DIOCESE OF KUMBAKONAM

NEWS - LETTER

(Compiled and Edited by Diocesan News-Letter Committee)

VOL. : 53 JULY - 2026 No. 7



"Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation"







Pastoral Visit: Guanella Nagar




House of Divine Mercy: Thuraiyur

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The feast of the Precious Blood of our Lord was instituted in 1849 by Pius IX, but the devotion is as old as Christianity. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it." (Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace* , Pius Parsch)

The Church reminds us of the first drops of blood that flowed for our redemption on the day when Jesus was circumcised.

It is night on Mount Olive, and the moon is shining. We see the holy face crimsoned with blood during the agony in the garden.

Unhappy & despairing, Judas casts the blood-money down in the temple. "I have betrayed innocent blood!"

In the scourging chamber we see the Lord in deepest humiliation; under raw strokes the divine Blood spurts out over the floor. Christ is led before Pilate. Pilate shows the blood-covered Body to the crowds: *Ecce homo!* We go through Jerusalem's streets following the bloody footsteps

to Golgotha. Down the beams of the Cross blood trickles. A soldier opens the sacred side. Water and Blood flow.

Devotion to the Precious Blood is not a spiritual option, it is a spiritual obligation, and that not only for priests, but for every follower of Christ. Devotion, as we know, is a composite of three elements: It is first- veneration, it is secondly- invocation, and it is thirdly- imitation. In other words, devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ, the Lamb of God who was slain, is first of all to be veneration on our part, which is a composite of knowledge, love and adoration. We have to come to a deeper understanding of what those two casual words, Precious Blood, really mean.

In the first century of the Christian era – to be exact, from Pope St. Clement I, dated about 96 A.D. came these words: "Let us fix our gaze on the Blood of Christ and realize how truly precious it is, seeing that it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of conversion to the whole world."

To understand the meaning of the Precious Blood we must get some comprehension of the gravity of sin, of the awfulness of offending God, because it required the Blood of the Son of God to forgive that sin. We are living in an age where no body speaks seriously of sin. Nothing is considered as sin and everything is permitted. Selfishness, self-gratification and spirit of hedonism reign over the minds and of lives of people today. It is to release us from such kind of sins, Jesus shed his blood. While honouring and worshipping the precious blood, let us examine our consciousness and see whether we imitate Jesus in caring for every human person we come across in our lives.

With Best Wishes

+ Bishop A. Jeevanandam

Bishop's Programme – JULY 2026

Date	Day	Time	Programme
05 to10		Sun to Fri	TNBC / TNLBC MEETING: Madurai
11	Sat	10.00 a.m.	கொமித்சியம் Meeting, Lalgudi
12	Sun	05.00 p.m.	Consecration of Parish Church, Kokkudi
13	Mon	09.30 a.m.	Jubilee & Retirement of Catechist, Kumbakonam
		06.30 p.m.	Blessing of Multipurpose Centre, Vilagam
16	Thu	06.30 a.m.	Mass: Carmel Convent, Kumbakonam
		06.00 p.m.	Eucharistic Bendiction & Blessing of Paver Blocks: Thennur
18	Sat	06.00 p.m.	Blessing of Renovated Chapel: Valavanur
19	Sun	06.00 p.m.	Jubilee Mass, Naduvalur
21	Tue	10.00 a.m.	Senate Meeting & Council Meeting: Kumbakonam
22	Wed		Pastoral Visit and Confirmation: Kalpalayam
23	Thu	06.30 p.m.	Feast Mass: SAT Agnes Provincilate, Kumbakonam
25	Sat	06.30 a.m.	Feast Mass: St. Anne's Hospital, Kumbakonam
		10.30 a.m.	Feast Mass: St. Anne's Matric Hr. Sec. School, Kumbakonam
26	Sun		Annual Day Celebration of Vincent De Paul Society, Kumbakonam
27	Mon	10.00 a.m.	Sahaya Madha Hospital Trust Meeting: Pullambadi
29	Wed		Visitor's Day: Priest and Religious
30	Thu		Visitor's Day: Lay People

Most Rev. Dr. **JEEVANANDAM AMALANATHAN** D.D., S.T.D.,
Bishop of Kumbakonam.

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Ref. No. D 28/26 **20.06.2026**

கல்விக் கட்டண சலுகைக்கான அறிவிப்பு

இறையேசுவில் அன்புள்ள கும்பகோணம் மறைமாவட்ட மற்றும் துறவற சபைகளின் கல்வி நிறுவனங்களின் தாளாளர், தலைமை ஆசிரியர், கல்லூரி முதல்வர், விடுதி காப்பாளர் ஆகியோருக்கு ஆயர் A. ஜீவானந்தம் எழுதுவது.

உங்களுக்கு ஒரு முக்கியமான செய்தியை நினைவூட்ட விழைகிறேன்.

ஏழை, எளிய மாணவர்களுக்கு நீங்கள் செய்துவரும் கல்விப் பணிக்கு எனது பாராட்டுகள். அகில இந்திய கத்தோலிக்க ஆயர் பேரவையின் (CBCI Dalit Policy) கொள்கை வரைவு டிசம்பர் 13, 2016, பிரிவு (K), தலித் கிறிஸ்தவ மாணவ மாணவிகளுக்கு மறைமாவட்ட கல்வி நிறுவனங்களால் அளிக்கப்பட வேண்டியச் சலுகைகளைப் பற்றிக் குறிப்பிடுகின்றது.

தலித் கொள்கை வரைவின் (CBCI Dalit Policy) அடிப்படையில், 2019 செப்டம்பர் 06 அன்று நடைபெற்ற மறைமாவட்டப் பிரதிநிதிகள் கூட்டத்தில் (Senate Meeting) முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டப்படி, நமது மறைமாவட்டத்தில் இயங்கிவரும் அனைத்து கல்வி (தமிழ்+ஆங்கிலவழி) மற்றும் துறவற நிறுவனங்களில் தலித் மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு **முன்னுரிமையும்**, மேலும் பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மற்றும் விடுதி ஆகியவற்றில் படிக்கின்ற தலித் மாணவ, மாணவிகளுக்கு கல்விக் கட்டணத்தில் **25 விழுக்காடு** சலுகையும் கட்டாயம் வழங்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

நன்றி.

உங்கள் கல்விப் பணி சிறப்பாக தொடர மன்றாடும்.

இறையாசிருடன்,

+ A. Jeevanandam
ஆயர் + A. ஜீவானந்தம்
கும்பகோணம் மறைமாவட்டம்.

Most Rev. Jeevanandam Amalanathan Bishop of Kumbakonam

BIRTHDAY

02.07.1982	Fr. J. Bastin Britto	Vadaveekam
02.07.1996	Fr. D. Joe Prince Deepak	Varadarajanpettai
03.07.1972	Fr. S. Suvakinraj	Perambalur
03.07.1973	Fr. A. Augustine Peter	Thiruvalathurai
11.07.1953	Fr. G. Michael	Kovandakurichy
11.07.1986	Fr. L. Rex Alex Silvester	Kulamanickam
12.07.1979	Fr. A. Eugin Tony	Kumbakonam
13.07.1971	Fr. E. Adaikalasamy	Uthani
14.07.1978	Fr. V. E. Shantha Kumar	Naduvalur
15.07.1955	Fr. A. Francis	Thiruvaiyaru
15.07.1974	Fr. T. Dhivianathan	Pavanamangalam
15.07.1985	Fr. L. Selvakumar	Italy
15.07.1997	Fr. K. Semiyon Raj	Kumbakonam
16.07.1949	Fr. A. Packiasamy	No. 1 Tolgate
16.07.1980	Fr. S. Albert Xavier	Poondi
19.07.1979	Fr. A. Isaias	France
21.07.1956	Fr. A. Santhanam	Punalvasal
21.07.1983	Fr. E. Joseph Michael Raj	Thirumanthurai
26.07.1975	Fr. U. Rajendra Sekar	Purathakudi
27.07.1983	Fr. A. Mark Marceline	Irungalur
28.07.1968	Fr. A. Cyril Robert	USA
29.07.1970	Fr. S. John Kennedy	Thennur
30.07.1973	Fr. A. John Britto	Perumathur Eraiyur

NECROLOGY

07.07.1982	Rev. Fr. A. Lourdusamy	Ammanpet
10.07.2000	Rev. Fr. A. Stanislaus	Kumbakonam
10.07.2010	Rev. Fr. M. S. Mariadoss	Kumbakonam
13.07.1930	Rt. Rev. Msgr. M. A. Chapius	Kumbakonam
15.07.1993	Msgr. M. Antony David	Kumbakonam
19.07.1943	Rev. Fr. A. Xavier	Perumalpalayam
20.07.1953	Msgr. A. Gnanadickam	Michaelpatty
23.07.1990	Rev. Fr. K. Susaimanikam	Kumbakonam
31.07.1991	Rev. Fr. P. Gnaninathan	Kumbakonam

ORDINATION DAY

05.07.2010	Fr. A. Thomas Simonraj	Varatharajanpet
09.07.2020	Fr. A. Iruthayaraj	Kumbakonam
09.07.2020	Fr. V. Willaiam Edward	Padalur
19.07.1976	Fr. A. Packiasamy	No.1 Tolgate
24.07.2008	Fr. W. Adaikala Raj	Gabrielpuram
24.07.2008	Fr. V. I. Adaikalasamy	Perambalur
24.07.2008	Fr. K. Arockiasamy	No.1 Tolgate
24.07.2008	Fr. D. Barnabas	Manathidal
24.07.2008	Fr. A. Eugin Tony	Kumbakonam
24.07.2008	Fr. I. C. Francis	Rome
24.07.2008	Fr. A. Isaias	France
24.07.2008	Fr. J. M. Jomicks Savio	Achanur
24.07.2008	Fr. B. Robert	USA

ST. MARIA VIANNEY DAY

Dear Fathers,

In order to celebrate all Priests' Day on the feast of St. Maria Vianney August 4, 2026, it is designed to honor our Golden and Silver Jubilerians and to felicitate our Priests retired in June 2026.

1. Rev. Fr. A. Packiasamy, Golden Jubilerian
2. Rev. Fr. U.S. Arokiasamy, Silver Jubilerian
3. Rev. Fr. S. Alphonse, Silver Jubilerian
4. Rev. Fr. A. Lawrence, Silver Jubilerian
5. Rev. Fr. A. David Ramesh, Silver Jubilerian
6. Rev. Fr. A. Santiagu, Fr. Arputham Illam
7. Rev. Fr. J. John Pannerselvam, Fr. Arputham Illam

Venue : Poondi Madha Retreat Centre, Poondi
Date : August 4, 2026 Tuesday

Program:

09.30 am : Arrival

10.00 am : Holy Eucharist in Basilica

11.30 am : Felicitation in the Poondi Madha Retreat Centre

01.00 pm : Lunch and Dispersal

May I kindly request all the priests (Diocesan and Religious) in the diocese to participate in the event and honor our priests.

