



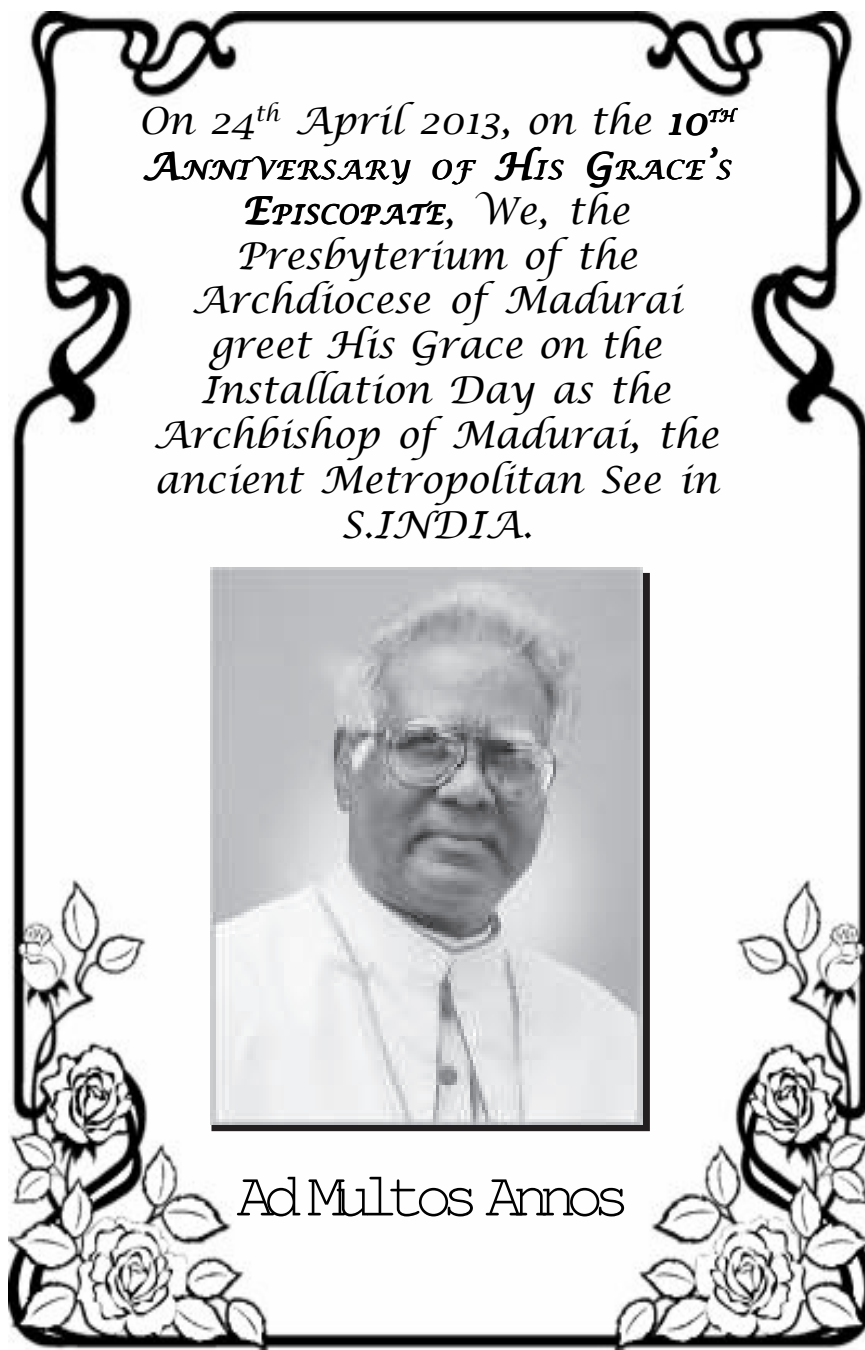
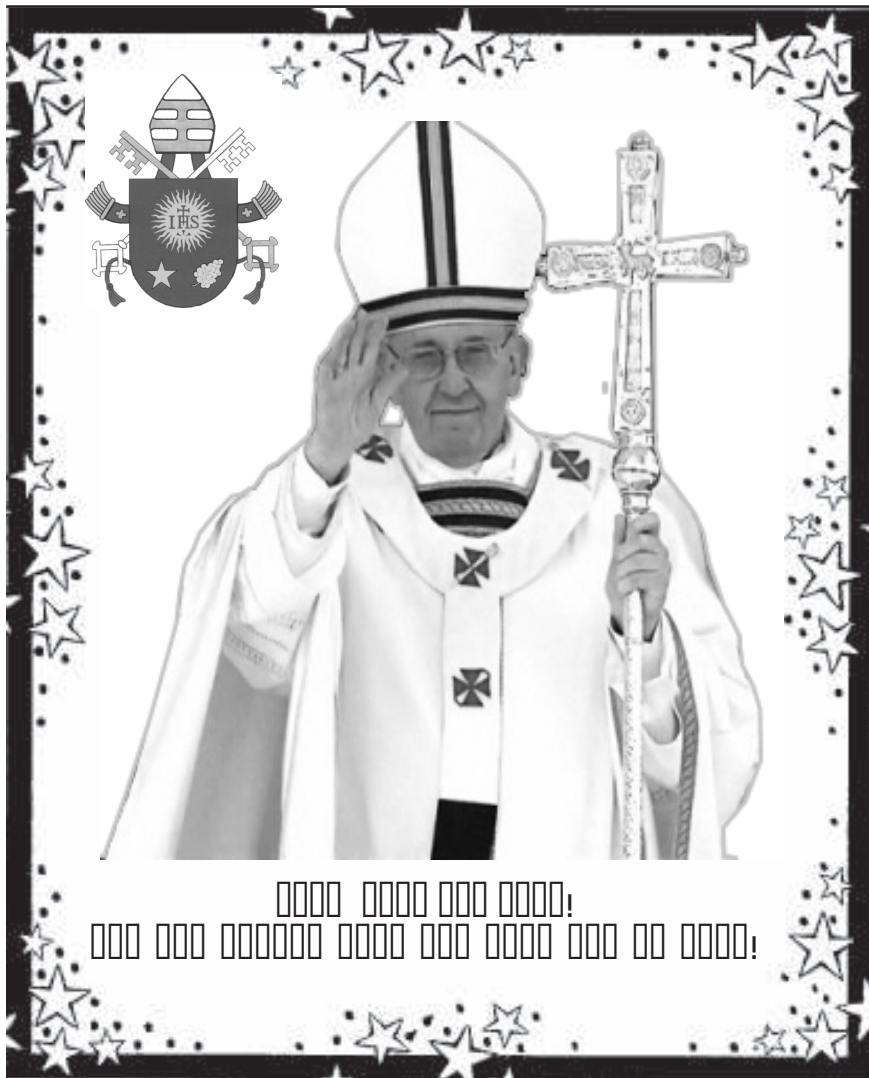
Diocesan News Letter Madurai

