

Synod 2021 - 2023, Archdiocesan Activities



Inauguration of Archdiocesan Synod St. Mary's 26.10.2021



Synod - Diocesan Pastoral Council 31.10.2021



Vicariate Synod Madurai South

Vicariate Synod Kodaikanal

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DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai
News Letter

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**பேராயர் அவர்களின்
23ஆம் ஆயர் திருநிலைப்பாட்டு
ஆண்டு விழா 04-02-2022
வாழ்க பேராயர்! வாழ்க பல்லாண்டு!!**



Happy Birthday!



Fr. Christian Anand A. (07)



Fr. Valentine Joseph G. (09)



Fr. Paul Britto S. (11)



Fr. David Sahayaraj S. (12)



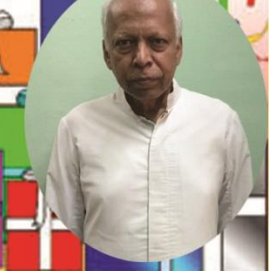
Fr. Xavier Raj S. (12)



Fr. Sebastine S. (12)



Fr. Antony John Kennedy I. (20)



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

Fr. Maria Thangaraj (27)



THE VOICE OF THE PASTOR

Stay Healthy - Make the Society Healthy

World Day of Sick is commemorated on 11th February, which was promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1992. This date coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and reminds us a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, St Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. Since that time, people all over the world travel to Lourdes in France, seeking to be healed. The theme of this day for this year is **"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful"** (Lk 6:36).



This day calls us to **stay healthy**, to promote **Holistic wellbeing** and to **comfort the sick**. Jesus who was sent by the Father to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (Lk 9:2) is a perfect example who fulfilled all these during his life time and it is a hallmark in His mission." He went about all Galilee teaching in their synagogues and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people" (Mt 4:23).

Stay Healthy : WHO defined health as a **state of complete, physical, mental, and social well being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity**. When we are ill, we find ourselves powerless, anxious or become depressed and become obsessed about various things. Fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we realize our own vulnerability that we are creatures dependent on God. Biblical figure Job also forlorn of his sickness but he cries out to God so insistently with deep trust and God allows him to glimpse a new horizon. The nature around us, good friends and relationships, laughter, meditation, exercises, diet above all our deep trust in God can nurture us and help us to stay healthy.

Promote Holistic Wellbeing: Day after day we come across people with various kind of ailments in all the levels. Sickness also includes those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights (*Fratelli Tutti*, 22). We are called to offer them God's closeness, his blessing and his word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments and the

opportunity for a journey of growth and maturation in faith. **Visiting the sick is an invitation for every baptized.**

So many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for our visit and do we hear Jesus saying "I was sick and you visited me" (Mt 25:36). As Christians, we are called to be the *Good Samaritan* by our passion for Christ and compassion for the sick and to be merciful like the Father to our suffering brothers and sisters (Jn 13:34-35).

- ★ What about our spiritual attention towards elderly, poor, sick and vulnerable? And how far our pastoral health care is effective, especially in this Covid pandemic?
- ★ Whether our fraternal love in Christ generates a community of healing, a community that leaves no one behind, a community that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to those most in need?

Comfort the Sick: Sickness threaten not only the physical integrity but also the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives and our responsibility is not just of curing but also of caring. In addition to therapy and medical assistance, they expect love, care and concern. At the side of every sick person, there is also a family, which itself suffers and is in need of support and comfort. We need to hearken the call of Pope Francis, to be **"shepherds living with the smell of the sheep"**. He also said a good priest anoints his people "with the oil of gladness" by preaching the Gospel with the soothing and comforting words of God. Synodal Church also calls us to include them in our journey towards **"communion, participation and mission"**.

- ★ Whether we feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them (cf. Lk10:30-35)?
- ★ Do we offer them our gesture of care, kind smile, words of hope and our comforting presence?
- ★ Does the word of Jesus "come to me and I will give you rest (cf. Mt 11: 28-30) become ours?

