

DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai
News Letter

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நமக்காக பாடுபட்டார்! நமக்காக மரித்தார்! நமக்காக உயிர்த்தார்!



Thoothukudi Bishop Consecration



Blessing of Indra Nagar Church



Blessing of Arockia Annai Shopping Complex



MMI சபையுடன் ஒப்பந்தம்



Laying of the foundation stone at Kannicheripudur



Major Superiors Meeting



Senate Meeting

Published by : Rev. Dr. John Diraviam, Chancellor, Bishop's House.
MAVIGA, Nobili Campus, K. Pudur, Madurai - 7. Ph : 2561300



Greetings on Birthday



Fr. Daniel Jai Joseph I. (02)



Fr. Sebastin Titus A.P (04)



Fr. David Dharmaraj I. (04)



Fr. Augustin Prabhu A. (04)



Fr. Siluvai Michaelraj P. (05)



Fr. Adaikala Raja A.T (05)



Fr. Thiruthuvaraj (08)



Fr. Samuvel A. (11)



Fr. Irudhayaraj A. (14)



Fr. Jeevaraj L. (18)



Fr. Dhivyanandam M. (27)



The Voice of the Pastor

April 9^e

My dear fathers, brothers and sisters,
Anyone who does not renounce all that he has cannot be the disciple of Christ (cfr. Lk. 14/33). If we want to be his disciples we must commit ourselves to him and must be ready to pay the price.



If we want to commit ourselves to some goal whether is getting a carrier or earning a good name or power we will have to pay the price. Whatever be the achievements we get in the world may slip through our fingers like sand and are soon gone.

What is that which drives us is our passion for money or power. If we are gripped by it nothing will stand in our way. We are ready to lose everything for it. For love of a person we are able to give up everything and still be happy. Others cannot understand and even may think that we are crazy to give up so much just to be with another person. If we have really met Jesus then we will have this passion for him, a love that makes us throw away everything. If we are on fire with love for him we will not count the cost. The truth is that the more we can give up the happier we will be.

Let us meet Jesus and fall in love with him. Then our love for him will urge us to give up everything for his sake who came into the world to manifest his saving love.

May God bless you all,
Your loving Archbishop,

+ *Antony Pappusamy*

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
Archbishop of Madurai

Archbishop's Engagements

April 2019

- | | | | |
|----|-----|---|--|
| 01 | Mon | M | Felicitation, Marambady |
| 02 | Tue | M | Blessing of Presbytery and School Building,
Gnanaolivupuram |
| 05 | Fri | E | CD Release, Gnanaolivupuram |
| 06 | Sat | M | Blessing of Presbytery, Melur
M Laity Commission Training Programme, NPC |
| 07 | Sun | | Lenten Pilgrimage, Palayamkottai |
| 12 | Wed | M | Blessing of R.C. Middle School, Holy Rosary Church |
| 13 | Sat | M | Blessing of School Building, Lourdupuram |
| 14 | Sun | | Palm Sunday, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai |
| 15 | Mon | | Recollection & Chrism Mass, Palayamkottai |
| 16 | Tue | M | Priests' Sanctification Day-Recollection, Bishop's
House, Madurai
E Chrism Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai |
| 18 | Thu | | Mass of the Lord's Supper, Palayamkottai |
| 19 | Fri | | Good Friday Service, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai |
| 20 | Sat | E | Easter Vigil, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai |
| 23 | Tue | M | Archdiocesan Consult Meet, Bishop's House
E Sacerdotal Ordination, Ofm Cap. Thirumangalam |
| 25 | Thu | M | Blessing of the New Retreat Centre, Nagamalai
E Sacerdotal Ordinations, Claretians, Kochadai |
| 26 | Fri | M | Vocation Camp, NPC |
| 27 | Sat | M | Jubilee Mass, Chinnalapatti
E BC/MBC/DNC Scholarship Grand Program, NPC |
| 28 | Sun | E | Sacerdotal Ordination, Archdiocese of Madurai,
Gnanaolivupuram |
| 29 | Mon | M | Final Profession, Nagamalai |
| 30 | Tue | E | Feast Mass, Gnanaolivupuram |

* Appointments may be fixed by calling the Archbishop's Secretary at **+91 94433 86761** or by mailing to abssecretarymdu@gmail.com.

Please Note

1. **Chrism Mass – Priests Day:** The Monthly Recollection, consisting of Archbishop's Exhortation, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession will start at 10:30 am at Archbishop's House on **16th April**, Tuesday 2019. The **Chrism Mass** will begin at 6:00 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Cathedral Church officiated by His Grace, who will bless the Holy Oils. It is **PRIESTS' DAY**. We, all the priests in the Archdiocese of Madurai, concelebrating with the Archbishop, renew our Vows during the Mass. Hence DNL wishes all the Priests of the Archdiocese a meaningful celebration of Chrism Mass. The city Parish Priests are to cancel evening Masses at their parishes on 16th and they have to ask the parishioners to come and participate in the Solemn Episcopal Mass at the Cathedral.
2. **Congratulations to Five Deacons on their Ordination:** DNL congratulates all the five Deacons of our Archdiocese who will be ordained to **PRIESTHOOD** by our Archbishop, **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy** on 28th April at 5:30 pm., at St. Britto Hr. Sec. School, Gnanaolivupuram. The *Presbyterium* welcomes wholeheartedly all the five New Priests into the Archdiocese and pray that the new Priests may follow Christ more closely in their ministries wherever they are commissioned. May God bless our New Priests with the necessary gifts for their priestly life and ministry.

