



Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay faithful,



'Doubting Thomas'?

At the beginning of this month, we celebrate the feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle of India. Indeed, we are proud and blessed to have one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ as our patron and the first Sower of the seed of faith in our nation. In fact, his life and ministry are termed as a great 'Saga of Faith' (S. J. Anthonysamy, *A Saga of Faith*). We see him close to Jesus, as found in the Gospel of John (11:16; 20:24; 21:2) and the apocryphal book: *Acts of Thomas* speaks of Jesus as the twin of Thomas, thus explaining his surname: *Didymus*. Of course, the very name Thomas in Aramaic, *te'oma* means 'twin.' However, considering his experience with the Risen Lord (Jn 20:24-29), Christian

tradition remembers him as '*doubting Thomas*' and strangely enough, he has become synonymous with anyone who lives with doubts. Does he deserve this 'negative' title? What is its significance for us?

Did St. Thomas Doubt?

If one reads the account of John's Gospel, Thomas tells the other Apostles: "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe," (Jn 20:25) one would surely call Thomas the "*doubting Thomas*." This has become very popular in the Christian tradition also. But analysing the character of Thomas as depicted by John we see that Thomas was sincerely pledged to His master. While his disciples were reluctant to accompany his journey to Bethany, near Jerusalem, Jesus insisted on going to Bethany and it was Thomas who declared very valiantly: "let us go and die with him" (Jn 11:16). It is not a matter of being impervious, but a deep attachment to Jesus. It was only Thomas who breaks the gloomy silence of the other apostles when Jesus said: "I am going to prepare many dwellings," by saying: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" This brought Jesus' famous statement: "I am the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:5-6). Also, when the Risen Lord showed his side and hands Thomas immediately made his faith-pronounced: "My Lord and My God" (Jn 20:28). When we notice his affective relationship with and deep commitment to Jesus, it is certain that Thomas could not have doubted the Risen Lord. In that case what is the significance of the account of John in which Thomas doubts the Risen Lord?



The Doubt of the other Disciples!

There were other disciples who had doubts about the resurrection of Jesus. When they saw the risen Lord, it is true that they worshipped him, but they too doubted him (Mt 28:17). It was told by Mark that when the disciples heard from Mary Magdalene that Jesus was alive, they would not believe it (cf. Mk 16:11). The same Evangelist mentions that Jesus "upbraided the disciples for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen" (Mk 16:14). The eleven did not believe the witness of the women about the Risen Lord as it "seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them" (Lk 24:11). Even the disciples of Emmaus departed from Jerusalem with a total mood of disappointment about the death of Jesus and doubting the witness of the women (Lk 24:13-24). From the above accounts we can conclude that all

the disciples also doubted the resurrection of Jesus. However, it is only Thomas who becomes the 'doubting Thomas.' Why?

St. Thomas, Epitome of those who Doubt/ed!

People in general talk about the 'doubting Thomas.' But we have to go deeper into the matter. Although all the other apostles deserted Jesus at the garden of Gethsemane, misunderstood and doubted Jesus, Thomas is singled out because he puts his doubt in words. He represents the prevalent sentiments of his time. Also, Raymond Browns points out four examples of faith of the early church in the risen Lord: After having seen the wrappings the Beloved disciple of Jesus believes but had not seen Him. Magdalen sees Jesus but does not recognise. The disciples see Him and believe. Thomas believes after seeing the marvellous aspect of the appearance (*The Gospel according to John, XIII-XXI*). Nevertheless, he makes a total reversal of the sentiments of doubt with his doxological faith-proclamation: "My Lord and My God." He becomes the spoke person for the faith of the Christian community and cause of the beatitude: 'Blessed are those who believe without seeing.'

Indeed, Thomas embodies all of us who stubbornly want to witness miracles before we will believe in him, but God asks us to come to Him in faith. When eyewitnesses to the risen Lord could not be a reality Jesus reminds us through Thomas that we are blessed who believe without physically seeing him. Starting with doubt in scientific inquiry may be valid. But with God and even in our interpersonal relationships, faith/trust is the foundation of a blessed life.

Yours fraternally in Christ,



+ Antonysamy Peter Abir
Bishop of Sultanpet

Bishop's Appointments

Date	Time	Programme	Place
15	10.30 am	CRI Meeting	Palakkad
22	10.00 am	Feast Mass of Mary Magdalene	Karuman
30	08.30 am	Confirmation	Attappallam
31	09.30 am	KCBC ColloquiumPOC,	Ernakulam

On Monday 31st July, the meeting begins with the colloquium at 09.30 am and the colloquium will be concluded at 4pm.

From Vicar General's Desk

Monthly Recollection

Dear Fathers,

Priests' Recollection of this month will be held in Vicariate level. The VFs of respective vicariates may take initiative for the recollection and make sure that all priests participate without fail.

Annual Retreat

The Priests' Annual Retreat of this year will be held from **16 to 20 October 2023**. All the diocesan Priests of our diocese should attend the retreat without any exemptions. Religious priests are also welcome with prior information to the Procurator.

Rev. Msgr. Alese Sundara Raj
Vicar General

From the Procurator's Desk

Medical Help

Sayathurai - 5000/- Kullarayanpalayam - 5000/-

Rev. Fr Antony Xavier Pious
Procurator



AHT & MIGRATION PROGRAMME

SMSSS in collaboration with Caritas India organized an educational support program on 1st June 2023. Seventy migrant students were supported by providing them good quality educational kit. We thank Caritas India for implementing this project in our region.



