



DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai
News Letter

www.archdioceseofmadurai.com

February 2019

(For Private Circulation Only)

No. 669

மதுரையின் ஆறாம் பேராயர்



வாழ்க பேராயர்! வாழ்க பல்லாண்டு!!
20ஆம் ஆயர் திருநிலைப்பாட்டு ஆண்டு விழா
04-02-2019

மேதகு. ஸ்டீபன் அந்தோனி அவர்களை
வாழ்த்தி வரவேற்கின்றோம்.



தூத்துக்குடி மறைமாவட்டத்தின்
ஏழாம் ஆயரை வாழ்த்தி வரவேற்பதில்
மதுரை திருஅவை அகமகிழ்கின்றது.

- பேராயர், குருகுலம், துறவியர், இறைமக்கள்
மதுரை உயர் மறைமாவட்டம்.

Happy Birthday!



Fr. Valentine Joseph G. (09)



Fr. Paul Britto S. (11)



Fr. David Sahayaraj S. (12)



Fr. Xavier Raj S. (12)

Fr. Sebastine S. (12)



Fr. Antony John Kennedy I. (20)



Fr. Maria Arul Selvam M. I. (25)



The Voice of the Pastor *(February 2019)*

My dear Fathers, brothers and Sisters,

Jesus says that “as the Father has loved me so have I loved you” (Jn.15:9). Father and the son love each other and their love is the Holy Spirit. As God has loved his Son, so his son has loved us. The love of Jesus for us cost his life on the cross because of which we are saved and our sins are forgiven. In his humanity Jesus poured out his life till there was nothing left.



Jesus has chosen us to be his friends and it is not we who chose him. His only plea is that we love others as he has loved us. Loving individuals is more valuable than loving the whole human race.

Concrete love expressed to the individuals is more valuable than all the theoretical love for the poor, oppressed and abandoned of the world. Let us look at Jesus on the cross and forget what harm others have done to us. Let us spread out our love coming from the heart of Jesus who has made his home in us through to everyone in the world.

Once we start loving individual persons our life will be one of joy. Hence Jesus says “I have told you this that your joy may be complete” (Jn.15:11). Our life will bear fruit that will last after we have gone. Our love for the individual persons as Jesus did will not only bring blessings on us but we will make the presence of God felt among the people. Let us make it a task of our life to follow Jesus which will bring us happiness, joy and fulfilment.

May God bless you all,
Your loving Archbishop,

+ *Antony Pappusamy*

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy

Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Intention for February 2019

Universal: For a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, of enforced prostitution, and of violence.

பேராயரின் சீம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

உதகை : அன்பினில் வாழும் வாழ்வு, இறைவனில் வாழும் வாழ்வு

வளர்க்க : வேலை செய்யாத கை வறுமையை வருவிக்கும். விடாருயற்சியுடையோரின் கையோ செல்வத்தை உண்டாக்கும் (நீமொ 10:4).

வாழ்வாக்க : நம் குடும்பங்களும், இறைவன் வாழும் கோவில்களே என்பதை வாழ்வாக்கிட

Archbishop's Engagements

- 01 Fri E Flag Hoisting, K.Pudur
 02 Sat E Priestly Ordination, Virudunagar
 03 Sun M Nuptial Blessing, Krishnagiri
 04 Mon Archbishop's Consecration Day
 05 Tue M Consecration Day Mass and Felicitation, NPC
 E Adoration Chapel Blessing, Hanumanthanpatti
 06 Wed M Nuptial Blessing, Shanthi Nagar
 08 Fri E Flag Hoisting, East Marianathapuram
 09 Sat M First Holy Communion, Ugarthenagar
 E Blessing of Way of the Cross Stations, Packiapuram
 10 Sun M Nuptial Blessing, Niraivazhvunagar
 E Feast Mass, Othakadai
 11 Mon M Inauguration of CHAT, NPC
 E Blessing of Presbytery, Silukuarpatty
 12 Tue M Annual Feast Mass, Puliampatti
 E Blessing of Grotto, Nakkaneri
 13 Wed E Blessing of St. Sebastin's Church, Munjikkal
 14 Thu E Blessing of St. Antony's Church, Oormachikulam
 15 Fri M Nuptial Blessing, New Elis Nagar
 E Blessing of Presbytery, Cumbum
 16 Sat E Madha Tv Celebration, Vellore
 17 Sun E Mass and Blessing of School Building, Meenampatti
 18 Mon M Mass, Mulagumodu