Ordination to Priesthood - 28-04-2019

We welcome you dear new Priests for our Archdiocese

1. Name : **A. Christian Anand**
 Date of Birth : 07.02.1988
 Parish : Royappanpatty
 Father's Name : Mr. S.A. Alexander
 Mother's Name : Mrs. A. Stella
 Brother and Sister : One elder brother and sister
 Ordination Motto : Being merciful like the father (Luke 6:36)



2. Name : **I. Cruz Divakaran**
 Date of Birth : 06.07.1986
 Parish : Perumalmalai
 Father's Name : Mr. Irudhayam
 Mother's Name : Mrs. Selvamary
 Brother and Sisters : Two sisters and one brother
 Ordination Motto : Lowly, but chosen - Pope Francis



3. Name : **A. Ignatius Stalin**
 Date of Birth : 16.08.1990
 Place of Birth / Parish : Sivakasi
 Father's Name : Mr. G. Stephen Asaithambi
 Mother's Name : Mrs. A. Nirmala Mary (late)
 Sisters : 2
 Ordination Motto : IN THE MIND OF JESUS....(Phil2:5)



4. Name : **A. James**
 Date of Birth : 17.03.1990
 Parish : Virudhunagar
 Father's Name : Mr. Antonyraj
 Mother's Name : Mrs. Grace
 Brothers : 1 Elder and 2 Younger brothers
 Ordination Motto : To Bear Fruit (Jn 15:16)



5. Name : **P. Maria Thangaraj**
 Date of Birth : 27.02.1982
 Parish : Rajapalayam
 Father's Name : Mr. T. Paulraj
 Mother's Name : Mrs. P. Thangapushpam
 Brothers and Sisters : 2 brothers, 2 sisters
 Ordination Motto : In favor with God and man (Luke 2 :52)



3. **Maundy Thursday Collection:** A special collection for the ***Campaign against Hunger and Disease*** is to be taken on **18th inst.** Kindly procure a good collection and submit it at once at Procurator's Office. Thus the Archdiocese participates in the humane work of eradicating poverty in the world especially in war-torn African countries.
4. **Good Friday Collection** is to be procured on **19th inst.** for the maintenance of sacred places of salvation history in the Holy Land.

Both the Collection will be sent to the Holy See for its universal mission.

5. **Parliament Election:** As People of INDIA this year's Parliamentary Election is very crucial for all of us in electing only the right and worthy candidates, who uphold the values of Indian Democracy, Pluri-religiosity, Secularism and Unity of all people and who would protect the constitutional Rights of the Religious Minority. As Tamils it is also very important to elect right candidates from **SECULAR FRONT** for the 18 local constituencies. As the State and People of Tamilnadu are facing a lot of issues during this non-stable period, we need to elect once again the right candidates belonging to *Secular Front* for Tamilnadu Assembly. Let all the priests, religious, leaders of Anbians and Parish council members instruct the faithful not to sell their votes for money and make them responsible citizens of INDIA. The Political Organizing Committee instructs that all our people should cast their votes at the very first hour, that is 8- 9 am., so that we could make ourselves free to participate in the Maundy Thursday Liturgical Celebrations. Since the Voting Day falls on Maundy Thursday, let us not lose the importance of the **Day of the Passion of the Lord**.
6. DNL conveys its deep **Condolences** to Rev. Sr. Rita, the Secretary of Women Commission, who lost her beloved Father, Mr. Irudaya Samy, aged 74, on 14th March 2019. May the soul of Mr. Irudaya Samy rest in peace.
7. **The Instructions and Recommendations from the political wing of the Archdiocese:** i) Kindly make sure of your voting rights as well as the people entrusted to your care ii) we recommend to consider the good candidates from seular progressive alliance iii) Since the election date falls on our Maundy Thursday, we request to cast your votes atleast before 9 am. iv) It you happen to meet any conflicts or atrocities based on religion, kindly contact the Archdiocesan legal cell. con. no. 9443611617. - **Fr. Paul Britto, Diocesan Political Wing.**

8. **The Tamilnadu Catholic Association** holds its Executive Meeting on 7th April at Diamond Hall, Nobili Pastoral Centre. Advocate Amal Raj Dairiam, President of Madurai Catholic Association invites all the members of this Association for the meeting without fail.

- **Adv. Amalraj Dairiam.**

9. All the Parish Priests, superiors of religious institutions, all the religious working in the Archdiocese, and all the distributors of Holy Communion are requested to read carefully "Guidelines for Extraordinary Mininisters of Holy Communion's which are given in this DNL and strictly follow them in Liturgical Celebrations in the Archdiocese of Madurai. - **Archbishop.**

10. **கோடை கால விவிலியப் பயிற்சி முகாம் (VBS) - 2019**

இடம் : நொடிலி மறைப்பணி நிலையம், சீகா.புதூர், மதுரை.

நாள் : ஏப்ரல் 27, 28 சனி, ஞாயிறு

மையக்கருத்து : தொலைத்தொடர்பு கருவிகள்.... தொலைந்த உறவுகள்

இந்த பயற்சி முகாமிற்கு ஒவ்வொரு பங்கிலிருந்தும் 4 நபர்களை அனுப்பி வைக்க கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

- **ஆ. அந்தோணிசாமி**

செயலர், கிறித்தவ வாழ்வு பணிக்குழு.

Pope's General Intention for April 2019

Universal: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

HAPPY FEAST

The Archbishop & The Archdiocesan Priests wish the following religious congregations, serving in our Archdiocese, a blessed Feast Day.

De La Salle Brothers (FSC)

- 7th April

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

விதைக்க : கிறிஸ்துவின் உயிர்ப்பில் நாம் நம்பவில்லை என்றால் நம் நம்பிக்கை யொருளற்றதே - புனித பவுல்.

வளர்க்க : மக்காத யொருள்களின் பயன்பாட்டை முற்றிலும் தவிர்க்க.

வாழ்வாக்க : இயேசு போதித்துக் காட்டிய ஆன்மீக சமத்துவத்தை அன்றாட வாழ்வாக்க. . .