Msgr. M. Philomindas
Vicar General

SENATE MEETING – JULY 21, 2026

As we have already planned in the Annual Plan for 2026, our next Senate Meeting will take place on July 21, 2026 Tuesday in the Bishop's House, Kumbakonam at 10.00 am.

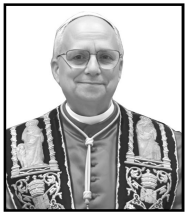
Agenda: Presentation and Discussion on the FCRA Amendments 2026.

As it is one of the very important topics to be discussed, may I kindly invite and request all the members of the Senate to participate in the meeting. The Members of the Diocesan Finance Committee will also be present for the meeting.

Rev. Fr. S. Augustine
Secretary to the Senate

திருத்தந்தையோடு மன்றாடுவோம்

ஜூலை : மானுட வாழ்விற்கு மதிப்பு தந்திட...



மானுட வாழ்வு கடவுளிடமிருந்து கிடைத்த கொடை என்பதைக் கண்டுணர்ந்து அதன் அனைத்து நிலைகளிலும் மதிப்பும், பாதுகாப்பும் பெற்றிட இறைவேண்டல் செய்வோம்.

FROM THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE

Dear Rev. Fathers,

Greetings from Fr. J. Antony Joseph!

The following is the list of Parishes, Institutions and Priests who have contributed to the Diocese in June, 2026.

COMMUNITY HALL CONTRIBUTION	
Kallakudi	50,000.00
DIOCESAN CORPUS FUND	
Fr. M. Joseph	5000.00
Fr. C. Kulandai	15,000.00
CONTRIBUTION FROM PRIESTS ABROAD	
Fr. S. Jerome Paulraj	1,00,000.00
MASS INTENTIONS	
Perambalur	37,700.00
Poondi	10,00,000.00
Saleth Madha Shrine	33,000.00
Tollgate	
For April	2250.00
For May	1500.00
For June	5550.00
Varadharajanpet	50,000.00
CONTRIBUTION TO THE DIOCESE	
Poondi	10,00,000
SALARY FROM PRIESTS	
Fr. G. Arockiaraj for May 2026	89,676.00
Fr. A. Arul Sebastian for May 2026	50,620.00
Fr. R. Jayaraj Upto May 2026	2,23,604.00

Fr. U. Rajendrasekar for May 2026	59,088.00
Fr. L. Robert Selvan Upto May 2026	8,79,408.00
Fr. V.E. Santhakumar for May 2026	73,200.00
SLAB CONTRIBUTION for 2025-2026	
Amalashram	1,00,000.00
Gabrielpuram	10,000.00
Manathidal	10,000.00
Perambalur	1,25,700.00
Saleth Madha Shrine	50,000.00
Uthamanur Pudur	15,000.00
Varadarajanpet	1,00,000.00
Vilagam	5000.00
Viragalur	10,000.00
PENSION CONTRIBUTION	
Fr. J. John Panneerselvam	14,000.00
CONTRIBUTION FROM SCHOOLS	
Bharathamatha Hr. Sec. School, Naduvalur	15,00,000.00
Fatima Matric Hr. Sec. School, Jayankondam	1,60,00,000.00
Alangara Annai Hr. Sec. School, Varadharajanpet	1,00,000.00
Theresa Matriculation School, Senthurai	10,00,000.00

I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your wholehearted participation in the Annual Accounts Presentation Meeting held at Poondi on the 17th of this month. Your active involvement, lively discussions, and valuable suggestions made the meeting both meaningful and fruitful. I am also deeply grateful for your appreciation of the sound financial position of our Diocese.

As a follow-up to the decisions taken during the meeting, I am preparing an individual letter for each parish indicating the revised **Viatique**, calculated on the basis of your parish's latest total income,

as well as the Slab **Contribution** to the Diocese according to the scale that was unanimously approved by all of us. These letters will reach you shortly.

As I review the monthly contributions received under the various heads, I sincerely feel that a renewed spirit has taken root in our Diocese, bringing about a remarkable change in our attitude, sense of responsibility, and commitment. Your generous cooperation has encouraged and strengthened me in carrying out my responsibilities.

I am especially pleased to note that some priests have begun contributing towards the enhancement of the **Diocesan Corpus Fund**. I express my heartfelt appreciation to them for their generosity. I hope that their noble initiative will inspire others to make their own contribution according to their means.

I also wish to thank the Correspondents of Fathima Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Alangara Annai School, Varadarajanpet, and the Correspondent and Headmaster of Bharatha Madha Higher Secondary School for their generous contributions for the academic year 2026-27. I kindly request the Correspondents of our other schools to remit their contributions at the earliest.

My sincere appreciation also goes to all those who have faithfully contributed through **Mass Intentions, Priests' Salary, Slab Contribution**, and other sources such as **Marriage Hall income and Pension Contribution**. Your generosity enables the Diocese to fulfil its pastoral, spiritual, and administrative responsibilities more effectively.

As announced during the meeting, the Viatique is raised to **Rs 15,000** per month with effect from **July 2026**. The revised amount will be credited to your bank account in **August 2026**.

Once again, I thank each one of you for your goodwill, generous cooperation, and continued support. May the Lord abundantly bless you and your parish ministry.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. J. Antony Joseph,
Procurator.

இளைஞர் மற்றும் குடும்பநலப் பணிக்குழுக்கள்

31.5.2026 நூத்தப்பூர் பங்கு இளைஞர் இயக்க உறுப்பினர்களை சந்தித்து திருப்பலி நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டது.

01.6.2026 நூத்தப்பூர் பங்கு கிளைக்கிராம இளைஞர் இயக்க உறுப்பினர்கள் சந்திப்பு நடைபெற்றது.

03.6.2026 YCS / YSM – இயக்கங்கள் உருவாக்குவது குறித்து மறைமாவட்ட இளையோர் பணிக்குழு அலுவலகத்தில் கலந்துரையாடல் நடைபெற்றது.

22.6.2026 கும்பகோணம் பங்கு இளைஞர்களோடு கலந்துரையாடல் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் YCS / YSM – துவக்க விழா மற்றும் திருப்பலி குறித்து பேசப்பட்டது.

28.6.2026 கும்பகோணம் மறைமாவட்ட பேராலயத்தில் YCS / YSM 60-வது ஆண்டுவிழாவை கொண்டாடும் விதமாக மறைவட்ட முதன்மைதந்தை பேரருள்திரு G. கோஸ்மான் ஆரோக்கியராஜ் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டது. YCS / YSM மாணவர்கள் திருப்பலி நடைபெற உதவி செய்தார்கள்.

29.6.2026 அலுவலகத்தில் YCS / YSM வழிகாட்டி ஆசிரியர்களுக்கான கலந்தாய்வு மற்றும் பயிற்சி தொடர்பான திட்டமிடல் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது.

ஜூலை மாதம் திருமணத் தயாரிப்பு பயிற்சி நடைபெறும் இடங்கள்

வ.எண்.	தேதி	இடம்
1	ஜூலை 4 மற்றும் 5 சனி மற்றும் ஞாயிறு	குழந்தை இயேசு திருத்தலம் நம்பர்–1, டோல்கேட், திருச்சி
2.	ஜூலை 18 மற்றும் 19 சனி மற்றும் ஞாயிறு	புனித அருளானந்தர் மறைப்பணி நிலையம், கும்பகோணம்

இவண்,

அருள்பணி S. ஜான் கொர்னேலியுஸ்,

செயலர், இளைஞர் மற்றும் குடும்பநலப் பணிக்குழுக்கள்.

மறைக்கல்வி, நற்செய்தி அறிவிப்பு மற்றும் பெஸ்கி கலைக்குழு பணிக்குழுக்கள்

மறைக்கல்வி

02.06.2026 முதல் 16.06.2026 – வரை மறைமாவட்டத்திலுள்ள அனைத்து பள்ளிகளுக்கும் மறைக்கல்வி – நன்னெறி புத்தகங்கள் வழங்குதல் தொடர்பான அறிவிப்பு அலைபேசி வழியாக கொடுக்கப்பட்டது.

17.06.2026 ஜெயங்கொண்டம் மறைவட்டத்தில் உள்ள பள்ளிகளுக்கு மறைக்கல்வி – நன்னெறி புத்தகங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டன.

18.06.2026 பெரம்பலூர் மறைவட்டத்தில் உள்ள பள்ளிகளுக்கு மறைக்கல்வி –நன்னெறி புத்தகங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டன.

19.06.2026 இலால்குடி மற்றும் புள்ளம்பாடி மறைவட்டங்களில் உள்ள பள்ளிகளுக்கு மறைக்கல்வி –நன்னெறி புத்தகங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டன.

22.06.2026 தமிழக மறைக்கல்வி ஆண்டுக்கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இக்கூட்டத்தில் நமது மறைமாவட்டம் சார்பாக வேதியர்கள் திரு. சகாயராஜ் மற்றும் திரு. திவ்யநாதன் ஆகிய இருவரும் கலந்துகொண்டு நமது மறைமாவட்டத்தின் மறைக்கல்வி பணிக்குழுவின் பணிகளைப் பற்றி பகிர்ந்துகொண்டார்கள்.

26.06.2026 மறைமாவட்ட மேய்ப்புப்பணி பேரவைக் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இக்கூட்டம் சிறப்பாக நடைபெற இயக்குநர் தந்தை, வேதியர்கள், அலுவலக பணியாளர்கள் ஆகியோர் உதவிசெய்தார்கள். இக்கூட்டத்தில் பணிக்குழுவின் செயல்பாடுகள் குறித்து செயலர் தந்தை பகிர்ந்துகொண்டார்கள்.

29,30.06.2026 நாள்களில் மைக்கேல்பட்டி மற்றும் கும்பகோணம் மறைவட்டங்களில் உள்ள பள்ளிகளுக்கு மறைக்கல்வி – நன்னெறி புத்தகங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டன.

பெஸ்கி

10.06.2026 காணியிருப்பு பங்கு மணலூரில் புதுப்பிக்கப்பட்ட ஆலயத்தை கும்பகோணம் மறைமாவட்ட மேதகு ஆயர் A. ஜீவானந்தம் அவர்கள் புனிதப்படுத்தி நிறைவேற்றிய திருப்பலியானது பெஸ்கி கலைக்குழுவால் ஒளி, ஒலிப்பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டு வலையொளி வழியாக ஒளிபரப்பப்பட்டது.

24.06.2026 ஏலாக்குறிச்சி, புனித அடைக்கல அன்னை திருத்தலத்தில் அருள்தந்தையர்கள் P. தங்கசாமி, A. எபினேசர் சச்சின் மற்றும் A. யூஜின் டோனி ஆகியோர் நிறைவேற்றிய திருப்பலியானது பெஸ்கி கலைக்குழுவால் ஒலி, ஒளிப்பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டு மாதா தொலைக்காட்சியில் ஒளிபரப்பப்பட்டது.

