

இறையரசு மலர்



"அவர் உங்களுக்குச்
சொல்வதெல்லாம் செய்யுங்கள் யோவான்" 2:5

DIOCESAN NEWS LETTER VELLORE

(FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY)

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Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters

St. Thomas, a Jew by birth whose feast falls on July 3, is one of the twelve apostles and a impetuous follower of Christ. He is known for 3 important characters:

1. **Courageous:** When Jesus said He was returning to Judea to visit His sick friend Lazarus, Thomas immediately exhorted the other Apostles to accompany Him on the trip which involved certain danger and possible death because of the mounting hostility of the authorities, 'so Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16)

How courageous we are in accompanying the suffering Jesus who carried his cross for the sins of others to mount Calvary? Are we ready to suffer for the sake of Gospel values? Are we ready to shoulder the burdens of others like Jesus who said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest..." (Mt 11:28)



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2. **Curious in knowing truth:** In the episode of the Last Supper (Jn 14:1-7) Jesus with full of grief and inner turmoil said to his disciples, “I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.” To this Thomas asked “How can we know the way? And this caused Jesus to answer, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

How interested we are in knowing truth? Many a times we are at false truth. Our judgments are wrong some times. We may cover up things at times. Let us be in search of truth. For that we have to be alert and aware.

3. **Practicality in belief:** St. Thomas was a practical man. He searched for proofs of his faith. Perhaps the best-known event in his life is the one from which the phrase “doubting Thomas” developed. As we know from the Gospel of John (20:19-29) he was not among those disciples to whom the risen Christ first appeared, and, when they told the incredulous Thomas, he requested physical proof of the Resurrection, fulfilled when Christ reappeared and specifically asked Thomas, to touch his wounds. His sudden realization of truth (“My Lord and my God”) made Thomas the first person to explicitly acknowledge Jesus’ divinity.

What is our faith? Blind or practical? Though we know there is no proof for God’s mysteries neither we should live a blind faith nor lead our people in blind faith. Let us not encourage scrupulosity in our belief.

As we are in the month of July where parents and children are worried about their studies and courses, and groups I kindly ask all our parish priests to help our poor children to get



admissions in the schools and colleges also encourage them to study well.

In this regard I personally ask all the religious superiors, rectors, correspondents and heads of the institutions and principles of our schools and colleges to give priority to our Catholic children for good courses and groups with 50% concession in their fees as per the guidelines of CBCI. Also I would like to insist all the education institutions to compulsorily take Catechism and Moral classes in your institutions for our Catholic and non-Catholic children.

I take this opportunity to appreciate and congratulate all those schools that have given good results last academic year. I once again insist all our religious superiors, rectors, correspondents and heads of the institutions and principles of our schools and colleges to put your heart and soul to educate our children well especially the value based education.

I am happy to wish and congratulate all our priests and religious who celebrate their birth days and feast days. May God bless them all and Mother Mary intercedes for them especially the Bridginites, St. Anne's sisters and the Jesuits who celebrate their founder's and congregation day on 23, 26 and 31 consequently. Special congratulation to Rev. Fr. S.M. Anandaraj, V.F & the Parish priest Rev.Fr. I. Jeevagan, Assistant Parish Priest and the parishioners of Arakonam parish for their successful concluding celebration of their parish Centenary.

God bless,
Yours in Christ Jesus,

Msgr. J. John

**Very Rev. Msgr. I. John Robert,
Diocesan Administrator**

