



# INTERNOS

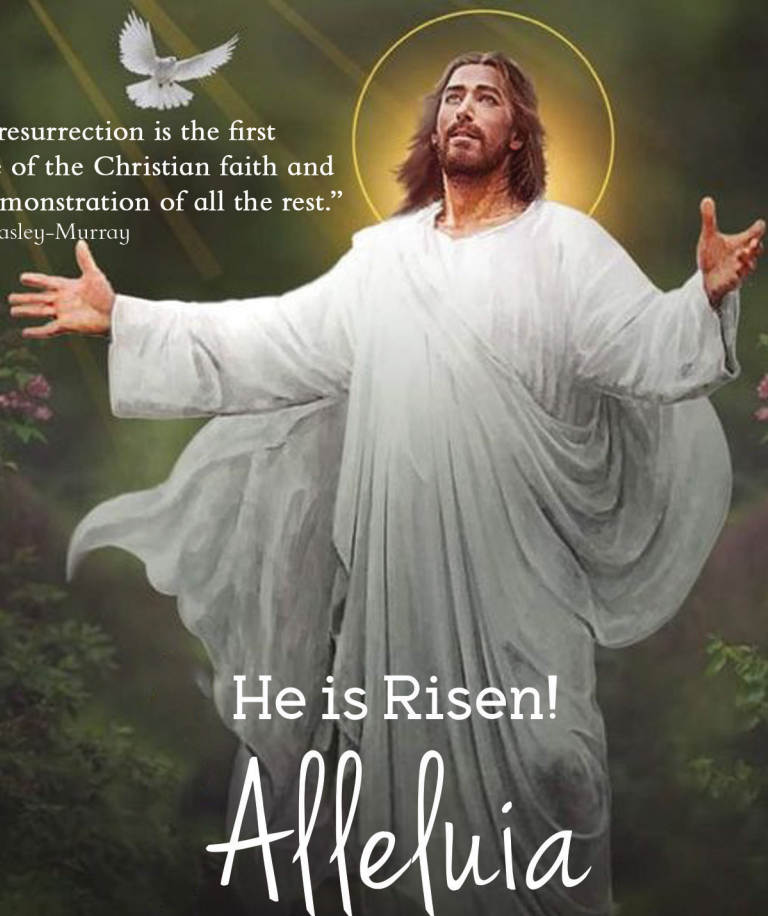
UBI CARITAS ET AMOR IBI DEUS EST



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

MARCH 2024

“The resurrection is the first  
article of the Christian faith and  
the demonstration of all the rest.”  
Paul Beasley-Murray



Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever  
believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live.”  
(John 11:25)



Feast of the Infant Jesus Church, Orr's Hill – 04.02.2024



Annual Retreat of Priests – Monte Fano, Kandy, 4 – 9 February 2024



Meeting with the Lay Members of the Parish – Nilaveli – 11.02.2024



Meeting with the Lay Members of the Parish – Kumpurupity – 11.02.2024



# Bishop's Message



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My dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,  
Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

‘Repent and Believe in the Gospel’ are the words repeated every year leading us into Lenten Season. It is a season given to us to recall our sins, repent and reconcile. It is a season of grace – guiding us to experience God’s benevolent grace and unfathomable love towards us. We have many liturgical activities in our parishes inviting our faithful to pray, meditate and experience God. Parishes also organize pilgrimages to different shrines inside and outside the diocese that help them strengthen their prayer and spiritual life. We are moving with hope towards the great Jubilee Year 2025.

His Holiness Pope Francis wrote to Pro-prefect, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, on February 2022 to entrust the organization of the Jubilee to the Decastery for Evangelization. He mentions: ‘From now on I am happy to think that the year preceding the Jubilee event, 2024, will be dedicated to a great ‘symphony’ of prayer. First of all, to recover the desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to Him and adore Him.’ We are invited to promote the centrality of the individual and community prayer during this year of Prayer 2024. Let us prepare, encourage and promote prayer among all age groups, families and individuals. There is no Christian life without prayer. It is the free, open and easiest way to reach out to God. Jesus teaches us to pray. Holy Spirit promotes us to pray. Pope Francis presented 38 catechesis on Prayer during his audience for 6 May 2020 to 16 June 2021. They are given in ‘Notes on Prayer.’ ‘Teach us to Pray’ is another 75-page book released in preparation for Jubilee 2025. We will make this book available for all priests and religious communities. We may



read, preach, discuss or write on prayer. Yet, unless we as priests and religious spend time on prayer by sitting in front of the Blessed Sacrament we will never be able to convince or guide our faithful towards a life of prayer. Let us earnestly work towards it.