GUIDELINES FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

I. General Norms

1. The ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are the priest and deacon.
2. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may be appointed in parishes, religious houses, and chaplaincies in situations of genuine pastoral need where ordinary ministers are not available or are insufficient in number:
 - a. to facilitate the distribution of Holy Communion within Mass when there is a large number of communicants;
 - b. to allow for a more frequent, even daily, administration of Holy Communion outside of Mass to those impeded from attending Mass because of sickness or physical weakness.
3. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion assist priests and deacons in administering Holy Communion. They may not replace them, except on those occasions when the ordinary minister is impeded from administering Holy Communion because of ill health, advanced age, or other pressing pastoral obligations.
4. It is the responsibility of pastors, chaplains and religious superiors, within their respective jurisdictions, to evaluate the need for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and to identify worthy candidates for this service. The number of extraordinary ministers in a parish, chaplaincy or religious house should correspond to genuine pastoral need. The number should not be so few as to unduly burden any one minister, yet not so large as to make it appear that this ministry is a regular and normal expression of lay participation in the Eucharist.
5. To serve as an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, persons must: a. be practicing Catholics, distinguished in their Christian life, faith and morals; b. be at least 18 years old; c. have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist; d. demonstrate a deep reverence for and devotion to the holy Eucharist; e. possess the requisite abilities and temperament to carry out their assigned duties.
6. Special care must be exercised in the choice of those candidates who will take Holy Communion to the sick. In addition to meeting the qualifications listed above, they must be persons who will deal with the sick and the aged in a compassionate and understanding manner, always conscious of the serious obligation to respect the confidence of those to whom they minister.
7. Care should be taken that the selection of extraordinary ministers reflects, as far as possible, the diversity of the community to which they will minister. Candidates may be men or women, lay people or those in consecrated life.
8. The pastor, chaplain or religious superior should interview all candidates prior to presenting them for nomination to the Bishop. The interview should provide the candidates with the opportunity to express their belief in the Eucharist and their understanding of their role as extraordinary minister of

Holy Communion. Inquiry should be made regarding the candidates' attitude toward prayer and regular use of the Sacrament of Penance.

9. Before being commissioned as extraordinary ministers, candidates are strongly encouraged to complete the diocesan program of training and formation conducted by the diocesan liturgical commission. This program provides theological and spiritual formation, as well as training in practical and liturgical skills.
10. Once candidates have completed their training, the pastor, chaplain, or religious superior should write a letter to the director or associate director of the Liturgy Commission certifying that the candidates have completed their training and recommending that the Bishop appoint them as extraordinary ministers. The Liturgy Commission forwards the request to the Bishop for his approval. Upon approval, extraordinary ministers are issued a certificate signed by the Bishop or his delegate. The certificate is presented to the extraordinary ministers when they are publicly commissioned.
11. Before assuming their duties, extraordinary ministers should be commissioned according to the rite. This should take place, preferably, at the Sunday Liturgy.
12. The term of office for extraordinary ministers is three years, effective from the time of commissioning. The term is renewable, but application must again be made to the Bishop by the pastor, chaplain or religious superior through the Liturgical Commission. Pastors, chaplains and religious superiors are encouraged to promote a broad sharing of this extraordinary ministry among the faithful under their care.
13. Extraordinary ministers are designated for service in their own parish or specified institution, and therefore are not authorized to exercise this ministry in other parishes or institutions.
14. Pastors, chaplains and religious superiors should periodically review the performance of their extraordinary ministers, at least on an annual basis, and be diligent in providing on-going formation to deepen the ministers' Eucharistic devotion and liturgical spirituality. Annual attendance at a specially prepared occasion of spiritual renewal conducted by the parish or deanery is strongly recommended for all extraordinary ministers. Eucharistic devotion, including Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, should normally be a part of each annual event.
15. **When serving, extraordinary ministers should always be dressed in a manner consistent with the dignity of their role.** The vestment should be like the one approved by the Conference (CCBI) or something similar according to the Local Ordinary. **This vestment is to be worn whenever and wherever the Lay minister or Religious installed as Extraordinary Ministers or Religious Superiors administer Holy Communion.** A neat appearance and reverential deportment are essential at all times. They must wash their hands before and after administering Holy Communion.
16. At the time of the selection of candidates, during the formation and training programs, at the ceremony of commissioning as well as at other opportune

moments, priests should make every effort to instruct the people under their care about the nature of this extraordinary ministry and the importance of the Eucharist in their lives.

II Procedures for the Distribution of Holy Communion at Mass by Extraordinary Ministers

17. Extraordinary ministers normally sit in the assembly until the time when they approach the altar to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion.
18. At the Lamb of God, the priest alone, with the assistance of the deacon, breaks the Sacred Hosts. Empty ciboria or patens, if necessary, are then brought to the altar by servers. The priest or deacon places the Hosts in empty ciboria or patens if necessary for distribution. The Precious Blood should be already for distribution since it was prepared and poured into the chalice(s) at the time of the preparation of the gifts. Extraordinary ministers do not participate in these actions since they are the proper role of the priest and deacon. If there is a large number of Hosts to be broken, some of the Hosts may be broken prior to the celebration of the Mass so the fractioning rite is not unduly prolonged.
19. Extraordinary ministers approach the altar as the priest receives Communion. After the priest has concluded his own Communion, he distributes Communion to the extraordinary ministers, assisted by the deacon, and then hands the sacred vessels to them for distribution of Holy Communion to the people. Extraordinary ministers should not take the sacred vessels from the altar themselves, but should be handed them by the priest or deacon.
20. Extraordinary ministers should receive Holy Communion from the priest or deacon before being handed the sacred vessels for distributing Holy Communion to the people. The practice of extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion waiting to receive Holy Communion until after the distribution of Holy Communion is not in accord with liturgical law
21. After receiving their sacred vessels, extraordinary ministers reverently and without haste go to their Communion stations.
22. When distributing the Sacred Hosts, the extraordinary minister holds up the consecrated Host as each communicant approaches and, addressing the communicant, says, "The Body of Christ." When the communicant responds "Amen," the minister places the Host on the communicant's tongue or in the communicant's hand.
23. When distributing the Precious Blood, the extraordinary minister holds up the chalice filled with the Precious Blood as each communicant approaches and, addressing the communicant, says "The Blood of Christ." When the communicant responds "Amen," the minister hands the chalice to the communicant. After each communicant has drunk from the chalice, the extraordinary minister wipes both sides of the rim of the chalice with a purificator. The minister then turns the chalice slightly after each communicant has received the Precious Blood. Only purificators made of cloth may be used; paper or disposable purificators may not be used.