I invoke God's blessings on the sick, health care workers and all who assist them. May our Mother Mary sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love.

May God bless you!

Your loving Archbishop,

+ 

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

Pope's General Prayer Intention

For religious sisters and consecrated women - We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

பேராயரோடு இணைந்து செரிப்போம்

- இலக்கு :** நம் பண்பாட்டிற்கும் உலகளாவிய பண்பாட்டிற்கும் உள்ள வேறுபாடு அறிய (கி.வா 90)
- நோக்கு :** முழு ஆளுமையுடைய இளைஞராக (கி.வா 137)
- வாழ்த்தல் :** ஒருபோதும் இழக்கமுடியாத இயேசு நமக்கு வழங்கும் நியந்தனையற்ற அன்பை அனுபவிக்கும் மனிதர்களாக மாற்றம் பெறுவது (கி.வா 290)

இம்மாதம் விழாக் கொண்டாடும் பங்குகள்

அருளானந்தர் ஆலயம், ஒத்தக்கடை	-	பிப்ரவரி 4
அருளானந்தர் ஆலயம், வடபட்டி	-	பிப்ரவரி 4
லூர்தன்னை ஆலயம், சீவகாசீ	-	பிப்ரவரி 11
லூர்தன்னை ஆலயம், லூர்து புரம்	-	பிப்ரவரி 11
லூர்தன்னை திருத்தலம், கோ. புதூர்	-	பிப்ரவரி 11
லூர்தன்னை ஆலயம், செம்பட்டி	-	பிப்ரவரி 11

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி 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. Archbishop's Episcopal Consecration Anniversary: We, the members of the Archdiocese, the Presbyterium, the Religious and the Laity wish His Grace, all God's blessings on the 23rd Anniversary of His Episcopal Consecration Day on 4^{th inst.} May the good Lord shower His choicest blessings on our Archbishop and his Shepherding ministries in Madurai and Kuzhithurai. *Ad multos annos.*

2. Health Concerns: All the priests are advised to be careful during this Pandemic period since February may witness a peak of third wave. All the precautions are to be taken strictly to safeguard oneself and the people who are entrusted to the pastoral care of ourselves.

3. Feast of St. John De Britto, our Archdiocesan Patron Saint's Feast Day falls on 4^{th inst.} All the priests of the Archdiocese are exhorted to celebrate the Feast Day meaningfully at our parishes and institutions in order to rekindle the zeal of Evangelization. May our Patron Saint, *Punitha Arulanandar* intercede for all of us to be vigilant, to burn with zeal in our ministry and to be courageous like him in witnessing to the establishment of Kingdom of God during this pandemic period.



4. Lenten Season falls on 2nd of March. Kindly prepare Lenten pastoral outline for your parishes.

5. Monthly Recollection for February will be conducted Vicariate level.



6. Word Day of the Sick falls on 11^{th inst.}, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. Pope's message for the same is published at this issue.

7. Holy Childhood Collection is to be taken in February. Kindly procure the collection and send it to Procurator's office.

8. Doctor of the Church: Pope Francis has elevated St. Irenaeus of Lyon as the Doctor of the Church. He was the bridge between the East and the West and is rightly called now *Doctor Unitatis*. The Decree is published below.

**மறைவட்ட அளவிலான கிறிஸ்து பிறப்பு குழுபாடல்
போட்டி - 2021**

பேரன்புமிக்க DNL வாசகர்களே!

