational, helping to shape the well-rounded, expressive, and pastorally sensitive priests of tomorrow.

10. Blessing of a New Photostat Machine

The blessing of a new photostat machine was done at 01:00 pm on 14th February 2025, after the classes, by Rev. Fr Joseph Koren



MST. It was Rev. Fr Koren Joseph who sponsored the machine, and he blessed and inaugurated it by taking the first print in the presence of Ruhailaya theologate community and fathers from the Philosophate. There were the esteemed presence of Rev. Frs Ivan Muthanattu, Salas Karikandathil and George Pottananiyil during the blessing and the distribution of sweets.

11. Exposition of *Dilexit Nos* enlightens Ruhailaya Community

On 21st February 2025, the Ruhailaya Philosophate community came together for an intellectually enriching exposition on *Dilexit Nos*, the fourth encyclical of Pope Francis. The event was a remarkable academic initiative, aimed at deepening the students' understanding of contemporary Church teachings. The exposition was led by Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector. With scholarly precision and pastoral insight, he offered a systematic and in-depth presentation of the encyclical which was highly appreciated by both students and staff alike. The session sparked thoughtful reflections and meaningful discussions, creating a spirit of academic curiosity and theological engagement among the participants. The brothers expressed deep gratitude for the Rector's hard work and erudite contribution, which made the teachings of *Dilexit Nos* accessible and relevant to their formation journey. This scholarly event was yet another testament to Ruhailaya's commitment to fostering intellectual excellence and spiritual depth in the formation of future priests.

12. Celebration of the Foundation Day of the MST

Ruhailaya Major Seminary solemnly celebrated the 57th Foundation Day of the MST on 22nd February 2025. His Excellency Mar



Sebastian Vadakel was the main celebrant for the solemn Qurbana, which was held in the Theologate Chapel as a common Eucharistic celebration. At 10:30 am, a spirited basketball match

took place between the Philosophy and Theology sections at the Philosophate campus, with the Philosophy team securing a narrow victory. The day concluded with a delightful evening filled with melodious music and a delicious outdoor dinner, enjoyed at the Philosophate campus.



13. Defense and Comprehensive Examinations

Marking a significant academic milestone in their formative journey, the Third-Year Brothers of Ruhalya Philosophate successfully completed their Thesis Defense and Comprehensive Examinations, bringing their three-year philosophical formation to a fulfilling



conclusion. The Thesis Defense was held on 19th February, during which each brother was allotted ten minutes to present the essence of their research, followed by a brief question-and-answer session. The

event showcased the brothers' critical thinking, depth of understanding, and ability to articulate philosophical insights with

clarity and confidence.

Continuing the rigorous academic journey, the brothers appeared for the Comprehensive Written Examination on 21st March, covering the wide spectrum of philosophical disciplines studied over the years. This was followed by the Comprehensive Viva Voce on 28th March, where they were individually assessed on their intellectual integration and capacity to engage with key philosophical themes. The performance of the brothers was commendable, reflecting their dedication, discipline, and intellectual growth throughout the programme. The successful completion of these assessments stands as a proud moment in their seminary life, a testament to their hard work and a stepping stone toward deeper theological studies.

14. International Women's Day Celebrations

The International Women's Day was celebrated at the Ruhhalaya Theologate auditorium at 01:30 pm on 8th March 2025. The event was organised by the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) functioning around Ruhhalaya Major Seminary, under the leadership of Rev. Fr Thomas Manjalankal and Rev. Sr Deepti DST. His Excellency Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel, Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, Rector of Ruhhalaya, Mrs Shasan Kaur, District Judge, and other dignitaries addressed the gathering. Several women also presented cultural performances on stage, adding beauty and joy to the celebration.

15. Sayonara: A Heartfelt Send-Off to III Year Brothers

In a touching and memorable celebration, Ruhhalaya Philosophate bid farewell to the Third-Year Brothers on the evening of 29th



March, as they completed their academic journey and formative stay at the seminary. The event was gracefully organized by

the Second-Year Brothers, who poured their hearts into crafting a vibrant and meaningful send-off for their seniors. A total of 25 brothers were honored and celebrated for their three years of formation at Ruhahaya. The farewell was marked by a mix of joy and emotion, a bittersweet moment as the brothers prepared to step into the next chapter of their journey toward priesthood.

The evening featured cultural performances, words of appreciation, and moments of reflection, making it a beautiful expression of fraternity and gratitude. The outgoing brothers expressed heartfelt thanks to the entire Ruhahaya community for the guidance, academic growth, and spiritual formation they received during their time at the seminary. Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector, along with the Vice Rector, Rev. Fr. Johnson Pullatt, felicitated the brothers, acknowledging their dedication and growth, and encouraged them to carry the spirit of Ruhahaya into their future mission. As the Third-Year Brothers move forward, the Ruhahaya community sends them off with prayers, best wishes, and immense pride.

16. Adieu to Rev. Fr John Kudiyruppil

Ruhahaya bade farewell to one of its legendary professors, Rev. Fr John Kudiyruppil – a versatile author, an exceptional teacher and above all, a genuine human being. The milestones achieved under Rev. Fr John’s deanship and leadership are both numerous and remarkable. His vision has not only shaped the academic programmes of the seminary but also nurtured a vibrant community of learners, eager to innovate and excel across diverse fields of knowledge and wisdom. He consistently encouraged students to delve into solid literature, think critically, expand their horizons and pursue excellence – not only in their academic pursuits but in every aspect of life. Ruhahaya will deeply miss his inspiring and motivating presence, his soothing words, thrilling insights, delightful humour and thought-provoking conversations. The entire Ruhahaya family extends its heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to him for the journey ahead. May he continue to make a profound impact wherever he goes, being effective in God’s hands.

OVERSEAS MINISTRIES

Canada

We had our MST renewal programme on March 24 at 7.30 pm. We had a very lively discussion on various matters for two hours. Fr Joseph Akkattukudilil was not able to attend it as he was on his holidays. On April 1, Tuesday, I (Tom Kakkaniyil) had a Urinary Tract Surgery. All the eight priests working in Canada are doing well. I talked with all of the members of the MST in Canada and everyone is busy and happy in their own ways. Happy Easter.

Fr. Thomas KakkaniyilMST

Chengena, Tanzania

1. Christmas in the villages

MST Mission in Chengena organized a month-long preparation for Christmas in the Mission parish. The catholic children in the village were encouraged to participate in the holy mass every day before they were moving to the school. It was a success with the participation of more than 200 children every day. The youth group members practiced carol songs and taught the children. There were around hundreds of participants reaching the carol singing around the villages.