Sri Lankan Church is blessed with two new Bishops. Most Rev. Dr. Don Wimal Siri as the Bishop of Chilaw and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Anton Wyman Croos Bishop elect as the new Bishop of Ratnapura. We congratulate them and wish them good luck in their ministry of Shepherding their flock.

Solemnity of St. Joseph is on 19th March. St Joseph played a unique role in Salvation History. He was given messages through dreams. Discerning the Will of God St. Joseph totally committed himself towards the mission entrusted to him. Catholic Church has many Basilicas, Cathedrals, Churches and Chapels dedicated to St. Joseph. Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop Emeritus celebrates his Patronal Feast. Similarly we have St. Joseph's College, St. Joseph's Convent (AC) and priests, religious and lay faithful having St. Joseph as their patron. We wish all of them a Happy Feast. Ad multos annos!

While Holy Week is very crucial in the life of the Church Chrism Mass celebration on Monday in our Diocese is equally important for us priests. We renew our priestly vows and commit to continue to serve faithfully Jesus our Lord and Master. It is an occasion to come together and reflect on the vocation and mission entrusted to us. Our annual retreat conducted by Rev. Fr. Miguel Soler, IVE was very inspiring and challenging.

Let us continue to journey with the same spirit encouraging one another and guiding our faithful.

Wishing you a meaningful Holy Week and Joyful Easter! God bless. Blessings to all!



✠ **Rt. Rev. Dr. Noel Emmanuel**

Bishop of Trincomalee.





# Bishop's Diary

March 2024

- 02nd Saturday** - Episcopal Ordination of most  
Rev. Dr. Don Wimal Siri Jayasuriya, 4th Bishop of Chilaw.
- 03rd Sunday** - Holy Mass at Gantalawa – Students'  
Badge and Teachers' Oath ceremony.  
5.30 pm - Annual General Meeting of Old Boys'  
Association of St. Joseph's College.
- 04th Monday** - North East Bishops' and Priests'  
Lenten Spiritual Exercise in Madhu.  
08 – 09 - Gathering and meeting of Catholic National  
Commission for Laity in Trincomalee.
- 09th Saturday** - Lenten Prayer Service at Palaiyoothu
- 12th Tuesday** - Holy Mass commemorating 11th Anniversary of the  
Election of His Holiness Pope Francis.
- 16th Saturday** - Way of the Cross at Nachchikudah.
- 18th Monday** - Appointment – Superior General of Holy Family sisters.
- 19th Tuesday** - Solemnity of St. Joseph Mass at St. Joseph's College
- 20th Wednesday** - Pre-School Programme at Andankulam
- 24th Sunday** - PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD  
6.30 am Mass at Cathedral
- 25th Monday** - CHRISM Mass at Cathedral
- 28th Thursday** - MAUNDY THURSDAY  
5.00 pm Mass at Cathedral
- 29th Friday** - GOOD FRIDAY 3.00 pm Service at Cathedral
- 31st Sunday** - EASTER SUNDAY  
11.00 pm – Vigil Mass at Cathedral  
10.00 am – Prison Mass

# Pope's Prayer intention for the month of March 2024

**For New Martyrs**  
Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

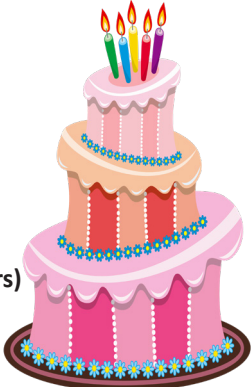


## Remembering with Gratitude

**Birthdays:**  
03.03.2024 - Rev. Fr. S. Douglas James  
07.03.2024 - Rev. Fr. E. Rohan Bernard  
10.03.2024 - Rev. Sr. M. Vijitha (AC)  
24.03.2024 - Rev. Sr. Dymphna (HA)  
26.03.2024 - Rev. Fr. J. Jeyaratnam

**Ordination Anniversary:**  
14.03.2024 - Rev. Fr. V. George Dissanayake (35 Years)

**Feast Day:**  
10.03.2024 - Rev. Sr. M. Vijitha (AC)



## DIOCESAN SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

<b>1ST FRIDAY</b>	• 24 Hours with the Lord
<b>2ND SATURDAY</b>	• Marriage Preparatory Class
<b>9TH SATURDAY</b>	• Diocesan Lenten Prayer Service
<b>16TH SATURDAY</b>	• Diocesan Way of the Cross, Nachchikudah
<b>25TH MONDAY</b>	• Holy Chrism Mass, Cathedral





## For the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ

Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive". This is the Pope's invitation to the faithful for the month of March, dedicated to praying for the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ.

The Pope shares a true story which he describes as "a reflection of the Church today", the story "of a little-known witness of faith", of which he was told while visiting a refugee camp in Lesbos. At that time, a man had approached him and said, "Father I am a Muslim, my wife was Christian. Terrorists came to our place, looked at us and asked what our religion was. They approached my wife with a crucifix and told her to throw it on the ground. She didn't do it and they slit her throat right in front of me".