- 19 Tue M Commission Secretaries Meeting, NPC
 E Book Release, NPC
 26-27 Annual Board Meeting, St. Paul's Seminary
 28 Annual Board Meeting, Christ Hall Seminary

March

- 01 Fri M Mass, Rayappanpatti
 02 Sat E Blessing of the Church, Indra Nagar
 03 Sun E Blessing of Way of the Cross Stations, Shankar Nagar
 04 Mon M Senate Meeting

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

இம்மாதம் விழா கொண்டாடும் பங்குகள்

- அருளானந்தர் ஆலயம், ஒத்தக்கடை - பிப்ரவரி 4
 லூர்தன்னை ஆலயம், சிவகாசி - பிப்ரவரி 11
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 லூர்தன்னை திருத்தலம், கோ. புதூர் - பிப்ரவரி 11

இப்பங்குகளில் பண் புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும்,
 துறவறத்தாருக்கும் இறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது
 வாழ்த்துகளும் ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்பசாமி

HAPPY FEAST

The Archbishop & the Archdiocesan Priests wish the Handmaids of
 Merciful Love Sisters (HML) on their Feast Day on Feb 8.

Please Note

1. **20th Anniversary Day of Episcopal Consecration of the Archbishop** will be celebrated on 5^{th inst.}, Tuesday at Nobili Pastoral Center. The Celebration begins at 9:45 am with Tea. All the parish priests with their 5 parish representatives and 2 Sisters from each religious institute will participate at the Celebration. All the Major Superiors of religious institutes are specially invited for the celebration. Kindly bring as offertory gifts only cloths and dresses for the poor.
2. The **Feast Day of St. John De Britto**, our **Patron Saint**, 4^{th inst.}, (Monday) is to be celebrated meaningfully at all our parishes and institutions in the Archdiocese. May the missionary zeal of the Martyr inspire in us a zeal for Evangelization and Proclamation of the Kingdom.
3. DNL congratulates the Bishop Elect, **Most Rev. Stephen Antony (67)**, who has been appointed by the Holy Father as the new Bishop of Tuticorin on 17th January 2019. DNL offers its felicitations and fervent prayers to the new Shepherd, the 7th Bishop of Tuticorin that God may shower His abundant Blessings upon the New Bishop in order to lead and animate the *Presbyterium* and the Faithful of the Diocese of Tuticorin. DNL also conveys its prayerful gratitude to the outgoing Bishop of Tuticorin, His Excellency, **Most Rev. Yuon Ambroise** for leading the Diocese of Tuticorin at a critical period of political and social turmoil. Most Rev. Yvon Ambroise will be the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Tuticorin until the day of the canonical taking possession of the new Bishop. The Consecration of the new Bishop will take place on 24^{th inst.}. May the good God bless both the Prelates. A brief bio-data of the Bishop-elect is published at this issue.
4. **Monthly Recollection** for February will be conducted at respective Vicariates.
5. **Congratulations** to **Rev. Fr. Xavier Raj A.**, the Correspondent and **Fr. Maria Arul Selvam D.**, the Asst. Head Master, for the