2. Christmas in MST Mission Chengena

We had a very grace-filled Christmas celebration in the MST Mission in Chengena. There was a night vigil mass on Christmas Eve with a good number of participations from the faithful. The holy mass was led by Fr Shaiju Jose, the Parish Priest. There was also holy mass arranged in all five other village communities under the Mission on Christmas day. The people were delighted to celebrate the Christmas mass and the





other celebrations with us all. We are grateful to Fr Biju Joesph Pullappallil for helping us with the Christmas Gifts for the people in the Mission. We could distribute dress materials to around 250 people in the mission who are

really in need of our help. It was through generous support by Fr Biju while he collected it with the help of the children in his parish in Madale, Dar Es Salaam.

3. Jubilee 2025

MST fathers in Songea Archdiocese joined in the Jubilee year 2025 inauguration service in the diocese with our parishioners. We were



actively involved in the procession for the inauguration of the Jubilee year from our Forane to the Cathedral with the faithful and later involved ourselves in the sacrament of reconciliation in the diocesan level. There was a massive participation from every parish in the cathedral church on the days of inauguration of the Jubilee year 2025.

4. Holy Order of Diaconate

It is a matter of joy that thanks to the missionary efforts of MST Fathers in Songea Diocese that Patrick Mapunda received the holy order of Diaconate on 29 Decemeber 2024 from



Archbishop Damien Dennis Dallu, the Archbishop of Songea. Patrick Mapunda is a seminarian from Chengena Parish, He joined the seminary when the MST fathers were serving in Chengena parish. We are looking forward to the ordination of priesthood of Dn Patrick Mapunda in the middle of this year.

5. WAWATA annual gathering

The mothers' group in the Mission in Chengena organized a one-



day program on 1 January in the Mission house in Chengena. There were around 55 catholic mothers

in the gathering. WAWATA is the Tanzanian mothers' group organizing faith activities in every parish. The gathering began with the New Year day holy Mass followed by delicious meal and cultural programs.



6. Uniform materials to Children

MST Mission in Chengena is one of the interior missions of MST in Tanzania where the people completely depend on agriculture. It is



difficult for them to afford a decent school uniform every year.

Many use uniforms purchased in the previous years. We are grateful to Fr Sajimon Vanderkunnel MST and Fr Jose Valiamangalam MST for their support through their benefactors as well as other benefactors from Tanzania, US, UK and Kuwait. With their contributions we could channelize the amount needed for giving school uniform

materials to the Children in the Mission.

7. ASSISSI Chekechea

The religious sisters have started their ministry in the parish as missionary collaborators on 3 February. The OSF sisters started a nursery school in the mission as ASSISSI Chekechea. It was a long awaiting need of the villagers in Chengena. We look forward to a more effective development with the presence of OSF Sisters. There are 70 children in the school in the first year itself.



8. Youth Groups in the Villages

We could organize different youth groups in the villages under the



Mission in Chengena. The youth groups are being organised in every village in the Mission in 2025 as a special ministry of the year. We also organize the Christian youth in Namanguli village under

the mission where there was active participation during the lenten season in Sunday Masses and the weekly prayer services. There are more than 50 youths from this village itself.

9. Blessing and Inauguration of Convent & Formation House

The OSF sisters opened a new convent in Chengena. Although the sisters were working on it since 1980, it was relised only now. The Archbishop of Songea, Most Rev. Damien Dallu, blessed and



inaugurated the formation house and the convent of OSF sisters on 8 March. The MST fathers helped the OSF sisters to realise this dream in Chengena. It is a huge project of 440 million Tanzanian shilling

and MST priests could channelize more than 14 % of the total cost through various means. Fr Shaiju Jose worked hard to complete the construction in the absence of contractors and supervisors. It was highly appreciated by the Archbishop.



10. Pilgrimage to Msalaba Mkuu

The youth group of MST Mission in Chengena organized a pilgrimage to one of the hill stations in Songea ArchDiocese called Msalaba Mkuu on 11th February, on the fortieth Friday. The youth group



from all the 6 communities in the Mission participated in this pilgrimage as part of the Lent this year. The youth groups from Kilangalanga,

Namaguli, Suluti, Ruegu, Ukiwayuyu and Chengena villages reached Namabengo parish, and from there they started the pilgrimage. The



60 participants fasted on that day and prayed the Stations of the Cross singing Swahili devotional songs on the way to Msalaba Mkuu which is 20 kms away.

The pilgrimage reached Msalaba Mkuu in the evening. Fr Shaiju Jose MST offered the holy Mass in the



church in the valley. He enlightened the youth group by his homily. The pilgrimage proceeded to the top of the hill and concluded at the foot of the cross with prayer and the final blessing and then they broke the fast in the valley. it is hoped that the pilgrimage brought spiritual renewal to the youth

in Chengena.



IN MEMORIAM

1. Rev.Fr Binoy Philippose Thazhathuveettil (1977-2024)



Rev. Fr Binoy Philippose Thazhathuveettil, MST belonging to St Paul Mission Region, Ujjain, passed away peacefully for his eternal reward at 3.00 am on December 25, 2024 at IHM hospital, Bharananganam.

Fr Binoy (Devassia) was born on 07 January 1977 to Mr Philippose and Annamma

Thazhathuveettil and he is survived by the siblings: Philippose, Joseph, Roy & Bincy. He had his primary and secondary education respectively at St. Xavier's LP School, Nellippara (1982-1986) and Calvary UP & HS at Calvary Mount. He joined Deepti minor seminary in 1994 and philosophical and theological studies at Ruhhalaya Major Seminary. He was ordained priest on April 12, 2005.

After priestly ordination he served as assistant priest at Deepti Estate Vadakkenchery (2005- 2006), St Mary's Church, Agar, Ujjain (2006 June-Nov); St. Peter's Catholic Church, Shujalpur, Ujjain (2006 Nov-2007 May); St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Shajapur, Ujjain (2007 - 2008). He served as priest in charge at St Mother Theresa Church, Khilchipur, Ujjain (2008-2010) and St Alphonsa Church, Akodia, Ujjain (2012-2017). He served as Finance Officer at Ruhhalaya Major Seminary, Ujjain (2017-2020); as Manager of St. Thomas Convent School, Bhatinda. Punjab (2020 - 2021) and as Director of Angel Home, Kadanad. Kerala (2022-2023). After successfully passing the B2 level German language, he was sent for pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. He landed in Germany on 20th March 2023. After the period of probation he was appointed assistant parish priest at Bad Boll in the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart on January 20, 2024.