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April 2013

(For Private Circulation Only)

No. 600



On 24th April 2013, on the 10th ANNIVERSARY OF HIS GRACE'S EPISCOPATE, We, the Presbyterium of the Archdiocese of Madurai greet His Grace on the Installation Day as the Archbishop of Madurai, the ancient Metropolitan See in S.INDIA.



Ad Multos Annos

Archbishop's Engagements

April 2013

- 1 Vocation Camp
- 8 Educational Council Meeting – NPC
- 9 Secretaries Meeting – NPC
- 10 Senate Election
- 11 General Body Meeting
- 15 Wedding at Gnanaolivupuram
- 16 Consultors Meeting
- 20–21 Pastoral Visit
- 24 Caritas India Meeting, Bangalore
- 25–26 CBCI Standing Committee Meeting, Bangalore
- 27 Prison Ministry Meeting
- 29–30 Seminarians get together

Senate Election: As the term of the old senate comes to an end, there will be a senate election meeting on 10th April at Bishop's House conference hall from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm; and from 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm

- Fr. Chancellor

GENERAL INTENTION OF THE POPE FOR APRIL 2013: *Liturgy, Source of Life:* That the public, prayerful celebration of faith may give life to the faithful.

MISSION INTENTION OF THE POPE FOR APRIL 2013: *Mission Churches:* That mission churches may be signs and instruments of hope and resurrection.

Please Note

1. **Happy Easter:** DNL wishes a very happy Easter to all its readers. Let the Risen Lord fill the minds and hearts of DNL readers with JOY, VICTORY AND MASTERY OVER THE EVIL. Alleluiah... Alleluiah. Kindly use Paschal Angelus prayer during this Paschal Season of Joy and Victory.
2. The monthly recollection for April will be vicariate level.
3. **Election of Card. Jorge Mario Bergoglio:** DNL conveys its prayerful and joyous greetings to the newly elected 266th Pope, **Holy Father Francis S.J.**, 76 years old, who is also the Bishop of the Church of Rome, the Vicar of Christ, the Head of the College of Bishops, the Roman Pontiff, the Successor of Peter, the Pastor of universal Church here on earth etc. Kindly note that the name of the Holy Father is (simply) **FRANCIS**, not Francis the first. This issue of DNL publishes specific information on the New Pope for the readers' delight.
4. **Holy Week Collections:** Kindly remit at once the collections of Hunger and Disease and Good Friday at Procurator's Office.
5. **Condolences:** DNL offers its prayers for the soul of **Rev. Fr. Asirvatham A.** (1955 – 2013), who passed away at the age of 58, at Mundrumavadi hospital on 1st March 2013 due to a prolonged illness. The funeral mass was celebrated by the Archbishop with the concelebration of the presbyterium and the priests from 3 dioceses, palayamkottai, Sivagangai and Dindigul. It was celebrated at Nobili Hall, pastoral center and the deceased priest was buried in the cemetery, situated adjacent to the CIC cemetery. The Archdiocese really thanks the family members of Fr. Asirvatham and specially Fr. Adaikalam who is his nephew. It was amazing and

surprising to witness the sacredness of this diocesan priest, the son of the Archdiocese of Madurai, when the parishioners from all his ministry places came on 2nd March in order to pay their homage and offer prayers for this man of God. May the soul of Fr. Asir rest in peace. The funeral eulogy is published in this issue.

6. **Condolences:** DNL conveys its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. Sahayaraj K.** on the demise of his beloved father, **Mr. Kulandairaj**, who passed away on 22nd March 2013 due to prolonged illness. The Funeral Mass was officiated by the Archbishop on 23rd April, at Sacred Heart Church, Sindalachery with the concelebration of the presbyterium. May the soul of Mr. Kulandairaj rest in peace.

Lay Mission Work at Mehamalai

During the season of lent 65 evangelisation team members went to Arupukottai, Hanumanthanpatti, Mehamalai, Melur, Nathampatti and W. Pudupatti Parishes. They went on Friday evening and remained there till Sunday. They carried out the activities as directed and guided by the respective parish priest. The team members are very much happy and thankful to the parish priests of above mentioned parishes.

Along with my team members, I express my heartfelt thanks to the parish priests of above mentioned parishes. If we invite them, the members are ready to frequent their visit to the parishes.

- Fr. Arul

Vocation Commission

Our Diocesan Vocation Camp -2013 is scheduled to be held in Nobili Pastoral Centre from 5th to 8th of April. All the Parish Priests both diocesan and religious are requested to announce it in their respective parishes and send as many candidates as possible. As informed earlier the Vocation week 2013, falls on the fourth week Easter (April 15th to 21st). The relevant materials, Posters and Liturgy guide have been sent to all the parishes. All the parish priests are encouraged to celebrate these days meaningfully.