The Holy Father highlights that the man did not hold any grudge against the perpetrators but rather focused on his wife's example of love for Christ which had led her to "be faithful to the point of death".

Images of Christian communities in danger give way to examples of courage recalling the blood shed by Christians for their faith, like that



of 20-year-old Akash Bashir, the first Pakistani Servant of God, who died in 2015 in the act of stopping a terrorist attack that was targeting a Church filled with faithful in Lahore. There will always be martyrs among us, the Holy Father says, adding that it “is a good sign that we’re on the right path”. The courage and witness of martyrs is “a blessing for everyone”.

The Foundation’s Executive President Regina Lynch said this month’s intention is “very important to encourage prayer for the victims of persecution as well as advocacy for those who suffer discrimination for their faith”.

Speaking about the theme chosen by Pope Francis for March, Father Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, pointed out that we are all called to bear witness to Christ with our entire life. Recalling the words of Saint Francis of Assisi, “Always proclaim the Gospel. If necessary, use words”, he added, a martyr “incarnates the Gospel putting their own life at risk without resorting to violence”. Indeed, the prayer intention challenges us to consider how we can “bear witness to Christ right where we are”.

Courtesy: <https://www.osservatoreromano.va/en/news/2024-03/ing-009/for-the-martyrs-of-our-day-witnesses-to-christ.html>.



# SHORT HISTORY OF

## the Diocesan Minor Seminary

04.01.1948 - The new Minor Seminary dedicated to the patronage of St. Joseph was started by Most Rev. Dr. Ignatius Glennie, S.J., at the vacant building of St. Augustine Teachers' Training School (present Charles Hall) at the Bishop's House premises, Batticaloa.

Rev. Fr. Felix Clarkson, S.J., was the first Rector of the Minor Seminary.

12.08.1959 – shifted to Uppuveli, Trincomalee. The new minor seminary was blessed and opened by the then Apostolic Delegate of Sri Lanka. Rev. Fr. Joseph Meyer, S.J., was the Rector of the seminary.

02.01.1984—The minor seminary was shifted to Batticaloa again due to the communal clashes in Trincomalee and placed at Thiruperumthurai, Batticaloa.

01.01.2013—After the division of the diocese, a minor seminary was started in Trincomalee under the patronage of St. Joseph Vaz, the Apostle of Sri Lanka.

It was functioning at various locations in Trincomalee till 2023, lastly it was functioning at Sampaltivu.

From 01.02.2024 onwards, it moved to its original location at Uppuveli, Trincomalee.



# Reflection on Resurrection

The four gospels all give accounts of the resurrection in slightly different ways. Being products of oral traditions, the various orations would emphasize different aspects pertinent to particular audiences and those doing the telling. Both the differences and similarities offer us something worthwhile.

One of the options for today's gospel reading is from Mark's account. In typical Marcan style, it is very matter of fact, practical in detail and to the point. It opens with a handful of women, led by Mary of Magdala, going to the tomb to engage in a traditional embalming that was not possible earlier due to the circumstances of Jesus' death and then having to wait for the Sabbath to pass. Feeling sad and lost in mourning, they were probably keen to perform the ritual embalming as soon as possible after such delays.

Perhaps it is in their haste that they only think of the very practical problem of how they will gain access to the body after they leave; "Who will roll away the stone for us?" The questioning sets up the surprise that immediately follows. They look up and see that the large stone had already been rolled back. A mysterious messenger, described as a 'young man', announces to them what has come to pass.

So, these three women become the bearers of the foundational message of the Christian faith; Jesus of Nazareth was crucified and has been raised. Then one more important clause is stated "he is not here". No other detail is provided. The women are then instructed to tell the other disciples and go out to Galilee where they will see him.

What a profound scene. They approach the tomb expecting one thing, and encounter something entirely different. They went expecting to honour a dead Christ but are being invited to proclaim and seek out the risen Christ not immediately present to them. The final verse of this scene (v. 8) is omitted in our contemporary lectionary, but it is not surprising that they are described there as being bewildered and frozen with fear.





Meeting with the Lay Members of the Parish - Anpuvelipuram - 25.02.2024



Meeting with the Catechists of the Parish - Linganagar - 23.02.2024



Marriage Preparatory Class, Uppuveli - 02.03.2024



Badge Ceremony of Kantalawa Parish - 03.03.2024



Opening of the reconstructed Altar of Our Lady of Velankanni, Andankulam – 13.02.2024



Reinstallation of the Minor Seminary to its original place - 01.02.2024



North East Priests' Lenten Gathering at Madhu Shrine - 04.03.2024

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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