Illness and Treatment of Fr Binoy

The Lord's ways are mysterious! On April 12, 2024, Fr Binoy was admitted to RHG Hospital, Ulm, Germany, and was diagnosed cancerous tumour with severe complications. On April 18 he was shifted to Gunzburg due to continued difficulties with his brain and overall health. To the shock of all, the CT and MRI scans revealed a fast-growing tumor, *glioblastoma*, on the left side of his brain. Doctors recommended immediate surgery to remove the tumor. The skull-opening surgery lasted approximately eighteen hours. After the surgery Fr. Binoy suffered a brain stroke and went into a coma for almost a week. On April 29, he showed signs of improvement and was transferred back to Ulm for chemotherapy and physiotherapy. On 16th August, Fr. Binoy was shifted to Station E in RKU to prepare for an operation to replace the removed part of his skull with a Titan Plate. On 19th August, an MRT test was conducted where result showed that the growth of the tumor was aggressive. On 26th August, the operation to replace the removed part of the skull was successfully performed. On September 6, he was shifted to Uniklinik in Ulm for rehabilitation and other therapies. Fr. Binoy was permitted by the doctors to travel to India from the hospital in Ulm. On September 16, at 1:30 pm on his journey to Kerala, Fr Binoy was accompanied by Frs. Biju Mathew Nellikunnel and Jiji Ettaniyil. Upon his arrival in Kochi on 17th he was admitted in Caritas Hospital where he received specialized medical care in the department of oncology and neurology. Fr. Binoy was discharged on September 24 with the advice to continue VEGFXTA injections to stabilize the growth of the tumour. During the period of convalescence, he stayed at *Araam* and received VEGFXTA injections every fifteen days. He visited his parents and relatives at home twice in October 2024. On November 2, after returning from home, his health began to deteriorate.

Last Days of Fr Binoy

Following his third VEGFXTA injection, he experienced severe adverse reactions, and the injections were discontinued. On

November 6 due to worsening health condition Fr Binoy was transferred to Marygiri Hospital, where he was given palliative care treatment. On November 8, Rev. Fr. Director General administered the Anointing of the Sick to Fr. Binoy. On December 19 when his health declined further, Fr. Lonappan Arangassery administered the Anointing of the Sick in the presence of many Fathers from Deepti Bhavan. On the evening of December 24, Fr. Binoy's condition deteriorated significantly and at 3:00 am on Christmas Day, Fr. Binoy Thazhathuveetil peacefully passed away in the Hospital, surrounded by his brothers, MST Fathers and hospital staff.

Funeral and Last Rites



The body of Fr Binoy was taken to home in Nellippara, Idukki for the first part of the funeral rites on 25 December, 2024. The first part of the funeral liturgy was officiated by bishop Mar John

Nellikunnel, the bishop of Idukki at 7.30 p.m. On December 26, 2024 the body was brought to *Aaraam* on Deepti Mount at 8.30 am and then the body was kept at MST Generalate auditorium for public viewing. The second part of the funeral liturgy was officiated by Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop, at 1.30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana.



Mar Joseph Kallarangattu prayed the Office for the dead. The final part of the funeral rites was presided over by the Director General, Fr Vinson Joseph.

The untimely and unexpected illness and consequent demise of Fr



Binoy Thazhathuveetil was literally a shock for all the members of the Society. Fr Binoy, however, accepted his sickness as God's will wholeheartedly. He completely entrusted himself to the providence of God with joy. He was a

calm and silent hard worker and carried out his responsibilities meticulously well. He mastered German language very fast and secured his driving license in the first instance. He was very good at playing Thabala and was sound engineer. He also served the communities with his expertise in electrical work.

The MST is thankful to the Lord for the gift of Fr Binoy and bows before His will and entrust Fr Binoy back into the Hands of the Lord whom he served faithfully as a priest for the past two decades. We recommend him to the mercy of the Lord.

The Seventh Day of Fr Binoy was commemorated at Deepti Generalate on December 31, 2024. Fr Vinson Joseph K, the DG, Fr Lonappan Arangassery, Fr Kochettonnil and Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy concelebrated at the Qurbana on the day, followed by the Office for the dead in the cemetery and special prayers at the Generalate.

Fr Lonappan Arangassery SG

2. Rev. Fr Zacharias Thudippara (1940-2025)

Rev. Fr Zacharias (Scaria) Thudippara (85), MST belonging to St Paul Region, Ujjain, was called for his eternal reward at around 8.00 a.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam.

Rev. Fr Zacharias Thudippara was born to Chacko Pazhethudippara and Mariam Azhakath on February 13, 1940 at Bharananganam as

the 5th child and was baptised on 19/02/1940. The siblings are: Joseph, Mathew (Mani), Chacko, Sr Teresia and Mary. He had



his school education in Bharananganam and passed SSLC in 1957. He joined the Good Shepherd Minor Seminary in 1957 and passed PUC in 1958. He had his Major seminary formation (Philosophy at St Joseph's Seminary, Carmelgiri and theology at Mangalapuzha) from 1959 to 1966.

Sacred Orders and Early Appointments

FrThudippara received the orders of Karoyusa in 1963 and Heupadyaknusa in 1964 at Alwaye from Mar Sebastian Vayalil. He was conferred the Order of *M'samsanusa* by Archbishop Joseph Parekattil in 1966 and was ordained priest for the eparchy of Palai on 12 March, 1966 by Mar Sebastian Vayalil. After priestly ordination he was appointed Assistant vicar at Vakakad in 1966, at Kozhuvanal in 1968 and at Aruvithura in 1969. In 1970, he was appointed Joint Director of Vocation Bureau and Catechism. He was appointed Catechism Director of the diocese of Palai in 1972.

Higher Studies

He secured a diploma in Psychology from East Asian Pastoral Institute, Manila, Philippines in 1969 and attended a Counselling course at Christian Counselling Centre, Vellore in 1972. He was sent for higher studies in Rome in September 1978. He did Licentiate and doctorate in theology and defended his doctoral thesis in theology on: *Evangelisation among the low Caste people in Madhya Pradesh* on March 5, 1983 from the University of St Thomas Aquinas (*Angelicum*), Rome. He returned to India in 1983.

Pioneer Member of the MST and Apostolate

Rev. Fr Zacharias Thudippara is one of the pioneer members of the MST and made his first promise of Incorporation into the MST with others in 1968. Fr Zacharias started his life as an active missionary in 1973 in the exarchate of Ujjain, the first mission Region entrusted to the MST. In Ujjain, he was first appointed the priest-

in-charge of the Mission Station at Rajgarh in 1973. In 1977, he was appointed acting Vicar General and Director of Catechism in the eparchy of Ujjain. It was during this period the first phase of the ground floor of the Catechetical Centre (CC) of the eparchy of Ujjain was constructed.

