



# Diocesan News Letter Madurai

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December 2014

(For Private Circulation Only)

No. 620

## A Merry Christmas & A Blessed New Year 2015



“I am bringing you Good  
News of great Joy.” (Lk 1:10)



### Christmas Message of the Archbishop

My dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,


*My cordial Advent and Christmas Greetings to all of you. It is Advent season, a season of waiting for the Lord. A new hope dawns in the East! During this season, the 'hope' Isaiah offered to Israelites also is given to us. This hope about the coming of the Messiah gives meaning to our weary life (Mt. 11:28) too. Isaiah says "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse" (11:1). Sprouts and shoots are symbols of germination of new life. Life blossoms for the Israelites amidst the gloomy captivity of Babylon. The long awaited Messiah is at the doorstep. Hence Isaiah tells his people to "rejoice, arise and shine" (60:1). He asks the weary people "to lift the eyes and to look around; the weary people are coming around carrying the booty and abundance of the sea. More so, they are coming, carrying their own daughters, sons and grandsons upon their shoulders, singing the song of Freedom.*

*During this holy season of WAITING, may you also rejoice over the birth of the Saviour, for the Saviour will lower down all your burdens and heaviness, if you prepare worthily yourself and the people entrusted to your pastoral care towards his coming. May you also grow in the 'hope of coming back' to the promised Saviour (Is. 61).*




*During this Holy Season, I wish each one of you, ministering in the Archdiocese of Madurai, a merry Christmas and a fruitful New Year 2015. AS this year also is marked with the event of 'Synod of Bishops' focussing its attention on **Family**, I ask each one of you to facilitate a congenial and healthy atmosphere for the families to grow in Christian maturity. Show special concern for the broken families and abandoned children and elderly parents who are left out of proper care and concern. Let the poor and the suffering be helped throughout the Archdiocese through Sodalities like Vincet De Paul and Charity movements. May the new born Jesus bless each one of you. Merry Christmas.*

**- +Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy**  
(The Archbishop of Madurai)




## ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS DECEMBER - 2014

01.12.14	Church Blessing, Kariyapatti - Eve: Mass	
03.12.14	Benedictine Convent, Dindigul - Mor: Mass	
04.12.14	School Blessing, Thenkasi - Eve: Mass	
05.12.14	Provincial Bishop's Meeting, Trichy	
06.12.14	Laity Commission Meeting, Trichy	
07.12.14	Women Commission Meeting, Trichy	
	Baptist Convent, Vadipatti - Eve: Mass	
08.12.14	CIC, Generalate - Mor: Mass	
	Moondrumavadi - Noon: Mass	
	Thembavani Book Release - Eve: Gnanalivupuram	
09.12.14	Anbagam, Madurai - Mass	
11.12.14	Anbagam, Madurai - Mor: Mass	
13.12.14	Laity Commission Meeting, Trichy	
14.12.14	Confirmation - Virudhunagar - Mor: Mass	
	Ordination Dindigul - Eve: Mass	
16.12.14	Recollection for Priests - Bishop's House	
17.12.14	Fatima College, Madurai - X' Mas Function	
18.12.14	Secretaries Meeting, NPC - Mor	
	X' Mas Function NPC - Eve	
19.12.14	Women Commission General Body Meeting, Trichy	
20.12.14	Jubilee Celebration, CIC Madurai - Mor: Mass	
21.12.14	Annanagar - Mor: Mass	
22.12.14	MMSSS, Madurai - X' Mas Function	
	X' Mas Function, Bishop's House - Eve	
23.12.14	Prision, Madurai - X' Mas Function	
24.12.14	Vigil Mass - Cathedral	
25.12.14	Christmas - Holiday	
26.12.14	Perumalmai, Kodaikanal - Church Blessing Mass	
27.12.14	First Holy Communion, Dindigul - Mor: Mass	
	Ordination Kalladipatti (MSFS) - Eve: Mass	
28.12.14	Charismatic Meeting, Madurai	
29.12.14	Jubilee to Fr. Sandhanam, NPC - Mor: Mass	
	Jubilee to Fr. Siluvai, Athoor - Eve: Mass	
31.12.14	Vigil Mass - K. Pudur	

