



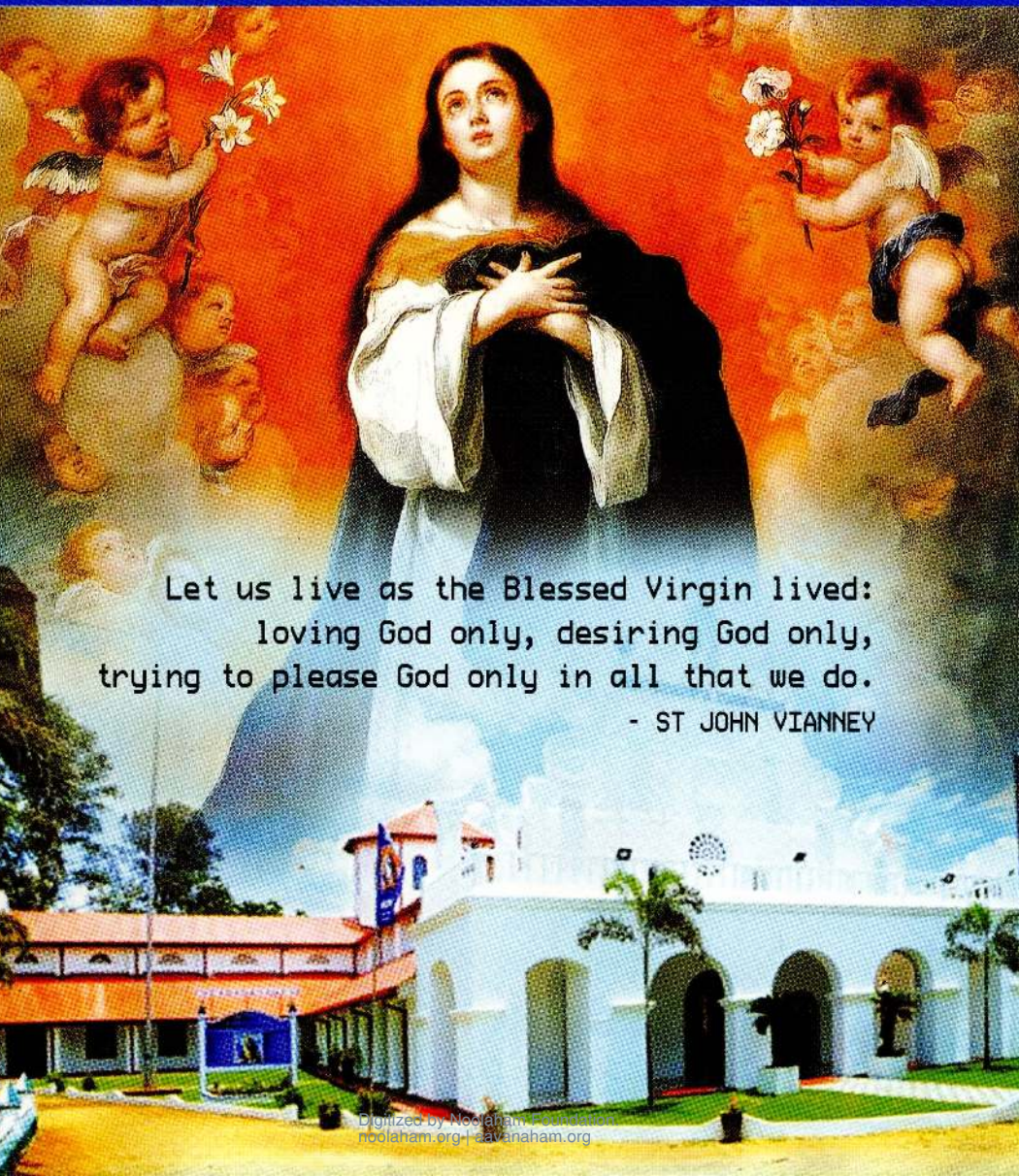
# INTERNOS

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR IBI DEUS EST



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

AUGUST 2024



Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived:  
loving God only, desiring God only,  
trying to please God only in all that we do.