After returning from Rome in 1983, he was appointed the Regional Director of St Paul Region, Ujjain (1983-1988). While he was the Regional Director, he was also appointed teacher and formator at Khrist Premalaya Theologate at Ashta, Sehore, M.P during the academic year 1983-1984. He was appointed the Director of the Missionary Orientation Centre (MOC), Jeevan Jyothi Bhavan at Kamed, Ujjain on July 15, 1984. When he was relieved from the MOC in 1986, he was appointed the Director of the Catholic Dialogue and Information Centre, Ujjain as well as Director of Catechetical works in the diocese of Ujjain with effect from May 20, 1986.

On December 31, 1987 he was given additional charge of the Navada Mission Station till September 10, 1988. Fr Zacharias was relieved of the office of the Regional Director on June 10, 1988. On April 20, 1989, the then Director General appointed him to make a study of the missionary methods and prospective mission areas in Assam-Manipur area in the North East for Mission work and he was relieved by the Bishop of Ujjain on June 1, 1989 for one year for this study at the request of the Director General.

Pastoral Ministry in Germany

Fr Zacharias was sent to Germany for pastoral ministry in January 1991 at the request of the Diocese of Regensburg. In the beginning, he served as Pfarr Administrator at Leonberg (Kath.Pfarramt 8596 Leonberg) and at Batzenhoffen in Augsburg. He served in Germany as pastor in the dioceses of Regensburg, Augsburg, Wuerzburg and Hamburg. Fr Zacharias Thudippara was appointed the first Director of St Thomas Institute and the MST house at Batzenhoffen in the diocese of Augsburg on October 22, 1992. He was parish priest in the diocese of Augsburg in the parish of the Twelve Apostles from

1993 to 1996. On March 12, 1996, Fr Zacharias was granted permission by the Society to do pastoral ministry in the diocese of Wuerzburg for three years till November 1999. After returning from Germany his service was made available to Divine Retreat Centre at Muringoor from Feb.1, 2000 at the request of Fr Justin Panackal. On November 21, 2000, Fr Zacharias was appointed Director of Prayer Apostolate, at Prarthana Bhavan, Pachore and he was formally relieved from Prarthana Bhavan, Pachore on November 8, 2004.

Fr Zacharias had been actively engaged in the preaching ministry in various parts of the world based in Germany with the permission of the Society. According to Fr Zacharias, he has travelled to 27 countries to preach the gospel and retreats. At the age of 75, he was called back in 2015 and took residence at Aaram priest home. However, at the request of the Centre for “Evangelisation 2000 Haus St Theresia von Lisieux e.V” again he was granted permission on December 26, 2015 to go to Germany to take up preaching ministry from January 1, 2016 for a period of three years. While in Germany he had to undergo treatment for Cardiac problems and other health issues and therefore he had to stay back. He returned to *Aaram* definitively in 2020 during the time of Covid-19 epidemic.

The members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas are very much saddened at the sudden demise of Fr Zacharias Thudippara although he was on the sick bed for a few years. He was an ardent missionary and good retreat preacher especially in Germany for a long period. With his pleasant and welcoming nature he endeared himself to all who came in contact with him. Wherever he served – eparchies of Palai, Ujjain and Germany- he worked hard and was successful and effective. As a pioneer member of the MST and missionary in Ujjain he was fully committed to the *ad gentes* mission of the Society.

While he was in the Vocation Bureau and in charge of the Catechism department of the eparchy of Palai he was instrumental in guiding numerous vocations to priesthood and religious life. The fact, that he was always on demand from German Charismatic groups and

the people who benefitted from his ministry of preaching, counselling and healing, speaks volumes how effective instrument he was in the hands of the Lord. He always, even when he was on bed, made others happy and joyful with his spontaneous jokes and comments.

Funeral Rites

The mortal remains of Rev. Fr Zacharias Thudippara were kept at IHM hospital and the body was brought to *Aaram* on Monday (10/03/2025) at 8.00 am and thereafter



the body was kept for public viewing at 8.30 am in the open auditorium of the MST Generalate. Cardinal Mar George Alanchery prayed the Office for the dead



in the forenoon. The second part of the funeral rites was presided over by the Director General concelebrated by

Regional Directors, the priests and religious family people and MST community. The Holy Qurbana that followed was presided over by Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the Bishop of Ujjain. The third part of the funeral service was presided over by



Mar Joseph Kallarangattu and the body was interred in the cemetery on Deepti Mount.

Let us thank the Lord and bow before His will and entrust Fr Zacharias Thudipara into the

hands of the Lord whom he served faithfully as a priest for the past 59 years.

Fr Lonappan Arangassery, SG, MST

3. Rev. Fr Jose Kochuparackal MST (1952-2025)

Rev. Fr Joy (Joseph) Kochuparackal 1952-2025) MST belonging to St Thomas Mission Region, Mandya, is called for his eternal reward at around 5.20 a.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Nirmala Hospital, Marykunnu, Kozhikode.



Fr Joy was born to Kurian Kochuparackal and Annakutty Kuzhumbil on May 15, 1952 at Kurinji in the eparchy of Palai as the second child with the siblings Augustine, Mathew and Alice. After SSLC, he joined Good Shepherd Minor Seminary, Palai (1968-1970) for the MST. He did his philosophical studies at St Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Carmelgiri (1970-1973), Regency at Vikas Maîtri, Kotra, Eparchy of Ujjain, MP (1973-1974) and theology at St Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha (1974-1978). He was ordained deacon by Mar Joseph Powathil on March 17, 1977 and ordained priest on 12 March 1978 by Mar John Perumattam at Puthuppady. Fr Joy made perpetual promise of Incorporation into the Society on February 24, 1979.

Higher Studies and Missionary Apostolate

Fr Joy passed Intermediate from *Vikram* University in 1974, BA from Kerala University in 1983, LLB from Mysore University (1990) and MA in English from Osmania University, Hyderabad in 1992. He has several National and International certificates to his credit.

After priestly Ordination in 1978, Fr Joy served the People of God all over the world in various capacities such as Assistant Priest at Little Flower Church, N.R. Pura (1978-1979), St Sebastian's Church, Kottiyoor (1979-1980), and priest in charge at Puthurvayal-Gudallur (1981-1984). In 1984 he went to his Mission Region in Mandya and was appointed priest in Charge and director of Vimalalaya, Guthalu, Mandya (1984-1986). From 1986-1991 he was Director of Social Work of St Thomas Region, Mandya. From

1991-1994 he served as the Director of Community Health Department of Catholic Hospital Association of India (CHAI), Secundarabad. In 1994 he was appointed the HOD of the Medico-legal Cell and Action, CHAI, Secundarabad.

A Missionary beyond Boundaries

From 1994 October to 2000, with the concurrence of Vatican Secretariat of State, he was appointed the International Chaplain to FIMARC: International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements, which has its headquarters in Belgium. After his term of office in FIMARC, he took a decennial break from 28/11/2000-30/11/2001. During break he served at Infant Jesus Church, Port Jefferson, Long Island USA till February 2002.