நமது மறைமாவட்ட பெஸ்கி கலைக்குழுவின் சார்பாக பரதம் மற்றும் கீபோர்ட் வகுப்புகள் தொடர் பயிற்சியாக தினமும் நடைபெற்று வருகின்றன.

இவண்,
அருள்பணி A. இராஜமாணிக்கம்,
இயக்குநர், மறைப்பணி மையம்.

பொதுநிலையினர் பணிக்குழு

10.06.2026 தமிழ்நாடு பொதுநிலையினர் பணிக்குழுவின் பொதுக்குழுக் கூட்டம் திருச்சி பிராட்டியூர் பொதுநிலையினர் உருவாக்க மையத்தில், பணிக்குழுத் தலைவர் மேதகு ஆயர் சகாயராஜ் அவர்களின் தலைமையிலும் செயலர் அருட்பணி. மரியமிக்கேல் அவர்களின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பிலும் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் நமது மறைமாவட்ட பொதுநிலையினர் பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் பங்கேற்று, சென்ற ஆண்டு செயல்பாட்டு அறிக்கையை சமர்ப்பித்தார்.

வரும் 2026-2027 ஆண்டுக்காக கீழ்க்காணும் செயல்திட்டங்கள் தீட்டப்பட்டது:

- கருத்தாளர் சான்றிதழ் தொடர் பயிற்சி-2026, வரும் ஆகஸ்ட் முதல் நவம்பர் வரை நடைபெறவுள்ளது. மறைமாவட்டத்திலிருந்து குறைந்தது ஐந்து பேர் அழைக்கப்படுகின்றனர்.

- 2026-ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான மறைமாவட்ட, மறைவட்ட கருத்தரங்கானது, "ஏழைகளின் கதறல், பூமியின் அழுகுரல்" என்ற மையச் சிந்தனையில் நடத்த கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது.
- "பொதுநிலைத் திருப்பணியாளர்கள் மறுமலர்ச்சி தியானம்-2026," வரும் அக்டோபர் மாதத்தில் இரு நாட்கள் நடைபெற உள்ளது.
- "தேசிய பொது நிலையினர் கருத்தரங்கு - 2026" வரும் அக்டோபர் 25, 26, 27 ஆகிய தேதிகளில் தமிழக பொதுநிலையினர் உருவாக்க மையத்தில் (பிராட்டியூர், திருச்சி) நடைபெற உள்ளது.
- "பொதுநிலையினர் ஞாயிறு – 2027" ஜனவரி 10-ல் கொண்டாடப்பட உள்ளது.
- "மாநில ஆய்வரங்கம் - 2027" பிப்ரவரி 3, 4 ஆகிய இரண்டு நாள்கள் வேளாங்கண்ணியில் நடத்தத் திட்டமிடப்பட்டுள்ளது.

மேலும், பங்குகளில் பொதுநிலையினர் அமைப்பை உருவாக்குவது குறித்து திட்டமிட்டதில், கிராமப்புற பங்குகளில் ஊர் பொறுப்பாளர்களுக்கான கூட்டம் நடத்தி பங்குப்பேரவை குறித்த புரிதல்களை ஏற்படுத்தக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது.

பங்கு, மறைவட்ட, மறைமாவட்ட, மாநில அளவில் நிபுணர்களை ஒன்றிணைத்தல் (Grouping of Experts) என்ற பணியை துவக்குவது என தீர்மாணிக்கப்பட்டது.

இவண்,

திரு. செ. பாப்பு வில்லியம்,

செயலர், பொதுநிலையினர் பணிக்குழு.

பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு

ஜூன் 03,04 ஆகிய நாள்களில் ஜூன் 26 அன்று நடைபெறவிருந்த பெண்களுக்கான ஒருநாள் பயிற்சி கூட்டம் குறித்த கடிதம் அனைத்து பங்குகளுக்கும் அனுப்பி வைக்கப்பட்டது. மேலும் பெண்கள் இயக்க பொறுப்பாளர்களுக்கு பயிற்சியில் பங்கேற்க அலைபேசி வழியாக அழைப்பு கொடுக்கப்பட்டது.

09.06.2026 குடந்தை பங்கு சிவபுரம் பகுதியிலுள்ள பெண்களை சந்தித்து பெண்கள் இயக்கக் கூட்டம் தொடர்ந்து நடைபெற வலியுறுத்தப்பட்டு கருத்துகள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

17.06.2026 நாச்சியார்கோயில் பங்கிலுள்ள அருள்தந்தையர்களை சந்தித்து பங்கில் பெண்கள் இயக்கம் தொடங்குவது குறித்து கலந்தாலோசித்து வரப்பட்டது.

18.06.2026 கீழமிக்கேல்பட்டி பங்கில் உள்ள பெண்கள் இயக்கத்தை புதுப்பிப்பதற்காக பெண்களை சந்தித்து அதற்கான முன்தயாரிப்பு பணிகள் நடைபெற்றன.

ஜூன் 20, 21 ஆகிய தினங்களில் நூத்தப்பூர் பங்கிற்கு சென்று பங்குத்தந்தை அவர்களையும், மரியாயின் சேனை உறுப்பினர்களையும் சந்தித்தோம். இரண்டாவது நாள் திருப்பலி முடிந்தவுடன், கூட்டம் நடத்தப்பட்டு பணிக்குழுவின் செயல்பாடுகள் குறித்த தெளிவும், கருத்துப்பகிர்வும் வழங்கி, பொறுப்பாளர்களை தேர்வு செய்து பெண்கள் இயக்கம் தொடங்கப்பட்டது.

24.06.2026 வடகரை பங்குத்தந்தை அவர்களையும் அப்பங்கில் உள்ள பெண்கள் இயக்க உறுப்பினர்களையும் சந்தித்து பங்கில் கூட்டம் தொடர்ந்து நடைபெற ஊக்குவிக்கப்பட்டது.

26.06.2026 கும்பகோணம், புனித அருளானந்தர் மறைப்பணி நிலையத்தில் மறைமாவட்ட மேய்ப்புப் பணிப்பேரவைக் கூட்டம் மேதகு ஆயர் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் பங்கேற்று பணிக்குழுவின் செயல்பாடுகள் மற்றும் எதிர்கால திட்டங்கள் குறித்து எடுத்துரைத்தார்.

27.06.2026 மறைமாவட்ட அளவில் பெண்களுக்கான ஒருநாள் பயிற்சி கூட்டமானது, புனித அருளானந்தர் மறைப்பணி நிலையத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. பாலின சமத்துவம், பெண்கள் பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் சட்ட விழிப்புணர்வு என்ற தலைப்பில் CCBI சார்பாக திருமதி J. ஜான்சாரா ஆசிரியை அவர்கள் பாலின உணர்வூட்டல், பாலின அடிப்படையிலுள்ள வன்முறை, குழந்தைகளை பாலியல் குற்றங்களிலிருந்து பாதுகாக்கும் சட்டம், பணியிடங்களில் பெண்களுக்கு எதிரான பாலியல் தொல்லை தடுப்பு சட்டம் மற்றும் நாட்டில் நடக்கும் பிரச்சனைகளை எடுத்துக்கூறி பயிற்சி அளித்தார்கள். மறைப்பணி நிலைய இயக்குநர் அருள்திரு A. இராஜமாணிக்கம் அவர்கள் பெண்களது தாய்மை அன்பை பற்றி கருத்துகள் வழங்கினார்கள். இப்பயிற்சியில் 6 மறைவட்டங்களிலிருந்து 50-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட பெண்கள் ஆர்வத்துடன் பங்கேற்றார்கள். பணிக்குழு செயலர் அருள்சகோதரி. ஸ்கொலாஸ்டிகா மற்றும் வேதியர் திருமதி மரியபுஷ்பம் ஆகியோர் அனைத்து நிகழ்வுகளையும் ஒருங்கிணைத்து வழிநடத்தினார்கள்.

இவண்,

அருள்சகோதரி ஸ்கொலாஸ்டிகா, DSMP

செயலர், பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு.

அருங்கொடை பணிக்குழுக்கள்

03.06.2026 அன்று மாலை லால்குடி பங்கில் ஆறு மணி முதல் ஒன்பது மணி வரை சிறப்பு நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 300-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

05.06.2026 அன்று மாலை கும்பகோணம் பேராலயத்தில் ஆராதனை மற்றும் திருப்பலி நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 250-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

06.06.2026 அன்று காலை 10 மணி முதல் மாலை 4 மணி வரை சலேத் அன்னையின் திருத்தலத்தில் ஒரு நாள் நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 500-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

06.06.2026 அன்று மாலை 6:00 மணி முதல் 9 மணி வரை வடகரை பங்கில் சிறப்பு நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம் மற்றும் திருப்பலி நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 400-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

10.06.2026 அன்று மாலை கும்பகோணம், தூய இருதய மருத்துவமனையில் திருப்பலி மற்றும் நற்செய்தி முழக்கம் நடைபெற்றது.

11.06.2026 அன்று காலை 10 மணி முதல் மாலை 5 மணி வரை கும்பகோணம் அருங்கொடை அலுவலகத்தில் 50-க்கும் மேற்பட்ட குடும்பத்தாருக்கு தனித்தனியாக ஜெபித்து ஆலோசனைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

13.06.2026 அன்று காலை 10 மணி முதல் மதியம் 2 மணி வரை ஏலாக்குறிச்சி தூய அடைக்கல அன்னை திருத்தலத்தில் சிறப்பு நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம்

நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 600-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

14.06.2026 அன்று காலை 10 மணி முதல் மாலை நான்கு மணி வரைக்கும் கும்பகோணம் தூய அருளானந்தர் மறைப்பணி நிலையத்தில் சிறப்பு நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம் திருப்பலி மதிய உணவோடு நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 400-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்

16.06.2026 அன்று ஆச்சனூர் பங்கு கடுவெளி கிராமத்தில் மாலை 6:00 மணி முதல் இரவு ஒன்பதரை மணி வரை சிறப்பு நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 300-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

23.06.2026 அன்று வடுகக் குடி கிராமத்தில் சிறப்பு நற்செய்திக் கூட்டம் மாலை 6:00 மணி முதல் 9 மணி வரை நடைபெற்றது. இதில் 200-க்கும் மேற்பட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசிர் பெற்றனர்.

பட்டியலினத்தார் / பழங்குடியினர் பணிக்குழு

23.05.2026-ஜெயங்கொண்டம் மறைவட்டம் குமிளாங்குழி பங்கில் உள்ள தலித் கிறிஸ்தவ மக்கள் மன்ற உறுப்பினர்களுக்கு "இன்னா செய்யாமை பயிற்சி கூட்டம்" பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் அருள்பணி. A. இருதயராஜ் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் நடைபெற்றது.