- ST JOHN VIANNEY



St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary Day Celebrations – 06.07.2024



Marriage Preparatory Session (July & August) – 06.07.2024



Inauguration of the one-month Residential Catechists' Training at Madhu Shrine organized by the North - East Bishops' Council – 06.07.2024



Feast of Our Lady of Madhu, Varodhya Nagar, Alles Garden Parish – 07.07.2024



# Bishop's Message



My Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,  
Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Month of August reminds us of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All four dioceses of North and East have celebrations. Cathedrals of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Jaffna are dedicated to Our Lady of Assumption and it is on the same day the feast of Our Lady of Madhu in the diocese of Mannar is celebrated.

Inauguration of the summer Olympics 2024 was held on 24th July in Paris. It was a sad day for Christians. Person assigned with the task of delivering Olympic Games wanted 'everyone to feel represented'. So, men and women of LGBTQ+ depicting Last Supper scene were making mockery of the religion. This incident came under heavy criticism by large number of people, even by non-Christians. Catholic Church becomes easy target as it is very tolerant and non-aggressive. At the same time Catholic Church is always attacked because Church is the only obstacle from propagating western godly ideologies. Let's see how:

**Church's Moral Authority:** Church bases her moral teachings on National Law, Scripture, and Teachings of the Church Fathers and Theologians Church. This allows the Church to take a stance and firmly call out evil of any oppressive regime.

**Global Influence:** Catholic Church has a vast well organized global network with deep route in communities worldwide. This helps the Church to mobilize people and spread messages. Parishes, Catholic Schools, Universities, Charity Organizations and global influence of the Vatican itself play a significant role in this network.

**Advocacy of Human Rights:** Teachings on Human Dignity, social

justice, and ethical behaviour inspire people to resist and challenge authoritarian rule. Catholic Church advocates rights of the poor, marginalized and oppressed highlighting violation of human rights by many regimes.

Catholic Church also had her hiccups and setbacks due to sexual abuse of minors by priests. Church came under heavy criticism. Yet Church leaders including Popes accepted, apologized, met and consoled the victims and took firm action against perpetrators.

At the same time there were people and leaders who insisted that Church should not condone incidents of the opening ceremony by resisting such acts. We are used to tolerate and ignore such discriminations. We should speak out and actively resist these events. Why?

Resisting helps protect religious freedom dignity and our fundamental rights.

Resisting fosters social harmony and mutual understanding

By resisting we set a precedence for the younger generation.

Let us earnestly pray that there is a change of heart, attitude and respect for religions.

27th of August is the feast of St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine whose feast falls on 28th. Both mother and son had a close link setting a good example in our spiritual life. St. Monica was married to a Roman pagan Patricius who was always violent in nature. Patricius would not allow their three children Augustine, Navigius and Perpetua to be baptized. But Monica had a deep faith in God and Patricius would respect that. Finally, Monica succeeded in converting her husband and mother-in law. Though Navigius and Perpetua entered religious life Augustine was very lazy and uncouth becoming a wayward son. Monica was after Augustine praying for his conversion and baptism. She followed him to Rome and then to Milan where Augustine had a conversion and was baptized by St. Ambrose. Monica and Augustine were determined to return to Africa and preaching the word of God. But she died in the Roman city of Civitavecchia. Augustine in his book "Confessions" records these experiences. She had told Augustine before her death "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what here is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled."

Monica journeyed in search of Augustine for seventeen years praying for his conversion. This is the quality of a mother praying with determination for the conversion of her son. Augustine was one of most intelligent men. But his loose living and false belief kept him from knowing the truth. Through the prayers of his mother and marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose he was convinced of Christianity. Augustine was baptized, became a priest, a Bishop, a popular Catholic writer and founder of religious Order and one of great saints.

Similar to St. Monica and St. Augustine we have so many saints in the history of the Church. Let us value their life and spirituality.

I wish you all a great month of August.

God bless,  
*+ Mr. Emmanuel*  
**† Rt. Rev. Dr. Christian Noel Emmanuel**  
 Bishop of Trincomalee.



