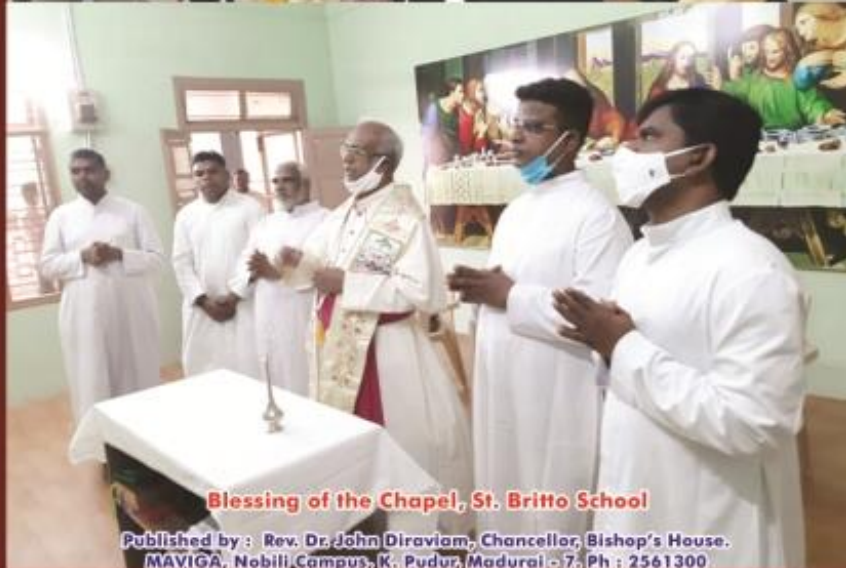




Blessing of the Chapel, Fatima College



Blessing of Catholic Syrian Bank



Blessing of the Chapel, St. Britto School

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# DNL

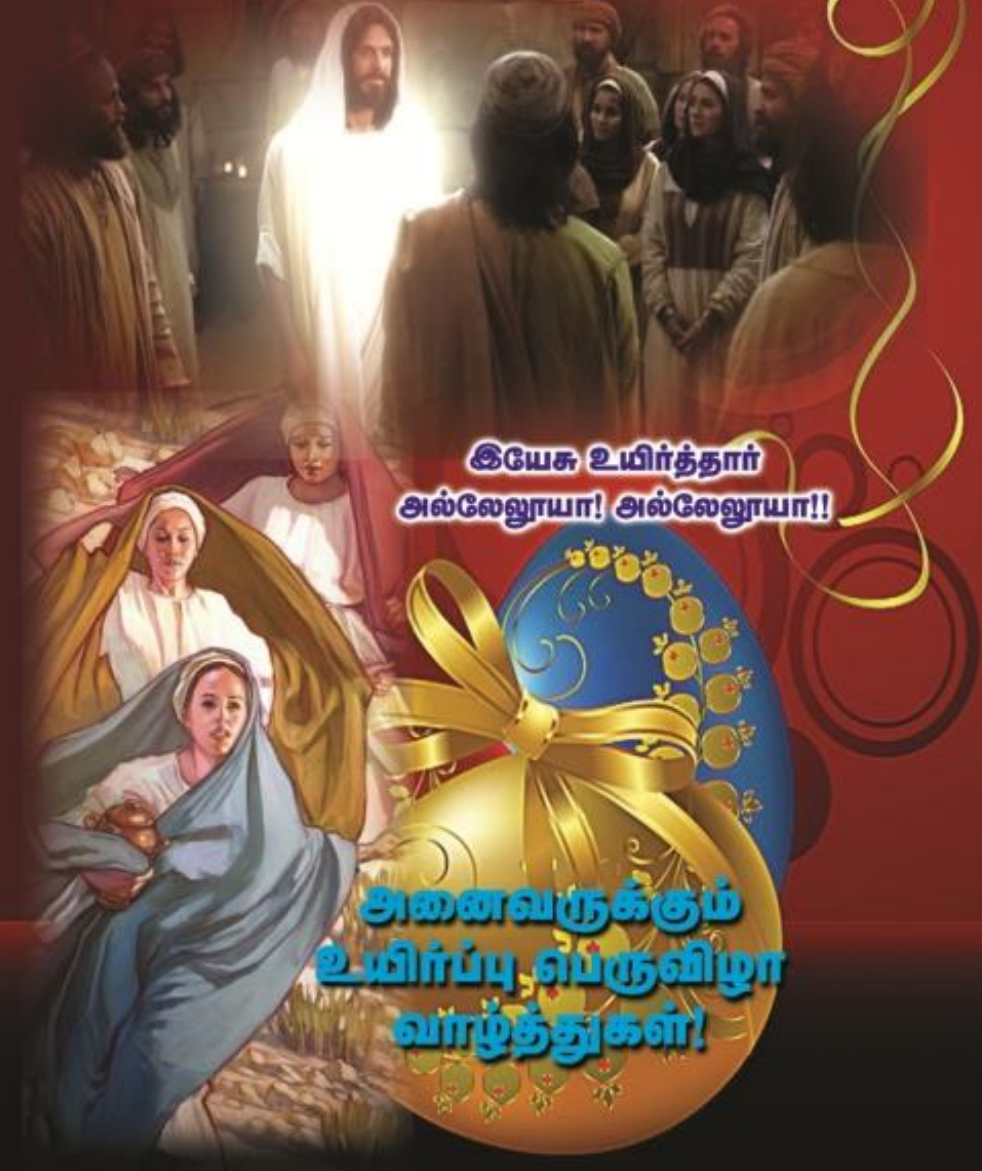
Archdiocese of Madurai  
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No. 694



இயேசு உயிர்த்தார்  
அல்லேலூயா! அல்லேலூயா!!

அனைவருக்கும்  
உயிர்ப்பு எப்பருவிழா  
வாழ்த்துங்கள்!



Lent Pilgrimage, R.R.Nagar



Funeral of Fr. G. Lourduraj



Funeral Mass, Kottapalayam

# Happy Birthday



Fr. Daniel Jai Joseph I. (02)



Fr. Sebastin Titus A.P (04)



Fr. David Dharmaraj I. (04)



Fr. Siluvai Michaelraj P (05)



Fr. Adaikala Raja A.T (05)



Fr. Thiruthuvaraj (08)



Fr. Samuvel A. (11)



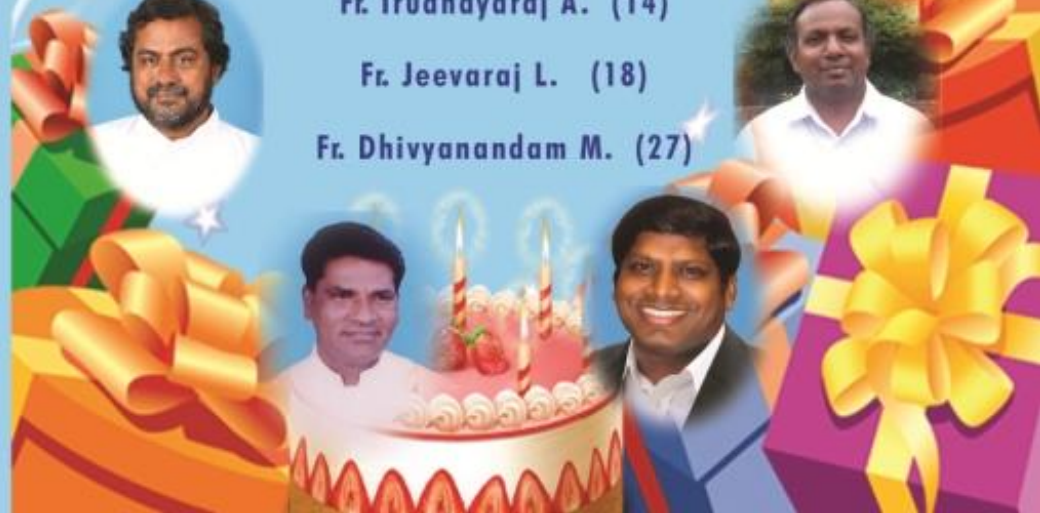
Fr. Irudhayaraj A. (14)