28.05.2026-மைக்கேல்பட்டி மறைவட்ட பங்குகளில் உள்ள தலித் கிறிஸ்தவ மக்கள் மன்ற உறுப்பினர்களை பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் அருள்பணி. A. இருதயராஜ் அவர்கள் சந்தித்தார்.

30.05.2026 – கும்பகோணம் மறைவட்ட பங்குகளில் உள்ள தலித் கிறிஸ்தவ மக்கள் மன்ற உறுப்பினர்களை பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் அருள்பணி. A. இருதயராஜ் அவர்கள் நேரில் சந்தித்து சுயதொழில் பற்றி விழிப்புணர்வு செய்தி வழங்கினார்.

05.06.2026– கும்பகோணம் சிறுமலர் மேல்நிலைப்பள்ளியில் பட்டதாரி ஆசிரியர்களுக்கான நேர்முகத் தேர்வு நடைபெற்றது. இதில் பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் அருள்பணி. A. இருதயராஜ் அவர்கள் கலந்துகொண்டார்.

இவண்,
அருள்பணி A. இருதயராஜ்,
செயலர், பட்டியலினத்தார் / பழங்குடியினர் பணிக்குழு.

கல்வி உதவித்தொகை நன்கொடை விபரம் ஜூலை - 2026

நெ.	விபரம்	தொகை
1	அருள்பணி J. அருள் தொன்போஸ்கோ	3000
2	அருள்பணி M. ஜோசப், (மணலூர்)	5000
3	அருள்பணி T. தேவதாஸ், கும்பகோணம்	5000
4	அருள்பணி G. கோஸ்மான் ஆரோக்கியராஜ், கும்பகோணம்	5000
5	தொன் போஸ்கோ பள்ளி, வரதராஜன்பேட்டை	15,000
6	அருள்பணி A. பெஞ்சமின் ஜோசப்ராஜ், துறையூர்	10,000
7	விமலா மெட்ரிக் உயர்நிலைப்பள்ளி, துறையூர்	10,000
8	அருள்பணி A. பெர்னாண்டஸ், குவனெல்லா நகர்	5000
9	புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை ஆலயம், சின்னம்மாள் கல்லறை	500
10	சந்தனாள்புரம் இறைமக்கள்	3000
11	பிலோமின்ராஜ்–சகாயமேரி, கும்பகோணம்	1000
12	இறைமக்கள், அசூர்	1000
	மொத்தம்	**63,500**

POLICIES AND BY-LAWS

DIOCESE OF KUMBAKONAM
TAMILNADU, S. INDIA



MOST REV. Dr. **A. JEEVANANDAM,** D.D., S.T.D.,
BISHOP OF KUMBAKONAM

2026

Dear Reverend Fathers, Religious, and Lay Faithful,

In His footsteps, we are all called to share in one and the same mission: to bear witness to Christ through our respective Christian vocations. By virtue of our distinct callings and our participation in the Common Priesthood and the Ministerial Priesthood of Christ, we—the Lay Faithful, Religious, and Clerics—are entrusted with the responsibility of fostering a vibrant and missionary Church in the Diocese of Kumbakonam. This we accomplish through active participation and through a genuine synodal approach, walking together and listening attentively to the Holy Spirit and to one another, so as to discern what the Spirit is saying to our Church.

In order to regulate our respective roles for the promotion of the common good of the Diocese and to ensure a more dedicated and orderly service to the People of God, to whom we have consecrated our lives, and having engaged in due consultation with the participatory bodies of the Diocese, I hereby promulgate the **Policies and By-Laws of the Diocese of Kumbakonam**. These shall be published in the official bulletin, namely the Newsletter of the Diocese of Kumbakonam, July 2026.

In accordance with the canonical provisions regarding *vacatio legis*, the said Policies and By-Laws shall come into force upon the completion of one month from the date of promulgation, namely, August 2026.

I earnestly exhort all Christ's Faithful of the Diocese of Kumbakonam—Clerics, Religious, and Lay Faithful—to observe and implement these provisions faithfully for the greater good of the Diocese.

May Our Lady Alangara Annai, Patroness of our Diocese, intercede for us in all our endeavours to bear witness to Christ by walking in His footsteps.

Kumbakonam
15 June 2026

+ Jeevanandam Arokiaraathan

Most Rev. Dr. A. Jeevanandam
Bishop of Kumbakonam

POLICIES AND BY-LAWS DIOCESE OF KUMBAKONAM

In exercising the Episcopal Office as the Bishop of Kumbakonam, the Diocesan Bishop enacts the following Policies and By-laws for the Diocese of Kumbakonam.

The Diocese of Kumbakonam is a portion of the People of God incorporated by reception of baptism living in the parishes grouped into vicariates (c. 374§2) and governed by the Diocesan Bishop with the cooperation of the *Presbyterium* (c. 369) having his seat in Kumbakonam.

The People of God or Community of Faithful are the Roman Catholics - Clerics, Religious and Laity - living in the territory of the diocese of Kumbakonam. These Policies and By-laws are the Particular Law for the Diocese of Kumbakonam binding all the People of God within the territory of the Diocese of Kumbakonam as per the Code of Canon Law (c. 8/2; 391§1). These Policies and By-laws are framed also as By-laws of the KUMBAKONAM DIOCESE SOCIETY, approved in the General Body Meeting with three fourth majority of the members present on 19th June 2025.

Local Ordinary means the Diocesan Bishop and the Vicar General (c. 134 §1).

CHAPTER 1 – SACRAMENTS

A. Baptism

1. Before baptizing the converts and children born of parents formerly declared themselves as non-Christians, the Parish Priest has to receive from them if they are adults (14 years of age and above) or obtain from their parents if they are minors, a declaration signed in front of the Public Notary, of their freedom of choosing the religion without any force or fear. The priests are expected to get a form used for adult baptism from the Diocesan Chancery.

2. When any adult from another parish jurisdiction approaches a Parish Priest seeking baptism in view of marriage, he/she should be guided to approach the Parish Priest of his or her area to get no objection letter from him.

3. Children born of invalid or illegitimate marriage are to be baptized only after they reach the age of reason i.e., 7 years completed unless any warranted situation such as danger of death compels them to receive it at an earlier age (c.868§1,1º).

4. Without the letter from the concerned Parish Priest, no priest is allowed to baptize anyone coming from another parish. After baptizing such persons, it is to be ensured that proper entry is made in the Baptism Register of the place of baptism and due notification is sent to the original parish while giving also a copy of the baptism certificate to the party baptized (c.878).

5. Later on the baptism certificate for those from other parish should not be given without the letter of the concerned Parish Priest.

6. While administering adult baptism, the minister is authorized by law to administer also the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation (can.883§2).

7. If there is a discrepancy in the names or two different names, the parties are requested to approach the Government (gazette) officials to get it rectified. If the gazette notification is not possible, the party can approach the Chancery submitting the Notary public affidavit and two supportive documents for the old name and the corrected name with the recommendation of the Parish Priest. The Chancery will do the needful.

8. In order to avoid the discrepancy in the name, parish priests are expected to verify the Birth Certificate issued by the civil authorities prior to administering the Sacrament of Baptism.

B. Eucharist

9. Parish Priest and Parochial Administrator are obliged on every Sunday to offer one Mass for people (*Missa Pro Populo*) without stipend (c.534§1). In such a case, he can avail of the stipend for the bination. The stipend for a Mass is Rs. 150 and the Parish Priest is expected to issue a receipt for the same. And for a Novena Mass Rs.200/- is collected out of which Rs.150/- is the Mass stipend and the rest could be utilized as TA to the novena preachers. For Gregorian Masses (30 Masses without break for 30 consecutive days) Rs. 9000/- has to be collected.

10. It is the Universal Law that a priest can offer only one Mass every day. With the permission of the Local Ordinary, a priest for pastoral reasons can celebrate two Masses on week days and three Masses

on Sundays and other days of obligation. Parish Priests are to arrange their Mass schedule in such a way that the above norm is followed (c.905§2).

11. Although the priest celebrates bination or trination, he is allowed to make use of only one stipend and the rest is to be forwarded to the Procure by the end of every month. On Christmas day the priest can take stipend for three masses. The excess Mass intentions along with the stipends should be remitted to the Procure without fail so that the celebration of Holy Masses for every intention is ensured by the Diocese (c.951§1).

12. Commutation of Mass intentions is not allowed by the Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council. Coupling of Mass intentions during the novena days, feast days and other occasions is not proper (TNBC, Faculty, III, no. 5).

13. In every parish or shrine, the Mass Register is to be maintained showing the details of the number of Mass stipends received and exonerated every month (c.958§1).

14. All Sundays, the Solemnities of Assumption (Aug. 15) and Christmas (Dec. 25) are the days of obligation (CCBI, Complementary Norms, c.1246§1) in the diocese.

15. For pastoral reasons, Sunday obligation can be fulfilled by attending the Sunday liturgy celebrated on the eve of Sunday (c.1248§1).

16. When a Diocesan priest expires, all the Diocesan priests have the obligation to offer three Masses for the repose of his soul. The masses could be considered as bination or trination. One Mass is to be offered for the Propagation of the Faith, Rome. And this obligation can be exonerated on a day during the Annual clergy Retreat.

17. During the Annual retreat, one Mass is offered with the Bishop for all the deceased Bishops, priests and laity of our Diocese.

18. Without the written/oral permission of Bishop, Mass is not to be celebrated in houses.

19. In the Diocese of Kumbakonam, Religious men and women are authorized to assist the Parish Priest in the distribution of Holy communion when there is a scarcity of clerics during the Liturgy. However, they receive the Holy Communion from the priest before distributing it (c.230§3; 910§2) to the faithful.

20. The Religious superiors are allowed to expose the Blessed Sacrament in their private chapel for adoration. However, only the clerics can give the benediction (c.943).

21. Distribution of ordinary host dipped in the consecrated wine is not allowed (DDW, Ins. *Redemptionis Sacramentum*, IV, no. 4).

22. The celebrant and con-celebrants are to follow the liturgical norms during the celebration. Preface cannot be shared by con-celebrant. Improvising the canon is not allowed (Ibid., no.2). Doxology is said or sung only by the chief-celebrant and concelebrants and not by the entire congregation.

23. Dance within the Church is not allowed during any procession.

24. Con-celebrants should join the holy Mass right from the beginning. Joining in between with a stole is not allowed in the diocese. In the same way priest taking videos or photographs during the liturgical celebration or priests in the choir wearing a stole is to be avoided.

C. **Confirmation**

25. It is one of the very important obligations of the Parish Priest to prepare the boys and girls for a worthy reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation either during the pastoral visit or on other suitable occasions. The *Confirmandi* should be at least 12 years of age (TNBC, Faculties, II, B).

26. The Parish Priest can administer the Sacrament of Confirmation by law on the following occasions: adult baptism and Christians received into the Catholic Church (c.883§2).

27. On the occasion of Marriage, the Parish Priest can confirm the would-be spouses if they had not yet received Confirmation before their marriage (Faculties, II, A).