## Bishop's Diary

### -August 2024

- 03<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** - Closing of one month Catechists' Training programme at Madhu.
- 06<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** - Feast - Transfiguration of the Lord.  
                                 Monthly Recollection for priests.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** - 3.30 pm - COFET meeting.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday** - Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
                                 Festive Mass - St. Mary's Cathedral.
- 17 - 20 August** - Special camp for children - Pastoral Centre, Uppuveli.
- 21 - 23 August** - CBCSL meeting - Colombo
- 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday** - Feast - St. Bartholomew - Apostle.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday** - Sick Day Services - Tewatta.

### **Bishop's Communique:**

Rev. Fr. Jude Johnson - appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, with effect from 28.07.2024



# History of the Diocese of Trincomalee

**Diocesan Day – 25.08.1893 – 25.08.2024 (131 Years)**

The Diocese of Trincomalee is a significant Roman Catholic diocese in Sri Lanka.

## **Early Beginnings:**

The Catholic Church's presence in the region dates back to the arrival of Portuguese missionaries in the 16th century. The influence of Catholicism spread gradually, despite various challenges and resistance from local rulers and other colonial powers.

## **Establishment:**

The Diocese of Trincomalee was officially established on August 25, 1893, by Pope Leo XIII. Initially, it covered the whole of the Eastern and some parts of North-Central province of Sri Lanka.

## **Development and Growth:**

The diocese experienced significant growth and development during the early 20th century, with the establishment of numerous parishes, schools, and charitable institutions. The construction of St. Mary's Cathedral in Trincomalee, which became the central place of worship, was a major milestone.

## **Challenges:**

The diocese faced numerous challenges, including the impact of the Sri Lankan civil war, which affected the region from 1983 to 2009. The conflict led to displacement and hardships for many Catholics in the area, but the Church continued to provide spiritual and humanitarian support.

## Recent Changes:

In 2012, the diocese was reorganized, leading to the creation of the Diocese of Batticaloa, which took over part of its territory. The Diocese of Trincomalee was renamed the Diocese of Trincomalee-Batticaloa until the reorganization, after which it returned to being the Diocese of Trincomalee.

In conclusion, the Diocese of Trincomalee, with its rich history and resilient spirit, is poised to play a vital role in the spiritual and social development of the region. Its future will likely be shaped by its commitment to peace, social justice, and the holistic well-being of its community.

## Remembering with Gratitude

### Birthdays:

27.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. S. Sugunenthiran Croos
27.08.2024	- Rev. Sr. Raji (HC)
28.08.2024	- Rev. Sr. Joilinerajy Stanley (HF)



### Ordination Anniversary:

01.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. J. Dunstan Fredrick	(24 Years)
18.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. B. Paul Robinson	(26 Years)
19.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. S. Sugunenthiran Croos	(27 Years)
19.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. H. Jude Johnson	(27 Years)
22.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. Alan (IVDei)	(12 Years)
24.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. L. Philip	(46 Years)
24.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. A. A. Navaretnam	(30 Years)
26.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. S. Mathurangan Croos	(21 Years)
27.08.2024	- Rev. Fr. M. Newman (OMI)	(30 Years)



### Feast Day:

01.08.2024	- Rev. Sr. Inid (AC)
10.08.2024	- Rev. Bro. P. Lawrence (FC)
15.08.2024	- Rev. Sr. Marie Judith (AC)

# Some key events and Developments in the Roman Catholic Church:

» **Synodal Way Discussions in Germany:** The Vatican held discussions with representatives of the German Synodal Way to address concerns over the proposed establishment of a permanent synodal council. The Vatican insisted that any such council must not have authority over the bishops' conference, reflecting ongoing tensions within the Church in Germany. This comes amidst reports that over 400,000 Catholics left the Church in Germany in 2023, continuing a troubling trend (Catholic News Agency) (Vatican News).

» **Excommunication of Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò:** The Vatican officially excommunicated Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò for schism. This



action was taken after Viganò publicly refused to recognize Pope Francis's authority and criticized the Church's direction under his leadership. Viganò had previously gained attention for his critical stance on various Church issues, including the handling of abuse cases and the Vatican's agreements with China (Catholic News Agency).