Fr. Jeevaraj L. (18)



Fr. Dhivyanandam M. (27)



## THE VOICE OF THE PASTOR

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

The Leaders of Israel were called shepherds in the Old Testament (cfr. Ezek.34). In the New Testament Jesus calls himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). In the gospel of Mark Jesus refers to his listeners as "Sheep without a Shepherd" (cfr. MK: 6:34).

Jesus portrays himself not only as a shepherd but also as the gate. Hence he says "I am the gate, whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture (Jn 10:9). By calling himself as the gate he points to us that he is the only source of salvation and we are invited to find our way to him so that we may be on the safe path and find fullness of life. Because he came that we may have life and have it in its fullness (cfr. John 10:10). This is confirmed by the saying of Jesus where he says "I am the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6). This saying reminds us that Jesus is not just a guide to salvation, but he is the source of life and truth (cfr. Is 10:10, 28 / 11:25-26).

We, many a time, are afraid to choose life in abundance, either because we opt for momentary gains, pleasures and comforts rather than for the higher things or because our topmost priority goes for earthly and perishable things than for the things of perennial value. If Jesus is the good shepherd and the gate, we must strengthen our faith in Jesus and continue to live our life in the way he wants of us. The more we seek the life in abundance which Jesus alone gives then we in turn become signs of salvation for others.

If we accept Jesus as our shepherd and the only source of salvation, then we must follow him and live like Him and be open to the inspiration of the spirit so that we may be transformed by him as the true heralds of the gospel.

Your loving Archbishop,

*+ [Signature]*

**+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy**  
Archbishop of Madurai



## Archbishop's Engagements

01	Thu	E	Mass of the Lord's Supper, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai
02	Fri	E	Good Friday Service, St. Joseph's Church, Gnanaolivupuram
03	Sat	E	Easter Vigil, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai
05	Mon	M	Month's Mind Mass, Kavirayapuram
07	Wed	E	Sacerdotal Ordination, Ofm Cap. Thirumangalam
08	Thu	E	Releasing of the Book, Gnanaolivupuram
11	Sun	M	Mass and Blessing of the Flag Pole, Periyakulam
12	Mon	E	Golden Jubilee Mass, Sivagangai
13	Tue	M	Archdiocesan Consult Meet, Archbishop's House
14	Wed		Legal Cell, Chennai
16	Fri	M	Archdiocesan Commission Secretaries Meeting, Archbishop's House
17-21			Apostolic Administrator's Visit to Kuzhithurai Diocese
18	Sun	E	Sacerdotal Ordination, Kuzhithurai Diocese
22	Thu	M	Nuptial Blessing, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dindigul
23	Fri	M	Memorial Mass, Palanganatham
24	Sat	E	Blessing of the Church, Vetrilaiyurani- Meenampatti
25	Sun	M	Jubilee Mass, St. Theresa's Convent, Madurai
26	Mon	M	Inauguration Ceremony, Sathangudi, Thirumangalam
27	Tue	M	Educational Council Meeting, Archbishop's House
28	Wed	E	Silver Jubilee Mass, Madhakottai
29	Thu	E	Jubilee Mass and Flag Hoisting, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Chingleput
30	Fri	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.

### **Pope's General Prayer Intention**

**Universal intention** - Fundamental rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

### **பேராயின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து**

**நம்புதல் :** பொந்தியும் மிலாத்துவின் அதிகாரத்தில் பாடுபட்டு, சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்டு, இறந்து அடக்கம் செய்யப்பட்டார்.

**வேண்டுகல்:** துயரத்தில் வீழ்ந்திருப்போருக்காக. . .

**வாழ்த்தல் :** ஏழைகளின் மகிழ்வில் இறைவனைக் காண முன்வருவோம்.

## **HAPPY FEAST**

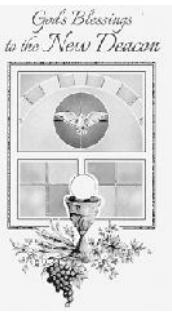
The Archbishop & The Archdiocesan Priests wish the De La Salle Brothers (FSC) on 7<sup>th</sup> April, a blessed Feast Day.

### **Please Note**

1. **Happy Easter:** DNL conveys its joyous Easter Greetings to all its readers. May the Risen Christ fill our minds and hearts and transform us into a witnessing people. 'We are Easter people; Alleluiah is our hymn' – Pope St. John Paul II.



2. **Diaconate Ordination:** The Archdiocese congratulates **Rev. Dn. Amalraj A., Rev. Dn. Britto L. and Rev. Dn. Devaraj F.**, who will be ordained as Deacons at 5.30 pm, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at St. Paul's Seminary and thus will be incardinated into the Archdiocese of MADURAI. The Archbishop and the *Presbyterium* of the archdiocese joyously welcome the newly ordained Deacons to do ministry together in the Vineyard



of Madurai. God bless our newly ordained Deacons. Their biodata is furnished.

3. **Appointment of Nuncio:** Holy Father has appointed **His Grace Leopoldo Girelli** as the New Nuncio to India on 13th March 2021. Archbishop Girelli was born on March 13, 1953, in Predore, Bergamom in the Lombardy region of northern Italy. He was ordained a priest on June 17, 1978, for the Diocese of Bergamo. He holds a doctorate in theology and a master's degree in canon law. Among other offices, on Sept. 13, 2017, he was appointed Nuncio to Israel and apostolic delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine and later he was appointed nuncio to Cyprus. Now Nuncio to India and Nepal. The Archbishop and the presbyterium of Madurai cordially welcome the new Representative of the Holy Father to India.
4. **Recollection** for April will be vicariate level.
5. Kindly remit at once **Maundy Thursday Collection** (*Hunger and poverty eradication collection*) and **Good Friday Collection** (*Maintenance of the sacred places in Holy Land*) at Procurator's office.
6. Considering the pandemic situation **VBS Seminars and Coaching classes** at NPC this year is cancelled. The materials for VBS will be sent to each parish priest and let each Parish Priest plan and conduct the VBS classes according to the convenience of the teachers and the children. Vide: Secretary's communication.
7. **TN Assembly Election:** It is very important that we as citizens of India and community of Tamilnadu Church identify and elect politicians who uphold secular values and protect the constitution of INDIA and who will really work for the liberation of the poor, women and the voiceless people of India. It is our



duty to motivate and lead our people into making the right and just decision in electing the candidates from “மதசார்பற்ற முற்போக்கு கூட்டணி”.

