

TRANSLATION

CIRCULAR 15/2026

MEMORIAL OF MAR PAUL CHITILAPPILLY

Beloved priests, consecrated religious, brothers, sisters, and dear children in Christ, 6 September marks six years since the departure to the Lord's presence of Most Reverend Bishop Paul Chittilappilly, who shed the divine radiance of love upon the historical pathways of our diocese's spiritual and temporal growth. Let us pray for the eternal repose of the soul of this good shepherd, who faithfully led the Diocese of Thamarassery through loving service, and let us gratefully commemorate His Excellency's self-dedication.

Emulating the zeal for faith and eagerness for ministry of Saint Paul the Apostle, Most Reverend Bishop Paul led us as the shepherd of the Diocese of Thamarassery for thirteen years. Uncompromising life of faith, unadulterated hard work, decisions inspired by the Holy Spirit, and a love and care that held everyone close to his heart were the defining characteristics of His Excellency's personality.

Arriving as a good shepherd in an unfamiliar land, Bishop Chittilappilly overcame adverse circumstances through divine grace. He took to heart the pain and anxieties of the people of the hill country. Through tireless pastoral visits and gentle words of love, he became a member of the household of every believer in the Diocese of Thamarassery. Our diocese continues to experience the fruits of those thirteen years of dynamic and blessed ministry. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our beloved Bishop Chittilappilly for the present growth of the diocese and the expansion of its pastoral administrative structures. On this year's day of remembrance, let us pledge to manifest in our lives the vision of faith and human values imparted by His Excellency.

The memorial services for the anniversary of the death of Most Reverend Bishop Paul Chittilappilly have been arranged to take place at St. Mary's Cathedral, Thamarassery, on 7 September at 10:30 am, commencing with the Holy Qurbana. As in previous years, reverend priests, sisters, and parish representatives are required to attend the memorial Holy Mass and ceremonies on that day. I affectionately request that memorial prayers for Most Reverend Bishop Paul be conducted in our parish churches and institutions on or near 6 September, and that all who are able to do so participate.

Paying respectful homage before the luminous memory of Most Reverend Bishop Chittilappilly, and praying that his life testimony may forever serve as an inspiration in our journey of faith,

Yours affectionately,

† Remigiose Inchananiyil

Bishop of the Diocese of Thamarassery

Note: This circular is to be read during the Holy Qurbana on Sunday, 30 August 2026.