

TRANSLATION

CIRCULAR

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Archdiocese of Changanacherry

14 September 2026

CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AT THE ARCHDIOCESAN LEVEL

To the dearly beloved Priests, Consecrated Persons, and Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

As you are aware, in connection with the 800th anniversary of the heavenly birth (*transitus*) of St. Francis of Assisi, His Holiness Pope Leo XIV declared the "Year of St. Francis of Assisi," spanning from 10 January 2026 to 10 January 2027, with the objective of inspiring the entire Church with the evangelical spirit of the Saint. The noble values taught to us by St. Francis are a profound love for Jesus, simplicity, humility, compassion towards the poor, reconciliation, peace, fraternity, and love for God's creation. Pope Leo XIV has explicitly clarified that a Plenary Indulgence, subject to the customary conditions, shall be available to the faithful who worthily participate in these Jubilee celebrations, as well as to those who undertake a pilgrimage to Franciscan churches or holy places associated with the Saint.

The observance of the Jubilee Year at the archdiocesan level shall be conducted at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Poonthoppu, Alappuzha. This assembly shall commence on Friday, 02 October, at 09:30 AM with the Holy Qurbana, and shall conclude at 01:00 PM with an agape meal (love feast).

At least two representatives from every parish within the Archdiocese are required to attend this sacred solemnity. Furthermore, it is strictly mandatory that at least five persons from each parish within the Foranes of Kayamkulam, Edathua, Champakulam, Pulincunnoo, Alappuzha, and Muhamma participate. It is specially reminded that you must inform the respective Forane Vicars in advance regarding the exact number of participants attending from your parish.

Together with St. Francis, let us follow Jesus with love. May we continually translate into practice in our daily lives the peace, fraternity, and stewardship of creation that he demonstrated to us. I cordially invite everyone to actively participate in this assembly and make the Franciscan spirit your own.

With love in Christ Jesus,

✠ Thomas Tharayil

Metropolitan Archbishop of Changanacherry

N.B.: This circular is to be solemnly read out during the Holy Qurbana, following the proclamation of the Word of God, on Sunday, 13 September 2026.