8. **Admission at our Orphanages:** The Parish Priests are requested to kindly identify the poor and orphan boys and girls to get admission at our Orphanages for boys and girls. The lists of the Homes / Orphanages for boys and girls are provided below. His Grace is always ready to help the poor children to get educated at all our educational institutions.
9. **Congratulations:** i) DNL congratulates **Rev. Fr. Antony Durai Raj sdc** for the renovation of St. Paul the Hermit Kurusadi at Pallangi Kombai, Udaikalparai of Lourdupuram parish, which was blessed by Fr. Edwin Sahaya Raja, the Vicar Forane of Kodaikanal on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- ii) DNL congratulates **Rev. Fr. Antonysamy A.**, who, having completed his studies in first class, obtained the degree of **Bachelor of Laws** at The Tamilnadu Dr. Ambedkar University, Chennai.
10. **Condolences:** DNL expresses its deep condolences over the demise of **Rev. Fr. G. Lourduraj**, aged eighty nine, on 13 March, 2021, Saturday. Fr. Lourduraj had been ill due to old age for the past six months and got admitted on and off at Leuca hospital. With a fall at the bathroom at wee hours on 13<sup>th</sup> morning he started his heavenly journey. As the next day was Sunday, a hectic day for the Presbyterium, the funeral was arranged the same day at 3.30 pm and the funeral mass was officiated by Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy and Very Rev. Fr. Packianathan A., the Administrator of Sivagangai with the large participation of the clergy, of the Presbyterium and of Sivaganagai diocese and the faithful of the Archdiocese. DNL conveys its deep condolences and prayers to the family members of Fr. Lourduraj. May the soul



of Fr. Lourduraj rest in peace. Fathers are reminded to celebrate, as per our custom, three masses for the repose of the soul of our Priest, Fr. Lourduraj.

10. **Condolences:** DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Fr. Peter Sahaya Raj I.**, for the demise of his beloved Mother, **Mrs. Jeyamary**, aged eighty one, on 16 March 2021, Tuesday. The funeral Mass was officiated by His Grace Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy at 3.00 pm., at St. Mary Magdalene Shrine, Kottapalayam of Kumbakonam diocese with a large number of Presbyterium and the Salesian clergy. DNL conveys its deep condolences to Fr. Peter Sahaya Raj, Fr. Louis sdb and the family members. May the soul of Mrs. Jeyamary rest in peace.



#### விடுமுறை விவிலியப் பள்ளி பயிற்சி முகாம் (VBS)

மதிப்பிற்குரிய பங்குத்தந்தையரே, கொரோனா பெருந்தொற்று மீண்டும் அதிகரித்து பரவி வருவதாலும், மேலும் 12-ஆம் வகுப்பு பொதுத்தேர்வு மே மாதத்தில் நடைபெற உள்ளதாலும் இந்த ஆண்டிற்கான **VBS பயிற்சி முகாம் மறைமாவட்ட அளவில் நடைபெறாது**. இருப்பினும் பங்கின் சூழ்நிலைக்கு ஏற்ப VBS - நடத்துவதற்கு தேவையான துணைக்கருவிகள் - ஆசிரியர் கையேடு, மாணவர் பயிற்சி ஏடு, புனிதர் படங்கள் ஆகியவை தங்களுக்கு வழங்கப்படும். பங்கு அருள்பணியாளர்கள் தங்களின் பங்கு சூழலுக்கு ஏற்ப முடிவெடுத்து கோடை விடுமுறையிலோ, ஞாயிறு மறைக்கல்வியிலோ இத்துணைக் கருவிகளை பயன்படுத்தி, தங்களது பங்கு மறைக்கல்வி மாணவர்கள் விவிலிய அறிவுபெற ஆவண செய்யக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

**அருட்தந்தை ஆ. அந்தோனிசாமி**  
செயலர், கிறிஸ்தவ வாழ்வுப் பணிக்குழு

## “பிழையுதிர் காலம்”

சதங்கையின் 2021-தவக்கால சிறப்பு நிகழ்ச்சி

கடவுளால் படைக்கப்பட்ட ஓர்நிஷ உயிர்கள் மரங்கள். இந்த மரங்கள் இயேசுவின் பாடுகளோடு தங்களை இணைத்து தமது இலைகளை உதிர்த்து, இத்தவகாலத்தில் தம்மை புதுப்பித்துக் கொள்கின்றன. இது இயற்கையாகவே படைப்பில் ஒவ்வோர் ஆண்டும் நிகழ்கிறது. படைப்பின் சிகரமாகிய, கடவுளின் உருவிலும் சாயலிலும் படைக்கப்பட்ட மனிதர்களாகிய நாமும் இத்தவக்காலத்தில் நம் பிழைகளை உணர்ந்து, அவற்றை உதிர்த்து புதுப்பித்து கொள்ள அழைப்பு விடுப்பதே “பிழையுதிர் காலம்” என்ற 40 நிமிட மேடை நாடகம்.

இந்த நாடகத்தை இந்த ஆண்டு நம் சதங்கை கலைத்தொடர்பகம் தயாரித்து நம் மறைமாவட்டத்தில் தவக்காலம் முழுவதும் ஒவ்வோர் வெள்ளியும், ஞாயிறும் அரங்கேற்றியது. சமயநல்லூர், திருநகர், விருதுநகர், மிக்கேல் பாளையம், ஞானஒளிவுபுரம், பாக்கியபுரம், செண்பகனூர், சிவகாசி, புதூர், மரியன்னை பேராலயம், நத்தம்பட்டி, செபமாலை அன்னை ஆலயம், மற்றும் முருகத்தூரான் பட்டி போன்ற பங்குகளில் இந்த நிகழ்ச்சி நடைபெற்றது. சதங்கை கலைஞர்களை வறவேற்று தவக்கால சிறப்பு நிகழ்ச்சி வழங்க அனுமதியும் ஏற்பாடும் செய்த அனைத்து பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும் எம் சிறப்பான நன்றிகள்.

இயேசுவின் உயிர்ப்புப் பெருவிழா வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

அன்பிற்கினிய தந்தையர்களே!

சதங்கை கலைமையத்திலிருந்து இயேசுவின் உயிர்ப்பு பெருவிழா நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

39 ஆண்டு கால வரலாற்று பெருமைகொண்ட நம் சதங்கையின் 35வது கோடைகால கலைப்பயிற்சி முகாம்-2021 இவ்வாண்டு ஏப்ரல் 21-ம் தேதியிலிருந்து மே 15-ம் தேதி வரை சதங்கை கலைமைய வளாகத்தில் நடைபெருகின்றது.

கோடை காலத்தினை பயனுள்ளதாக்கி, கலைகளின் வழியாக இளம் உள்ளங்களின் திறமைகளை வளர்த்தெடுக்க உதவும் இந்த சிறப்பு வகுப்புகளில் ஆர்வமுள்ளவர்கள் கலந்து கொள்ளுமாறு ஊக்கப்படுத்த தங்களை அன்போடு கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். பங்கு ஆலயங்களில் இசைக்கருவி மீட்டும் நோக்கத்திற்காக பயிற்சிபெற வருவோருக்கு சிறப்பு சலுகை வழங்கப்படும்.