24. The communicant, including the extraordinary minister, is never allowed to self-communicate, even by means of intinction = dipping the Host into the chalice.
25. Holy Communion should always be distributed with the utmost dignity and reverence. The minister should avoid all haste in distributing Holy Communion. If a Host is dropped, the minister should reverently pick it up and set it aside. The minister should also reverently pick up any particles that drop from the Host. If any of the Precious Blood should spill, the minister should use the purificator to wipe up the spill. The area where the spill occurred should be washed and the water poured into the sacrarium. After use, purificators should always be rinsed in a sacrarium before being sent for washing.
26. After Communion the Precious Blood that remains is to be consumed and the Sacred Hosts that remain are to be either consumed or returned to the tabernacle by the priest or deacon.
27. Care should be taken that any fragments of the Hosts remaining on the corporal or in the sacred vessels after Communion be reverently consumed. The reverence due to the Precious Blood of the Lord demands that it be fully consumed immediately after Communion is completed. Extraordinary Ministers may assist the priest and deacon in consuming any Precious Blood that remains after Communion. This should be done with the greatest decorum either at the altar.
28. After the Precious Blood has been consumed and the Hosts either consumed or taken to the tabernacle for reservation, the sacred vessels should be purified. The purifications may take place either at the altar, at a side table in the sanctuary (Credence table), or at a convenient place immediately after distribution of communion or the conclusion of the Mass.
29. The Extraordinary Ministers return the vessels to the altar for purifications (or in the case of the Hosts for reservation in the tabernacle by the priest or deacon). The ministers should then return to their place in the congregation.
30. The purifications take place as follows. A small amount of water is poured into the ciboria and patens and the water consumed by the priest, deacon, or instituted acolyte. The Extraordinary Ministers may not assist in the purification of the vessels.
31. It is important to note that provided the remaining Hosts have been consumed or taken to the tabernacle for reservation and the remaining Precious Blood has been consumed, it is permissible to leave the sacred vessels suitably covered and at a side table **on a corporal**, to be purified immediately after Mass following the dismissal of the people.
32. The Precious Blood may not be reserved, except for giving Communion to someone who is sick and unable to receive the Sacred Host.
33. After the vessels have been purified by the priest, deacon, or instituted acolyte, the vessels may be moved to a location in the sacristy for them to be washed and dried thoroughly with purificators so that the vessels are ready for the next liturgy. Please note: Extraordinary Ministers may assist with the task of cleaning (i.e. washing and drying) the sacred vessels but not in their purification.

III Distribution of Holy Communion to the Sick

34. Extraordinary ministers who take Holy Communion to the sick and infirm should be trained for the special requirements of this ministry.
35. In administering Holy Communion to the sick, extraordinary ministers are to follow exactly the rite of Administration of Holy Communion to the Sick by an Extraordinary Minister that is found in Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass.
36. The Eucharist that is taken to the sick is to be carried in a pyx, which should be placed in a burse, if possible, and carried on the minister's person with utmost reverence. Extraordinary ministers while bearing the Eucharist should as a rule keep silence, pray, and be especially mindful of the sacred responsibility that has been entrusted to them.
37. A pyx should always be blessed before being used for the first time. After each use, it should be purified and then washed and dried.
38. Errands such as shopping are not to be done by the extraordinary ministers while bearing the Blessed Sacrament. Nor is the Eucharist ever to be reserved in the minister's house for distribution at a later date. The Eucharist must be borne directly from Church to the house of the sick without interruption.
39. Only sick people who are unable to receive Communion under the form of bread may receive it under the form of wine alone, at the discretion of the priest. If not consecrated at a Mass in the presence of the sick person, the Precious Blood is kept in a properly covered vessel and is placed in the tabernacle after Communion. The Precious Blood should be carried to the sick in a vessel that is closed in such a way as to eliminate all danger of spilling. If some of the Precious Blood remains after the sick person has received Communion, the extraordinary minister should consume it and in this situation purify the vessel.
40. Visitation of the sick should be so planned that, even when an extraordinary minister takes Holy Communion to the sick more frequently, a priest will visit the sick person at least once a month and be available for the Sacrament of Penance.
41. Priests should be available at all times for the administration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to those who are seriously ill. Extraordinary Ministers should advise the priest of the wish of the sick to receive Penance and raise with him the question of the Anointing.
42. A pyx used for the carrying of the Eucharist to the sick should be purified according to the custom for sacred vessels. (Please see Instruction #30)

(to be continued)

**குடும்ப நல்வாழ்வு பணிக்குழு நடத்தும்
திருமண முன்தயாரிப்பு நடைபெறும் நாட்கள்**

06,07.04.2019 நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம் சனி, ஞாயிறு
27,28.04.2019 உத்தமபாளையம் சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்தந்தை. ஜோசப், செயலர்

சதங்கையின் 33வது

கோடைக்கால கலைப் பயிற்சிகள் - 2019

அன்பு பங்குப்பணியாளர்களே, அருட்பணியாளர்களே, அருட்சகோதரிகளே 38ஆண்டு கால வரலாற்றுப் பெருமை கொண்ட நம் கோடைக் கால கலைப் பயிற்சிகள்-2019, ஏப்ரல் 22ஆம் தேதி முதல் மே 16ஆம் தேதி வரை நம் சதங்கை கலைமைய வளாகத்தில் நடைபெறுகின்றன. கோடைக் காலத்தின் பொழுதுகளைப் பயனுள்ளதாக்கி, கலைகளின் வழியாக இளம் உள்ளங்களின் திறமைகளை வளர்த்தெடுக்கவும் பங்கேற்போரின் உள்ளங்களில் தன்னம்பிக்கையை வளர்க்கும் நோக்குடனும் நடத்தப்படும் இந்த சிறப்பு வகுப்புக்களில் ஆர்வமுள்ள பெரியவர்கள் முதல் சிறியவர்கள் வரை அனைவரையும் கலந்து கொள்ளுமாறு ஊக்கப்படுத்த அன்போடு கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். தாங்கள் அனுப்பும் நபர்கள் தங்கள் **பங்கில் உள்ள ஆலயங்களில் இசைக் கருவி மீட்டும் நோக்கத்திற்காக** என்றால் தங்கள் கடிதத்தில் குறிப்பிட்டு அனுப்பவும். அவர்களுக்குச் சிறப்புச் சலுகை உண்டு. இச்செய்தினை அனைவருக்கும் ஞாயிறு திருப்பலிகளிலும் முக்கிய நிகழ்வுகளிலும் தொடர்ந்து அறிவித்து தங்களின் முழு ஒத்துழைப்பையும் ஆதரவையும் நல்குமாறு அன்புடன் வேண்டுகின்றேன். **Keyboard** பிரிவு கத்தோலிக்க மாணவ மாணவியருக்கு வகுப்பு பாடம் தவிர 40க்கும் மேற்பட்ட ஆலயப் பாடல்களுக்குக் கருவி இசைக்கவும் சிறப்புப் பயிற்சி வழங்கப்படும். விடுதியில் தங்கிப் படிக்கும் அனைவருக்கும் வகுப்பு நேரம் போக மீதியுள்ள நேரம் முழுவதும் சிறப்புப் பயிற்சி செய்து கொள்ள வாய்ப்பளிக்கப்படும். வகுப்புகள் மற்றும் கட்டணங்கள் பற்றிய விவரங்கள் தங்களுக்குக் கடிதங்கள் வாயிலாக அறிவிக்கப்படும். மேலும் விவரங்கள் தேவைப்பட்டால் 0452-2660926, 0452-2660447, 9443481039, 9790646321, 8056503084 போன்ற எண்களுக்கு தொடர்புகொள்ளவும்.