When he was appointed the priest in charge of St Joseph's Church, Varakkad (May 10, 2003-May 10, 2008) he constructed a new church at Varakkad. While he was in Varakkad, he became aware of the need of the farmers and their struggles. The rich experiences he gained from FIMARC enabled him to organise the farmers in the parish and northern Kerala. In 2004, he succeeded in organising the farmers under the banner of nationally acclaimed *Fair Trade Alliance Kerala* (FTAK). He continued to serve as its Promoter till his death.

Fr Joy was transferred to St Thomas Church, Vijayapuram, (Asankavala), Kannur as parish priest from May 10, 2008 to May 14, 2011. Later he was appointed resident priest at Santhome Bible Centre, Pariyaram on May 14, 2011. On September 12, 2016, he was appointed the Chairman of the committee formed to coordinate the Ayurveda hospital Project of the MST: *Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Health Care Centre*, Bamberde, Mulas, MS. He was appointed Director, Santhome *Ayurvedic Arogya Kendra*, Bedshi, MS on October 1, 2017 and he continued in this office till his death on March 15, 2025.

Illness and Treatments to Fr Joy

Fr. Joy Kochuparackal suffered a fall at Santhome MST House, Pariyaram, on the night of September 9, 2024. On the 10th he was

taken to Fr Muller's Hospital, Mangalore, for treatment by Fr James Marottikudy and Fr Tony Ramachanattu with the help of family members. After initial examinations, doctors diagnosed a minor brain haemorrhage along with complications in his liver, lungs, and prostate. He was admitted under the care of psychiatric specialist, with close monitoring by a neurosurgeon. Following the initial treatment, he was transferred to the Neuro-Surgical Department for further management of his brain injury and other health concerns.

After two weeks of treatment, Fr. Joy was discharged on September 24, 2024, and taken back to Santhome, Pariyaram for rest and recovery. However, as he resisted medical advice and rehabilitation efforts, he was moved to Deepti Bhavan on September 26, 2024. He exhibited unstable blood sugar levels, balance issues, speech difficulties, and withdrawal symptoms. Consequently on October 3, 2024, he was taken to *Mar Sleevea* Medicity Hospital, Pala, where treatment began under the psychiatric department alongside continued neuro-surgical care. A physician also attended to his multiple health concerns, revealed through a whole-body MRI scan. Further investigations showed brain shrinkage and unresolved bleeding, necessitating on-going treatment. Meanwhile, consultations were held with Dr Pradeep Kottam of Rajagiri Hospital and Dr Joseph Sebastian of Caritas Hospital for a second opinion on further treatment options. After reviewing his reports and the condition, they recommended continuance of treatment at Medicity and suggested palliative care. On October 19, 2024, he was administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick by the Director General. After exhausting all available treatment options, he was discharged on October 26, 2024, and transferred to Marygiri Hospital, Bharananganam for palliative care. At Marygiri Hospital, Fr. Joy received palliative care and physiotherapy for several weeks to aid his recovery. He was transferred to Aaram on November 14, 2024, where fathers and staff assisted in his rehabilitation.

Last Days of Fr Joy

After consulting the doctors, he was shifted to Mar Vayalil Medical

Centre, Moolamattam on December 7, 2024, for continued therapy and treatment. Since there was no significant improvement in his health at Moolamattam, at the suggestion of a neurosurgeon at Nirmala Hospital, Marykunnu, Kozhikode, and respecting the interest of Fr Sebastian Kizhakeyil and the family members, Fr. Joy was shifted to Nirmala Hospital, Marykunnu on February 26, 2025. Fr Joy experienced respiratory distress on March 14, night and he was moved to the ICU for intensive care. Early morning on March 15, 2025, at 4.30 there was sudden bradycardia and CPR was initiated. In spite of all the efforts, Fr Joy Kochuparackal was declared dead due to cardiac arrest at 5:20 am.

Funeral and Last Rites

The mortal remains of Rev. Fr Joy Kochuparackal were kept at IHM hospital and the body was brought to *Aaram* on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 8.00 am. The body was placed for public viewing



at 8.30 am in the open auditorium at the MST Generalate. The funeral service started at 1.30 pm followed by Holy Qurbana and burial at the cemetery on Deepti Mount. The Society

remembers with gratitude Cardinal Mar George Alencherry and Mar Joseph Kallarangattu (Palai) who came to Deepti and prayed the office for the dead and Mar James Athikalam who presided over Holy Qurbana. The MST place on record its gratitude to delegates from CHAI and *Fair Trade Alliance Kerala* and people from various walks of life who came to Deepti to bid farewell to and pray for Fr Joy.



The entire MST family is saddened by the demise of Rev. Fr Joy Kochuparackal who was an exemplary philanthropist and Good Samaritan for all those who were in need irrespective of caste, creed and religion. When he was parish priest in Puthurvayal-Gudallur, he was actively involved in the people's movement giving them leadership against extradition (Kudiyirakku) from Gudalloor area. The people who benefitted from his leadership in their struggles are still indebted to him and remember him with love and gratitude. He had been working all throughout his priestly ministry



for the poor and the needy. He worked on various projects to help the Society, the various religious congregations and the cause of the people around. The experiences he gained from FIMARC and his exposures as its chaplain to the farmers of numerous countries round the world helped him a lot in this ministry.

The members of the Society see in Fr Joy the compassionate Christ. His services are very much appreciated by the people whom he has helped to stand on their own legs. The MST was very close to his heart. His correspondences with the Society bear ample witness to his love for and commitment to the Society. The fact, that he was always on demand from the farmers of northern Kerala, indicate how much they loved him.

The 11th day commemoration was held on March 25, 2025 at the Generalate after Holy Qurbana in the public chapel and office for the dead at the cemetery.

We thank the Lord for the gift of Fr Jose to us and bow before His Holy Will and entrust him into the hands of the Lord whom he served faithfully as a priest for the past 47 years.

Fr Lonappan Arangassery, SG MST

4. Rev. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam MST

Rev. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam MST, former Director General (1978-1988) of the MS, belonging to St Paul Mission Region, Ujjain, was called for his eternal reward at 7.15 am on Thursday April 10, 2025 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam.



Fr Kurian Valiamangalam was born to Kurian and Mariam on March 20, 1935 at Kalathookadavu as the 3rd child, and was baptised at Plassanal on March 25, 1935. The siblings are: Varkey (late), Fr Joseph, Mathai (late) and Annakutty. He had his primary and middle school education at Edamaruku, and secondary education (SSLC) at Plassanal (1953) and intermediate from St Thomas College Palai in 1955.