D**. Marriage**

28. The Parish Priest should ensure that the parties ready for marriage are sufficiently instructed in Catechism besides the Marriage Preparation Course.

29. When any party approaches the Parish Priest for marriage, the priest should ensure the following: Birth certificate, Baptism certificate, confirmation certificate, certificate of marriage preparation and decree of dispensation if there is any impediment (CCBI, Complementary Norms, c.1067§4).

30. If there is any discrepancy between the baptism register and the civil record with regard to the date of birth, the Parish Priest is to follow the civil record to avoid further complication as all the marriages are to be registered in the Sub-registrar office.

31. Banns cannot be published without ensuring that banns are written for both the parties.

32. The civil requirement of age i.e., 21 years completed for groom and 18 years completed for bride should be strictly followed.

33. Writing of banns can be done during the Lent. However, publishing the banns or celebration of marriage is not recommended during the Lent. If the celebration of marriage cannot be postponed to paschal time of the year, it can be blessed without external solemnity.

34. The Parish Priest of the bride applies to the chancery for dispensation if there is any. To apply for dispensation, the duly filled in form, baptism certificate of the parties and serious pastoral reasons for granting the dispensation are to be furnished by the Parish Priest.

35. Marriage of disparity of cult that is, marriage between a Catholic and a Hindu/Muslim can be celebrated in the Church outside the Mass i.e., conducting the ceremony of blessing the marriage just before the celebration of nuptial Mass (CCBI, Complementary Norms, c. 1127 §2).

36. Dispensation from the publication of three banns is given by the Local Ordinary, two by the Vicar forane and one by the Parish Priest (CBCI,1988).

37. Before marriage takes place, the Parish Priest should verify the following documents for both the parties: Birth certificate, Baptism certificate, prenuptial enquiry signed by the parties and the Parish Priest, certificate of marriage preparation course, decree of dispensation if there is any impediment and no objection letter from the Parish Priest. The marriage preparation course is compulsory and on no reason it should be overlooked.

38. After the marriage, the Parish Priest of the place of marriage should send the notification of marriage to the parish priests of the place of baptism and domicile (c.1122).

39. After the marriage, the parties are to be instructed to register their marriage in the Sub-registrar office. Otherwise the Parish Priest can himself upload the information using the official website of the Government and getting it registered.

40. Invalid marital unions or living together are rectified by the following manner: banns are to be written to ensure that the parties already living together accept the Catholic principles of unity and indissolubility of Christian marriage; publishing of the banns is avoided; permission should be obtained from the chancery (c.1071). Marriage rite is conducted with the two witnesses outside the Mass after having heard confession of the parties; if children are to be baptized, it can be done on the same occasion; if civil marriage was already contracted, entry is to be made in a Secret Marriage Register; if not, it can be entered in the ordinary main register of marriages kept in the parish.

41. Marriage between parties related in IV-degree consanguinity (first cousins) is to be discouraged and III Degree consanguinity (Uncle and niece) should be very strictly avoided.

42. Before obtaining dispensation for the impediment of III deg. Consanguinity and disparity of cult, the parties should approach the Chancery in person to explain their situation.

CHAPTER 2 - LIFE AND MINISTRY OF PRIESTS

A. Vocation and Formation

43. It is the duty of all the Diocesan priests and more specially the Parish Priests to foster priestly vocation and choose possible and suitable candidates and instil in their mind, interest to become priests. They have to help them join the seminaries (c.233§1).

44. There should not be any favouritism in the seminary formation. It is discouraged very much to collect any fee from the seminarians unless it is decided by the Formation Committee.

45. Formation Committee consisting of the Bishop, Vicar General, Minor Seminary Rector, Secretary to the Senate and the Secretary to the SC/ST Commission functions periodically assessing the performance of the seminarians. Any major decision whether or not to allow any default candidate to continue his formation is to be taken by the said Committee.

46. On-going formation for the junior clergy is to be planned and carried out by the Diocese in consultation with the Secretary to the Diocesan Commission for Clergy (c.279).

47. Refresh courses and animation for all priests are to be offered at regular intervals by way of seminars. In order to enable the clergy, become competent both in the Civil (marriage, land and properties etc.) and the Church matters, the seminars would be conducted periodically apart from the regular meetings and gatherings.

B. Responsibilities of the Priests

48. All priests in the Diocese have the responsibility to deepen their prayer life and grow in spiritual life through regular spiritual exercises such as Breviary, Bible reading, spiritual reading, Rosary, periodic confession, attending the recollections and retreat regularly without fail (c.276).

49. The priests should consciously try to foster brotherly communion among themselves in their Vicariate gatherings and other occasions avoiding the spirit of casteism (c.275). The priests should avoid any gathering on the basis of caste.

50. A simple and humble life is required of every Diocesan priest,avoiding all occasions of pomp and luxury, posh residence etc., (c.282).

51. Psychological and emotional maturity as a requirement for priests involved in pastoral ministry, should be evident in the life of priests.

52. Any laxity or scandal in the pastoral ministry or unwillingness to comply with the requirements of the Diocese will be dealt serious and sanctions will be imposed as per the norms of the Code of Canon Law.

53. No priest is allowed to run any trust or society without the written permission of the Diocesan Bishop. Already existing Trusts/societies by the priests should be either permitted by the Diocesan Bishop with an obligation of beneficiaries chosen by the Diocese or having the Bishop as the Managing Trustee or President (c.285).

54. No priest is allowed to make any business, trade, politics or involve in commercial activities without the permission of the Diocesan Bishop (c.286).

55. All the priests should attend monthly recollection, annual clergy retreat, clergy seminars and other programs conducted in the Diocese for priests.

56. All the priests are to attend the funeral Mass for the deceased parents of our clergy and the deceased priests of our diocese.

57. All the Diocesan priests are supposed to hand over their last will to the procurator without fail in which place of burial should not be mentioned at their discretion. Place of burial should be the Clergy Cemetery at Kumbakonam.

C. Assistants & Junior Clergy

58. When any priest is appointed as an Assistant to the Parish Priest, he has to carry out his pastoral ministry in consultation with and under the pastoral jurisdiction of the Parish Priest (c.545).

59. Jointly planning the Parish Pastoral plan will help the Assistants to coordinate the ministry in a better way (c.548).

60. Normally the Assistant is maintained by the Parish unless exceptionally it is done by the Diocese after an express request made to the Diocese by the Parish Priest due to the financial difficulty of the parish.

61. As far as possible, the Mass Stipends for the assistants are given by the parish. In case of any difficulty, the Assistant can receive the Mass Stipends from the Diocesan Procurator.

62. To maintain the Assistant, the Parish Priest is to give to him pocket money of Rs. 5000/- per month and travel allowance of Rs.1,000/- per month and these allowances could be revised periodically.

63. Assistants are transferred every year. Whenever it is possible, Diocesan assistants are to be placed in the Vicariate Centres so that they can get acquainted with the diocesan priests, the traditions and the present situation of the diocese.

64. In maintaining the Assistants, same regulation is followed for the Religious who are working as Assistants.

65. The Junior clergy within 10 years of pastoral ministry is expected to undergo training program arranged by the Diocese.

D. Transfers

66. Transfers take place normally after a term of 6 years in a parish and 3 years in mission stations. For the Diocesan commissions, societies and institutions, the term of office is 3+3 years. After the completion of three years, priests in the mission parishes will get transfer if they want. However, according to the need of the Diocese the Bishop has the right to transfer any priest from his office in between the term after discussing it with the concerned priests.

67. In making the transfers, performance of the priests in their respective offices will be assessed taking into account of their efficiency to implement the policies of the Diocese, establish the participatory structures or ability to work with the already existing participatory structures, cordiality in relating with the People of God – Laity, Religious and Clerics and the ability to make the parish self-sufficient and sincerity in handling the accounts.

68. The priests are placed in offices according to the need of the Diocese and taking into account of their talents, competence, ability, efficiency in the ministry and suitability for the particular office. The

appointment order is to be duly respected, accepted and implemented without delay and with a sense of obedience. During transfers, send-off and reception should be simple. The outgoing priest is expected to leave the presbytery furnished with AC units bought in the name of the parish and a minimum furniture such as an almirah for office records, an almirah for personal use, a cot, a dining table with chairs, office table and chairs, furniture in the guest room, a few plates, cutleries etc.

69. Priests doing special ministries such as social work, teaching or hospital ministry and ministries in the Diocesan Pastoral commissions should be trained in such a way that they are well equipped with the required knowledge of their respective ministries.

70. In transfers, the priests would be moved from financially well-established parishes to small parishes with less income and vice versa according to the availability of parishes and at the discretion of the bishop.

71. A decent *congrua* to maintain themselves and the domestic workers would be offered to all priests working in the Diocese and it could be revised periodically.

E. Higher Studies

72. The need to send priests for higher studies should be decided by the Diocesan Bishop in consultation with the College of Consultors. As per the requirement of the Diocese, it should be decided taking into consideration their interest, aptitude, readiness to take up the ministry related to their studies later on, the age and their performances in the present and past assignments (c. 279). Before

sending priests for higher studies, they need to have a pastoral experience for a minimum period of three years.

73. Decision to send priests abroad should be made only when the scholarship both for studies and accommodation is certain. Otherwise, priests can be sent to pursue their higher studies within the country.

74. Priests interested to specialize in secular studies should approach the Bishop and get his permission. Such a permission is given as per the need of the Diocese. Those who qualify themselves in any secular discipline on their own cannot demand any specific appointment with reference to their specialization. However, their service can be utilized as per the need of the Diocese.

75. Those priests sent for higher studies must return to the Diocese within the specified number of years and undertake the ministry assigned to them.

F. Priests undertaking ministry abroad

76. Diocesan priests willing to undertake pastoral ministry abroad should approach the bishop and submit their applications. After having discussed it with the College of Consultors, the Bishop will take the final decision.

77. Initial preparation and language studies should be arranged by the concerned priests and the expense is met by the Diocese.

78. Priests desiring to undertake pastoral ministry abroad should enter into a contract with the Diocese about the duration of ministry and

their contribution to the Diocese as fixed by the diocese. They must send their contribution to the diocese every three months.

79. If any priest is not complying with the terms and conditions of the contract, hewill be called back to the Diocese.

80. Those priests involved in pastoral ministry abroad should strive as far as possible to help the Diocese to get some small projects sanctioned by donor agencies abroad for the welfare of the diocese.

81. Priests working abroad should avoid undertaking their own projects or helping their own people and friends in an organized manner.

82. As far as possible, the Diocese of Kumbakonam will make an agreement with the Diocese abroad where our clerics desire to work on contract. The agreement may include the possibility of our diocese to send priests to the dioceses abroad periodically.

83. The term of stay abroad for pastoral ministry could be for a maximum period of 15 years after which the priests need to come back to the Diocese and work in the Diocese. No incardination or excardination is granted to any priest working abroad.