- As part of AHT & Migration Programme SMSSS has supported 46 migrant women by providing a financial support of Rs.2000 to their Postal bank accounts.
- SMSSS has selected 19 migrant women for livelihood support. The selected members were supported with Rs.10000 for starting their own business.
- SMSSS has organized two awareness programs and rally against drug abuse at St. Francis Xavier VHSS, *Parisakkal* and St. Paul's High School, *Kozhinjampara*. In each program around 50 students were participated.

SAJEEVAM Anti-Drug Campaign:

- A mass awareness program against drug abuse was organized and a street rally also conducted on 26th June 2023 at *Palaniyarpalayam*. Around 150 members has participated in the program.
- A parental monitoring training was conducted for SHG members at *Kanjikode*. Around 30 members has participated.

KOLPING

SMSSS has distributed sanitation loan for 15 members on 14th June 2023. The loan amount is Rs. 15,000 for each person.

The 3rd Kolping anniversary of Moses Kolping group was celebrated on 14th June 2023. All the members of the group have participated in the program.

- SMSSS has organized a leadership training program at *Palaniyarpalayam* on 17th June 2023. 35 members were participated in the program.
- SMSSS has organized a reorientation program at *Menonpara* on 25th June 2023. 25 members were participated in the program.



Rev. Fr. C. Maria Joseph
Director, SMSSS

Catechetical Commission

Catechism Teachers' Training

Catechism Teachers' Training was conducted on 10th June 2023. Teachers who are teaching in 8th to 10th were asked to participate in the training. Fr. Jose Mejo Nedumparambil CP led two sessions for the teachers. After the Lunch Mr. Nirmal Kumar instructed the teachers with regard to the lesson plan which has to be prepared by the teachers

Catechism Directors meeting

Catechism Directors' meeting coordinated by KRLCC took place on 6th June 2023, in our



Matha Church in Malampuzha.

diocese at Bishop's House. All the directors and commission secretaries were present. Fr. Thomas Tharayil appreciated all our arrangement and collaboration. Msgr. Alese Sundara Raj welcomed all the gathered in the name of Bishop and the diocese. The fathers and sisters who came for the meeting, visited St. Antony the hermit's Church in Athupathi and Velankanni



Rev. Fr Benzigar Silvadasan OdeM.,
Secretary, Catechetical Commission

Family Commission

Dear Rev. Fathers,

We are planning to conduct the Marriage Preparation Classes on 29th and 30th in the Month of July. Kindly announce in your Sunday Masses in Advance and inform me the total number of participants before 20 of July.

Rev. Fr. Jesudass
Secretary, Family Commission

Youth Commission News

1. Youth Directors and Animators meeting was conducted on the title "BLAZE TO IGNITE THE FIRE IN YOUTH" on 2nd and 3rd at Aroor, Cochin. From our Diocese Fr. Prabin Soosadimai SDB and S. Francis KCYM Treasurer, participated in this meeting.
2. Youth meeting was conducted at Fathima Matha Church, Kanjikode on 4th and elected new leaders for that youth group. Thanks to Fr. Prince for all the arrangements and we congratulate the new Youth executives.



3. Youth meeting was conducted at Christ the King Church, Sorappara on 11th and elected new leaders for that youth group. Thanks to Fr. Amal Charles for all the arrangements and we congratulate the new Youth executives.



4. KCYM Diocese of Sultanpet Youth leaders conducted St. Thomas more day (patron saint) at Kanakankalam on 18th. On that day we had adoration service, Youth leaders meeting and we elected new executives for St. Theresa Church, Kanakankalam. I thank Fr. Louis Maria Pappu, Sorappara VF for all the arrangements and we congratulate the new Youth executives.



5. KCYM Diocese of Sultanpet Youth members showed our solidarity to Manipur people by lightning candles and prayed for them.
6. KCYM Diocese of Sultanpet Youth members organized World Environment Day by planting plants in few of our Parishes. Palakkad Cathedral Church, Kanjikode Fathima Matha Church, St. James Church Kunnukadu, Christ the King Church Sorappara, St. James Forane Church Mannarkad and

St. Antony's Shrine Athikode. I thank all the parish priests who collaborated with the youth members.

Rev. Fr. Prabin Soosadimai, SDB
Secretary, Youth Commission

KLCA News



1. KLCWA Palakkad Zone Committee was formed on 10 June, 2023, comprising of St. Sebastian's Cathedral Sultanpet, St. Antony's Church Chittur, St. Antony's Church Olavakkode, and Velankanni matha Church Malampuzha.
2. KLCA Palakkad Zone Committee was formed on 11 June, 2023, comprising of St. Sebastian's Cathedral Sultanpet, St. Antony's Church Chittur, St. Antony's Church Olavakkode, and Velankanni matha Church Malampuzha.



Rev. Fr Jose Mejo CP
Director, KLCA

Media Commission



Signis Kerala regional executive meeting was held at, Animation centre, Vellambalam, Trivandrum on 16th June 2023.

Rev. Fr. Vijeesh P. Dennis
Media commission

Laity Commission



Laity commission secretary Mr. Dennis. R and KLCA Member Mr. Antony Robert participated in the Hunger Strike, against Manipur Violence, conducted by KRLCC in Thiruvananthapuram on 26th June 2023.

Mr. R. Dennis,
Secretary, Liturgy commission

BIRTH DAY

5th Fr. Sahaya Raj Vandan
8th Fr. Bipin Varghese
26th Fr. Clint Vincent, OCD

*S.N.L wishes you a
Happy Birth Day*

ORDINATION DAY

17th Fr Michael Raja MSFS

*S.N.L wishes you a Happy
Ordination Day*

FEAST DAY

22nd Fr. A.S. Madalaimuthu
25th Fr. Martin Alukkaputhussery MF

*S.N.L wishes you
a Happy Feast Day*