மேலும் இப்பயிற்சி சம்மந்தமான தெளிவான விளக்கம், கட்டணம் அடங்கிய தகவல்கள் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்கப்படும்.

நன்றி!

கிறிஸ்துவில் அன்புடன்  
அருட்பணி. மரிய மிக்கேல், அருட்பணி. அன்பு செல்வன்  
சதங்கை கலைத்தொடர்பு மையம், மதுரை

## அகில உலக பெண்கள் தினவிழா



மதுரை உயர்மறைமாவட்ட பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு அகில உலக பெண்கள் தினவிழாவினை, 13.03.2021 சனிக்கிழமையன்று, தே நொபிலி மெட்ரிக் மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளியில், மதுரை உயர்மறைமாவட்ட பேராயர் மேதகு முனைவர் அந்தோனி பாப்புசாமி D.D.S.T.D., அவர்கள் தலைமையில், “புனித “வளன் வழியில் பெண்மையின் மாண்பைக் காப்போம்” என்ற கருப்பொருளில், சிறப்புடன் கொண்டாடியது.

பெண்கள் பணிக்குழுவின் தொடக்க செபம் செய்து, அனைவரையும் வரவேற்றனர். மேதகு பேராயர் முனைவர் அந்தோனி பாப்புசாமி அவர்கள் ஆசியுரை வழங்கியபோது, “பெண்கள் தங்களை ஆற்றல்படுத்திக் கொள்வதன் (Empowerment of Women) அவசியத் தையும் அதற் கான வழிமுறைகளையும்” தனக்கே உரித்தான, பொருத்தமான, விவிலிய மேற்கோள்களோடு சிறப்புற எடுத்துரைத்து, பெண்களை ஊக்கமூட்டினார்.

விழாவிற்கு மதுரை உயர்மறைமாவட்ட முதன்மைகுரு அருள்பணி. ஜேரோம் எரோணிமுஸ் அவர்கள் முன்னிலை வகித்தார். மதுரை உயர்மறைமாவட்ட செயலக முதல்வர் அருள்பணி. முனைவர் ஜான் திரவியம் அவர்களும், நொபிலி அருள்பணி மைய இயக்குநர் அருள்பணி. பெனடிசுட் பர்னபாஸ் அவர்களும் வாழ்த்துரை வழங்கினார்கள்.

திரு S.V.L. மைக்கேல் அவர்கள் (முதல்வர், மெடோனா மகிளிர் கல்லூரி) சிறப்பான கருத்துரை வழங்கினார். திருமதி. கவிதா வழக்கறிஞர் அவர்கள் தேர்தல் குறித்து வழிப்புணர்வுட்டினார். தேர்தல் காலத்தில் பயனுள்ளதாக இருந்தது. திருமதி. ரோசலின் அவர்கள் அரசு மேம்பாட்டு திட்ட விளக்கம் குறித்து எடுத்துரைத்தார். அருட்சகோ. ரீட்டா இருதயம் அவர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் நன்றி கூற, விழா இனிதே நிறைவடைந்தது.

விழாவில் 200 பேருக்குமேல் பங்குபெற்றுப் பயன் அடைந்தனர். அனைவருக்கும் தேநீர், சிற்றுண்டி மற்றும் மதிய உணவு வழங்கப்பட்டன.

அருட்சகோ. ரீட்டா இருதயம் செயலர், பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு.

## Diaconate Ordination

Name : **Bro. A. Amalraj**  
 Date of Birth : 21.12.1992  
 Parish : Aruppukottai



Name : **Bro. L. Britto**  
 Date of Birth : 15.01.1993  
 Parish : Ilandaikulam, W. Pudupatti



Name : **Bro. E. Devaraj**  
 Date of Birth : 06.03.1988  
 Parish : Ilandaikulam, W. Pudupatti



### Felicitations on Ordination Anniversary Day

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. 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	08.04.2018
Fr. Xavier Arul Rayan	on	08.04.2018
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. 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. 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. Britto Raja Suresh	on	27.04.2003
Fr. Paul Ignatius J.	on	27.04.2003
Fr. Christian Anand A.	on	28.04.2019
Fr. Cruz Divakaran I.	on	28.04.2019
Fr. Ignatius Stalin A.	on	28.04.2019
Fr. James A.	on	28.04.2019
Fr. Maria Thangaraj P.	on	28.04.2019
Fr. Gabriel G.	on	30.04.2000

**Congratulation to all the priests  
on your Ordination Anniversary Day**

### **Resurrection Events from the Poem, "The Man-God"- By Maria Valtorta**

#### **Jesus Appears to His Mother** [21st February 1944]

1. Mary is prostrated with Her face on the floor. She looks like a poor wretch. She looks like that withered flower of which She has spoken. The closed window is opened with a violent banging of the heavy shutters, and with the first ray of the sun, Jesus enters.

Mary, Who has been shaken by the noise and has raised Her head to see which wind has opened the shutters, sees Her radiant Son: handsome, infinitely more handsomethan He was before suffering, smiling, lively, brighter than the sun, dressed in a white garment that seems woven light, and Who is advancing towards Her.

She straightens Herself up on Her knees and crossing Her hands on Her breast, She says with a sob that is joy and grief: «Lord, My God». And She remains thus, enraptured in contemplating Him, with

Her face all washed by tears, but made serene, pacified by His smile and by the ecstasy.

2. But He does not want to see His Mother on Her knees, like a servant. And He calls Her, stretching out His hands, from the wounds of which emanate rays that make His glorious Flesh even brighter: Mother! But it is not the sorrowful word of the conversations and the farewells before His Passion, or the heart-rending lament of the meeting on Calvary and of the agony. It is a cry of triumph, of joy, of freedom, of rejoicing, of love, of gratitude. And He bends over His Mother, who dare not touch Him, and He places His hands under Her bent elbows, and He lifts Her up, He presses Her to His Heart and kisses Her. Oh! Mary realises then that it is not a vision, that it is Her Son who has really risen, that it is Her Jesus, the Son who still loves her as a Son. And with a cry, she flings her arms round his neck, and she embraces and kisses him, laughing in her weeping. She kisses his forehead, where there are no longer any wounds, His head no longer unkempt and bloody, his shining eyes, his healed cheeks etc., She then takes his hands and kisses their backs and palms, their radiant wounds, and she suddenly bends down to his Feet and uncovers them from under his bright garment and kisses them. Then she stands up, looks at him, but dare not. But he smiles and understands. He uncovers his chest a little and says:

And this one, Mother, are you not kissing it, this one that grieved you so much and that you alone are worthy to kiss? Kiss My Heart, Mother. Your kiss will cancel the last remembrance of what is sorrowful and will give me that joy, which my Joy of having risen from the dead still lacks. And he takes the face of his Mother in his hands and to the wound of his Chest, from which streams of a very bright light are flowing. Mary's face is haloed by that light, flooded as it is with its beams. She kisses and kisses.

3. Jesus speaks now. It is all over, Mother. You no longer have to weep over your Son. The trial is over. Redemption has taken place.

Mother, thanks for conceiving me, for bringing me up, for helping me in life and in death. I heard your prayers come to me. They have been my strength in my grief, my companions in my journey on the earth and beyond the earth. They came with me on the Cross and to Limbo.