## Congratulations - Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee

Name	: Fr. Gnanasandanam M.	
Date of Birth	: 25.01.1937	
Place of Birth / Parish	: Michealpattanam	
Father Name	: Mr. Muthupillai	
Mother Name	: Mrs. Marimai	
Brother & Sisters	: 2 Brothers 3 Sisters	
Ordination Date	: 24.03.1965	
1965 - 1966	: Asst. P.P. - Sarugani	
1966 - 1968	: Asst. P.P. - Sendamaram	
1968 - 1972	: Asst. P.P. - Veeravanallur	
1972 - 1975	: Parish Priest - Orikottai	
1975 - 1980	: Parish Priest - Kariapatti	
1980 - 1986	: Parish Priest - Batlagundu	
1986 - 2010	: Parish Priest - Ayyampalayam	
2010 - 2012	: Bibikulam	

## Congratulations - Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee

Name	: Fr. Siluvai Michael Raj P.	
Date of Birth	: 05.04.1963	
Place of Birth / Parish	: Athoor	
Father Name	: Mr. Periyayakam	
Mother Name	: Mrs. Mary Rosali	
Brother & Sisters	: 2 Brothers 3 Sisters	
Ordination Date	: 22.04.1990	
1990	: Asst. P.P. - Srivilliputhur	
1991 - 1992	: Asst. P.P. - Rosary Church	
1992 - 1993	: Asst. P.P. - Virudhunagar	
1993 - 1998	: Parish Priest - W. Pudupatti	
1998 - 2004	: Parish Priest - Samayanallur	
2004 - 2009	: Parish Priest - Rayappanpatti	
2009 -	: Parish Priest - Palanganatham	

**Pope's Geberal Prayer Intention for December 2014:** That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.

**Pope's Mission Intention for December 2014:** That parents may be true evangelizers passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

### Please Note

1. **Christmas Greetings of the Archbishop:** I greet all the reverend Fathers, Sisters and Brothers, ministering in our Archdiocese of Madurai, **a Joyous Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2015.** Let there be joyous and meaningful Christmas and New Year celebrations in all our Parishes, Communities and Institutions so that CHRIST may be born at every one of your home. As 2015 is the special ecclesiastical year dedicated to all the **Consecrated persons**, dear my brothers and sisters marked by the special status of Consecrated Life, be sure of my fraternal prayers and apostolic blessings to you in all your walks of life and ministries. I appreciate you very much for what you do and continue the good works which the Lord has begun in you (I Tim. 4:16). – **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy.**



2. **Monthly Recollection:** The Monthly Recollection for December, a **Christmas Get-Together** will be held on **16<sup>th</sup> inst., Tuesday.** Let us all come together joyously and celebrate Chirstmas at Bishop's House in order to share the Blessings of Christmas with our people at our respective parishes, communities and institutions. The regular monthly recollection programme follows.

This day is also the special day of **Dedication of the Cathedral Church, St. Mary's parish** which feast should be celebrated by all the parish priests in their respective parishes throughout the Archdiocese.



3. **Procurator's Desk:** i) Kindly submit all your quarterly accounts and special collections (such as Mission Sunday collection) at Procurator's office as early as possible.



ii) Make a special collection for **African Mission** at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, i.e., 21<sup>st</sup> December.

4. **Congratulations** to **Rev. Fr. Daniel Jai Joseph** for the renovation and extension of St. Aloysius Church, Settur, substaion of Sundaranachiapuram parish. The church was blessed by Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy on 24<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2014. Belated greetings and appreciations to Fr. Jai, who also constructed a new school building for St. Joseph's Middle School, Sundaranachiapuram with the help of **Manos unidas.**



5. **Congratulations** to **Rev. Fr. Muthu** for the construction of a new parochial Church (stone Church) at Kariapatti, dedicated to **Our Lady of Immaculate Conception**, which was blessed and consecrated by His Grace, **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy** on 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2014.