அருட்பணி. B. அருளானந்தம்
இயக்குநர், சதங்கை கலைமையம்

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Opening Balance 25.02.2019	27,85,053.77
Mrs. Mercy, Tr. Marambody	10,000.00
Br. John, Superior & Correspondent, } St. Aloysius Institution Rayappanpatti }	10,000.00
Parish Priest, Devadanam	10,000.00
Parish Priest, Srivilliputhur	6,000.00
Sr. Superior, St. Joseph's Convent, Madurai	5,000.00
Fr. V. David Raj, Vakkampatti	3,000.00
Nagar Catholic Christian Sangam, Srivilliputhur	2,000.00
Sivagnanapuram	2,000.00
Mrs. G. Usha Bernadett	1,000.00
Less : Payment for Little Flower Seminary - 61610	28,34,053.77
Bank SMS Alert Charges - 15	
	<u>61625</u>
Closing Balance 25.03.2019	27,72,428.77
Cash in Hand : 10,000.00	
Cash at Bank : 27,62,428.77	
	<u>27,72,428.77</u>

Adoration Sunday

April	May
07 Kalladipatti	05 Ayravathanallur
14 A. Nathampatti	12 Sindalacherry
21 Hanumanthanpatty	19 Thirumangalam
28 Munjikkal	26 Kadachanendal

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.03.2019

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 11/2/18	Holy See 11/3/18	Hunger Disease 29/3/18	Good Friday 30/3/18	Vocation Sunday 22/4/18
1	A. Nathampatti	300	300	1500	1000	400
2	Alankulam	600	600	2250	2250	600
3	Ammapatty	1180	1280	8150	4130	800
4	Anjal Nagar	6125	5200	65257	43351	6300
5	Anna Nagar	12530	10360	150000	38726	8850
6	Aruppukottai	1500	1000	15000	5000	1000
7	Ayravathanallur	2000	2000	10000	8000	1000
8	Bastin Nagar	15000	9000	124000	29000	11000
9	Batlagundu	2600	2400	40000	10000	2500
10	Bibikulam	4500	2750	43017	10183	3440
11	Bodinayakanur	500	500	10000	3000	300
12	Chinnamanur	460	270	1050	2030	417
13	Cumbum	1600	1270	17200	4400	1520
14	Devadanam	3930	1600	23270	3880	1800
15	Ellis Nagar	11917	7560	110981	23220	9947
16	Gnanaolivupuram	7000	7000	116110	43500	6390
17	Hanumanthanpatty	1200	1300	14000	7340	1150
18	Holy Rosary Church	5000	5000	50000	10000	3000
19	Iyyampalayam	200	200	1300	1200	200
20	K. Pudur	2000	2000	40000	30000	2000
21	Kadachanendal	1500	1500	25500	17000	1500
22	Kadamalaikundu	200	200	3500	2700	200
23	Kalladipatti	1000	1000	5000	2100	1000
24	Kariapatty	1000	1000	6230	6070	1000
25	Karumathur	630	510	1500	3650	500
26	Kavirayapuram	350	350	2810	4860	320
27	Kottur	1000	1000	15000	16700	1000
28	Lourdupuram	500	500	2000	2000	500
29	Megamalai	200	200	200	300	200
30	Mangalamkombe	400	470	3000	1955	400
31	M. Meenachiapuram	1020	1210	4520	3700	1280
32	Mathankovilpatti	600	500	5000	1500	500
33	Marianus Nagar	-	-	-	-	-
34	Meenampatti	3860	2120	31333	4035	2077
35	Melur	?	1910	12762	6260	1200