Ecclesiastical Studies and Sacred Orders

Fr Kurian joined the Good Shepherd Minor Seminary in 1955 and he had his major seminary formation with Philosophy between 1957-1960 and theology studies, between 1960-1964, at Sacred Heart Seminary of the Salesians, in Poonamalee, Madras (Chennai). He received the minor orders and diaconate at Sacred Heart Seminary and he was ordained a priest for the eparchy of Palai on March 3, 1964 at Bharananganam from Mar Sebastian Vayalil, the first bishop of Palai and the founder of the MST.

Early Appointments and Higher Studies

After the priestly ordination, Fr Kurian Valiamangalam was first appointed as Assistant Parish priest at Cherpunkal from 1964 to 1966. After securing BA and MA in Indian Philosophy (1966-1970) he was appointed vicar at St Gregorios Church, Kizhappazhayar from 1970 to 1971. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam did his graduation (BA) at Christian College, Lucknow (1966-1968) and secured Masters in Indian Philosophy in 1970 and Ph. D in Comparative religion in 1977 from Benares Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, U. P. He secured a certificate in Sanskrit studies from Ujjain during 1971 to 1973.

Pioneer Member of the MST & Apostolate

Rev. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam is one of the first 16 pioneer members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle who made the first promise of Incorporation into the Missionary Society on July 16, 1968. As one of the pioneer members of the MST, Fr Kurian Valiamangalam started his life as an active missionary in 1971 in the exarchate of Ujjain, the first mission Region entrusted to the MST by the Holy See. In the Exarchate of Ujjain, he was appointed the vicar Holy Trinity Church on Dewas Road, Ujjain (1971-1973). Fr Kurian returned to Ujjain from Varanasi after securing Ph. D. in Comparative religion in 1977. He was then appointed Spiritual Father and Procurator at Vikas Maitri, the Missionary Orientation Centre at Kotra in the eparchy of Ujjain for the women Religious who were new to the north Indian Mission.

Director General of MST

In the General Assembly held from July 11-13, 1978, Fr Kurian Valiamangalam was elected the third Director General of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle for the next five years from 1978-1983. In 1978, he also held for some time the office of the Rector of the Minor seminary until Fr Joseph Maliparampil was appointed Rector in December 1978.

Fr Kurian was a great missionary with a vision and the mission in Mandya was launched on September 22, 1978. A formal agreement was signed on Oct 19, 1980 between the Eparch of Mananthawady and the Director General of the MST regarding the apostolate of the Society in Mandya. During the Quinquennial General Assembly held from May 19 to 25, 1983, Fr Kurian Valiamangalam was re-elected as the Director General of the MST (1983-1988).

Fr Kurian was very much aware of the importance and need of the ecclesial formation of the Syro-Malabar faithful outside Kerala and the obligation of the Society to look after the less organised Syro-Malabar Catholic migrants. The Missionary Society was entrusted by the SMBC with the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar migrants through Syro-Malabar Chaplaincy in the then diocese of Pune. Fr

Kurian Valiamangalam sent Fr George Kavukattu and Fr Lonappan Arangassery to Pune on June 9, 1984 as pioneer chaplains to be appointed by the Bishop of Pune.

Fr Kurian Valiamangalam, during the second term of his office as the Director General, started the process to realise the statutory vision and obligation of the MST to have its own Major Seminary. Although the Oriental Congregation denied permission to start its own philosophy advising to start a study house, Fr Kurian Valiamangalam, who initiated the process of starting the MST Major seminary, convinced the Oriental Congregation in person and secured permission in 1984. With the approval of the Dicastery for the Oriental Churches, Ruhalya Philosophy seminary was inaugurated on July 3, 1986 with Fr Thomas Parayady as its first Rector at Kamed village on the Ujjain-Agar Road, after shifting the MOC temporarily to Rajgarh and permanently to Srirangapatna, Mandya.

Back to the Mission

When his second term of office as the Director General was over, Fr Kurian returned to Ujjain. He always loved to be in the mission and with the people. He initiated in a humble way *Ashram* life with the support of two other like-minded MST priests: Fr Francis Kandathil and Fr Joseph Karikilamthadam. They started *Ashram* life at Bachukheda naming it: *Jai Sleevea Ashram*. Fr Kurian practically remained a missionary at *Jai Sleevea Ashram*, Bachukheda leading a very simple and austere life till 2005. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam was relieved of his responsibilities as the priest in charge from *Jai Sleevea Ashram*, Bachukheda, with effect from 26th September 2005.

At the request of Fr Xavier Koodapuzha, the superior of *Mar Thoma Sreeha* Monastery, Nallathanny, Fr Kurian Valiamangalam was sent there to serve as Spiritual Father for one year with effect from October 1, 2005. On his return to Ujjain after one year, he was appointed the Director of Catholic Information Centre, Ujjain. He was relieved of the responsibility as the Director of Catholic Information Centre, Ujjain on 27th June, 2007.

Thereafter, he was appointed professor and Spiritual Director at *Jeevan Jyothi*, the Missionary Orientation Centre of MST on July 1, 2007. In 2010, when he returned to Ujjain, he was appointed visiting Spiritual Father in the Theology section of Ruhahaya Major Seminary on November 8, 2010 till the end of the academic year. In 2011, when Fr Kurian reached the age of retirement, he withdrew from active ministry and came to *Aaram*. However, he continued to render pastoral service in the neighbourhood parishes whenever needed.

As a true missionary and member of the MST he was fully committed to the *ad gentes* mission of the Society. He was an ardent, simple, austere missionary and one who preached the gospel through life witness. He spent most of his missionary life at *Jai Sleeva Ashram*, Bachukheda with the limited facilities, spending his life in prayer, sacrifices, village visits, education of children and agriculture. He was a man of strong convictions about his priestly, missionary and ecclesial identity and he lived up to his convictions foregoing the allurements of the world. He was truly a *vir ecclesiasticus*: an ecclesial person who always stood for the cause of the mother Church and who appropriated the dictum: *sentire cum ecclesiae* totally committed and obedient to the ecclesiastical authorities. Although he himself lived a very austere life, he was tolerant of other's views, convictions and life style. With his calm and pleasant and welcoming nature, he endeared himself to all who came in contact with him and commanded their respect. He was a scholar in Indian Philosophy and Indian Scriptures and was visiting professor of theology and philosophy in various institutes.