For priests more details kindly contact me

Fr. Lawrence.S. (9442535393)

சதங்கையின் கோடைக்கால சிறப்பு வகுப்புகள் ஏப்ரல் 22 முதல் மே 18 வரை நடைபெறுகிறது. சிறுவர் முதல் பெரியவர்கள் வரை பங்கேற்கலாம். மேலும் விவரங்களுக்கு தொடர்பு கொள்ள அலைபேசி எண் - 9443481039 - அருட்தந்தை அருளானந்தம்

BENEDICT XVI AND HUMILITY

The primacy of prayer



When, on Feb. 11, Benedict XVI announced his resignation from the Petrine Office, he said he had done so after much prayer and examination of conscience. He repeated this at his final general audience: "In recent months, I felt that my strength had decreased, and

I asked God with insistence in prayer to enlighten me with His light to make me take the right decision – not for my sake, but for the good of the Church. I have taken this step in full awareness of its severity and also its novelty, but with a deep peace of mind. Loving the Church also means having the courage to make difficult, trying choices, having ever before oneself the good of the Church and not one's own."

His reasons for resigning — his diminishing strength, affecting his ability to bear the burden of office — display a humility and trust in God that serve as an example of a mature understanding of man's relationship with God.

Humility as a way of living

The word humility has its origins in the word "humus" or "earthly". It brings to mind the formula used on Ash Wednesday, "Remember man that you are dust and that to dust you shall return." Here Benedict is teaching us about our right relationship with God — creatures of a Loving Creator. It is also an occasion to express our love for God — a theme that has run through his writings from his first encyclical "Deus Caritas Est" right through to his latest book on the Incarnation and his last Lent message "Charity begets charity."

A Benedictine inheritor

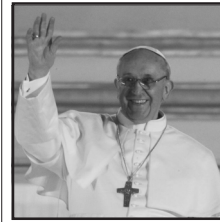
In his Rule for Monks, St Benedict describes the Twelve Steps of Humility. It bears reading in this context. In summary it concludes, "Anyone ... who climbed the... steps of humility... will begin to observe...that a new motive will have taken over, not fear of hell but the love of Christ. Good habit and delight in virtue will carry them along. This happy state the Lord will bring about through the Holy Spirit in his servant, whom he has cleansed of vice and sin and taught to be a true and faithful worker in the kingdom."

In many ways Benedict's pontificate has had a monastic feel about it. Less outwardly charismatic than his predecessor, there was nevertheless a clear element of teaching which was characteristic of his long time as a university professor and theologian. Benedict's speeches in Regensburg and Westminster Hall in particular show this. By opening up Church teaching to a wider audience whilst at the same time adhering to Church orthodoxy, he showed himself to be an inheritor and pragmatic interpreter of the Second Vatican Council within the established Tradition of the Church. It was not, he said, a rupture, rather a continuation.

In 2009 Benedict placed his pallium on the tomb of another Pope, St Celestine, who like his successor today chose to return to a life of obscurity and prayer. Humility and prayer go hand in hand, so whilst it will be a quiet life it will be a necessarily ordered one. His resignation was the clearest sign that the office of Pope is distinct from the man who holds that office.

"The 'always' is also a 'forever' — there is no returning to private life. My decision to forgo the exercise of active ministry, does not revoke this. I do not return to private life, to a life of travel, meetings, receptions, conferences and so on. I do not abandon the cross, but remain in a new way near to the Crucified Lord. I no longer wield the power of the office for the government of the Church, but in the service of prayer I remain, so to speak, within St. Peter's bounds. St. Benedict, whose name I bear as Pope, shall be a great example in this for me. He showed us the way to a life which, active or passive, belongs wholly to the work of God." (General Audience, Vatican, 27th February 2013)

Pope Gives 1st Impressions of Simplicity, Sense of Humor



Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, today commented on the Pope's first public appearance Wednesday evening, when Francis greeted the crowd gathered in St. Peter's Square.

He noted a few significant gestures that characterized the simplicity and serenity of that encounter, beginning with the Pope's request that the faithful pray for him and his choice of vestments.

"The new Pope wore neither the red 'mozzetta' (the elbow-length cape worn by high-ranking prelates) nor a stole, and his pectoral cross was the same simple one that he has worn as bishop and Cardinal archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The choice of his name Francis, after St. Francis of Assisi, strongly recalls the saint's evangelical spirituality and radical poverty," Father Lombardi said.

The spokesman also clarified that his papal name is simply Francis, not Francis I, since he is the first pontiff to bear that name. If after him another pontiff chooses that name then he will be Francis I.

Another gesture made by the new Pope, Fr. Lombardi continued, was that Wednesday after his election in the Sistine Chapel, when his cardinal brothers paid him homage, instead of sitting on the papal throne, he stood as he received them. As well, instead of taking the papal car that had been prepared for him to return to the Domus Sanctae Marthae, he took the same minibus he had arrived in along with the other cardinals.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York also mentioned this to reporters. They were expecting him to arrive in a limousine, which they saw parked in the Apostolic Palace. "And when the last bus stopped, guess who came out? Pope Francis. I imagine he said to the chauffeur: 'no problem, I'll go with the boys,'" explained Cardinal Dolan to journalists.

Pope Francis briefly addressed the cardinals at the festive supper, after thanking them, quipping, "May God forgive you [for what you have done]."

Cardinal Dolan again mentioned his humorous side, saying the Pontiff also said to the cardinals, "I'm going to sleep well tonight, and something tells me you will too." Cardinal Dolan described the emotion in the Sistine Chapel when Cardinal Bergoglio got the two-thirds majority necessary to be elected.

"We began to applaud, but had to stop until the rest of the votes were counted and then we clapped again at the end," Cardinal Dolan said, "and again when he said that he accepted his election."

Pope Keeps 1st Promise: Makes Visit to Our Lady Prays at Basilica of St. Mary Major



- Just as Pope Francis promised when Wednesday he appeared for the first time on the central balcony of St. Peter's, the Holy Father went today to ask Our Lady's protection on the Church.

At 8:05 this morning, leaving the Vatican for the first time as Pontiff, the newly elected Pope took one of the Gendarmerie's simple service cars to the papal basilica of St. Mary Major, the oldest and largest church dedicated to the Virgin in Rome, Vatican Information Service reported.