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.03.2019

	St. Peter's Pence 01/07/18	Communi- cation Day 07/07/18	Prision Ministry 12/08/18	Bible Sunday 30/09/18	Mission Sunday 21/10/18	African Mission 04/11/18	Peter the Apostle 25/11/18	Opus 02/12/18
1	300	300	300	300	3000	300	300	300
2	600	600	600	700	8000	1000	700	700
3	800	800	800	1000	8500	1500	750	750
4	4500	5000	5250	4436	33903	4355	3500	5020
5	8780	8410	10000	8730	153405	9070	9500	9310
6	1000	1000	1500	1500	10000	1500	1000	2000
7	1000	1000	1000	1000	40000	1000	1000	?
8	9000	15502	23000	13092	104450	8000	8000	8000
9	2500	2500	2500	2500	37050	3000	2000	3500
10	2732	3468	2340	3510	64880	3350	3200	1200
11	300	400	500	1000	20500	500	500	500
12	500	500	500	500	7200	500	500	500
13	1480	1850	1450	2350	15550	2050	1700	1550
14	1200	1200	1200	1200	12000	1200	1500	1500
15	11140	11301	10287	11600	235142	10457	10175	✓
16	7000	8000	10000	10000	484184	5000	5000	5000
17	1250	1300	1800	1230	47000	1000	1100	1150
18	3000	4500	3000	5000	60000	5000	5000	5000
19	149	873	392	476	6740	260	292	386
20	7000	10000	2000	2700	70000	9000	1000	1000
21	1500	1500	2000	1500	50000	1500	1500	1500
22	200	200	200	200	3500	200	200	200
23	450	555	505	490	?	?	?	?
24	1000	1000	1000	1000	20346	1000	1000	1000
25	500	500	725	875	4500	900	500	620
26	?	?	700	1050	6320	650	750	850
27	1000	1000	1000	1000	20000	1000	1000	1000
28	500	500	500	500	6270	500	500	500
29	300	200	200	300	4000	200	200	200
30	400	400	400	400	6140	480	400	400
31	1460	1520	2180	1860	16900	1460	2100	1800
32	600	420	480	500	6020	650	600	600
33	-	-	1000	2000	30000	1000	1000	1000
34	1890	2200	2050	2084	36666	1880	2107	2200
35	1090	1185	1000	1000	15600	1000	1000	1000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.03.2019

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 11/2/18	Holy See 11/3/18	Hunger Disease 29/3/18	Good Friday 30/3/18	Vocation Sunday 22/4/18
36	Melakovilpatti	-	-	-	-	-
37	Michaelpalayam	2100	2200	15000	10000	2100
38	Munjikkal	11000	6000	60000	30000	7500
39	Nagamalai	-	-	-	-	-
40	Nakkaneri	1000	1000	12000	2000	1000
41	Nilakottai	1100	600	5700	4200	600
42	Niravazhvu Nagar (VNR)	500	500	6930	3110	500
43	Othaial	250	250	800	700	200
44	Packiapuram	3020	2350	23020	6020	3160
45	Palanganatham	6000	?	110000	21000	4000
46	Pandian Nagar	1020	530	6020	7080	2256
47	Periyakulam	800	600	*26000	4200	1800
48	Perumalmalai	1470	1530	29047	6000	1650
49	R.R. Nagar	3000	3000	22000	5500	1000
50	Railway Colony	2100	1000	4500	4500	1200
51	Rajapalayam	1500	1000	22500	3500	1500
52	Rayappanpatti	6000	3000	35000	30000	3500
53	Rayapuram	?	?	?	?	?
54	Samayanallur	3000	3100	47000	10000	3600
55	Sattur	500	500	500	500	500
56	Shenbaganur	750	750	10000	3000	1330
57	Sengole Nagar	2750	2200	60000	30000	2000
58	Silukkuvarpatty	1000	1000	10000	5000	1000
59	Sivakasi	15500	12900	103400	45500	15500
60	Srivilliputhur	?	?	?	?	?
61	St. Mary's Cathedral	10000	5000	60000	50000	5000
62	Sundaranatchiapuram	3300	3300	70000	16000	3300
63	T. Sindalacherry	2000	1000	54600	21400	1000
64	T. Vadipatti Shrine	4000	3000	10200	15500	1300
65	Theni	4100	3400	39377	16767	3000
66	Thirumangalam	1500	1000	3500	5010	1300
67	Thirunagar	2000	3000	9000	20000	1500
68	Thiruthangal	?	?	?	?	?
69	Thummuchinampatty	630	370	520	530	500
70	Ugarthe Nagar	2000	2000	20000	10000	2000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.03.2019								
	St. Peter's Pence 01/07/18	Communi- cation Day 07/07/18	Prision Ministry 12/08/18	Bible Sunday 30/09/18	Mission Sunday 21/10/18	African Mission 04/11/18	Peter the Apostle 25/11/18	Opus 02/12/18
36	-	-	-	?	8000	?	?	?
37	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
38	?	?	?	?	50000	?	?	?
39	1000	1000	2000	4000	85000	2000	2000	2000
40	1000	500	1000	1000	12500	1000	1000	500
41	600	1000	1000	1500	20100	1000	600	600
42	1000	1000	500	1000	10000	1000	1000	1000
43	250	200	300	250	2000	300	300	250
44	2020	2050	2461	2300	32100	2700	2510	2520
45	3000	5000	7000	5780	180000	?	?	?
46	3034	3030	3613	2355	?	?	?	?
47	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
48	1870	1630	1350	?	?	?	?	?
49	1000	1000	5000	3000	20000	2500	1000	1000
50	2500	1300	2050	2600	17440	1560	1100	2100
51	1200	1500	1500	1800	30000	1500	1300	1200
52	3500	3500	3500	4000	120000	3500	3500	3500
53	?	?	?	?	9000	?	?	?
54	3000	3100	3500	3100	124000	3100	3000	3050
55	1347	1283	1431	1263	54570	?	?	?
56	1300	1500	750	1000	25000	2000	2150	1900
57	2100	2000	2300	?	135000	✓	✓	✓
58	1000	1000	1000	1000	5000	1000	1000	1000
59	13250	14500	12100	12000	400000	10500	11500	10500
60	?	?	?	?	310521	?	?	?
61	5000	3000	4000	6000	70000	4000	3000	5000
62	3300	3300	3500	3500	180000	3500	3500	?
63	1000	1000	1000	1000	101000	1000	1000	1000
64	2000	2000	1000	4000	17250	2000	2000	2000
65	4000	3200	3100	4500	303001	4000	3300	2400
66	1000	1000	1200	1350	11860	1760	1100	1230
67	1500	1500	1500	1500	24500	2000	1500	1000
68	4200	3000	4000	4100	90370	2600	3600	2360
69	500	500	610	910	2670	580	500	600
70	2000	2000	2000	2500	25000	2000	2000	2000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.03.2019						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 11/2/18	Holy See 11/3/18	Hunger Disease 29/3/18	Good Friday 30/3/18	Vocation Sunday 22/4/18
71	Usilampatti	1100	1000	21000	6317	1000
72	Uthamapalayam	1000	1000	4100	8300	?
73	Virudhunagar	6000	8000	85000	75000	8000
74	Vadapatti Mission	-	-	-	-	-
75	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000	35000	5000	1000
76	Y. Othakadai	?	?	15962	20725	2650
	St. Agnes Home for Children, Rayappanpatti	20000				
	Holy cross Convent, VNR				5000	
	Melavadakkur			557	556	
	Fr. Lourduraj, Arockia Illam			900	1100	
	St. Anne's Provincialate Ansarinagar			4000		
	J.A. College, Periyakulam	15800			10200	
	Holy Cross Convent, Bat.					
	Holy Cross Convent, Vadipatty					
	St. Britto Hr.Se.Sch.Mdu					
	Christ Hall Seminary					
	St. Aloysius Inst. Rayappanpatti	10000				
Total		241192	151140	2004573	872255	161737
NB: * Periyakulam Parish Rs. 26,000/- for Hunger & Disease collection paid directly to MMSSS.						
<p style="text-align: center;">From the Procurator's Desk</p> <p>Dear Rev. Fathers,</p> <p>Kindly verify the above statement and confirm the remittances. If any discrepancy is found, you are welcome to correct the same with the receipt available with you.</p> <p>Kindly remit all the Diocesan Collections (13 Nos) and the DMF (1%) Collections seperatly by Cheque or Bank Draft favouring The R.C. Diocese of Madurai to the Procurator's Office. This is in accordance with Government norms for restricting cash transactions.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Fr. Procurator</p>						

