

Full English Translation

Circular No. 10/2026

Commemoration of Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary

Dear priests, religious and faithful,

June is a month filled with memories of a blessed life connected with our diocese. On June 11 we commemorate the death anniversary of Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary, who was not only the first bishop of the Diocese of Thamarassery but also an eminent leader of the Church in Kerala.

His profound scholarship, deep love for Christ and simplicity of life made him a widely respected shepherd. His unwavering convictions, inspiring preaching and prophetic vision gave strength and direction to the Church in Kerala.

When he became the first bishop of Thamarassery, he inherited a diocese with very limited resources. Through his simplicity and determination, he transformed those limitations into opportunities. He promoted the development of agricultural settlements and laid strong foundations for the diocese by establishing administrative offices, various departments and institutions for priestly formation.

Looking ahead with foresight, he initiated pastoral programs that embraced the wider community. The strong foundations he laid continue to sustain the growth and strength of the diocese over the past forty years. As beneficiaries of his dedication, sacrifice and tireless work, we should offer thanks to God for the blessings our diocese has received through Bishop Mankuzhikary.

On June 11, a Holy Mass and memorial service will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Cathedral, Thamarassery. Priests, religious and lay faithful who are able to attend are requested to participate prayerfully.

In every parish and institution of the diocese where Holy Mass is celebrated, parish priests are requested to offer the Holy Mass and conduct memorial prayers for the late bishop either on June 11 or on a nearby suitable date with the participation of the faithful.

As we continue our journey toward the future, the life and vision of Mar Sebastian Mankuzhikary remain a lasting memory and inspiration. Let us honor his sacred memory, pay our tribute to him and pray for him before God.

With love,

Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil Bishop of Thamarassery

This circular is to be read in churches on Sunday, June 7, 2026.