Francis entered through one of the basilica's side doors and went to the venerated icon of Our Lady "Salus Populi Romani" (Protectress of the Roman People) accompanied by, among others, Cardinal Santos Abril y Castello, archpriest of the basilica and Cardinal Agostino Vallini, vicar general of the Diocese of Rome.

The Holy Father, after leaving the Virgin a bouquet of flowers on the altar, prayed silently for about 10 minutes before the main altar that is directly above the crypt containing relics of the crib or manger of the Nativity of Jesus.

Jesuit spirituality

Francis also visited the basilica's Sistine Chapel, which is where St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, celebrated his first Mass after being ordained a priest. Ignatius waited several months, until Christmas Eve 1538, to say his first Mass.

"It is a very significant place in Jesuit spirituality," confirmed the Vatican spokesman, who is also a Jesuit, Father Federico Lombardi.

Finally, the new Roman Pontiff also stopped to pray before the tomb of St. Pius V, which is also in that chapel.

Pope Francis also greeted the basilica's chapter of canons, confessors, and priests as well as all the personnel that work there and the faithful and journalists that he met along the way.

The Holy Father left as he had arrived, with a minimal escort and entourage. He was accompanied by Archbishop Georg Ganswein and Monsignor Leonardo Sapienza, respectively prefect and regent of the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household.

Along the way, however, he surprised everyone by first sending an affectionate greeting to children from a nearby school and then by asking his driver to stop by the Domus Internationalis "Paulus VI" near Piazza Navona where he had stayed before entering the Conclave. The Pope greeted those working there, gathered his belongings, and paid his bill.



Bio Data of Pope Francis



Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who lack an Ordinary of their own rite, was born on 17 December 1936 in Buenos Aires. He studied as and holds a degree as a chemical technician, but then chose the priesthood and entered the seminary of Villa Devoto. On 11 March 1958 he moved to the novitiate of the Company of Jesus where he finished studies in the humanities in Chile. In 1963, on returning to Buenos Aires, he obtained a degree in philosophy at the St. Joseph major seminary of San Miguel.

Between 1964 and 1965 he taught literature and psychology at the Immacolata College in Santa Fe and then in 1966 he taught the same subjects at the University of El Salvador, in Buenos Aires. From 1967 to 1970 he studied theology at the St. Joseph major seminary of San Miguel where he obtained a degree. On 13 December 1969 he was ordained a priest. From 1970 to 1971 he completed the third probation at Alcala de Henares, Spain, and on 22 April 1973, pronounced his perpetual vows.

He was novice master at Villa Varilari in San Miguel from 1972 to 1973, where he also taught theology. On 31 July 1973 he was elected as Provincial for Argentina, a role he served as for six years. From 1980 to 1986 he was rector of the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel as well as pastor of the Patriarca San Jose parish in the Diocese of San Miguel. In March of 1986 he went to Germany to finish his doctoral thesis. The superiors then sent him to the University of El Salvador and then to Cordoba where he served as a confessor and spiritual director.

On 20 May 1992, John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires. He received episcopal consecration in the Cathedral of Buenos Aires from Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Apostolic Nuncio Ubaldo Calabresi, and Bishop Emilio Ognenovich of Mercedes-Lujan on 27 June of that year. On 3 June 1997 he was appointed Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires and succeeded Cardinal Antonio Quarracino on 28 February 1998. He was Adjunct Relator General of the 10th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, October 2001. He served as President of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina from 8 November 2005 until 8 November 2011.

He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Blessed John Paul II in the consistory of 21 February 2001, of the Title of S. Roberto Bellarmino (St. Robert Bellarmine). He was a member of: The Congregations for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments; for the Clergy; and for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; the Pontifical Council for the Family; and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. – Courtesy: Vatican news.



APOSTOLIC BLESSING

“URBI ET ORBI”

*Brothers and sisters, good evening!
You know that it was the duty of the Conclave to give Rome a Bishop. It seems that my brother Cardinals have gone to the ends of the earth to get one... but here we are... I thank you for your welcome. The diocesan community of Rome now has its Bishop. Thank you!
And first of all, I would like to offer a prayer for our Bishop Emeritus, Benedict XVI. Let us pray together for him, that the Lord may bless him and that Our Lady may keep him.*

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

And now, we take up this journey: Bishop and People. This journey of the Church of Rome which presides in charity over all the

Churches. A journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity. It is my hope for you that this journey of the Church, which we start today, and in which my Cardinal Vicar, here present, will assist me, will be fruitful for the evangelization of this most beautiful city.

And now I would like to give the blessing, but first - first I ask a favour of you: before the Bishop blesses his people, I ask you to pray to the Lord that he will bless me: the prayer of the people asking the blessing for their Bishop. Let us make, in silence, this prayer: your prayer over me.

[...]

Now I will give the Blessing to you and to the whole world, to all men and women of good will.

[Blessing]

Brothers and sisters, I leave you now. Thank you for your welcome. Pray for me and until we meet again. We will see each other soon. Tomorrow I wish to go and pray to Our Lady, that she may watch over all of Rome. Good night and sleep well! – Courtesy: Vatican news.



Homily of the Holy Father at the Inauguration of his Papal Ministry 19 March 2013:



Dear Brothers and Sisters, I thank the Lord that I can celebrate this Holy Mass for the inauguration of my Petrine ministry on the solemnity of Saint Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary and the patron of the universal Church. It is a significant coincidence, and it is also the name-day of my venerable predecessor: we are close to him with our prayers, full of

affection and gratitude.

I offer a warm greeting to my brother cardinals and bishops, the priests, deacons, men and women religious, and all the lay faithful. I thank the representatives of the other Churches and ecclesial Communities, as well as the representatives of the Jewish community and the other religious communities, for their presence. My cordial

greetings go to the Heads of State and Government, the members of the official Delegations from many countries throughout the world, and the Diplomatic Corps.