- construction of an elegant Basket Ball Court at St. Britto Hr. Sec. School. His Grace blessed the court and inaugurated it on 3rd Jan. 2019.
6. **Condolences:** i) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. Gnanasandanam** for the demise of his beloved Sister, **Mrs. Maria Selvam**, aged 84, who passed away on 12th Jan. 2019 at Anna Nagar. The Funeral Mass was officiated by Fr. Gnanasandanam on 14th Jan. 2019 at Lourde's Church, K. Pudur. May the soul of Mrs. Maria Selvam rest in Peace.
ii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. S. Jeganathan** for the demise of his beloved Sister, **Mrs. Maria Selvam**, aged 72, who passed away on 16th January 2019 at Michaelpalayam. The Funeral Mass was officiated by Fr. Britto Jerald Dhinakaran on 17th Jan. 2019 at St. Michael's Church, Michaelpalayam. May the soul of Mrs. Maria Selvam rest in peace.
iii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. M.S. Muthu** for the demise of his beloved Father, **Mr. Maria Alangaram**, aged 82, who passed away on 19th January 2019 at Kalladipatti. The Funeral Mass was officiated by His Grace on 20th Jan. 2019 with a large participation of the *presbyterium* at St. John De Britto's Church, Kalladipatti. May the soul of Mr. Maria Rajangam rest in peace.
 7. The Lenten Season will start this year on 6th March, the Ash Wednesday.
 8. **Holy Childhood** special Collection is to be taken on 10^{th inst.}. Kindly remit the amount at Procurator's Office at once.



Bio-Data: Most Rev. Stephen Antony

Fr. Stephen Antony Pillai was born in Keezha Manakudy, Diocese of Kottar, on 22 June, 1952 and was ordained priest on 7 May, 1979 for the Diocese of Vellore. He entered Santhome Minor Seminary, Chennai, in 1969. He did his Philosophy at Arul Anandar College, Madurai and Theology at St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirappalli. He obtained a Master Degree in Theology

from St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, and later a Doctorate in Biblical Theology from Urbanian University, Rome in 1989. He knows Tamil, Malayalam, English, Italian, German and French.

He served the Diocese in the following ministries: Assistant Parish Priest in Chetpet (1979-1980); Asst. Parish Priest in Polur (1980-1981); Parish Priest in Thachanbali (1983-1986). From 1986-1989 he did his studies in Rome and later served as missionary at Guadeloupe, France (1990-1996). On his return, he was Director of Pastoral Centre, Vellore (1996-1999), Professor at St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirapalli (1999-2001), Parish Priest of the Cathedral, Vellore (2001-2002), Vicar General and Parish Priest of the Cathedral (2002-2005), Vice Rector and Professor, St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirapalli (2006-2010), Parish Priest and Vicar Forane, Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Chetpet, and member of the Bishop's Council, Vellore (2010-2016). He was visiting professor at Don Bosco Major Seminary, Chennai, and Pallottine Major Seminary, Mysore (2016-2017). Since 2017, he is the Director of the Diocesan Retreat Centre, and visiting professor at St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirapalli.

(Courtesy: www.cbci.in)

PAST AND PRESENT ORDINARIES OF THE DIOCESE OF TUTICORIN

- I. **Most Rev. Francis Tiburtius Roche S.J.** - 12th June 1923 to 26th June 1953.
- II. **Most Rev. Thomas Fernando** - 26th June 1953 to 23rd November 1970.
- III. **Most Rev. Ambrose Madalaimuthu** – 30th August 1971 to 6th December 1979.
- IV. **Most Rev. Siluvaimuthu Theresnathan Amalanather** – 29th November 1980 to 8th December 1999.
- V. **Most Rev. Peter Fernando** – 8th December 1999 to 22nd March 2003.
- VI. **Most Rev. Yvon Ambroise** – 1st April 2005 to 17th January 2019.
- VII. **Most Rev. Antony Stephen Pillai**– Appointed on 17th January 2019.