கிறிஸ்மஸ், புத்தாண்டு மற்றும் பொங்கல் நல்வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

சதங்கை கலைத்தொடர்பு மையம், இளைஞர் பணிக்குழு, நற்செய்தி பணிக்குழு மற்றும் குடும்ப நல் வாழ்வு பணிக்குழுக்கள் இணைந்து நடத்திய மறைவட்ட அளவிலான கிறிஸ்மஸ் குழுபாடல் போட்டி 2021, மிகச்சிறப்பாக நடைபெற்றது. கலந்து கொண்ட அனைத்து பாடற்குழுவினருக்கும், அவர்களை உற்சாகப்படுத்தி அனுப்பி வைத்த பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், பரிசுகளை வழங்கி சிறப்பித்த முதன்மைகுழு மற்றும் மறைவட்ட அதிபர்களுக்கும் எமது நன்றிகளும், பாராட்டுகளும்.

இப்போட்டியில் பரிசு வழங்க தாராளமாக உதவி செய்த திருவாளர்கள். பிரால்கா பால்ராஜ், லாரன்ஸ், வள்ளல் செபஸ்தியான், ரவீந்தரன் மற்றும் செபாஸ்டியன் ராஜசேகர் ஆகியோருக்கும், நடுவர்களாக வந்திருந்து உதவிய அருட்தந்தையர்கள் பால்ராஜ், கஸ்மீர், தாமஸ் ஜான்ஸ்டீட், ஜார்ஜ், அருட்சகோதரிகள். சார்லஸ், கேத்தரின், ஷீலா, அமலி, செலின் பிரபா மற்றும் திருவாளர்கள். யுனிஜோசப், கஸ்மீர், லியோ, இன்பராஜ், அல்போன்ஸ் சுந்தரம் போன்றோருக்கும் சிறப்பான நன்றிகள்.

நாள்	மறைவட்டம்	போட்டி நடந்த இடம்	கலந்துகொண்ட பங்குகள்	பரிசு பெற்றோர்
28.11.2021	கொடைக்கானல்	உகார்த்தே நகர்	6	1. பாக்கியபுரம் 2. உகார்த்தே நகர் 3.மங்களம்கொம்பு
04.12.2021	மதுரை வடக்கு	புதூர்	6	1.புதூர் 2.செங்கோல்நகர் 3.அண்ணா நகர்
05.12.2021	விருதுநகர்	சிவகாசி	7	1. சிவகாசி 2. விருது நகர் 3. R.R நகர்
05.12.2021	திருவில்லிபுத்தூர்	சிவகாசி	4	1.திருவில்லிபுத்தூர் 2.தேவதானம்

11.12.2021	மதுரை தெற்கு	ஞானஒளிவுபுரம்	7	1.எல்லீஸ் நகர் 2. செபமாலை அன்னைஆலயம் 3.பாஸ்டின் நகர்
12.12.2021	தேனி	பெரியகுளம் JA கல்லூரி	7	1. தேனி 2.கம்பம் & இராயப்பன்பட்டி 3.பெரியகுளம் & கோட்டுர்
12.12.2021	வத்தலகுண்டு	பெரியகுளம் JA கல்லூரி	1	1.கல்லடிப்பட்டி

**இப்படிக்கு
அருட்தந்தை. மரிய மிக்கேல்
இயக்குநர், சதங்கை கலைத்தொடர்பு மையம்**

**Decree of the Holy Father for the conferral of the title of
Doctor of the Church on Saint Irenaeus of Lyon**

Saint Irenaeus of Lyons, who came from the East, exercised his episcopal ministry in the West: he was a spiritual and theological bridge between Eastern and Western Christians. His name, Irenaeus, expresses that peace which comes from the Lord and which reconciles, reintegrating into unity. For these reasons, after having received the opinion of the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints, with my Apostolic Authority it is **I DECLARE** Doctor of the Church with the



title of *Doctor unitatis*. May the doctrine of such a great Master encourage more and more the path of all the Lord's disciples towards full communion.

- From the Vatican, 21 January 2022, FRANCIS.

- Courtesy: Vatican.va.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE THIRTIETH WORLD DAY OF THE SICK**

February 11, 2022

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36).

Standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity

Dear brothers and sisters,

Thirty years ago, Saint John Paul II instituted the to encourage the people of God, Catholic health institutions and civil society to be increasingly attentive to the sick and to those who care for them.