In the Gospel we heard that “Joseph did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary as his wife” (Mt 1:24). These words already point to the mission which God entrusts to Joseph: he is to be the custos, the protector. The protector of whom? Of Mary and Jesus; but this protection is then extended to the Church, as Blessed John Paul II pointed out: “Just as Saint Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ’s upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ’s Mystical Body, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model” (Redemptoris Custos, 1).

How does Joseph exercise his role as protector? Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity, even when he finds it hard to understand. From the time of his betrothal to Mary until the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem, he is there at every moment with loving care. As the spouse of Mary, he is at her side in good times and bad, on the journey to Bethlehem for the census and in the anxious and joyful hours when she gave birth; amid the drama of the flight into Egypt and during the frantic search for their child in the Temple; and later in the day-to-day life of the home of Nazareth, in the workshop where he taught his trade to Jesus.

How does Joseph respond to his calling to be the protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church? By being constantly attentive to God, open to the signs of God’s presence and receptive to God’s plans, and not simply to his own. This is what God asked of David, as we heard in the first reading. God does not want a house built by men, but faithfulness to his word, to his plan. It is God himself who builds the house, but from living stones sealed by his Spirit. Joseph is a “protector” because he is able to hear God’s voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God’s call, readily and willingly, but we also see the core of the Christian vocation, which is Christ! Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation!

The vocation of being a “protector”, however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each

of God’s creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about. It means caring for one another in our families: husbands and wives first protect one another, and then, as parents, they care for their children, and children themselves, in time, protect their parents. It means building sincere friendships in which we protect one another in trust, respect, and goodness. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts!

Whenever human beings fail to live up to this responsibility, whenever we fail to care for creation and for our brothers and sisters, the way is opened to destruction and hearts are hardened. Tragically, in every period of history there are “Herods” who plot death, wreak havoc, and mar the countenance of men and women.

Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be “protectors” of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death to accompany the advance of this world! But to be “protectors”, we also have to keep watch over ourselves! Let us not forget that hatred, envy and pride defile our lives! Being protectors, then, also means keeping watch over our emotions, over our hearts, because they are the seat of good and evil intentions: intentions that build up and tear down! We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness!

Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

Today, together with the feast of Saint Joseph, we are celebrating the beginning of the ministry of the new Bishop of Rome, the Successor of Peter, which also involves a certain power. Certainly, Jesus Christ conferred power upon Peter, but what sort of power was it? Jesus’ three questions to Peter about love are followed by three commands: feed my lambs, feed my sheep. Let us never forget that authentic power is service, and that the Pope too, when exercising power, must enter ever more fully into that service which has its radiant culmination on the Cross. He must be inspired by the lowly, concrete and faithful service

which marked Saint Joseph and, like him, he must open his arms to protect all of God's people and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison (cf. Mt 25:31-46). Only those who serve with love are able to protect!

In the second reading, Saint Paul speaks of Abraham, who, "hoping against hope, believed" (Rom 4:18). Hoping against hope! Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others. To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! For believers, for us Christians, like Abraham, like Saint Joseph, the hope that we bring is set against the horizon of God, which has opened up before us in Christ. It is a hope built on the rock which is God.

To protect Jesus with Mary, to protect the whole of creation, to protect each person, especially the poorest, to protect ourselves: this is a service that the Bishop of Rome is called to carry out, yet one to which all of us are called, so that the star of hope will shine brightly. Let us protect with love all that God has given us!

I implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saints Peter and Paul, and Saint Francis, that the Holy Spirit may accompany my ministry, and I ask all of you to pray for me! Amen.

– *Courtesy: Vatican news*

POPE'S EMBLEM AND COAT OF ARMS



Pope Francis has chosen the motto "Miserando atque eligendo", meaning lowly but chosen; literally in Latin 'by having mercy, by choosing him'.

The motto is one the Pope had already chosen as Bishop. It is taken from the homilies of the Venerable Bede on Saint Matthew's Gospel relating to his vocation: "Jesus saw the tax collector and by having mercy chose him as an Apostle saying to him : Follow me."

This homily, which focuses on divine mercy and is reproduced in the Liturgy of the Hours on the Feast of Saint Matthew, has taken on special significance in the Pope's life and spiritual journey.

In fact it was on the Feast of Saint Matthew in 1953 that a young seventeen year-old Jorge Bergoglio was touched by the mercy of God

and felt the call to religious life in the footsteps of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Beyond the motto, the coat of arms has a blue field and is surmounted by the mitre and the papal keys. On the crest itself at the centre is the symbol of the Jesuits, a flaming sun with the three letters recalling the name and the salvific mission of Jesus. Underneath we have two more symbols: to the right the star representing Mary and to the left the lily flower representing Joseph.

– *Courtesy: Vatican News*

The Investiture of Pope on 19th March: the Pallium and the Fisherman Ring



Among the liturgical insignia of the Supreme Pontiff, one of the most evocative is the pallium made of white wool, symbol of the bishop as the good shepherd and, at the same time, of the Lamb Crucified for the salvation of the human race: "the lamb's wool is meant to represent the lost, sick or weak sheep which the shepherd places on his shoulders and carries to the waters of life" (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily for the Holy Mass inaugurating his Petrine ministry on 24 April 2005).

The papal pallium, in its present form, is a band of cloth having a wide and large style, and with red crosses. The pallium of the metropolitan archbishops, however, is a narrow band of material decorated with six crosses of black silk. The different form of the papal pallium with respect to that of the metropolitans makes clear the diversity of jurisdiction. - *Courtesy: Vatican News*



Pope's Letter to Jesuits' Superior General

Dear Father Nicolás,

I received with great joy the kind letter you sent me, in your name and that of the Society of Jesus, on the occasion of my election to the See of Peter, in which you assure me of your prayers for me and my apostolic ministry as well as your full disposition to continue serving - unconditionally - the Church and the Vicar of Christ according to the teachings of St. Ignatius Loyola.