Last Days of Fr Kurian

Fr Kurian was affected by COVID-19 pandemic and his health deteriorated during the post Covid period. He had to be admitted in various hospitals, particularly in Mar Sleeva Medicity, Palai and IHM hospital at Bharananganam for multiple health issues. In the beginning of 2022 he was admitted in the palliative care unit of Mar Kavukattu

Memorial Hospital, Pravithanam. As there was no significant improvement, he was brought back to *Aaram* in November 2022. Since then, he was looked after and nursed at *Aaram*. However, his health condition did not improve significantly. Finally he slept in the Lord on April 10, 2025 at 7.15 am in IHM hospital, Bharananganam. We, the members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas are very much saddened at the demise of Fr Kurian Valiamangalam although he was bedridden after the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Funeral and Last Rites

The mortal remains of Rev. Fr Kurian Valiamangalam were kept at IHM hospital and the body was brought to St Maria Vianney parish, Kalathookadavu for the first part of the funeral service on Saturday (12/04/2025) at 6.30. The body was brought to *Aaram* at 8.00 am. Thereafter, the body was kept for public viewing in the open auditorium at the MST Generalate. Mar Joseph Perumthotam, Archbishop emeritus of Changanacherry prayed the office for the dead and paid respects to Fr Kurian at 10.30 am. Fr Lonappan Arangassery, the Secretary General read the condolence message of the Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil at 1.20 pm.



The second part of the funeral service was celebrated by Cardinal George Alencherry at 1.30 pm. The Holy Qurbana that followed was presided over by Mar James Athikalam concelebrated by Mar Joseph Kallarangattu, Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the director General, Fr Jose



Valiamangalam and priests, religious, family members and people present. The final phase of the funeral service was presided over by Mar Sebastian Vadakel

followed by burial service presided over by the Director General in the cemetery on Deepti Mount.

The seventh day commemoration was held on April 16, 2025 at the Generalate after Holy Qurbana in the public chapel and office for the dead at the cemetery.



Let us thank the Lord and bow before His will and entrust Fr Kurian Valiamangalam into the hands of the Lord whom he served faithfully as a priest for the past 61 years.

Fr Lonappan Arangassery, SG, MST

NECROLOGY

- 26-12-2024: V.V. Joseph Vadayaparampil (60) the paternal uncle of Fr Bibin Vadayaparampil
- 26-12-2024: Fr Thomas Vembala CMI (90) the maternal uncle of Fr Michael Puthenpura
- 29-12-2024: Sr Anny Mary Kadalikattilputhenpura CMC the paternal aunt of Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
- 11-01-2025: Mrs Thressiamma Maliekal the mother of Fr Hubby Maliekal
- 22-01-2025: Mrs Brigeetha (80) the sister of Fr Paul Pulimalayil
- 23-01-2025: Mrs Annamma Devasia Kochalummootil the maternal aunt of Fr Thomas Thaikoottam
- 30-01-2025: Jince Joseph (36) the Younger brother of Fr Joshi Areeplackal

- 13-02-2025: Sr Stephanie CJ (87) the sister of Fr Kannanickal Thomas
- 22-02-2025: Fr Joseph Chirayath the cousin of Fr Joseph Vadakechirayath
- 25-02-2025: Mr Siby Joseph Mookkenthottam (55) the Brother of Fr Kurian Mookkenthottam
- 25-02-2025: Mr Devassykutty (80) the eldest brother of Fr Shaijan Koonamparambath
- 02-03-2025: Mrs Chinnamma Vazhavelil the sister of Fr Kurian Ammanathukunnel
- 03-03-2025: Mr Simon P.A. (81) the maternal grandfather of Fr Simon Paruthickal
- 06-03-2025: Ms Manumol Joseph Chithrakunnel (39) cousin of Fr Veenus Karamullil
- 06-03-2025: Mrs Margaritha Inasu (78) the cousin of Fr Lonappan Arangassery
- 10-03-2025: Mr Joseph A.M. Aranjanal uncle of Fr Jose Aranjanal
- 11-03-2025: Sr Libi Maria (62) the cousin of Fr Manu Nattunilath
- 12-03-2025: Mr John Mathew Kaithottumkal Eldest brother of Fr Antony Kaithottumkal and Uncle of Fr Justin Kaithottumkal
- 18-03-2025: Mariyamma Thekkal (95) Maternal Grandmother of Fr Baiju Nellikunnel
- 21-03-2025: Fr Prakash Kizhakkarakatt the brother of Fr John Kizhakkarakatt
- 26-03-2025: Mrs Annakkutty Jose (70) the aunty of Fr Jithin Velloor
- 08-04-2025: Thressiamma Champakara (59) Sister in law of Fr Francis Champakara
- 09-04-2025: T.T Sebastian (95) Maternal Grandfather of Fr Ashish Keeranchira
- 16-04-2025: Fr Thomas Ayila the cousin of Fr Antony Cheeramvelil

APPENDICES

CIRCULAR XI-11 Jan 17 2025

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

Circular XI/11/2023-2028

January 17, 2025

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and brothers,

Warmest Jubilee Year greetings from the MST Generalate!

1. Ruhailaya Institute of Theology

The MST is proud to announce that Ruhailaya College of theology, affiliated to Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies, Vadavathoor, Kottayam, is raised to the status of an *Institute of Theology* on Oct 1, 2024. It was formally declared by His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil, the Major Archbishop and Chancellor of Ruhailaya, on January 16, 2025 at 6.30 pm during the function organized at the Theology Institute, in the presence of Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the bishop of Ujjain, Rev. Fr Pauly Maniyattu, the President of the Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies, Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General and Moderator of the Institute of Theology, other dignitaries, honourable guests, as well as the staff and students of Ruhailaya. Congratulations and thanks to the Rector, Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, Fr John Kudiyiruppi, who is appointed the first Director of the Institute of Theology and all the members of the resident and visiting faculty who have greatly contributed to this great achievement and recognition. The Society remembers with gratitude and is very much indebted to all the former Rectors, Deans of Studies, and the members of the staff who served Ruhailaya College of Theology with selfless love and unflinching dedication. Let us hope, that the Director and the members of the staff as well as the students will work hard with one mind and heart to lead the Institute of Theology to new heights of academic excellence.

2. Regional Assignments of New Priests

Congratulations and best wishes to our New Priests and welcome to MST priestly *Koinonia*. As per *Constitutions and Directives*, C70.2 the new priests are assigned to the following Regions.