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.03.2019

71
72
73
74
75
76

Mass Received From Parishes

Parish Priest, Anna Nagar (200 Masses)	20,000.00
Parish Priest, Palanganatham (150 Masses)	15,000.00
Parish Priest, Kadamalaikundu (10 Masses)	1,000.00
Total	36,000.00

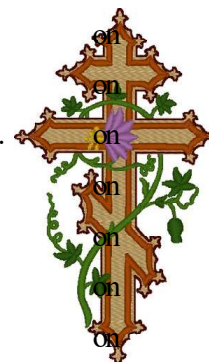
நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன் உதவும் உள்ளங்கள்

Fr. Britto Raja Suresh, USA	1,39,835
Fr. Arul Joseph, USA	1,04,816
Fr. G. Lourdu Raj, Arockia Illam	55,000
Fr. Dhivyanandam, Ayravathanallur	50,000
Fr. Arul, Secretary, Dialogue Commission	50,000
Fr. A. Antony Samy, Secretary, C.C.L	25,000
Fr. Vincent Mathan Babu	20,000
Fr. M. John Diraviam, Chancellor	15,000
Fr. A. Vedamanickam, Palanganatham	10,000
Fr. I. Maria Arul Selvam	10,000
Mr. Arulanandam, Rtd., H.M, Annanagar	10,000
Amaladass Nithya, Annanagar	10,000
The Teachers, R.C. Mid.Sch. P. Chettiapatti, Usilampatti	5,000
Fr. Gnanasandanam, Arockia Illam	5,000
Nazrane Isabella Family, Usilampatti	1,000
Mrs. Badma James, Kadachanendal	1,000
Total	5,11,651

Necrology

Fr. Visuvasam R.	05.04.2006
Fr. Jesudasan	08.04.2014
Fr. Francis Britto S.K.	13.04.2014
Fr. Victor J.	18.04.1986
Fr. Arulsamy S.M	19.04.1984
Fr. Thomas P.C.	19.04.2001
Fr. Zacharias K.G	21.04.1997



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/19	Holy See 31/03/19	Hunger Disease 18/04/19	Good Friday 19/04/19	Vocation Sunday 12/05/19
1	A. Nathampatti					
2	Alankulam	1000				
3	Ammapatty	800				
4	Anjal Nagar	6080				
5	Anna Nagar	10360				
6	Aruppukottai					
7	Ayravathanallur					
8	Bastin Nagar					
9	Batlagundu	2600				
10	Bibikulam	5000				
11	Bodinayakanur	500				
12	Chinnamanur	500				
13	Cumbum					
14	Devadanam					
15	Ellis Nagar					
16	Gnanaolivupuram					
17	Hanumanthanpatty	1300				
18	Holy Rosary Church					
19	Iyyampalayam	1120				
20	K. Pudur					
21	Kadachanendal	2000				
22	Kadamalaikundu					
23	Kalladipatti					
24	Kariapatty	1000				
25	Karumathur	1450				
26	Kavirayapuram					
27	Kottur	1100				
28	Lourdupuram	1500				
29	Megamalai					
30	Mangalamkombe	500				
31	M. Meenachiapuram					
32	Mathankovilpatti					
33	Marians Nagar					
34	Meenampatti	3100				
35	Melur	1350				

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/19	Holy See 31/03/19	Hunger Disease 18/04/19	Good Friday 19/04/19	Vocation Sunday 12/05/19
36	Melakovilpatti					
37	Michaelpalayam					
38	Munjikkal					
39	Nagamalai	4000				
40	Nakkaneri					
41	Nilakottai	1000				
42	Niraivazhvu Nagar (VNR)					
43	Othaial					
44	Packiapuram	2350	2250			
45	Palanganatham	6000				
46	Pandian Nagar					
47	Periyakulam					
48	Perumalmalai					
49	R.R. Nagar					
50	Railway Colony	2600				
51	Rajapalayam					
52	Rayappanpatti	6000				
53	Rayapuram					
54	Samayanallur	3000				
55	Sattur					
56	Shenbaganur	3000				
57	Sengole Nagar					
58	Silukkuvarpatty					
59	Sivakasi	11500				
60	Srivilliputhur					
61	St. Mary's Cathedral					
62	Sundaranatchiapuram					
63	T. Sindalacherry	3000				
64	T. Vadipatti Shrine					
65	Theni					
66	Thirumangalam					
67	Thirunagar					
68	Thiruthangal	3800				
69	Thummuchinampatty	750				
70	Ugarthe Nagar	2000				

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/19	Holy See 31/03/19	Hunger Disease 18/04/19	Good Friday 19/04/19	Vocation Sunday 12/05/19
71	Usilampatti	3000				
72	Uthamapalayam					
73	Virudhunagar	9500				
74	Vadapatti Mission					
75	W. Pudupatti					
76	Y. Othakadai	2000				
	St. Agnes Home for Children, Rayappanpatti					
	Holycross Convent, VNR Holycross Convent, Pambarpuram	10000				
	Fouriere Home, Pambarpuram	10000	2250			
	Total	124760				

Commission for Vocation

Vocation camp for those who want to serve Madurai Diocese will be held in Pastoral Centre from April 3rd to 6th. The participants should have completed XII std or College studies.