My heartfelt thanks for this sign of affection and closeness, which I am happy to reciprocate, asking the Lord to illuminate and accompany



all Jesuits, so that faithful to the charism received and following in the footsteps of the saints of our beloved Order, they may be evangelical leaven in the world in their pastoral action, but above all in the witness of a life totally dedicated to the service of the Church, the Spouse of Christ, seeking unceasingly the glory of God and the good of souls.

With these sentiments, I ask all Jesuits to pray for me and to entrust me to the loving protection of the Virgin Mary, our Mother in heaven, while as a sign of God's abundant graces, I give you the Apostolic Blessing with special affection, which I also extend to all those who cooperate with the Society of Jesus in her activities, those who benefit from her good deeds and participate in her spirituality.

- Francis. - Courtesy: Vatican News.



OBITUARY: FR. ASIRVATHAM

FAMILY

Birth place	:	Andipatti
Born on	:	14-06-1955
Brothers	:	2
Sisters	:	2
Ordination	:	10-05-1981

MINISTRIES

Regency, Thangachimadam	-	1977
Diaconate Ministry, Satharasanpatti	-	1980
Assistant Parish Priest, Devakottai	-	1981
Assistant Parish Priest, Thangachimadam	-	1981 – 1983
Parish Priest, Kokkurani	-	1983 – 1987
Missionary, Nigeria, West Africa	-	1987 – 1991
Parish Priest, Athoor	-	1991 – 1996
Parish Priest, Kamalapuram	-	1997 – 2002
Parish Priest, Nilakkottai	-	2002 – 2007
Parish Priest, Mathankovilpatti	-	2007 – 2012
Retired Priests Home, Arockia Illam	-	Since 2012
		Fr. Chancellor

MAY THE SOUL OF FR. A. ASIRVATHAM REST IN PEACE

- The eulogy of Rev. Fr. D. Gnanapiragasam

The journey of a *Paradeshi*, the pilgrim has come to an end. Yes. Father Asirvatham lived a life like a *Paradeshi* trusting God only as Peter *paradeshi* of South Tamilnadu. He had no possession. He used to call me from somewhere in order to hear some information or programmes of the diocese. Knowing that he had no telephone connection or cell phone, I would ask whose phone it was; invariably he would say that it was the teacher's or of some workers'. In these days when everybody has cell-phone he had no cell-phone. He never desired to have one. In those days when every priest had a T.V. or Home Theater or Music player etc., he had no Television. He wanted to speak with the Lord always. He was a man of prayer; he was a man of detachment. To possess and to know Jesus, he gave up everything and he considered everything as rubbish. In the words of St. Paul, he considered JESUS himself as his only treasure and property. He was a living example of St. Maria Vianney.

He was always available to his sheep. He was accountable, accessible and adoptable. He will be ready to go to any parish given to him by the Superiors. He was not for power or authority or post or money. He gave everything he had to the poor. He cooked his food by himself. It is always a simple food. Never had he employed any cook. He gave cloths and notebooks to the poor from the savings of his priestly allowance or congrua. He was not a man of advertisement or publicity. He was very simple and humble both in appearance and in his character. He never wanted to celebrate his Silver Jubilee. When I asked him to join in my Silver Jubilee celebration Mass, reluctantly he accepted. But when the day came he did not turn up. Such was his mind always, that is to be away from the maddening crowd in order to pray and to be alone with God. In order to understand him, you need to be in the same wave length of Fr. Asir. Otherwise he will look to be a simpleton to you.

He had been gifted with extra sensory perception (ESP) by God. With this he counseled people who came to him for various problems and a lot of people benefitted out of it. He had been my companion from 1968 as a High School student till his death in 2013. We were ordained together on 10th May 1981. We used to spend the holiday ministry together

when we were studying in the Seminary. We were together during retreats, recollections and whenever we came together in the diocese and shared our ideas. As a student he was very bright and had sharp mind. Actually he had simple living and high thinking.

With his little money he had built churches and grottos. Almost in all the places he had built constructions without any foreign money. Even at the last ministry place, Mathankovilpatti, he organized in building a huge church with the help of the Diocese and the V.F. In Nilakkottai he helped to bring out the Shopping complex. Wherever he was, he did both the spiritual, pastoral and social ministries without publicity. May his soul rest in peace.

Madha TV shares from the Parishes \ Institutions III Phase

Name of the Parish\ Institution	No. of Shares at present	Amount
Op.bal. As on 25.02.2013		8,25,000.00
Anjal Nagar	100	1,00,000.00
Thiruthangal (91,000)	2+4	6,000.00
New Ellisnagar	12+1	13,000.00
Gnanaolivupuram	111+30+5+40	1,86,000.00
Rosary Church (35,000)	3	3,000.00
W.Pudupatti	20	20,000.00
Sattur	160	1,60,000.00
Pandian Nagar	55	55,000.00
Srivilliputhur	1	1,000.00
Nilakkottai	7	7,000.00
K. Pudur	138+4	1,42,000.00
Kadachanendal (50,000)	35	35,000.00
Anna Nagar (2,56,000)	17	17,000.00
Rev. Fr. M. John Diraviam	3	3,000.00
Rev. Fr. A. Arul	5	5,000.00
Silukkuvar patty (22,000)	7	7,000.00
Fatima college Staff	10	10,000.00
Rev. Fr. S. Lawrance	5	5,000.00

