

CIRCULAR

Ref. No: 26 Ch. TCL 28

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you are well aware, our region is suffering immensely due to extraordinary flood disasters. Numerous people have been forced to vacate their homes and seek shelter in the residences of relatives and in emergency relief camps. The distressing plight of children unable to attend school and of patients forced to endure severe constraints is right before our eyes. In these critical circumstances, we are endeavouring to support one another by clearing paths of fraternity and compassion.

The public representatives and government administrative mechanisms carrying out flood relief operations efficiently deserve our sincere appreciation. It is particularly heartening and welcome that everyone is devoting keen attention to providing exemplary service to those residing in relief camps. However, beyond immediate flood relief, what we fundamentally require are preventive measures and concerted efforts to avert flooding altogether. It has become a standard pattern to discuss flood mitigation only when floods occur and to forget about it entirely once the waters recede. Deepening streams, canals, and lakes would, in itself, control flooding to a substantial degree. We earnestly appeal to the Government to undertake diligent efforts to ensure the security and safety of our region through effective, long-term measures.

Let us step forward to assist our brothers and sisters during this period of inundation. Recalling the Apostolic exhortation of Saint Paul, *“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ”* (Galatians 6:2), it is our established tradition to strive to assist everyone without distinction of caste or creed. Last year, we transferred ₹50,00,000 (Rupees Fifty Lakhs) for the victims of the natural calamity in Wayanad. It is gratifying to note that 72 houses have already been completed there, and the construction of approximately one hundred additional houses is currently underway under the leadership of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC).

Within our Archeparchy alone, across 92 parishes, more than 4,000 families are severely affected by flood distress. Extending aid to them is our imperative duty. Therefore, let us dedicate the offertory collection of Sunday, 16 August for flood relief. Under the leadership of our social service wing, **CHASS** (Changanacherry Social Service Society), we shall be able to effectively execute rehabilitation and relief activities.

The youth members of the Archeparchial **SMYM** (Syro-Malabar Youth Movement) have already volunteered to clean houses inundated by floodwaters. We also remind that active participation from members of **KLM** (Kerala Labour Movement), **AKCC** (All Kerala Catholic Congress), and the **Mathru-Pithru Vedhi** (Mothers' and Fathers' Forums) must be ensured in this domain. Called as we are to *“rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”*, let us strive to transform this calamitous situation into a profound experience of divine grace.

May the Lord of Mercy abundantly bless you all.

With prayerful best wishes and love,

† **Mar Thomas Tharayil**

Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Changanacherry

***NB:** Circular issued to be read out following the Homily during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana on Sunday, 09 August 2026.*

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS FOR SENDING FLOOD RELIEF CONTRIBUTIONS

Account Name:	CARITHAS CHANGANACHERRY
Account Number:	0013053000048130
IFSC Code:	SIBL0000013
Bank Name:	South Indian Bank
Branch:	Main Branch, Changanacherry