G. Maintenance of Priests (c. 281)

84. The priests working in the Diocese are maintained by the Diocese through *Congrua*, Mass Stipends, Stole Fees and personal donation.

85. The *Congrua* and the Mass Stipend will be revised periodically.

86. The *Congrua* will be normally met by the parish depending on the financial status of the parish. The percentage of the parish support to the priests will be determined by the Diocese.

87. Vehicle allowance is taken from the parish as per the need to cover the substations for the pastoral ministry. New two-wheeler vehicle

will be provided to the new priests by the Diocese as early as possible through foreign projects. The priests are to contribute their share along with the project money in case the money received from project is not enough to buy the proposed vehicle.

88. All medical expenses incurred by the diocesan priests are met by the Diocese.

H. Leave & Sabbatical

89. Every priest working in the Diocese is eligible to have one month leave in a year. In such a case, the Parish Priest has to make arrangements for the pastoral ministry in his parish (c.533 §2) in his absence.

90. If any priest is absent from his parish for more than a week and whenever he is absent from the Diocese, he has to obtain prior permission from the Diocesan Bishop (c.533§2).

91. Any priest going abroad for holidays obtains permission from the Diocesan Bishop.

92. Medical leave is to be granted by the Bishop at the request of the priest.

93. After the leave, the concerned priest has to resume his pastoral ministry without fail.

94. The priests can avail of the Sabbatical Leave as per the provisions of the Canon Law (can. 283 §2). The residence of the priests during the Sabbatical leave is to be clearly mentioned in the application. Priests on sabbatical should participate in the monthly vicariate recollection in the nearby place and attend the Annual Clergy Retreat.

I. Retirement

95. On completion of the 75 years of age, every Diocesan priest should tender his resignation to the Diocesan Bishop (c.538§3). Relieving the retiring priest of his already existing office, extending his office or appointing in another office is decided by the Diocesan Bishop depending on the need of the Diocese and the suitability of the retired priest.

96. The Retired priests can either choose a residence available in the Diocese or have their own. However, the ordinary maintenance will be same for all retired priests. Any special concern or need of any retired priest will be met by the Diocese if it is reasonable, genuine and possible for the diocese.

97. The Retired priests are eligible to receive *Congrua*, Mass Stipends and medical assistance. If they are accommodated in Clergy Home for the aged, their *Congrua* will be paid to the director of the home for food and maintenance. In addition, 40 % of *congrua* is given to them for their personal needs.

98. Any priest, due to compelling special situation which renders him unable to carry out his pastoral ministry without any grave inconvenience, can tender his voluntary retirement. It comes to effect only when the Diocesan Bishop accepts his resignation.

99. The bishop has the discretionary power to appoint any retired priest he thinks suitable and needed, to an office or pastoral ministry in the diocese.

CHAPTER 3 - PARTICIPATORY STRUCTURES

A. Parish Level

100. In Every parish, Parish Pastoral Council is to be established as per the requirement of the Code of Canon Law and as per the norms of the Diocese. It has only a consultative vote. In the same way Parish Finance Committee is envisaged to ensure the transparency of the parish account (c.536 & 537).

101. The Statutes of the Parish Pastoral Council are to be followed in all the matters especially celebration of the feasts in the main station and the sub-stations of the parishes.

102. In the Parish Pastoral Council, e few members from the already-existing participatory systems of villages such as Nattars, Karyakkarars etc., could be nominated to the parish pastoral council to make it function better.

103. All the activities in the parish including the parochial feast should be planned and carried out only by Parish Pastoral Council avoiding two parallel participatory systems operating in the parish.

104. However, the Parish Priest is the financial administrator of the parish who carries out the function with the help of the Finance Committee.

105. The Parish Pastoral Council cannot take over the role of the Parish Priest in the administration of the finance in the parish.

B. Diocesan Level

1. College of Consultors

106. The members of the College of Consultors are freely chosen by the bishop from among the Diocesan Clergy,with a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 members in the council (c. 502 §1). The members take the oath of secrecy when they attend the first council meeting. Appointing a priest as a member in the College of Consultors for a successive term is to be avoided unless the bishop decides that it is very necessary in a particular situation.

107. The College of Consultors is the Apex Consultative Body in the Diocese helping the bishop in the administration of the Diocese. Hence, the members are to be true to their office, maintain strict confidentiality and be sincere in their approach and interested in the good of the Diocese and avoid all possibilities of acting on the basis of caste. They are to be appointed on the basis of their excellence in the pastoral work and their readiness to work for common good of the diocese. In addition to the Vicars Forane, the Bishop can nominate a few other Diocesan priests from the presbyteral council and also from other priests to the College of Consultors provided the number of the college does not exceed twelve.

2. Role of Vicar General

108. The vicar general assists the Bishop in the governance of the Diocese with an ordinary power. (can.475§1). He can perform all administrative acts with an exception however, of those which the Bishop has reserved to himself (can.479§1).

109. The Vicar General plans out and conducts the Annual Clergy Retreat, Annual Clergy Meetings and seminars in consultation with

the bishop. He also designs and coordinates any special program or important event at the Diocesan level.

110. Whenever any dispute arises among the people in the parishes or and where there is misunderstanding between the Parish Priest and the people, the Vicar General in consultation with the concerned Vicar Forane discusses the ways and means to resolve the dispute or misunderstanding. If it is needed, peace meetings could be arranged by the Vicar General.

111. In case any field visit or spot study is to be conducted to understand a particular situation, in consultation with the Bishop the Vicar General arranges for a team headed by him and makes the visit or inspection. He also submits to the Bishop a report signed by the team members.

112. The Vicar General attends to the administrative hearing from the people and priests while personal sharing of the priests can be done with the bishop.

113. The Vicar General carries out any other work assigned to him by the Bishop as and when needed.

3. Role of the Financial Administrator

114. Financial Administrator carries out his duties under the authority of the bishop to administer the goods of the Diocese in accordance with the plan of the Finance Committee and to make those payments from Diocesan funds which the bishop has lawfully authorized (can.494 § 3).

115. At the end of the financial year, the Financial Administrator must submit to the Finance Committee an account of income and expenditure of the diocese (can.494 § 4).

116. As per the Memorandum and By-laws of Kumbakonam Diocese Society, the Financial Administrator administers the finance of the Diocese. He and the bishop will sign all the cheques and the financial administrator will be responsible for the day-to-day financial administration of the Diocese along with the staff.

117. It is his responsibility to visit the parishes and institutions to assess the financial position and conduct audit along with the auditor. He also receives the financial statement and the budget from the parishes and institutions, assesses them and gives necessary recommendations and instructions for proper administration of the finance in the parishes and institutions.

118. As the Secretary and Treasurer for the Kumbakonam Diocese Society, he calls for the meeting of the General Body and the Governing Body of the Society as per the requirements.

119. Whenever there arises any financial problem, he will intervene along with the auditor and finds ways and means to sort out the problems in consultation with the Bishop.

120. Whenever the priests are transferred, it is the role of the Financial Administrator to make an audit of the account of the parishes and institutions and present to the Bishop a report about the financial administration of the Parish Priest/priest-in-charge of the institution.

121. The Financial Administrator receives all the regular and special collections, slab and other revenues meant to be paid to the Diocese from the parishes and institutions.

122. Regarding the projects through the foreign agencies, the Financial Administrator implements them through an engineer in consultation

with the concerned priest and is responsible to obtain the necessary bills and vouchers. Periodic assessment of the implementation of the projects is done by the Financial Administrator in collaboration with the Project Secretary.

123. The Financial Administrator does any work assigned by the bishop with regard to the financial administration of the Diocese.

4. Role of the Vicar Forane

124. The Vicar Forane is in-charge of his respective Vicariate. He will promote and coordinate common pastoral action in the Vicariate (can.555).

125. He has to see that the clerics of his Vicariate lead a life befitting their state and discharge their obligations carefully; he has to ensure that the Liturgical services are conducted as per the norms, the churches and presbytery are maintained clean and all registers of the parishes are properly updated and maintained. He also ensures that the ecclesiastical goods and immovable properties are carefully administered (can.555).

126. The Vicar Forane has the responsibility to ensure that the priests in the Vicariate are participating in all the meetings, monthly recollections etc. He will also help the priests who need special attention due to their health or any other problem. In case any priest of his vicariate finds it difficult to carry out the pastoral ministry due to health issues, the Vicar Forane in consultation with the bishop makes immediate arrangements to fulfil the pastoral needs of the concerned parish.

127. When there is any problem among the parishioners themselves and between the Parish Priest and the parishioners, the vicar forane immediately brings it to the knowledge of the bishop and finds ways and means to resolve it.

128. When appointed as members of the College of Consultors, the Vicars Forane discharge their responsibilities in the administration of the Diocese with the Bishop.

129. Before the transfer of any priest of his vicariate or pastoral visit to any parish of his vicariate, the Vicar forane or any delegate by the Diocesan Bishop shall check the parish registers (c. 535 §1) (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage Register, Death, Parish Diary, Banns, Official Correspondence and News-Letters and Other Documents) and inventories. The Diocesan Financial Administrator shall inspect thoroughly the cash book and the ledger book along with receipts. During the transfer the incoming priest has to verify meticulously that he receives the parish registers and Accounts properly. He ensures that no violation takes place as per the norms of cc 1282, 1284 §2, 2º, 7º, 1297, 1294 and 1298. If anything is missing or not properly maintained, the Vicar Forane or the delegate shall inform the bishop of it. In case of the transfer of a Vicar Forane, the senior priest in the Vicariate or the delegate appointed by the bishop shall check the aforementioned documents.

5. Diocesan Pastoral Commissions

130. The Diocesan Pastoral Commissions are the heartbeat of the Diocese and they are to be at the service of the parishes especially the mission parishes.

131. The Secretaries of the Diocesan Pastoral Commissions have to prepare the annual budget and mobilize local resource to meet the expenses in addition to the financial support given by the Diocese.

132. Their activities are to be coordinated by the Director of the Pastoral Centre who convenes periodic meetings with the Secretaries and discusses with them the pastoral plan and its execution and other related issues.

133. The Secretaries of the Diocesan Pastoral Commissions should make a contribution to the director (to be decided with the director) for the use of the Auditorium and other infrastructures available.

134. The Secretaries should undergo basic training in their special ministry in case they are not qualified or they lack sufficient experience.

6. Diocesan Pastoral Council (c. 511)

135. Diocesan Pastoral Council is composed of laity, religious and clerics from the Diocese of Kumbakonam representing every parish and special ministries, various sodalities, prison ministry etc.

136. The Diocesan Pastoral Council offers suggestions to the Bishop in preparing the Diocesan pastoral plan. It also helps him to evaluate the present situation in the Diocese and suggests ways and means to improve the situation so that the Diocese can witness an integral development.

CHAPTER 4 - PARISH ADMINISTRATION

A. Role of Parish Priest

137. Parish Priest is the proper pastor of the parish entrusted to him and he exercises the pastoral care of that community under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop (c. 519).