Cl.bal. As on 27.03.2013 **16,00,000.00**

The amount given within brackets are remitted in previous months

Felicitation on Ordination Anniversary

Fr. John Selva Manohar M.	on	03.04.2005
Fr. Martin Jose MF.	on	03.04.2005
Fr. Paul Raj I.	on	03.04.2005
Fr. Anandam L.	on	06.04.1986
Fr. Antony Packiam A.	on	06.04.1986
Fr. James Paul Raj S.	on	06.04.1986
Fr. Jerome Eronimus J.R.	on	06.04.1986
Fr. John Britto Packiaraj A.	on	06.04.1986
Fr. Michael Charles V.	on	06.04.1986
Fr. Soosai P. Visuvasam	on	06.04.1986
Fr. Antony Britto Amalanathan	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Francis Borgia S.	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Jerome Patric M.F.	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Maria Louis A.	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Peter Roy	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Angel Raj S.	on	07.04.1991
Fr. Arockiam Y.	on	07.04.1991
Fr. Arulanandam B.	on	07.04.2002
Fr. Rex Peter N.	on	07.04.2002
Fr. Joseph Arockia Raj A.	on	07.04.2002
Fr. Jeganivasagar L.M.	on	10.04.1983
Fr. Charles Heston J.	on	10.04.1994
Fr. David Arockiam A.	on	10.04.1994
Fr. Edward Francis Xavier T.	on	10.04.1994
Fr. George Stephen R.P.	on	10.04.1994
Fr. Gandhi Savarimuthu P.	on	11.04.1999
Fr. Jeyabalan T.R.	on	11.04.1999
Fr. Sahaya Ambrose Raja I.	on	11.04.1999
Fr. Alvarez Sebastian	on	11.04.2010
Fr. John Selvaraj M.	on	14.04.1996
Fr. Joachim I.	on	14.04.1996
Fr. Amal Raj R.	on	14.04.1998
Fr. Antony Rajan	on	14.04.1998
Fr. David Dharmaraj	on	14.04.1998
Fr. Joseph Antony	on	14.04.1998
Fr. Rosario S.A.	on	14.04.1998
Fr. Antony Irudaya Raj F.	on	15.04.2007

Fr. Daniel Jai Joseph	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Devadoss	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Sebastian	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Arul Joseph V.	on	16.04.1978
Fr. Jeganathan S.	on	16.04.1978
Msgr. Joseph Selvaraj	on	16.04.1978
Fr. Maria Raj M.	on	16.04.1978
Fr. John Martin M.	on	16.04.1989
Fr. Peter Sahaya Raj I.	on	16.04.1989
Fr. Arul A.	on	18.04.1982
Fr. Cyprian S.	on	18.04.1982
Fr. Xavier Raj A.	on	18.04.1982
Fr. Antony Adaikala Raja	on	18.04.2004
Fr. Antony Raj G.	on	18.04.2004
Fr. David Sahaya Raja S.	on	18.04.2004
Fr. Eddy Dharmanand S.	on	18.04.2004
Fr. Jeyaseelan Y.	on	18.04.2004
Fr. Maria Michael M.	on	18.04.2004
Fr. Paul Britto S.	on	18.04.2004
Fr. Lawrence S.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Ignaci Arputha Raj P.S.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Prince Amala Jesuraja J.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Sebastian Titus	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Thiruthuva Raj J.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Vincent Madhan Babu	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Varan Vardhan P.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Yesu Karuna	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Dhivyanandam M.	on	21.04.1974
Fr. Jeevaraj L.	on	22.04.2001
Fr. Jeya Raj S.	on	22.04.1990
Fr. Siluvai Michal Raj P.	on	22.04.1990
Fr. Xavier Raj S.	on	22.04.1990
Fr. John Diraviam M.	on	23.04.1995
Fr. Antony Samy A.	on	23.04.2006
Fr. Alex Gnanaraj A.	on	23.04.2006
Fr. Maria Arul Selvam D.	on	23.04.2006
Fr. Amalraj A.	on	26.04.1987
Fr. Iruthaya Raj A.	on	26.04.1987
Fr. Antony John Kennedy I.	on	26.04.1992

Fr. Benedict Barnabas	on	26.04.1992
Fr. Edwin Sahayaraj S.	on	26.04.1992
Fr. Louis A.	on	26.04.1992
Fr. Paul M.	on	26.04.1992
Fr. Seshu Raja S.	on	26.04.1992
Fr. Britto Suresh	on	27.04.2003
Fr. Paul Ignatius	on	27.04.2003
Fr. Gabriel G.	on	30.04.2000
Fr. Masillamani S. Pauliah sj	on	08.04.1973

Mission Sunday Collection for the year 2012

Sivakasi	2,00,100.00
Srivilliputhur	1,40,000.00
Gnanaolivupuram	1,35,500.00
K. Pudur	1,00,000.00
Virudhunagar	70,000.00
Rayappanpatti	55,000.00
W. Pudupatti	51,398.00
Bibikulam	48,000.00
Palanganatham	45,150.00
Ellis Nagar	45,000.00
Anna Nagar	41,000.00
Thiruthangal	36,000.00
St. Mary's Church	30,500.00
Batlagundu	30,000.00
Munjikkal	30,000.00
Bastin Nagar	30,000.00
T. Vadipatti	30,000.00
Sundaranatchiapuram	27,150.00
Hanumanthanpatti	25,000.00
Samayanallur	23,000.00
Ugarthe Nagar	18,700.00
Anjal Nagar	17,100.00
Silukkuvarpatti	17,000.00
Nagamalai	16,000.00
Sattur	15,400.00
Holy Rosary Church	15,250.00
Meenampatti	15,069.00
A. Nathampatti	15,000.00
Kadachanendal	15,000.00

Shenbaganur	15,000.00
Michaelpalayam	12,500.00
Y. Othakadai	11,758.00
Aruppukottai	11,000.00
Usilampatti	10,300.00
R.R.Nagar	10,150.00
Periyakulam	10,000.00
Railway Colony	10,000.00
Packiapuram	6,500.00
Melur	6,000.00
Bodinayakanur	6,000.00
Uthamapalayam	5,600.00
Pandian Nagar	5,500.00
Thirumangalam	5,020.00
Thirunagar	5,000.00
Perumalmalai	5,000.00
Chinnamanur	4,585.00
Kalladipatti	4,485.00
Kadamalaikundu	4,260.00
Lourdipuram	4,030.00
Ayravathanallur	4,000.00
Rajapalayam	3,490.00
Manalar	3,100.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	3,000.00
Rayapuram	2,700.00
T. Sindalacherry	2,500.00
Iyyampalayam	2,100.00
Othyal	2,004.00
Kavirayapuram	2,000.00
Kottur	2,000.00
Nilakottai	1,500.00
Thummichinampatti	1,250.00
Alangulam	1,000.00
Karumathur	850.00
Mathankovilpatti	800.00
Mangalamkombu	200.00
	15,22,499.00
Institutions	
S.F.S. Matric School, Pandian nagar	25,000.00
Christ Hall Seminary	24,258.00
Holy Cross Hr. Sec. School Batlagundu	15,000.00
St. Britto Hr. Sec. School	5,000.00
	15,91,757.00
Collection as on 25/03/2013	