6. **Condolences:** DNL offers its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. M. Paul** who lost his **beloved mother, Mrs. Mary Packiam**, aged 86, on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014. The burial mass was officiated by **His Grace Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy** with a large number of presbyterium on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Our Lady of Assumption church, Athoor. May the soul of Mrs. Mary Packiam rest in peace.



7. **Condolences:** DNL offers its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. Joseph Antony** who lost his **beloved father, Mr. Irudayam**, aged 84, on 6<sup>th</sup> November and the funeral mass was celebrated by His Grace **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy** with a large number of presbyterium on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at Sacred Heart Church, Sindalachery. May the soul of Mr. Irudayam rest in peace.



## Prison Ministry

**Very dear Father/Brother/Sister/Mr.,**

Loving greeting from Prison Ministry India : We reach out the prisoners in 13 prisons within the Archdiocese of Madurai. Apart from counselling the Convicts we help their families to keep their life going Help their children in their education. We celebrate Christmas Mass in all the prisons and provide a meal on that occasion. We depend on your generous help. Kindly donate to make this Christmas more meaningful to the inmates of prisons and thier families.

May this season bring you abundant blessings from

**The divine babe in the manger!!!**

**Merry Christmas!!! and a very prosperous new Year**



We the volunteers of Prison Ministry India, Archdiocese of Madurai unit cordially invite you to share the season's joy and peace with the inmates of Madurai Central Prison on the Occasion of the Celebration of Christmas.

**MOST REV. ANTONY PAPPUSAMY D.D., S.I.D**

**Archbishop of Madurai**

has graciously consented to preside over the function

**MR. ARIVUDAI NAMBI**

**Superintendent**

**Madurai Central Prison**

is our Guest of honour

**Date : 23.12.2014**

**Time : 11.00 A.M**

**Venue : Madurai Central Prison**

## Indulgences for the Year of Consecrated Life

Vatican City, 28 November 2014 (VIS) – The Holy Father, on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life, will concede plenary indulgences, with the customary conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff) to all members of the institutes of consecrated life and other truly repentant faithful moved by a spirit of charity, starting from the first Sunday of Advent this year until 2 February 2016, the day of the closure of the Year of Consecrated Life. The indulgence may also be offered for departed souls in Purgatory.

**Indulgence may be obtained:**

In Rome, in participation in the international meetings and celebrations established in the calendar of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life, and pious reflection on for a suitable period of time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate approved form, and invocations of the Virgin Mary.

In all the particular Churches, during the days devoted to consecrated life in the diocese, and during diocesan celebrations organised for the Year of Consecrated Life, by visiting the cathedral or another sacred place designated with the consent of the Ordinary of the place, or a convent church or oratory of a cloistered monastery, and publicly reciting the Liturgy of the Hours or through a suitable period of time of devout reflection, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate approved form, and pious invocations of the Virgin Mary.

Members of the Institutes of Consecrated Life who, on account of ill health or other serious reasons are prevented from visiting these sacred places, may



nonetheless receive Plenary Indulgence if, completely detached from any type of sin and with the intention of being able to fulfil the three usual conditions as soon as possible, devoutly carry out the spiritual visit and offer their illness and the hardships of their life to God the merciful through Mary, with the addition of the prayers as above.

To facilitate this access to divine grace by means of pastoral charity, the Apostolic Penitentiary Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, who signed the decree, asks that the canons, members of the Chapter, the priests of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and all others able to hear confessions offer themselves willingly and generously to the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and regularly administer Holy Communion to the sick.

### POPE'S MESSAGE TO THE RELIGIOUS

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Even though physically far away because of my service to the universal Church, I feel profoundly united to all consecrated men and women at the beginning of this year, which I wish to have dedicated to consecrated life.

I greet affectionately all the members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and all those present in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, under the tender gaze of the Blessed Virgin, *Salus Populi Romani*, for this Vigil of Prayer. With you I also greet all the consecrated men and women who live and work in the world.

My first words, on this occasion, are of gratitude to the Lord for the precious gift of consecrated life to the



Church and to the world. May this Year of Consecrated Life be an occasion for all members of the People of God to thank the Lord, from whom every good comes, for the gift of consecrated life, appreciating it appropriately. To you equally, dear brothers and sisters, goes my gratitude for what you are and what you do in the Church and in the world. May this be an “intense time” to celebrate with the whole Church the gift of your vocation and to revive your prophetic mission.