138. The Parish Priest can exercise his office only after having taken the canonical possession of the parish in the presence of a delegate by the Diocesan Bishop (cc.146 & 527).

139. The Parish Priest is responsible for imparting catechetical instruction to the children and youth through Sunday Catechism, and Family Catechism.

140. The term of office for other assignments is governed by either the Code of Canon Law, Legislation of the Episcopal Conference (c. 522) or the term mentioned in the appointment.

141. The Annual Statistics of the parish is to be sent before the end of February and the Annual Financial Statement are to be sent to the Diocese before 10th of April every year.

142. The *Salus Animarum* (Talaikattu Register) is to be updated whenever Sacraments are administered and death occurs in the parish.

143. Where the records are maintained in computer, it is also mandatory to maintain manual Registers.

144. The Parish Registers in original are to be kept in the Parish Archive while the duplicate (photo-copied from the original) can be used as needed to protect the original from further damage or decay.

145. Once in five years, the Parish Priest should invite the Diocesan Bishop to make pastoral visit in the parish. The Diocese also can maintain a register and the parish priests can be contacted accordingly to arrange for pastoral visit.

146. The Parish Priest is to elicit collaboration from the Religious (men and women) in the parish, the Parish Pastoral Council, the Parish Finance Committee (cc. 536-537), Anbiams, Lay Movements etc. He has to consider earnestly the recommendations of the parish participatory structures and implement them for the good of the Faithful.

147. Transparency in the parish account and maintenance of accurate statement of accounts with bills and vouchers are to be maintained.

148. Auditing of the accounts and checking of the other movable and immovable assets in the parish will be done every year by the diocesan Financial Administrator and the auditor. When the term of office of the parish priest comes to an end, the auditing should be done in his parish already in January of the current year.

149. The TNBC does not allow the priests to commute the Mass Intentions even on Novenas and Feast days. Hence, all the intentions received and the intentions exonerated on those days by celebrant and concelebrants are to be entered in the Register of Mass Intentions.

B. Parochial Feasts & Other Celebrations

150. In celebrating the Annual Feasts either in the Parish Church or in Substations, contribution by way of *Thalaikattuvari* or donations should be received from all the Catholic families without any discrimination based on caste or community.

151. The *sappara* procession should go through all possible streets so that all people without any discrimination will have an equal opportunity to offer their respect, devotion and worship.

152. Amicable solutions and peace talks should be arranged well in advance in those places where there are problems in implementing the above directions.

153. People's participation and involvement in the celebration of the feasts should be decided prudently by the Parish Priest taking into account the long-standing tradition of the places and at the same time changing any tradition which would perpetrate caste discrimination.

154. All through the Car /*sap*para procession, devotional atmosphere should be maintained. Leading Bands with film songs and dancing in front of the car procession should be avoided. Praying the Rosary and singing Christian devotional songs either by choir or by the Band-set need to be promoted. In order to ensure such a pious and devotional practice, the Parish Priest should accompany the people during the Car Procession.

155. The parish annual feast and all other celebrations in the parish should be organized by the Parish Priest, Parish Pastoral Council and other lay movements in the parish.

156. In those places where still there is a problem in collecting such taxes, donation can be received from everyone.

157. On the occasion of Annual feast, a certain percentage from the total income is to be contributed to the Diocese and to the parish educational fund. Such is to be assured before flag hoisting.

C. Offering & Collections

158. Anything offered in the Parish by cash or kind belongs to the parish and is to be accounted properly.

159. For donations, proper receipt should be given with a counterfoil. During the parish Audit, these receipts are to be verified.

160. Subscriptions, donations, dumb-box collection, revenue from the shops, land etc., belong to the parish and all income is to be entered in the account book. Proper receipts for the above items should be maintained.

161. Catholic teachers working in our schools should pay one percentage of their salary to the parish in which the school is situated.

162. On the occasion of the celebration of the Sacraments the following amount will be collected as donation: For Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Rs.500/- and for the marriage/ special Mass for the Marriage an amount of Rs.2000/- is to be

collected. If the marriage is celebrated in another parish, the parties contribute to their original parish an amount of Rs.1,000/- on the occasion of their marriage. The amount collected for the Sacraments goes to the parish account. What is offered on the occasions of writing of banns and funeral are the stole fee is meant for the priest.

163. The Diocesan share from the revenue collected from rental shops and community halls has to be remitted to the diocese without fail.

164. Every parish has to pay to the Diocese a certain percentage from the total Annual Income of the parish as per the slab-system:

S.No	Annual Income range	Slab
1	Upto Rs one lakh	2 %
2	From one lakh to three lakhs	3 %
3	From three lakhs to five lakhs	5 %
4	From five lakhs to ten lakhs	7 %
5	From ten lakhs to twenty lakhs	8%
6	From twenty lakhs to thirty lakhs	9%
7	From thirty lakhs and above	10%

This tariff could be reviewed periodically.

165. The accounts are to be maintained with corresponding receipts, bills and vouchers. In order to facilitate the accurate account keeping, every Vicariate Centre will be provided with a computer

by the Diocese and once in three months a staff from the Diocese will come and make all the entries of the all the parishes and institutions in the Vicariate in the Tally Program.

166. Every year during the months of April and May, the Financial Administrator along with the team of Auditors will audit the accounts of the parish and institutions at the Vicariate Centres. During the audit, the team also assesses the budget for the next year.

167. Every year the budget for the next year is to be sent to the Procurator in two copies on or before 10th of April.

168. Special collections made in the parish as per the requirement of the Universal Church are to be sent to the Diocese promptly without delay.

169. The Parish Priest has to carry out the ordinary financial administration of the parish as per the budget approved by the Diocese. In case of any extraordinary work such as modification or repair of Church, presbytery or school building, even if it is to be carried out by the local resources, it has to be approved by the Diocesan Bishop in writing.

D. Land Administration

170. The Parish Priest is the care taker of the land belonging to the parish and to the Diocese. Periodically a Seminar will be arranged for the clergy to update themselves in the knowledge about the administration of landed property and the civil regulations.

171. Property taxes are to be paid regularly. If any portion of the land is leased, it should be done only with prior permission from the

Diocese. Leasing of any Church land will be made for 11 months with the renewal for two more years. Such an agreement should not be made further with the same person for the next three years.

172. Any land belonging to the Diocese or in the parish cannot be sold out without prior consent from the Diocesan Finance Committee and the College of Consultors (c.1292/1). When the property is sold, the amount should be properly invested through diocese in income generating schemes or projects. A part of the revenue can be utilized for the concerned parish if there is a need.

E. **Cemetery**

173. The Church earnestly recommends the pious custom of giving a dignified Christian burial to all the Christ's Faithful without discrimination on any ground.

174. Without an explicit permission from the Diocesan Bishop, the dead should not be buried in a private land or at home. No demand should be laid on the Parish Priest to bless such private tombs on the All Souls Day. A blessing of private tombs can be allowed on other days.

175. Cremation of the dead can also be allowed for any just reason such as lack of place for burial, intention of the dead unless it is contrary to the Catholic faith, transportation of the dead body from a long distance to the desired place etc. In such cases, the ashes should be preserved in the cemetery in an urn or with the permission of the Diocesan Bishop in a private tomb. However, the ashes should not be preserved within the house.

176. Burial in the Catholic burial ground is ensured for all the Catholics belonging to the Parish and having the membership by way of Family Card or by custom.

177. If anyone who had formerly given up Catholic Faith, although once he enjoyed membership in the parish, cannot claim the right to be buried in the Catholic Parish Cemetery unless before the death they shows any sign of repentance and receives the Sacraments of Confession and Anointing of the Sick.

178. Catholic funeral can be offered also to those suicide cases by blessing the body in the house or in the cemetery (according to the local custom). However, Funeral Mass is not offered.

179. In any other doubtful situation, the discretion of the Parish Priest in consultation with the Chancery will solve the problem. Burial to the suicide-cases and to those who were in disorder way of life is not to be denied in the Catholic Burial ground.

CHAPTER 5 - FINANCE

180. It is the responsibility of all the priests of the diocese to improve the financial position of the Diocese so that developmental works are carried out; decent *congrua* is given and mission stations are supported.

181. It is also the responsibility of every priest in the Diocese to ensure that the sources of income are garnered and tapped out at the Parish and Diocesan level.

182. Transparency of the accounts both at the Diocesan and Parish level and in the institutions will enhance confidence among the priests and the faithful to improve the joinet or co- responsibility to work together and improve our finance.

183. All the income and expenditure should be properly supported by receipts, bills and vouchers.

184. All the income should be deposited in the bank and payments are to be made only through bank transactions. All income and expenditure made by cash or by bank transactions are to be supported by proper bills and vouchers.

185. To avoid unnecessary problems for the Kumbakonam Diocese Society the income from the Educational Institutions is to be deposited in the account of the Educational Trusts. The monthly and ordinary expenses are met regularly by the Educational Trust where there are two joint signatories for any bank transaction.

186. The establishment charges collected in the educational institutions such as Hostel should be deposited in the Trust account. This would help us to meet the unforeseen or extraordinary expenses such as white washing etc., in the future.

187. Contribution from the parishes by way of slab and from the Diocesan institutions is to be properly made to the Diocese every year as fixed by the Diocese.

188. A certain percentage of the revenue from the shops, mandapams and other educational institutions can be deposited jointly between the procurator and the concerned head of the institution as a corpus to be used for a major repair or development of the said institutions.

189. Any unforeseen or extraordinary expense or any improvement, is to be carried out only after the written approval by the bishop.

190. The income from the rented shops, Mandapams etc., is to be credited in the respective bank account. The expenditures are to be carried out through cheques. The accounts will be properly audited and the contribution due to the Diocese should be sent to the Diocese every three months.

191. Any improvement in the Mandapam or shop is to be carried out only after having budgeted separately other than the annual budget and after the written approval by the Bishop.

192. The heads of the Educational Institutions and the parish priests are to be ready with the Cash book, ledger, receipts, bills and vouchers in the month of April every year. The annual auditing will take place by a team of auditors at the Vicariate Centre with proper and prior notification to all the concerned.

193. The audited accounts of the Diocese and the annual budget will be submitted to the priests every year.

CHAPTER 6 - PROJECTS

194. Any priest interested to carry out any project in the parish or institution, must discuss the proposal with the bishop. After obtaining a written permission, the priest has to prepare a budget in collaboration with an engineer and see the possibility of mobilizing local funds to implement the project. A partial contribution from the Diocese may be possible only when a project is sent to a donor agency abroad and financial assistance is received.

195. The Projects are screened by the Project Committee consisting of the Bishop, Vicar General, Procurator, Project Secretary and Vicariate Representatives. The projects are prioritized based on the need of the place and people and not of the priest.

196. Only after ascertaining the availability of funds, the projects will be implemented after an agreement signed by the concerned Priest and the Engineer. Release of funds from the Diocese or project money will be done on installment basis as per the agreement. And only after the Interim Report along with bills and vouchers is produced for the work completed, the next installment will be released.