» **Controversy at the Paris Olympics:** The Catholic community, including Pope Francis, expressed disappointment and concern over a controversial artistic depiction of the Last Supper during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics. The portrayal was widely criticized as disrespectful and sparked a broader conversation about the representation of religious themes in public events (Catholic News Agency).

» **World Youth Day 2027 Preparations:** In Seoul, a launch event was held for the World Youth Day 2027, signaling the beginning of preparations for this major international Catholic gathering (Vatican News).

» **Humanitarian and Social Concerns:** The Church continues to engage in humanitarian efforts, such as responding to the aftermath of landslides in Ethiopia and addressing severe acute malnutrition among children in Southern Africa. These efforts highlight the Church's commitment to social justice and aid in times of crisis (Vatican News).

These events reflect a period of both internal challenges and active engagement with global issues for the Catholic Church.

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

### For Political Leaders

Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.



# THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY - 15 August

Thursday, 15 August the Church celebrates the Feast Day of the Assumption of Our Lady when according to our faith, the Holy Mother, "having completed her course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". Although defined as an article of faith by Pope Pius XII just over half a century ago, the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven has been accepted from back to the earliest of Christian times.

The Assumption signals the end of Mary's earthly life and marks her return to heaven to be reunited with Jesus. While the bodies of both Jesus and Mary are now in heaven, there is a difference between the Assumption and the Resurrection. Where Jesus arose from the tomb and ascended into heaven by his own power, Mary's body was taken up to heaven by the power of her Son.

## Historical Background

Although some scholars insist there is no historical data to prove the historical fact of the Assumption, apart from faith there is also strong and reasoned data to support the event. In addition there was also the solid and deep-rooted conviction among the first Christians that something extraordinary happened to Our Lady at the moment of her departure from this life. This found expression in writings, sermons, devotional practices, and prayers to Mary "assumed into heaven", and was followed by churches, religious orders, cities and nations across the world dedicating or consecrating to her under the title of Assumption.

The first believed to have asked what had happened to Mary's body was St Epiphanius, a 4th Century bishop who devoted himself to the study of Mary's death and believed Our Lady did not die but instead was recalled to heaven.

The feast day of this holy and momentous event stems from the middle of the 5th Century when the Commemoration of the Mother of God was celebrated each year on 15 August in a shrine located near Jerusalem. More than 100 years later, the feast also commemorated the end of Mary's sojourn on earth and was known as the "Dormition of Our Lady." The feast was introduced to Rome in the 8th Century by Pope Sergius and from there it spread rapidly throughout western Europe, with Pope Hadrian later giving the Feast Day its official name as the Assumption of Mary towards the end of the Century.

Courtesy: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/the-assumption-of-our-lady-15-august/>.



Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Kantalai, Kantalawa Parish – 07.07.2024



Feast of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Salappaiaaru, Kutchchveli parish – 21.07.2028



Indigenous Clergy & Religious Day celebrations, Palaiyoothu parish – 28.07.2024



Indigenous Clergy & Religious Day celebrations, Alles Garden parish – 28.07.2024

## Rest in Peace

We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese, join with family members of Bro. Jeyasuthan, 1st Year Theology student of the diocese who lost his beloved mother, Mrs. J. Sarah on July 07, 2024 and pray for her eternal reward.



**Bishop's Day  
Celebrations –  
St. James' Church,  
Velvery – 27.07.2024**



**Indigenous Clergy  
& Religious Day  
celebrations,  
Cathedral parish –  
28.07.2024**



**Mr. Mrs. Anton Jeyakumar  
& Niranjala Subashini of  
Palaiyoothu parish  
attended the Family Care  
Seminar at Bangkok,  
Thailand – 21 – 27 July 2024**

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

EDITED & PRINTED BY:

REV. FR. A. A. NAVARETNAM (NAVAJI)

DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

CELL: 077 237 55 28 / EMAIL: frnavagi@gmail.com

Wanasinghe Printers, Batticaloa. 065 2227170

Digitized by Noolaham Foundation.  
noolaham.org | aavanaham.org