4. I will now go to the Father in My human appearance. Paradise must see the Conqueror in his appearance of Man, by means of which he defeated the sin of Man. But I will come again. I must confirm in the faith those who do not yet believe and are in need to believe to lead the others to believe, I must fortify the pusillanimous ones who will need so much strength to resist the world. Then I will ascend to Heaven. But I will not leave you alone, Mother, can you see that veil? In my annihilation, I still exhaled the power of miracle on your behalf, to give You that comfort. But for you I will work miracle. You will have me, in the Sacrament, as real as when you carried me.

You will never be alone. But these past days you have been alone. But also that sorrow of yours was required for my Redemption. Much is continuously to be added to Redemption, because much will be continuously created in the way of sin. I will call all my servants to this redeeming participation. You are the one who by yourself will do more than all the others together. But also this long abandonment was required.

Now no longer so. I am no longer separated from the Father. You will no longer be separated from your Son. And, by having your Son, you have our Trinity. A living Heaven, you will bring the Trinity to men on the Earth, and you will sanctify the Church, You, Queen of the Priesthood and Mother of the Christians. Then I will come to get you. And no longer shall I be in you, but you will be in me, in my Kingdom, to make Paradise more beautiful.

5. I am going now, Mother. I am going to make the other Mary happy. Then I will ascend to the Father. Thence I will come to those who do not believe. Mother, Your kiss as a blessing. And my Peace

to you as a companion. Goodbye. And Jesus disappears in the sunshine that streams down from the early morning clear sky.

**615. The Pious Women at the Sepulchre. To Mary Magdalene [2nd April 1945].**

Are you going all alone, Mary? I will come with you» says Martha, who is afraid for her sister.

No. You will go with Mary of Alphaeus to Johanna's. Salome Susanna will wait for you near the Gate, outside the walls. And then you will all come together along the main road. Goodbye. And Mary Magdalene cuts other possible comments short, as she goes away quickly with her bag full of balms and her money. She flies, so fast she goes along the road, which is becoming more delightful in the first pink shade of dawn. She goes in by the Judicial Gate, to be quicker. And no one stops her...

May God comfort you!» They leave the mansion house to join their companions. It is at this moment that the short but strong earthquake takes place, creating a panic again in the people of Jerusalem, still terrorised by the events of Friday. The three women retrace their steps

precipitately, and they remain in the large hall, among maidservants and servants who are howling and imploring the Lord, fearing new shocks...

3. ...The Magdalene, instead, is just on the border of the path that takes one to the kitchen garden of Joseph of Arimathea, when she is caught in the powerful and also harmonious roar of this heavenly sign, while, in the faint rosy light of dawn, that is advancing in the sky, where to the west a persistent star still resists, and that makes fair the so far greenish light, a very bright light appears and descends like and incandescent wonderful globe, cutting the calm air in a zigzag course.

Mary of Magdala is almost grazed and thrown on the ground by it. She bends for a moment whispering: My Lord! and then she

straightens up like a stalk after the wind has passed by, and she runs towards the kitchen garden even faster.

When Mary arrives, she sees the useless jailors of the Triumpher thrown on the ground like a sheaf of mown corn. Mary Magdalene does not associate the earthquake with Resurrection. But looking at the spectacle, she thinks it is a punishment of God for the desecrators of Jesus' Sepulchre, and she falls on her knees saying: «Alas! They have

stolen Him!» She is really disconsolate and weeps like a girl who has come, being sure that she would find her father whom she was looking for, and instead finds the house empty.

4. She then stands up and runs away to go to Peter and John. And as she thinks of nothing but of informing the two, she forgets to go and meet her companions and remain on the road, but as fast as a gazelle she goes back the road she came, she passes through the Judicial Gate, and flies through the streets, which are a little more crowded, and she rushes against the door of the hospitable house and knocks at it furiously. The mistress opens the door to her.

Where are John and Peter? asks Mary Magdalene panting. There says the woman pointing at the Supper-room. Mary of Magdala enters and as soon as she is in, standing before the two astonished men, and in her voice, kept low out of pity for the Mother, there is more anguish than if she had shouted, she says: They have taken the Lord away from the Sepulchre! I wonder where they have put Him! and for the first time she staggers and is unsteady, and in order not to fall, she holds on whatever she can. What? What are you saying? ask the two.

And panting she replies: I went ahead... to buy the guards... so that they would let us go. They are there like dead bodies... The Sepulchre is open, the stone is on the ground... Who? Who did it? Oh! come! Let us run.. Peter and John set out at once. Mary follows them for a few steps. Then she goes back. She seizes the mistress of the house, she shakes her, violent in her far-sighted love, and she shouts

in her face: Mind you do not let anybody go to Her (and she points at the door of Mary's room). Remember that I am your mistress. Obey and be silent. Then she leaves her aghast and joins the apostles, who are striding towards the Sepulchre...

5. ...In the meantime Susanna and Salome, after leaving their companions and reaching the walls, are caught in the earthquake. Frightened, they take shelter under a tree and remain there, torn between their desire to go to the Sepulchre or to run to Johanna's. But love overcomes fear and they go towards the Sepulchre. They are still frightened when they enter the garden and see the senseless guards... they see a bright light come out of the open Sepulchre. Their fright increases and reaches its climax when, holding each other's hand to pluck up courage, they peep in from the threshold and in the dark sepulchral cave, they see a bright most beautiful creature, that smiling kindly greets them from the place where it is standing: leaning on the right hand side of the anointment stone, which, grey as it is, disappears behind so much incandescent brightness. They fall on their knees, utterly astonished.

But the angel speaks to them gently: Be not afraid of me. I am the angel of the divine Sorrow. I have come to rejoice at its end. The sorrow of the Christ, His humiliation in death is over. Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified Whom you are looking for, has risen from the dead. He is no longer here! The place where He was laid is empty. Rejoice with me. Go. Tell Peter and the disciples that He has risen and will precede you in Galilee. You will see Him there for a short time, as He said.

The women fall with their faces on the ground, and when they raise them, they run as if they were chased by a punishment. They are terrorised and they whisper: We shall die now! We have seen the angel of the Lord!

6. But while they are going there, Peter and John, followed by the Magdalene, have arrived at the garden. And John, who runs faster, is the first to arrive at the Sepulchre. The guards are no longer there.

Neither is the angel there any more. John, timid and sorrowful, kneels down at the open entrance to venerate and get some indication from the things he sees. But he only sees, heaped on the floor, the linen cloths placed on the Shroud. There is really nothing, Simon! Mary has seen accurately. Come, come in, look.» Peter, who is breathless after so much running, goes into the Sepulchre. On the way he had said: «I will never dare to approach that place.» But now he thinks only of finding out where the Master may be. And he calls Him also, as if He might be concealed in some dark corner.

At this early hour in the morning it is still very dark in the deep Sepulchre, which receives light only from the opening of the entrance, where John and the Magdalene now cast a shadow... And Peter finds it hard to see, and has to help himself with his hands to ascertain what the situation is... He touches, trembling, the table of the anointment, and feels that it is empty... He is not here, John! He is not here!... Oh! come here! I have wept so much that I can hardly see in this poor light. John stands up and goes in. And while he does so, Peter discovers the sudarium in a corner, folded diligently and within it the Shroud rolled up carefully. They have really abducted Him. The guards were not here for us, but to do that... And we have let them do it. By going away, we have allowed that... Oh! where will they have put Him? Peter, Peter! This... is really the end! The two disciples come out looking annihilated. Let us go, woman. You will tell the Mother...