197. The projects carried out either by the project money or even by the local contribution, should be inspected periodically either by the Project Secretary or the Vicariate Project Representative.

198. Periodic and regular maintenance of the buildings in the parish and institution should be done by the Parish Priest or priest in charge of the institution. Such a work will be monitored by the Vicariate Project Representative.

199. There should be transparency in the Mission Appeal program. The diocese should know exactly in how many parishes we make appeals and how much money we receive from the diocese of those parishes every year. The financial statement and transactions of our diocesan bank account in the US should be received by our bishop. Periodic meetings need to be arranged with our priests working in USA to organize the Mission Appeals and to help our mission director abroad.

Role of the Project Secretary and Project Committee

200. In the diocese, the Bishop appoints a priest as the Project Secretary. He will assist the Bishop in preparing the projects, sending them to the concerned agencies along with the recommendation of the Bishop and following the projects till they are sanctioned.

201. Once the projects are sanctioned, he has a discussion with the Bishop and the Finance Administrator on the mode of implementing them. He also signs the agreement along with the Finance Administrator, the concerned Priest who implements the project and the Engineer. He ensures that Interim Report is received from the Project Holder during the implementation. Once the project is completed, the Project Secretary will ensure that necessary photos and report are duly furnished by the concerned priests. The Project Secretary will forward them to the concerned agency along with the letter of the bishop, and the financial statement obtained from the Finance Administrator.

202. The Project Secretary is also a member in the Diocesan Finance Committee and the Finance Review Committee which is convened every month.

203. The Bishop constitutes a Diocesan Project Committee consisting of the Vicar General, Finance Administrator, Project Secretary and one volunteer priest from each vicariate. The Project Secretary will be the convener of the committee.

204. The Diocesan Project Committee will prioritize the projects received from the Vicariates and Institutions. When the project is approved, the Vicariate Representative in collaboration with the

Project Secretary will make periodic inspection about the implementation of the project as per the approved plan.

205. The Vicariate Representative will also ensure along with the concerned priest that the buildings in the parishes and institutions are properly and periodically maintained.

206. Even if the project is totally supported and implemented by the local contribution, the role of the Diocesan Project Committee will be the same in prioritizing, implementing and obtaining the final report from the concerned project holder.

207. The Diocesan Project Committee will propose ways of carrying out the projects in a transparent and more efficient manner.

208. If any vicariate representative is transferred, another diocesan priest-volunteer from the said vicariate will be appointed by the Bishop and his term runs either for 6 years or for the period he ministers in the vicariate.

CHAPTER 7 - DIOCESAN PROPERTY AND BUILDINGS

209. Every Parish Priest or the head of the Institution has to verify the immovable property in the parish or institution along with the documents – Sale-deed, Patta, Chitta, FMB and Tax receipts. A copy of these has to be made available to the auditing team every year.

210. For any educational Institution or any public building such as Mandapam, the license from the Tasildhar and recognition from

the concerned department have to be in current status and a copy of these documents is to be furnished during the Annual Audit.

211. If the shops are given on lease, the lease agreement should be entered for 11 months in a year and it should be renewed without fail every year revising the rent once in two years. In case the tenant is unwilling to renew the agreement, the shop is to be given for lease to a new tenant.

212. The Diocese respects the custom of village people administering the land belonging to the Church. However, they cannot act as owners and the lease should be done in the presence of the Parish Priest and for a determined period. If any problem arises in the administration of the village people, the use of the land has to be taken over by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Diocese.

213. Selling or leasing of any land done without prior written permission of the Bishop and without the consent of the Finance Committee and the College of Consultors remains illicit.

214. The priest in charge of the shops must see to it that the rent is regularly collected. If not, immediate and proper action has to be taken in consultation with the Diocese. A team of volunteer priests who are interested or qualified can help the Diocese in this regard.

Role of the Property-in-charge and the Committee

215. In the Diocese, the Bishop appoints a priest as Property-in-charge of the diocese of Kumbakonam and he carries out his office as per the direction of the Bishop.

216. In consultation with the Diocesan Finance Administrator, he takes care of the original documents pertaining to the immovable and movable properties kept in the diocesan Archives. He also ensures that the Parishes and Institutions have a Xerox copy of the documents pertaining to the concerned parishes and institutions.

217. Any Purchase or alienation of any property is done in consultation with the Property-in-charge.

218. Lease agreement, renewal of such agreements, cancellation of lease agreement and taking legal action against the tenants are done by the Diocesan Finance Administrator in collaboration with the Property-in-charge.

219. Property suit, if it needs to be made, to settle a dispute, is done by the Property-in-charge after obtaining a written permission from the Bishop.

220. In settling the disputes, the Property-in-charge can avail of the legal support from the Diocesan Legal cell or other Advocates.

221. The Property-in-charge will represent the Diocese to the Government in matters related to the properties and in obtaining necessary permission if needed.

222. In the Diocese the Bishop constitutes a Diocesan Property Committee consisting of a voluntary diocesan priest from every vicariate, the priest-lawyers from our diocese and 2 lay people knowledgeable in matters related to property. The Diocesan property-in-charge in collaboration with the Diocesan Property Committee will address the issues concerning properties in the vicariates. The Diocesan Property Committee can constitute an ad-hoc committee to sort out any problem at the vicariate level.

223. Periodic meetings of the Diocesan Property Committee will be convened by the Property-in-charge to discuss the current issues and propose and carry out possible solutions.

224. The Vicariate volunteer priest will assist the priests in the vicariate to update the records regarding properties, taxes and other related matters.

225. The Term of the office of the Property in-charge and the members will be 6 years. In case the vicariate volunteer is transferred in between, another priest volunteer will be appointed whose term will run either for 6 years or for the term he is working in the said vicariate.

CHAPTER 8 - EDUCATION MINISTRY

226. Admission to Christian students should not be denied in the Schools run by the Diocese and Institutes of Consecrated life and Societies of Apostolic life.

227. Choice of the group in Plus one and Plus two should be based on the interest of the students and not by the decision of the management. The desired groups should not be denied to the students only based on the marks obtained in the previous examinations.

228. The Headmasters and priest-teachers working in the Diocesan schools should abide by the policies of the Diocese and be interested in the integral developments of the students and academic excellence. The Headmasters and the Correspondents should strictly follow their roles as per the Education policy of the Diocese.

229. The priests working in the schools need to remit their whole salary to the Procurator before 10th of every month along with the pay slip.

230. The Correspondents, Headmasters and other teaching priests should foster cordial relation among themselves. A Monitoring Committee at the Diocesan level can be sent to visit the schools periodically once in three months to check the accounts, academic activities, building maintenance and ensure smooth running of the schools.

231. The Monitoring Committee consists of Vicar General, Procurator, Diocesan Education Secretary, Vicariate Representative of Education Committee.

232. The appointments and transfers of the Headmasters and other priests working in the schools are governed by the Diocesan policy.

233. The priests working in the school discuss with the Parish Priest about helping the parish in pastoral ministry. It is highly expected of teaching priests to engage themselves in pastoral ministry in the local parish.

234. As per the needs of the Diocese, priests are to be trained and appointed to work in the schools.

235. Periodic meetings between Correspondents and Headmasters are to be arranged at the Diocesan level to implement the Diocesan Education Policy and to address common issues.

The Role of the Public Relation Officer (PRO)

236. In the Diocese, the Bishop will appoint a suitable priest as Public Relation Officer (PRO). The PRO will function as a bridge between the Diocese and the Government authorities and between the Diocese and the public.

237. In coordination with the concerned Diocesan Commission Secretaries, the PRO shall organize inter-faith meetings and, when authorized, coordinate public meetings or peaceful demonstrations to raise publicly, the concerns of the Catholic community of the Diocese of Kumbakonam on matters of social, civic, or religious importance.

238. In consultation with and with the prior permission of the Bishop, the PRO shall organize press briefings and communicate the official position of the Diocese on significant issues, prepare press releases, and ensure their publication in the name of the Diocese.

239. The PRO is not a problem redressal agent at the parish or vicariate level.

240. Along with the concerned Diocesan Pastoral Commissions he will also arrange for the Catholics an on-going formation on political awareness. He will give training and animation for the Catholic Leaders elected to the Local Bodies so that they can carry out their vocation as Christian leaders. He will also with the parish priests motivate possible Catholic Leaders to contest in the Local Body elections.

CHAPTER 9
CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE DIOCESE AND RELIGIOUS

241. The Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life endowed with different charisms are to be at the service of the Universal and Local Church.

242. In order to promote a healthy relation and cooperation between the Religious and the Diocese, periodic meetings can be arranged at the Diocesan level.

243. The Religious in turn are expected to help the Diocese to implement Diocesan policies in and through their presence in the parishes and Institutions.

244. A minimum of 25% of Concession in the fees to Dalit Catholic Students as per the CCBI Dalit Policy, should be strictly implemented in all the Religious and Diocesan Educational Institutions. Concession could be given also to other poor catholic students.

245. The Religious exercise their witnessing role not only in running their own institutions but also by their active involvement in the parish activities of the Parish Priest. Attempts should be made by the Diocese and Province to ensure how such a pastoral commitment can be fulfilled at the parish level (Legion of Mary, Anpiams, Catechism).

246. Any ministry undertaken by the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life or entrusted to them by the Diocese should be done only after a written contract signed by both. No

Religious is permitted to function in the Diocese without a written contract made with the diocese.

247. In case the contract gets over and cannot be renewed or the ministry is to be closed by any religious congregation due to some unavoidable circumstances and reasons, a just compensation will be paid to the Religious for their investment they made in their ministry area excluding the project money.

248. A Joint Committee consisting of Religious and Diocesan priests can be formed to address the common issues concerning both of them in the Diocese. The Joint Committee can be formed at the Vicariate and Diocesan levels.

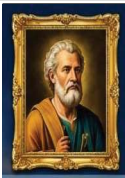
249. All priests in the Diocese are to abide by the Diocesan policies. Proper canonical actions are to be taken on those who do not abide by them. Admonition, correction and written notice are some of the preliminary canonical penal remedies.

250. The above Policies and By-laws are enacted as per the Code of Canon Law by the Bishop of Kumbakonam. In case of any doubt of law or of fact, the interpretation of the Bishop of Kumbakonam is final.

These Policies and By-Laws are published in the Diocesan News-Letter as per the provision of the Code of Canon Law on the 1st July 2026 and they come into effect from 1st August 2026.

+ Jeevanandam Amalanathan

Most Rev. Dr. A. Jeevanandam
Bishop of Kumbakonam



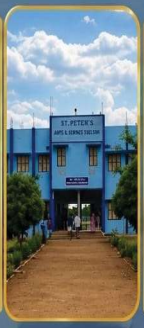
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Blessing of Renovated Chapel: Manalur





Annual Clergy Meeting, Poondi

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