Mass Received From Parishes

Bibikulam (110 Masses)	11,000.00
Total	11,000.00

குடும்ப நல்வாழ்வு பணிக்குழு நடத்தும் தீருமண முன்தயாரிப்பு நடைபெறும் நாட்கள்

02,03.02.2019	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
09,10.02.2019	கொடைக்கானல்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
16,17.02.2019	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
23,24.02.2019	உத்தமபாளையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்தந்தை. ஜோசப், செயலர்



Adoration Sunday

February	March
03 Mangalamkombu	03 Alangulam
10 Michaelpalayam	10 Anjal Nagar
17 Palanganatham	17 Ammapatti
24 A. Nathampatti	24 Anna Nagar
	31 Aruppukottai

Necrology

Fr. Jude Vadakara	01.02.2013
Fr. Jacob Manala	03.02.1998
Fr. Arulappar	28.02.2004



KANI (Seminarisians Fund)

Opening Balance as on 15.12.2018	23,61,744.77
Confirmation Mass, Virudhunagar	45,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Gnanaolivupuram	34,000.00
Fr. M. Martin, Katpadi, Vellore	25,000.00
Sr. Agnes, Corres., Vailankanni Matha Mat. Hr. Sec. Sch.	25,000.00
Parishioners, Kariapatti	14,460.00
Anbiam, Virudhunagar	12,647.00
The Superior General, Old Kosavapalayam, Madurai	10,000.00
Mr. A. Sahayaraj, Nagamalai	10,000.00
Fr. PP., St. Antony's Shrine, Marambady	10,000.00
Parish, Virudhunagar	10,000.00
Confirmation Mass, Kariapatti	7,000.00
Fr. Arul Sathish Kumar, SVD	7,000.00
Fr. John Doss, SDC, Nagamalai	5,000.00
Mr. Raja & Jayanthi, Trichy	5,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, K. Pudur, Madurai	5,000.00
The Secretary, Anbagam, DRO Cololy, Madurai	5,000.00
Parishioners, Srivilliputhur	4,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Perumalkoilpatty, Dindigul	3,000.00
Sr. Arockia Mary, Superior & Community, G.R. Nagar	3,000.00
Mr. Voice Christo, Bastin Nagar	2,000.00
Fr. Ambrose S.J., Karumathur	2,000.00
Fr. Mathan, Christ Hall Seminary (Bination Mass)	1,600.00
Fr. V.K.S. Arulraj, Christ Hall Seminary (Bination Mass)	1,500.00
ICM Sisters, St. Francis Xavier Convent, Srivilliputhur	1,000.00
G. Usha Bernadett	1,000.00
	<u>26,10,951.77</u>
Add: Bank Interest <u>19644</u>	<u>19,644.00</u>
	<u>26,30,595.77</u>
Less : Payment for Little Flower Seminary-62118	
Bank SMS Alert Charges <u>15</u>	<u>62,133</u>
	<u>62,133.00</u>
Closing Balance 25.01.2019	<u>25,68,462.77</u>
Cash in Hand :	25,000.00
Cash at Bank :	<u>25,43,462.77</u>
	<u>25,68,462.77</u>

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.01.2019

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	Mangalamkombu	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 25.01.2019

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
600	600	600	700	8000	1000	700	700
800	800	800	1000	8500	1500	750	750
4500	5000	5250	4436	33903	4355	3500	5020
8780	8410	10000	8730	153405	9070	9500	9310
1000	1000						
1000	1000	1000	1000	40000	1000	1000	
9000	15502	23000	13092	104450	8000	8000	8000
2500	2500	2500	2500	37050	3000	2000	3500
2732	3468	2340	3510	64880	3350		
300	400	500	1000	20500	500	500	
500	500	500	500	7200	500	500	500
1480	1850	1450	2350	15550	2050	1700	1550
1200	1200	1200	1200	12000	1200		
11140	11301	10287	11600	235142	10457	10175	
7000	8000	10000	10000	484184	5000	5000	5000
1250	1300	1800	1230	47000	1000	1100	1150
3000	4500	3000	5000	60000	5000	5000	5000
149	873	392	476	6740	260	292	386
7000	10000	2000	2700	70000	9000	1000	1000
1500	1500	2000	1500	50000	1500	1500	1500
200	200	200	200	3500			
450	555	505	490				
1000	1000	1000	1000	20346	1000		
500	500	725	875	4500	900	500	620
		700	1050	6320	650	750	850
1000	1000	1000	1000	20000	1000		
500	500	500	500	6270			
300	200	200	300	4000	200	200	200
400	400	400	400	6140	480	400	400
1460	1520	2180	1860	16900	1460	2100	1800
600	420	480	500	6020	650		
		1000	2000	30000	1000		
1890	2200	2050	2084	36666	1880	2107	2200
1090	1185	1000	1000	15600	1000	1000	1000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.01.2019