Name	Ordination	Region
Fr Sebastian (Abin) Kanjirathamkunel	28/12/2024	Ujjain, St Paul
Fr Chacko (Amal) Makkiyil	04/01/2025	Ujjain, St Paul
Fr Michael Vettukalle	02/01/2025	Mandya, St Thomas
Fr Mathew (Gintumon) Velloor	01/01/2025	Sangli, St Alphonsa
Fr Simon (Binil) Paruthickal	01/01/2025	Sangli, St Alphonsa
Fr Joseph (Ajith) Thadathil	27/12/2024	Delhi, Mary Queen of Missions
Fr Joseph Vembenickal	30/12/2024	Delhi, Mary Queen of Missions

3. Current status of priests assigned to the MST Regions

Ujjain-St Paul	Mandya-St Thomas	Sangli-St Alphonsa	Delhi- Mary Queen of Missions	Total
121	115	120	40	396

4. Perpetual Promise of Incorporation

Rev. Kavunnukattil Joseph, Kottavila Blesson Francis, Pengattu George (Amal Chacko), Mannarath Sebastian (Akhil Jose), Pullolil Joseph (Tom Dominic) and Puthenpurackal Thomas (Siby) made the perpetual Promise of Incorporation into the Society prior to receiving the Sacred Order of *M'Samsama* (Diaconate) on 19th December, 2024.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr Vinson Joseph (Vinson K)
Director General MST

Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General MST

Mob. Director General: +91-9447737753; Secretary General: +91-8848316850
Website: mstworld.org; Email: mstgeneralate@gmail.com

CIRCULAR XI-12 February 2025



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

CIRCULAR XI/12/2023-2028

February 15, 2025

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

Warmest Foundation Day and Jubilee Year greetings from the MST Generalate!

1. Foundation Day 2025

The MST Foundation Day is at our door steps. The MST can be proud of 57 years of her meaningful existence. In tune with the spirit of the Constitutions, you are exhorted to celebrate the Foundation Day meaningfully giving due importance. I wish you all the greetings of the Foundation Day and invoke God's blessing in abundance on the Society and her Missions.

2. Fr Thuruthel Memorial Scholarship

It is a matter of great joy that two scholarships have been instituted in memory of late Fr Sebastian Thuruthel, one by the MST and the other by the students of the First Batch (1969-70) of Deepti Minor Seminary.

- ❖ Fr Sebastian Thuruthel has set apart a Bursary to institute scholarships for the students of Deepti Minor seminary. As per his wish, one student, from all the three batches, who score the highest total marks in the examinations held during the year will be given a cash award every year.
- ❖ The students of the first batch (1969-1970) of Deepti Minor seminary, both ordained priests and those who discontinued, expressed their desire to cherish the memory of their Rector, Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel. Accordingly, they have instituted a Bursary in his memory to: 1) sponsor a theology student for priesthood continually and 2) give cash awards to three MST theologians who score the highest aggregate of marks for the B.Th. examinations.

The Society is very grateful to all the students of the first batch of Deepti Minor Seminary, especially to Mr Cherian Karinthakara for his initiative in this regard.

3. New Leader for African Mission

There was an online meeting of the African missionaries with the members of the General Administration on 10th February, 2025 at 6.00 p.m. The missionaries in Tanzania shared their views and concerns regarding the Mission with the Administration as well as shared matters related to the Society and the Members. Rev.Fr Kizhakkekureethadathil Joseph (Shaiju) was proposed as the leader of the Missionaries working in Tanzania and it was confirmed by the Director General with the consent of the Council. The Society is very much indebted to Rev.Fr Varghese (Biju) Pullappillil who had been heading the missionaries in Tanzania for the last 12 years.

4. On-going Programmes

The following on-going programmes are organised for the members of the Missionary Society in the months listed below. You may please save the dates of the programmes and attend the respective meeting without fail if you are expected to participate. The list of the participants for the inter-regional meetings will be communicated at the earliest.

Date	Ongoing Programme	Venue
May 12-16, 2025	Senior Priests' Meet (1964 to 1982-83)	Generalate
August 26-29, 2025	Inter-regional meeting	Mandya
September 23-26, 2025	Inter-regional meeting	Ujjain
September 30-October 3, 2025	Young Priests' Meet	Generalate

Mob. Director General: +91-9447737753; Secretary General: +91-8848316850
Website: mstworld.org; Email: mstgeneralate@gmail.com



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

October	21-24, 2025	Inter-regional meeting	Delhi
October	28-31, 2025	Batchwise Meet (1999-00 to 2009-10)	Generalate
February	03-06, 2026	Inter-regional meeting	Sangli
May	05-08, 2026	Inter-regional Meeting	Generalate

5. The First Appointment of MST New Priests

The new priests are sent to various dioceses for four months from February 1 to May 31, 2025, for gaining pastoral experience.

Name	Place
Fr Chacko (Amal) Makkiyil	Assistant Parish priest from 30-01-2025 at St Joseph's Church, Poovathussery, Eparchy of Irinjalakuda
Fr Joseph (Ajith) Thadathil	Assistant Parish priest from 30-01-2025 at Little Flower Church, Potta, 680 307, Eparchy of Irinjalakuda
Fr Sebastian (Abin) Kanjirathamkunnel	Assistant Parish priest from 01-02-2025 at St Xaviers Church, Chemmanar, Eparchy of Idukki
Fr Mathew (Gintumon) Velloor	Assistant Parish priest from 01-02-2025 at St George Forane Church, Vellayamkudy, Eparchy of Idukki
Fr Simon (Binil) Paruthickal	Assistant Parish priest from 01-02-2025 at Christ the King Forane Church, Rajakkad, Eparchy of Idukki
Fr Joseph Vembenickal	Assistant Parish priest from 13-02-2025 at St George Forane Church Edathua, Archeparchy of Changanachery
Fr Michael Vettukallel	Assistant Parish priest from 13-02-2025 at Mar Sleeva Forane Church, Alapuzha, Archeparchy of Changanachery

6. Vocation Promotion

The Church in general and the MST in particular, is facing shortage of vocations in an alarming manner. Pope Francis said on Jan. 16, 2014: "No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35)". Of all the ways we can work toward the increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, prayer is undoubtedly the most essential. Jesus exhorts us "to beg the master of the harvest to send labourers into the vineyard." (Mt 9:38). The MST Constitutions and Directives, clearly envisages that promoting vocations is one of the primary duties of every member of the Society (C34). Therefore I request you to do everything possible to promote vocations to the MST from your home parishes and contacts in the coming days.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr Vinson Joseph
Director General MST



Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General MST

Mob. Director General: +91-9447737753; Secretary General: +91-8848316850
Website: mstworld.org; Email: mstgeneralate@gmail.com



New Priests' Day



Thankyou Pope Francis

17/12/1936- 21/04/2025



Lord almighty God, Yours is the Holy Catholic Church, the flock redeemed through the passion and suffering of your anointed son. We thank you for the gift of Pope Francis to the Church. Grant that your departed servant Pope Francis, whom you made successor of Peter and shepherd of your Church, may happily enjoy forever in your presence in heaven the mysteries of your grace and compassion, which he faithfully ministered on earth. Lord of all for ever, Amen. RIP

**Fr Lonappan Arangassery, Chief Editor
MST World, Melampara P. O. Bharananganam
686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala. Mob: 0091-8848316850**

(For Private Circulation only)