I am not going away. I am staying here... Somebody will come... Oh! I am not coming... There is still something of Him here. The Mother was right... To breathe the air where He was is the only relief left to us.

The only relief... Now you also can see that it was nonsense to hope... says Peter. Mary does not even reply to him. She crouches on the ground, close to the entrance, and weeps, while the others go away slowly.

7. She then raises her head and looks inside, and through her tears she sees two angels, sitting at the head and at the foot of the

anointment stone. Poor Mary is so stupified in her fiercest struggle between hope that is dying and faith that does not want to die, that she looks at them like one whose mind is completely blank, without even being surprised. The strong woman, who has resisted everything like a



heroine, has nothing

left but tears. Why are you weeping, woman? asks one of the two shining young boys, because they look like very beautiful adolescents.

Because they have

taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have put Him. Mary is not afraid to speak to them. She does not ask: Who are you? Nothing. Nothing amazes her any more. She has already suffered everything that can astonish a human being. Now she is only a broken thing that weeps without strength or reserve. The angelical youth looks at his companion and smiles. And so does the other. And in a flash of angelical joy they both look outside, towards the garden all in bloom with millions of corollas that have opened at the first sunshine on the closely planted apple - trees of the orchard.

8. Mary turns round to see whom they are looking at. And she sees a Man, most handsome, and I do not know how she does not recognise Him at once. A Man Who looks at her pitifully and asks her: «Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for? It is true that Jesus is dimmed out of pity for the woman, whom emotions have

exhausted and who might die from sudden joy, but I really wonder why she does not recognise Him.

And Mary sobbing says: They have taken my Lord Jesus! I had come to embalm Him while awaiting His resurrection... I gathered all my courage, my hope and my faith around my love... and now I cannot find Him any more... Or rather, I put my love around faith, hope and courage to defend them from men... but all in vain! Men have abducted my Love and with it they have deprived me of everything... O my lord, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have put Him. And I will get Him... I will not tell anybody... It will be a secret between you and me. Look: I am the daughter of Theophilus, Lazarus' sister, but I am on my knees before you to implore you, like a slave. Do you want me to pay you for His Body? I will do so. How much do you want? I am rich. I can give you as much gold and as many gems as it weighs. But give it back to me. I will not denounce you. Do you want to strike me? Do so. Until I bleed, if you wish so. If you bear Him a grudge, let me expiate it. But give Him back to me. Oh! don't make me wretched with this misery, my lord! Have mercy on a poor woman!... Do you not want to do it on my behalf? Then, do it for His Mother. Tell me! Tell me where is my Lord Jesus. I am strong. I will take Him in my arms and I will carry Him like a child to safety. Lord... lord... you can see it... for three days we have been struck by the wrath of God for what was done to the Son of God... Do not add Desecration to Crime...

Mary! Jesus shines in calling her. He reveals Himself in His triumphant brightness.

Rabboni! Mary's cry is really the «great cry» that closes the cycle of death. With the first one, the darkness of hatred enveloped the Victim with funereal bandages; with the second, the lights of love increased His brightness. And Mary stands up as her cry fills the garden, she rushes to Jesus' feet and would like to kiss them.

Jesus moves her away, hardly touching her forehead with the tips of His fingers: Do not touch Me! I have not yet ascended to My Father in this appearance. Go to My brothers and friends, and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and yours, to My God and



yours. And then I will come to them. And Jesus disappears, absorbed by an unsustainable light. 10 Mary kisses the ground where Jesus was and

she runs towards the house. She goes in like a rocket, because the main door is half open, to let the master pass, who is going to the fountain; she opens the door of Mary's room and drops on Her breast shouting: He has risen! He has risen! and she weeps happily.

And while Peter and John rush there, and Salome and Susanna, still frightened, come from the Supper room and listen to her narration, Mary of Alphaeus with Martha and Johanna come in, from the street, and out of breath they say «that they have been there as well, and they saw two angels, who said that they were the Guardian of the Man God and the angel of His Sorrow, and ordered them to tell the apostles that He had risen from the dead. And as Peter shakes his head, they insist saying: Yes. They said: "Why are you looking for the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He has risen from the dead, as He said when He was still in Galilee. Do you not remember? He said: 'The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of sinners to be crucified. But on the third day he will rise from the dead.'"

Peter shakes his head saying: Too many things during these days! They have been upset.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 -20.03.2021

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 07/02/21	Holy See 14/03/21	
1	A. Nathampatti			
2	Alankulam	700		
3	Ammapatty			
4	Anjal Nagar			
5	Anna Nagar	13000	7950	
6	Aruppukottai			
7	Ayravathanallur	5340	3400	
8	Bastin Nagar	15000		
9	Batlagundu	7220		
10	Bibikulam	15000		
11	Bodinayakanur			
12	Chinnamanur			
13	Cumbum			
14	Devadanam			
15	Ellis Nagar	10170		
16	Gnanaolivupuram			
17	Hanumanthanpatty			
18	Holy Rosary Church			
19	Iyyampalayam			
20	K. Pudur			
21	Kadachanendal			
22	Kadamalaikundu			
23	Kalladipatti	2000		
24	Kariapatty	1200		
25	Karumathur			
26	Kavirayapuram			
27	Kottur			
28	Lourdipuram			
29	Megamalai			
30	Mangalamkombu			
31	M. Meenatchiapuram			
32	Mathankovilpatti	1000		
33	Marianus Nagar			
34	Meenmpatti	2100	1600	
35	Melur	3000		

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 -20.03.2021**

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 07/02/21	Holy See 14/03/21	
36	Melakovilpatti			
37	Michaelpalayam			
38	Munjikkal			
39	Murugathuranpatti			
40	Nagamalai	10000		
41	Nakkaneri	1000		
42	Nilakottai	1500		
43	Niraivazhvu Nagar (VNR)	1000		
44	Othaiyal			
45	Packiapuram	11111		
46	Packianathapuram	1900		
47	Palanganatham	12500	11200	
48	Pandian Nagar	3100		
49	Periyakulam			
50	Perumalmalai			
51	R.R. Nagar			
52	Railway Colony			
53	Rajapalayam			
54	Rayappanpatti			
55	Rayapuram			
56	Samayanallur	8000		
57	Sattur			
58	Shenbaganur	2000	1100	
59	Sengole Nagar			
60	Sempatti Mission			
61	Silukkuvarpatty			
62	Sivakasi			
63	Srivilliputhur			
64	St. Mary's Cathedral			
65	Sundaranatchiapuram			
66	T. Sindalacherry	4100		
67	T. Vadipatti Shrine			
68	Theni	4000		
69	Thirumangalam	6240		
70	Thirunagar			

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 -20.03.2021**

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 07/02/21	Holy See 14/03/21			
71	Thiruthangal					
72	Thummuchinampatty					
73	Ugarthe Nagar	1500				
74	Usilampatti	8850				
75	Uthamapalayam					
76	Virudhunagar					
77	Vadapatti Mission					
78	W. Pudupatti					
79	Y. Othakadai					
	<b>Total</b>	<b>152531</b>	<b>25250</b>			