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	Perumalmai	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 25.01.2019

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
				8000			
				50000			
1000	1000	2000	4000	85000	2000	2000	2000
1000	500	1000	1000	12500			
600	1000	1000	1500	20100	1000	600	600
1000	1000	500	1000	10000	1000	1000	1000
250	200	300	250	2000	300	300	250
2020	2050	2461	2300	32100	2700	2510	2520
3000	5000	7000	5780	180000			
3034	3030	3613	2355				
1870	1630	1350					
1000	1000	5000	3000	20000	2500		
2500	1300	2050	2600	17440	1560	1100	2100
1200	1500	1500	1800	30000			
3500	3500	3500	4000	120000	3500	3500	3500
				9000			
3000	3100	3500	3100	124000	3100	3000	3050
1347	1283	1431	1263	54570			
1300	1500	750	1000	25000			
2100	2000	2300		135000			
1000	1000	1000	1000	5000	1000	1000	1000
13250	14500	12100	12000	400000	10500	11500	10500
				310521			
5000	3000	4000	6000	70000			
3300	3300	3500	3500	180000	3500	3500	
1000	1000	1000	1000	101000	1000	1000	1000
2000	2000	1000	4000	17250	2000	2000	2000
4000	3200	3100	4500	303001	4000	3300	2400
1000	1000	1200					
1500	1500	1500	1500	24500			
4200	3000	4000	4100	90370	2600		
500	500	610	910	2670	580	500	600
2000	2000	2000	2500	25000	2000	2000	2000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.01.2019

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 Ansinagar			4000		
	J.A. College, Periyakulam	15800			10200	
	Holy Cross Convent, Bat.					
	Holy Cross Convent, Vadipatty					
	St. Britto Hr.Se.Sch.Mdu					
	Christ Hall Seminary					
	Total	231192	151140	2004573	872255	161737

NB: * Periyakulam Parish Rs. 26,000/- for Hunger & Disease collection paid directly to MMSSS.

From the Procurator's Desk

Dear Rev. Fathers,

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.

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.

ORDO is available in the Diocesan Office. It Costs Rs. 60/- only.

- Fr. Procurator

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.01.2019

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
1000	1000	6221	1536	13018	1500	1100	1200
9000	9000	9000	9000	200000	9000	9000	9000
				13190			
1000	1000	1500		47000			
				20000			
				10500			
				6000			
				15000			
				50300			
154292	166977	181545	172277	4473796	133302	108184	95156

நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதடன் உதவும் உள்ளங்கள்

Fr. G. Lourdu Raj, Arockia Illam	55,000
Fr. Dhivyanandam, Ayravathanallur	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
The Teachers, R.C. Mid.Sch. P. Chettiapatti, Usilampatti	5,000
Fr. Gnanasandanam, Arockia Illam	5,000
Nazrane Isabella Family, Usilampatti	1,000