I repeat to you today what I have said at other times: “Awake the world! Awake the world!” How? Put Christ at the center of your existence. The essential norm of your life being to “follow Christ as taught by the Gospel” (*Perfectae Caritatis*, 2), consecrated life consists essentially in personal adherence to Him. Seek Christ constantly, dear consecrated, seek his Face, may He occupy the center of your life in order to be transformed in “living memory of Jesus’ way of living and acting, as Incarnate Word before the Father and before brothers” (*Vita Consecrata*, 22). Like the Apostle Paul, let yourselves be conquered by Him, assume his sentiments and his way of life (cf. *Ibid.*, 18); let yourselves be touched by his hand, led by his voice, sustained by his grace (cf. *Ibid.*, 40).

It is not easy; let yourselves be touched by his hand, led by his voice, sustained by his grace.

And, with Christ, begin always from the Gospel! Assume it as a way of life and translate it into daily gestures marked by simplicity and coherence, thus overcoming the temptation to transform it into an ideology. The Gospel will keep your life and mission “young,” and it will render it timely and attractive. May the Gospel be the solid terrain where you advance with courage. Called to be “living exegesis” of the Gospel, may that be, dear consecrated, the foundation and ultimate reference of your life and mission.



Come out of your nest to the fringes of the man and woman of today! Therefore, let yourselves be encountered by Christ. The encounter with Him will drive you to encounter others and will lead you to the neediest, to the poorest. Reach the fringes that await the light of the Gospel (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 20). Inhabit the frontiers. This will require your vigilance to discover the novelties of the Spirit; lucidity to recognize the complexity of the new frontiers; discernment to identify the limits and the appropriate way to proceed; and immersion in reality, “touching the suffering flesh of Christ in the people” (*Ibid.*, 24).



Dear brothers and sisters: presented before you are many challenges, but these exist to be surmounted. “Let us be realistic, but without losing joy, audacity and dedication full of hope! Let us not be robbed of the missionary force!” (*Ibid.*, 109).

May Mary, woman in contemplation of the mystery of God in the world and in history, diligent woman in helping others with haste (cf. *Luke* 1:39) and, therefore, model of every missionary-disciple, accompany you in this Year of Consecrated Life, which we put under her maternal gaze. To all of you, participants in the Vigil of Prayer at Saint Mary Major, and to all consecrated men and women, I impart my heartfelt Blessing, and I ask you, please, to pray for me.



May the Lord bless you and may Our Lady protect you.



### Holy See Collection - 2014

<b>Collection as on 27/10/2014</b>	<b>68,295.00</b>
St. Mary's Church	1,000.00
Alangulam	200.00
<b>Collection as on 24/11/2014</b>	<b>69,495.00</b>



### Vocation Sunday Collection - 2014

<b>Collection as on 27/10/2014</b>	<b>73,826.00</b>
St. Mary's Church	5,000.00
Alangulam	200.00
<b>Collection as on 24/11/2014</b>	<b>79,026.00</b>



### St. Peter's Pence Collection -2014

<b>Collection as on 27/10/2014</b>	<b>67,008.00</b>
St. Mary's Church	5,000.00
Thirunagar	1,500.00
Kottur	600.00
Alangulam	200.00
<b>Collection as on 24/11/2014</b>	<b>74,308.00</b>



### Bible Sunday Collection -2014

<b>Collection as on 27/10/2014</b>	<b>41,620.00</b>
Sivakasi	6,100.00
St. Mary's Church	5,000.00
Periyakulam	3,000.00
Sundaranatchiapuram	2,500.00
Thirunagar	2,000.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	1,000.00
Batlagundu	1,000.00
Kavirayapuram	800.00
Usilampatti	750.00
Kottur	600.00
Mathan Kovilpatti	400.00
Mangalamkombu	300.00
Alangulam	300.00
A. Nathampatti	300.00
Kalladipatti	200.00
<b>Collection as on 24/11/2014</b>	<b>65,870.00</b>