Bible Sunday Collection -2012	
Collection as on 25/02/2013	92,507.00
T. Vadipatti	1,500.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Chinnamanur	300.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00
	95,307.00
Collection as on 25/03/2013	
African Mission -2012	
Collection as on 25/02/2013	51,635.00
Sivakasi	4,150.00
Periyakulam	2,000.00
T. Vadipatti	1,500.00
Nagamalai	1,300.00
Silukkuvarpatti	1,000.00
Batlagundu	800.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Chinnamanur	350.00
A. Nathampatti	250.00
Mangalamkombu	200.00
Mathan Kovilpatti	200.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00
	64,385.00
Collection as on 25/03/2013	
St. Peter the Apostle -2012	
Collection as on 25/02/2013	39,717.00
Periyakulam	2,000.00
T. Vadipatti	1,500.00
Nagamalai	1,300.00
St. Mary's Church	1,000.00
Silukkuvarpatti	1,000.00
Batlagundu	800.00
Perumalmalai	500.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00

Bibikulam	500.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	500.00
Railway Colony	500.00
R.R. Nagar	400.00
Chinnamanur	400.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Othyal	300.00
Pandian Nagar	250.00
A. Nathampatti	250.00
Ammapatti	200.00
Mangalamkombu	200.00
Mathan Kovilpatti	200.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013

52,517.00

Holy Childhood -2013

St. Mary's Church	15,000.00
Anjal Nagar	6,025.00
Anna Nagar	5,000.00
Thiruthangal	5,000.00
Ellis Nagar	4,000.00
Virudhunagar	4,000.00
Silukkuvarpatti	2,100.00
Usilampatti	1,500.00
Meenampatti	1,500.00
Kadachanendal	1,300.00
Packiapuram	1,000.00
Pandian Nagar	1,000.00
Bibikulam	1,000.00
Hanumanthanpatti	1,000.00
Lourdipuram	965.00
Kalladipatti	863.50
R.R. Nagar	750.00
Uthamapalayam	700.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	500.00
Mathan Kovilpatti	300.00
Rayapuram	300.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013

53,803.50

Holy See -2012

Sivakasi	4,100.00
Periyakulam	2,000.00
T. Vadipatti	1,500.00
Nagamalai	1,300.00
St. Mary's Church	1,000.00
Batlagundu	800.00
Perumalmalai	500.00
Railway Colony	500.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Silukkuvarpatti	400.00
R.R. Nagar	350.00
A. Nathampatti	250.00
Mangalamkombu	200.00
Mathan Kovilpatti	200.00
Ammapatti	200.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00

Collection from 26/02/2013 to 25/03/2013

14,300.00

Holy See -2013

Thiruthangal	3,000.00
St. Mary's Church	2,000.00
Meenampatty	1,500.00
Packiapuram	1,000.00
Silukkuvarpatty	600.00
Meenatchiapuram	500.00
Pandian Nagar	500.00
Uthamapalayam	500.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013

9,600.00

Opus Securitatis -2012

Collection as on 25/02/2013	49,128.50
Sivakasi	4,300.00
T.Vadipatti	2,500.00
Periyakulam	2,000.00
Nagamalai	1,500.00

St. Mary's Church	1,000.00
Silukkuvarpatty	1,000.00
Batlagundu	800.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00
Railway Colony	500.00
Perumalmalai	500.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Chinnamanur	380.00
Pandian nagar	250.00
Nathampatty	250.00
R.R. Nagar	250.00
Mathankovilpatty	200.00
Ammapatty	200.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013 65,758.50

Communication Day -2012

Collection as on 25/02/2013	71,324.00
Sivakasi	4,300.00
T. Vadipatti	1,500.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013 78,124.00

St. Peter's Pence -2012

Collections as on 26/02/2013	87,419.00
Srivilliputhur	500.00
Ayravathanallur	400.00
Iyyampalayam	100.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013 88,419.00

Vocation Sunday -2012

Collections as on 26/02/2013	81,617.50
Srivilliputhur	500.00

Collection as on 25/03/2013 82,117.50

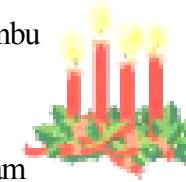
Greetings on Happy Birthdays

Fr. I. Daniel Jai Joseph	on	02.04.1977
Fr. I. David Dharmaraj	on	04.04.1970
Fr. Sebastian Titus A. P.	on	04.04.1963
Fr. A. T. Adaikala Raja	on	05.04.1977
Fr. P. Siluvai Michaelraj	on	05.04.1963
Fr. Thiruthuva Raj	on	08.04.1979
Fr. A. Irudayaraj	on	14.04.1961
Fr. L. Jeevaraj	on	18.04.1974
Fr. M. Dhivyanandam	on	27.04.1947



Adoration Sunday

April	May
07 Mangalamkombu	05 Palanganatham
14 Kalladipatti	12 M. Meenatchiapuram
21 Thirunagar	19 A. Nathampatti
28 Michaelpalayam	26 Hanumanthanpatty



Necrology

Fr. Visuvasam R.	on	05.04.2006
Fr. Victor J.	on	18.04.1986
Fr. Arulsamy S.M	on	19.04.1984
Fr. Thomas P.C.	on	19.04.2001
Fr. Zacharias K.G.	on	21.04.1997