Total 2,06,000

Kerala Flood Relief Contributions

27-11-2018 to 25-Jan-2019

THE PARISH PRIEST, ST.JOSEPH'S CHURCH	271620.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, ST.JOSEPH'S CHURCH , SAMAYANALLUR	100000.00
VELANKANNI MATRIC HR.SEC. SCHOOL, BATHLAGUNDU	78500.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, NAGAMALAI PUDUKKOTTAI	32000.00
FR.BENEDICT AMBROSE RAJ, VIRUDHUNAGAR PARISH	30000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, RAYAPPAN PATTI	25000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, BASTIAN NAGAR	18000.00
FR.Y.AROCKIAM PARISH PRIEST, BB KULAM	15000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, PALANGANATHAM	15000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, BATHLAGUNDU	12500.00
THE PARISH PRIEST,KARIYAPATTI	10150.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, THENI	10000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, MANGUDI MEENAKSHI PURAM	9500.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, SRIVILLIPUTTUR	9200.00
THE PARISH PRIEST,INFANT JESUS CHURCH, USILAMPATTI	9000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, SATHUR	8600.00
R.C.SCHOOL TEACHERS, W.PUDUPATTI	7700.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, RAYAPURAM	7500.00
MARIA ANNAI ANBILAM, ANBU STREET, BASTIAN NAGAR, MADURAI	6000.00
PARISH PRIEST, AMMAPATTI	6000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST,THEVADHANAM	6000.00

THE PARISH PRIEST, AYYAMPALAYAM	5111.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, ALANGULAM	5000.00
PARISH PRIEST, KODAIKANNAL, UGATHE NAGAR	5000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, W.PUDUPATTI	5000.00
THE HOLY CROSS CONVENT, BATHLAGUNDU	5000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, BODINAYAKANUR	4100.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, MEGAMALAI	4000.00
FR.JEGANNATHAN , BISHOP'S HOUSE	3500.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, ANJAL NAGAR	3000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, THIRUNAGAR	3000.00
FR.XAVIER ARUL RAYAN , MUNJIKAL PARISH	2000.00
FR.B.ARULANATHAM, SATHNGAI, MADURAI	2000.00
FR.ANTONY PACKIAM, MADURAI MELUR	2000.00
FR.PAUL BRITTO, BISHOP'S HOUSE	2000.00
FR.RAJAN, YOUTH COMMISSION	2000.00
FR.ANANDHAM, NDC DIRECTOR	2000.00
THE PARISH PRIEST, R.R.NAGAR	2000.00
MONICA ANBIAM, SEENIAPURAM, SRIVILLIPUTTUR	2000.00
FR.PAPPURAJ, CHINNAMANNUR PARISH	1600.00
FR.AMALRAJ.S.T, KADAMALAI KUDU PARISH	1500.00
FR.RENI SDL, ALANGULAM PARISH	1000.00
FR.ANTONY SAMY, CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION	1000.00
Total	751081.00

MADURA MISSION - HISTORICAL NOTES

XX. Missionary Journey At Marava Land

“O, Diocese of Sivagangai, you are really blessed! For the holy blood of the Fr. Britto sanctified you and your people!” This acclamation is true because Fr. Britto’s ministry reached its zenith at the *Marava* land. Today’s Ramnathapuram, Pudukottai districts and parts of Tirunelveli district are called Marava land where the *Mukkulathor*, comprising of Maravar, Kallar and Agamudiyar were abound. When in 1679 – 1680 Fr. Britto was celebrating the Holy Week celebrations at *Karayampatti*, Tanjore district, there came Marava Christians to fulfil the obligations of *Pasch*, the Holy Week, since they had been being persecuted in Marava nadu and there was no priest to celebrate Mass. It was the first time that the Madurai Mission superior met those Christians and the Spirit of God induced the soul of Fr. Britto at that time itself to go and start his ministry at Marava land.

Except Fr. Anthony Adikal, who visited and ministered to Marava Christians there were no missionaries who stayed there for ministry. Next to St. Francis Xavier who went to Marava land were the Rectors of Santhome and Nagapattinam colleges, who passed by this region in order to reach Cochin, via short cut, for a meeting. But when Sethupathi came to know that the missionaries had passed by his land without his permission he arrested them and kept in custody. With a payment of huge prize they were set free.

Ecclesial records state that Fr. Anthony Debirena baptized 252 Maravas in 1663. Though the missionaries frequented places such as Madurai, Mullipadi *alias* Malayadipatti, Avoor, Kandhalur, they did not stay in Marava land. Sometimes these Jesuit missionaries went to little towns such as Devakottai, Thirupattur and Pudukottai and baptized the Maravas. The ecclesial record points out that when the Christians in Marava land were persecuted in 1669 they came to Kandhalur of Tanjore district to fulfil the obligations of *Pasch*. In his annual letter of

1683, Fr. Britto writes that there were a. 4000 Christians in Marava nadu where Fr. Daburu was stationed.