There will be also 'Come and See' programme for students from VIII to XI stds in Pastoral Centre from 22-23rd April. Parish Priests are kindly requested to send the eligible and interested boys for the programmes mentioned above. Other details have been already sent to you. - **Fr. Arul.**

Commission for Dialogue

On 5th March 2019, 81st death anniversary Er. George Joseph, one of the Catholic freedom fighters was remembered and honored by Tamil Nadu people welfare association and Tiruarulperai. Thiru Nanmaran, Ex MLA, President, Madurai Unit, along with Msgr. J. Jeyaraj, Vicar general, Fr. Peter Roy, Procurator, Fr. Arul, Fr. John Diraviam, Fr. Paul Britto, Fr. Sandana Sahayam, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Mathias garlanded the statue of Er. George Joseph which is in Yanaikal, Madurai.

- **Fr. Arul.**

Edications on Ordination Anniversary Day

**Congratulation to you, O Priests!
on your Ordination Anniversary Days!!**

Fr. Martin Jose MF.	on	03.04.2005
Fr. John Selva Manohar M.	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. Soosai P. Visuvasam	on	06.04.1986
Fr. Jerome Patric M.F.	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Francis Borgia S.	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Maria Louis A.	on	06.04.1997
Fr. Peter Roy S.	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. Joseph Arockia Raj A.	on	07.04.2002
Fr. Rex Peter N.	on	07.04.2002
Fr. Vinoth Mathias	on	08.04.2002
Fr. Xavier Arul Rayan	on	08.04.2002
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 I.	on	14.04.1998
Fr. David Dharmaraj I.	on	14.04.1998
Fr. Joseph Antony	on	14.04.1998
Fr. Antony Irudaya Raj D.	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Daniel Jai Joseph I.	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Devadoss P.	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Sebastian S.	on	15.04.2007
Fr. Jeganathan S.	on	16.04.1978
Fr. Joseph Selvaraj Z.	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. Adaikala Raja A.T.	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 A.P.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Thiruthuva Raj J.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Vincent Madhan Babu A.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Varan Vardhan P.	on	19.04.2009
Fr. Yesu Karunanidhi	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. Ilangovan Arpudaraj K.	on	24.04.2016
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. Britto Raja Suresh	on	27.04.2003
Fr. Gabriel G.	on	30.04.2000

MADURA MISSION - HISTORICAL NOTES

XXIII. Fr. John De Britto at his Diplomatic Mission in Lisbon

Though Fr. Britto pleaded to his Superior that he had made a vow not to return to his homeland, the Will of God prevailed finally. The ship carrying the Saint departed on 15th December, 1686 and after a voyage of ten months Fr. Britto's feet touched again the soil of his homeland, Lisbon on 8th September 1687. The news of Fr. Britto's arrival to Portugal spread like wild fire. Having already read his **Paganeri Letter** which Fr. Britto wrote while in prison, and having known about the postponement of his martyrdom, all the Portuguese came to the Port to see and touch the living Sainly priest. They kissed his holy hands; touched the edge of his cassock and brought children and pleaded the Sainly priest to bless their children. His older brothers and sisters were speechless when they kissed their holy and brave brother priest. As so advanced in age, his Mother sent a letter to Fr. Britto and asked him to meet her at home.

The next day Fr. Britto visited the King Don Pedro II at his palace. He wore saffron cloth like a *pandaraswamigal*. The King, who was his childhood friend was surprised to see his friend in such an attire. No sooner he saw the Priest friend entering into his chamber, the king ran towards him and hugged and kissed him with tears of joy. All the courtiers were known to Fr. Britto. All of them showed great respect to Fr. Britto and beseeched for his blessings. Though he was in the Palace Fr. Britto lived like a *pandaraswamigal*. He wore the same sanyasi cloth; ate vegetarian food and slept on a wooden plank. He was living totally as an Indian Sanyasi in Lisbon.

All the time Fr. Britto's mind was thinking about the situation of his mission. Though he was in Lisbon, he was constantly thinking about the sufferings of Christians and his companions under the persecution of the Governors of Tanjore and Gengi. To the King and all the courtiers

he was explaining about the purpose of his visit, that is, to get help for the poor Christians in Madura mission; to build churches; to train Catechists and to recruit Seminarians for the mission. He went to Coimbra University where he was given a royal welcome. All the professors were happy that their student was living the life of a Saint. The whole campus was in missionary fire with the caption "Rise O young man! Maravanadu is waiting for your Ministry!" Many young people were ready to join the Society after listening to the testimony of Fr. Britto.

While in Coimbra, his Mother wanted to see him. But Fr. Britto was more concerned to ease out the tension between the Holy See and Lisbon. For in seventeenth century there were only Portugal ships available for all the missionaries to travel to the East. Hence all the missionaries came to Lisbon and from there only they embarked the ship. It was considered that the King of Portugal himself was the sole authority to send missionaries. Moreover, all the missionaries had to give an act of obedience to the King of Portugal. Here only the problem started. Holy See was of the opinion that it was right and just that the citizens of Portugal make an act of faithfulness to the King; why Lisbon forces the missionaries of other countries? Here sprouted the seed of bitterness between the Holy See and the King of Portugal. Britto was longing to see his Mother, yet his Diplomatic ministry induced him to bring reconciliation between the two instruments of evangelization. Perceiving possible confusion in Lisbon, he did not travel to Rome to meet the General Curia and therefore he sent a letter to Rome through Vatican Diplomats. He took several efforts to talk to the King of Portugal and slowly the King too came to an understanding that the missionaries of other countries need not make an act of faithfulness to the King of Portugal. This reconciliation is the great contribution of Fr. Britto to the growth of missions in the East. (to be continued)

- Jodir.