**KANI (Seminarians Fund)**

<b>Opening Balance as on 25.02.2021</b>	<b>44,69,935.07</b>
Fr. Parish Priest, Samayanallur	5,000.00
Narcheythi Paniyalargal, Nagamalai Pudukottai	2,000.00
Mr. Amalraj	1,000.00
Mrs. P. Gnanapackiam, Arasaradi	500.00

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**44,78,435.07**
**Less :**

Payment for St. Pius X' Seminary, K.Pudur	-	40,000.00
Bank sms Charge	-	1.95

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40,001.95      40,001.95

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**Closing Balance as on 20.03.2021      44,38,433.12**


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Cash in Hand	-	Nil
Cash at Bank	-	44,38,433.12

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**44,38,433.12**

## Mass Received From Parishes

Sengole Nagar ( 110 Masses) 11,000.00

Collection as on 20.03.2021 **11,000.00**

### நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன் இதுவரை உதவிய  
உள்ளவர்கள்

Collection as on 25.09.2020 39,27,855.58

குடும்ப நல்வாழ்வு பணிக்குழு நடத்தும்  
திருமண முன்தயாரிப்பு நடைபெறும் நாட்கள்



10,11.04.2021	உத்தம்பாளையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
17,18.04.2021	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
24,25.04.2021	கொடைக்கானல்	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்பணி. எஸ். ஜேம்ஸ்பால்ராஜ், செயலர்

## Adoration Sunday

### April

04 Bastian Nagar  
11 Bibikulam  
18 Bodinayakkanur  
25 Chinnamanur



### May

02 Cumbum  
09 Devadanam  
16 Ellisnagar  
23 Gnanaolivupuram  
30 Hanumanthampatti

## Neerology

Fr. Visuvasam R.	on	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



May the soul of  
**REV.FR. G. LOURDU RAJ**  
Rest in Peace



### I. Bio-Data

Date of Birth - 06-09-1932  
Place of Birth - Soosaiapparpatti, Manamadurai  
Baptism - 6-9-1933, Rajakembeeram  
Confirmation - 1941, Suranam

Ordination - 24-03-1962, Trichinopoly  
By – Most Rev. James Mendonca

### II. The Family

The Father : Mr. Gnanakannu, Teacher, RIP  
The Mother : Mrs. Maria Arockiam, Physician, RIP  
Brothers (4) : Mr. Arputha Maria Susai, RIP  
Mr. Arockiasamy, RIP  
Mr. Santiago, RIP  
Mr. IrudayaNesam, RIP  
Sister : Mrs. Victoria Mary (Alive)



### **III. The Study – Secular**

St. Mary's Middle School, Suranam	-	1941 - 1945
St. James Middle School, Suranam	-	1945 - 1948
De Britto High School, Devakottai	-	1948 - 1952
Intermediate, St. Joseph's College, Trichy	-	1952 - 1953

### **Ecclesiastical Studies**

St. Peter's Minor Seminary, Madurai	-	1953 – 1955
Theology, St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy	-	1955 – 1958

### **Courses Attended**

1. Spirituality of Diocesan Priests, NBCLC, Bangalore	-	1989
2. Neo Catechumenate Seminar, Bangalore	-	1990
3. Global Seminar for aged people	-	1992
4. Fatima Conference, Chennai	-	2006

### **IV. Clerical Ministries**

Assistant Parish Priest, Puliyal	-	1962 - 1967
Assistant Parish Priest, Irudayakoil (Thiruvaramangam)	-	1967 - 1969
Parish Priest, Mahindi Michael Pattanam	-	1969 - 1970
Parish Priest, Rajakembiram	-	1970 - 1976
Parish Priest, Marandai Savariarpattanam	-	1976 - 1981
Parish Priest, Irudayapuram	-	1981 - 1985
Parish Priest, Samayanallur	-	1985 - 1989
Parish Priest, Silukkuvarpatti	-	1989 - 1992
Parish Priest, Chinnalapatti	-	1992 - 1996
Parish Priest, Kalladipatti	-	1996 - 2002
Parish Priest, Kavirayapuram	-	2002 - 2005
Sabbatical Leave, V. Muthuchellapuram	-	2005 - 2006
Retirement, St. Joseph's Home	-	2006 - 2008
Spiritual Ministry, Arockia Illam, Retired Fathers' House	-	2008

onwards

### **V. Contributions**

#### **– Constructions :**

1. New Church, well, water tank constructed in Rajakembiram
2. School building in Fisherpattanam
3. New Church in Saveriar Samuthiram

and Mudukulathur 4. New Church in Vadakaraipacheri, R. S. Mangalam 5. Compound wall for cemetery, Samayanallur 6. Two School buildings and 2 stages at Samayanallur 7. Oormechikulam church and extension of school 8. 2 School buildings and compound wall at Kalladipatti 9. School building at Sankarapuram 10. Compound wall at Kavirayapuram

**- Publications :** 1. Kutti Kavithaikal 2. Vetrimelevetri 3. Savalaesamali 4. Kavithai Kathambam 5. EthirNeechal

### **VI. SPECIAL CHARISM AND APTITUDES**

1. Arranging Organised Mission preaching with the help of Redemptorists and Capuchins
2. Divining Wells for water for Churches, Religious and general public
3. Building houses for poor people.
4. Educational help for poor students
5. Special Prayer ministry for the sick and the suffering

“நன்று, நம்பிக்கைக்குரிய நல்லபணியாளரே, சிறிய பொறுப்புகளில் நம்பிக்கைக்கு உரியவராயிருந்தீர். எனவே பெரிய பொறுப்புகளில் உம்மை அமர்த்துவேன். உம் தலைவனாகிய எம் மகிழ்ச்சியில் நீரும் வந்து பங்குகொள்ளும்” (மத் 25, 21).

- Fr. Chancellor

## **Historical Notes – Madura Mission**

### **XLIII On the Footsteps of our Elder Brothers**

**Correction:** Dear Readers, as DNL received feed backs on the 42<sup>nd</sup> article of Historical Notes – Madura Mission, it pleases us to publish the sharing of Fr. Jeyabalan, a veteran priest of Palayamkottai who is also one of the pioneers of ‘College study Fathers’. He shares the following: “The senior priests of the Archdiocese know very well that before starting Arulanandar College, Karumattur, His Grace Archbishop P. Justin Diraviam wanted all the seminarians to go to college and get a secular

degree. In line with that he wanted all those priests who were ordained by him to have a secular degree. That is how in 1969 after his consecration as the first Indian Archbishop, he wanted all his priests, ordained by him (exception, late Fr. Arockiasamy, who was his first secretary), to go to College to earn a degree. In that way late Fr. Arockiasamy and Fr. John Siluvai (ex) were sent to Thiagarajar College for B.A. Tamil and English respectively; and Fr. Antony Muthu (ex) and Fr. S.R. Ignatius and Fr. Saleth Jeyabalan were sent to American College for B.A. Economics while late Fr. M. Susai Marian was asked to do B.ScMaths. Among the six priests 3 were staying at Bishop's House and the other 3 at parishes. They were given each a bicycle to reach the college from their places. The important thing was we had to go with white cassock and red sash on to the college and come back. We were provided food in tiffin carriers. The seminarians who were in St. Peter's had to cloth themselves with full hand white shirt and dhoties." Authentic history is made perfect by the testimonies of those who were part of it at that particular time. Hence DNL thanks Fr. Jeyabalan, who is a living witness to such history of the united Archdiocese, for his contribution to DNL. Here are we going to see the contribution of two brothers.