In the seventeenth century Madurai was ruled by the Nayak Kings of Vijaya Nagar Empire. These Nayaks in Madurai, for their convenient administration, divided Marava nadu into different Palayams and entrusted them to local petti kings. Thus Pudukottai was entrusted to Rangunatha Thondaiman and Sivagangai to Saga Varna Thevar and Ramanathapuram to Ranganatha Sethupathi. The kings of Ramanathapuram were called SETHUPATHI. They were powerful warriors and benevolent kings. These vassal kings were given power to levy taxes on their subjects, part of which they had to pay to Nayaks; moreover the Agreement directed the Palaya kings to send soldiers to Madurai upon the Nayak's order. When Fr. Britto came to India Ranganatha Sethupathi (1674 – 1720) was in power at Ramnad. Maravas call his period of reign as Golden Age.

At such political situation Fr. Britto did enter into the territory of Ranganatha Sethupathi in 1686. Ranganatha Sethupathi was a strong devotee of Kali who drank excessively intoxicating Kallu (toddy), considering it as the breast milk of goddess Kali. He was both benevolent and cruel king. Sometimes when he came to know that there were Christian soldiers in his army, he ordered them to be executed. He did not hate Christianity but he acted as per the advice of his courtiers, who were mostly Brahmins.

In the month of May 1686 Fr. Britto entered into Marava land via *Vellaikulam*. This village became the mission center of Fr. Britto in Marava land. At this time the Dutch were ruling the trade in the adjacent coastal areas. They too captured Thondi and established there their powerful navy presence. Sometimes they favoured the Nayaks and at other times the Sethupathi. Hence Sethupathi was cautious about the Dutch at his coastal region.

Once the Apostolic Visitor, Pedro Paulo came for apostolic visit to Marava land. When he returned he was angry and depressed

because the local Marava Christians did not show respect and revere him. He expressed his displeasure in his letter to Fr. Britto, the mission superior, stationed at Vellaikulam. Since he came in black Cassock the local Christians did not consider him as a higher ecclesiastic, for they were accustomed to the attire of pandara swamigals who wore saffron cloths. At once Fr. Britto wrote an apology letter to Msgr. Pedro Paulo for the disrespect meted out to him by his new converts and sent it through his trusted Catechist. But this letter was confiscated by Sethupathi's soldier and was given to Sethupathi. The furious Sethupathi ordered his men to arrest the foreign sanyasi, Fr. Britto and his group misunderstanding that Fr. Britto to be a political spy of the Dutch.

At this juncture one who was General of Sethupathi was Kumarappa Pillai. He had been the Military General of Sokka Natha Nayak of Madurai. As a gesture of gratitude to Sethupathi for sending his troops to Madurai during the war, S.N. Nayak offered gold and riches together with the big tribute, his trusted General who became number two in Marava land. Once there happened a theft at the palace of Sethupathi. In order to investigate and arrest the thieves Kumarappa pillai camped at Mangalam near Paganeri. At that time Fr. Britto had been doing his zealous ministry at Vellaikulam for the past two months. Within this short period he baptized 2070 Christians. Though at present no Christian is living in this village, a vast barren land at the east of this village is considered to be the mission center of St. John De Britto. Ecclesial history states that he ministered for the Marava Christians at Thokkanendal, Aranmanai karai, Seyithur etc., which villages are not Christian now.

However we could see that the people in these region have a deeper devotion to Arulanandar Swamigal. Tradition of Asariars at Ilayankudi says that Fr. Britto came to Ilayankudi and baptized the Asari group. In the same manner the old Christians of Paramkudi enjoy a tradition saying that Fr. Britto came to their Alangara Madha Koil and proceeded to the north. (to be continued)

- Jodir.