## Mission Sunday Collection -2014

**Collection as on 27/10/2014 99,003.00**

Sivakasi	3,03,000.00
Gnanaolivupuram	1,30,000.00
Batlagundu	70,000.00
Theni	69,272.00
Munjikkal	53,000.00
St. Mary's Church	50,000.00
Ellis Nagar	50,000.00
Hanumanthanpatti	40,000.00
Anjal Nagar	31,545.00
Periyakulam	17,000.00
Shenbaganur	15,000.00
Silukkuvarpatti	15,000.00
Thirunagar	15,000.00
Sundaranatchiapuram	14,100.00
R.R. Nagar	12,580.00
Kalladipatti	10,200.00
Aruppukottai	10,000.00
Michaelpalayam	10,000.00
Uthamapalayam	10,000.00
A. Nathampatti	5,500.00
Kottur	5,285.00
Ayyampalayam	4,501.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	4,000.00
Mathakovilpatti	3,500.00
Kavirayapuram	3,000.00
Mangalamkompu	2,500.00
St. Annes Convent, Mapalayam	2,500.00
Alangulam	2,000.00
Lourdupuram	1,769.00
Karumathur	1,500.00

**Collection as on 24/11/2014 10,60,755.00**



## African Mission

Anjal Nagar	6,547.00
Ellis Nagar	4,000.00
Hanumanthanpatti	3,000.00
Periyakulam	2,000.00
Thirunagar	1,500.00
Mangudi Meenatchiapuram	1,000.00
Uthamapalayam	1,000.00
Kavirayapuram	800.00
Usilampatti	750.00
Kottur	600.00
Matha Kovilpatti	400.00
A. Nathampatti	300.00
Karumathur	300.00
Kalladipatti	200.00
Alangulam	200.00

**Collection as on 24/11/2014 22,597.00**

## KANI (Seminarians Fund -2014)

Fr. Parish Priest, Vadipatti	10,000.00
Fr. Marivalan S.j., APEYM Beschi	6,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Meenampatti	5,000.00
Selvi. Mary, Seithur, Sundaranatchiapuram	5,000.00
Msgr. Joseph Selvaraj V.G.	2,000.00
Fr. A. Victor, Asst. P.P. Sundaranatchiapuram	1,000.00
Fatima Matha Anbiyam, Bibikulam	1,000.00
Mary Grace, Silukkuvarpatti	200.00
Dr. Shanthi, Bibikulam	200.00
Sr. Superior, St. Theresa Convent, Pambarpuram	140.00

**Total 30,540.00**

### *Felicitations On Ordination Anniversary Day*

Augustin Prabu A.	on	08.12.2013
Rajan. A	on	08.12.2013
Fr. Francis Xavier A.	on	09.12.2012
Fr. Joseph Amalan A.	on	09.12.2012
Fr. Panneer Raja S.	on	09.12.2012
Fr. Thomas Edison J.	on	09.12.2012
Fr. Thomas Venish	on	09.12.2012
Fr. Fr. Peter Kulandai	on	11.12.1969
Fr. I. Arputhasamy	on	11.12.2011
Fr.R. Maria Prabhu	on	11.12.2011
Fr.R. Murali Anand	on	11.12.2011
Fr. B. Paul Raj	on	11.12.2011
Fr. Pothagar Michael.M	on	11.12.2011
Fr. S. Santhana Sahayam	on	11.12.2011
Fr. Sebastian Jerome	on	11.12.2011
Fr. S. Vincent Raja	on	11.12.2011
Fr. V. Joseph	on	12.12.2003
Fr. Vedamanickam A.	on	13.12.1971
Fr. Appoline Claret Raj M.	on	30.12.2000
Fr. Parivalan S.A.	on	30.12.2000

### *Necrology*

Fr. Vedamuthu S.	01.12.1984
Fr. Arulsamy R.	01.12.2001
Archbishop Peter Leonard	05.12.1985
Fr. Benedict Pinto	06.12.1975
Fr. Savarimuthu V.M.	06.12.1997
Fr. Maria Diraviam	26.12.1989