**Fr. P.C. Chacko:** There came three wise men from the West to the East. We do not know which star brought them to Madurai. From Edathuva, a place known for the Shrine of St. George these three young missionaries in making chose Madura mission as their ministry place. The two are brothers; they are Fr. Chacko Puthamparambil and Fr. Thomas Puthamparambil; the third one are Fr. K.G. Zacharias. The brothers had other two brothers namely Joseph and Varghese who tilled the fields after their father's demise. When the young Chacko completed his secular studies in St. Aloysius of Alappy, he joined St. Augustine Seminary, Trichy with his brother P.C. Thomas whom Msgr. Faisandier SJ., accepted for his diocese of Trichinopoly. Having completed his ecclesiastical studies in St. Paul's, Trichy Fr. Chacko was ordained to priesthood on 25-03-1943.

His first preparatory ground was Kalladithidal, which had no proper access via road. Fr. Chacko narrates that the one who was carrying his Trunk Box, the luggage, on the rough road to Kalladithidal was none

other than Msgr. Leonard. Incredible! Later, Fr. Chacko always was narrating this incredible story to many. If a young priest were to have a good guide and a model, his whole priestly life will be transformed. He was carefully guided by his parish priest, Fr. Silverius SJ for four years. Then he was appointed as Parish priest of Puliyal in 1947. There he built shops for the self sustenance of the parish. He built High School and developed the Parish itself in self sufficiency. Then he was transferred to Karaikudi in 1954. He fought in the court to build a Church dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Chekkalai. It seems that with the blessings of St. Teresa of Lissieux he always won the battle! Later he was appointed as Parish Priest and Procurator at Sarugani center. Next to Madurai Sarugani was the ecclesiastical center then. Then he worked as parish priest in Paramkudi for two years. Wherever there was pastoral impossibility it was made possible by the determination and the sheer pastoral zeal of Fr. Chacko. From 1969 to 1973 he became the parish priest of Hanumanthanpatti where he renovated the century old Church and added the Towers.

Meanwhile when there was a need at the center, the Bishop's House for doing social and developmental works, it was Fr. Chacko, who volunteered to spearhead those missions. When he was given the reign of Madurai Multiple Social Service Society, a mighty and powerful organ of the Archdiocese for the development of the poor, Fr. Chacko did not count day as day and night as night. "Work! Work!!Work!!!" had been his daily prayer.

Draught Relief Works... Hunger eradication Works... Flood Relief Works... He was always on the wheels to wipe away the tears of the poor in the name of the Church. Fr. Chacko, the Director of MMSSS, was working like a machine. He was also the Manager of Nobili press and earned a unique status for the press. Prof. Suguna says that he, as a single priest, accomplished so much pastoral works that amount to four priests' works.

When he was rushing for Draught Relief work at Aruppukottai road his Jeep met with an accident on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1981 and at once the unconscious Fr. Chacko was taken to Madurai Govt. Hospital and the Lord took him away to himself stating that this holy soul needs little rest with himself.

May the holy name of this dedicated Missionary of the Archdiocese inspire all the priests to work like a bull for the building of the Kingdom of God on earth.

**Fr. P.C. Thomas:** Another towering personality that the Archdiocese had at the Bishop's house was his younger brother, Fr. P.C. Thomas. He was born on 4 March 1919. He, together with his brother, joined St. Augustine Seminary, Trichy in 1935 whose Rectors found him always studious and much disciplined. He was sent to Rome and he completed his Doctorate in Canon Law in Propaganda University, Rome and was ordained in Rome itself in 1942 even before attaining his canonical age. As a 'Rome Return' he used to be serious and upright all the time. He was teaching Latin, English and Moral sciences at St. Peter's Seminary and was a full time Teacher for Novices at Loretto Novitiate. The other subjects he taught later were Sacraments, Church History and Spirituality. He used to help Fatima College Sisters community for monthly Recollection and Mass. He was well versed in ecclesiastical discipline and canon law.

All the diocesan common liturgical celebrations were scrutinized meticulously and prepared by him. Fr. Arul Rayan in his Euology said: "Archbishop Diraviam would not dare to do any liturgical function without the presence of Fr. Thomas." For he was thorough with the liturgical norms and rules. As a Canonist and a voracious reader he was keen on getting the current Roman documents and Papal Decrees to the Archdiocese. As a PRIEST he was exemplary to the clergy. His Briefary meditation and Holy Mass were very much part of his priestly life. He never desired any words of appreciation or praise from others or exhibited his credentials before others. For that matter when he celebrated his Golden Jubilee Mass he made only one request to the Archbishop i.e., that he would preach at the Mass lest people and dignitaries showered him with adulation. Such a humble soul he was.

Fr. PC was intellectually honest in helping Bishops, Dignitaries, Superior Generals, Provincials and other lay people with church's practice and stand. Be it the Marriage Tribunal or day-to-day administration of Juridical persons, he always gave a decision for a particular problem with the maxim in his mind *sentire cum ecclesiae*. He interpreted laws

and customs according to the mind of the Church and having arrived at moral certitude he issued firm judgements. Due to this he also expressed in his diary, that he could not reconcile with the certain priests' life styles and their ideas about PRIESTHOOD. Moreover he pioneered in 1956 to collate and print the ORDO for the province of Madurai and edit DNL through which he directed the life and ministry of the clergy according to the mind of Christ. He, now and then, was not afraid to point out the aberrations of clergy both in administration and liturgy.

Fr. Dhivyanandam says that Fr. P. C. Thomas used to explain the *Causus* for the Presbyterium during the Monthly Recollection in order to enlighten the clergy canonically on matrimonial issues. People would find him walking on the road to Pudur Church where he helped the religious at their monthly recollection and spiritual animation. Many could have seen him walking from his room to the class room glued to either a document or his class notes. Fr. Dhivyanandam remembers that when he was an Assistant to Fr. Joseph Xavier at Holy Rosary Church in 1976-1978, this solitary Teacher, due to the rare friendship he enjoyed with Fr. Joseph Xavier, accepted to go and celebrate Mass at Rosary Church one or two times and what was astonishing to him was that Fr. P.C. walked all the way to Holy Rosary Church from Bishop's House.

Fr. Jeganathan says that Fr. PC reared a cat who was his best friend at Bishop's house. He was also, like his boss, very punctual in eating, littering and going out with Fr. PC. Other hobbies of PC were tuning to VATICAN News regularly and playing Cards, the singular identity of Malayalees, with Bishop's House fathers after supper. Here is a learned Teacher who lived in the same room at Bishop's house almost half a century. Fr. Vedamanickam says: "that room was the beginning and end of his priestly ministry".

Fr. PC was suffering from stomach pain often. Finally the Lord took him on 19-4-2001 at his advanced age, eighty second.

Here is a man who loved the Catholic Church and lived for the Mother Catholic Church. Long live the glorious name of Fr. P. C. Thomas, the Seasoned Canonist of the Archdiocese. *(to be continued)*

– Fr. Jodir.