We are grateful to the Lord for the progress made over the years in the particular Churches worldwide. Many advances have been made, yet there is still a long way to go in ensuring that all the sick, also those living in places and situations of great poverty and marginalization, receive the health care they need, as well as the pastoral care that can help them experience their sickness in union with the crucified and risen Christ. May the Thirtieth World Day of the Sick – whose closing celebration, due to the pandemic, will not take place as planned in Arequipa, Peru, but in Saint Peter’s Basilica in the Vatican – help us grow in closeness and service to the sick and to their families.

1. ***Merciful like the Father:*** The theme chosen for this Thirtieth World Day of the Sick, “*Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful*” (Lk 6:36), makes us first turn our gaze towards God, who is “rich in mercy” (Eph 2:4); he always watches over his children with a father’s love, even when they turn away from him. Mercy is God’s name par excellence; mercy, understood not as an occasional sentimental feeling but as an ever-present and active force, expresses God’s very nature.

It combines strength and tenderness. For this reason, we can say with wonder and gratitude that God’s mercy embraces both fatherhood and motherhood (cf. Is 49:15). God cares for us with the strength of a father and the tenderness of a mother; he unceasingly desires to give us new life in the Holy Spirit.

2. ***Jesus, the mercy of the Father:*** The supreme witness of the Father’s merciful love for the sick is his only-begotten Son. How often do the Gospels relate Jesus’ encounters with people suffering from various diseases! He “went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people” (Mt 4:23). We do well to ask ourselves why Jesus showed such great concern for the sick, so much so that he made

it paramount in the mission of the apostles, who were sent by the Master to proclaim the Gospel and to heal the sick (cf. Lk 9:2).

One twentieth-century philosopher suggests a reason for this: “Pain isolates in an absolute way, and absolute isolation gives rise to the need to appeal to the other, to call out to the other”. When individuals experience frailty and suffering in their own flesh as a result of illness, their hearts become heavy, fear spreads, uncertainties multiply, and questions about the meaning of what is happening in their lives become all the more urgent. How can we forget, in this regard, all those patients who, during this time of pandemic spent the last part of their earthly life in solitude, in an intensive care unit, assisted by generous healthcare workers, yet far from their loved ones and the most important people in their lives? This helps us to see how important is the presence at our side of witnesses to God’s charity, who, following the example of Jesus, the very mercy of the Father, pour the balm of consolation and the wine of hope on the wounds of the sick.

3. ***To touch the suffering flesh of Christ:*** Jesus’ invitation to be merciful like the Father has particular significance for healthcare workers. I think of all those physicians, nurses, laboratory technicians, the support staff and the caretakers of the sick, as well as the numerous volunteers who donate their precious time to assist those who suffer. Dear healthcare workers, your service alongside the sick, carried out with love and competence, transcends the bounds of your profession and becomes a mission. Your hands, which touch the suffering flesh of Christ, can be a sign of the merciful hands of the Father. Be mindful of the great dignity of your profession, as well as the responsibility that it entails.

Let us thank the Lord for the progress that medical science has made, especially in recent times; new technologies have made it possible to prepare therapies that are of great benefit to the sick; research continues to make a valuable contribution to eliminating old and new pathologies; rehabilitation medicine has greatly expanded its expertise and skills. None of this, however, must make us forget the uniqueness of each patient, his or her dignity and frailties. Patients are always more important than their diseases, and for this reason, no therapeutic approach can prescind from listening to the patient, his or her history, anxieties and fears. Even when healing is not possible, care can always be given. It is always possible to console, it is always possible to make people sense a closeness that is more interested in the person than in his or her pathology. For this reason, I would hope that the training provided to health workers

might enable them to develop a capacity for listening and relating to others.

4. **Centres of care as “houses of mercy”:** The World Day of the Sick is also a good occasion to focus our attention on centres of care. Down the centuries, showing mercy to the sick led the Christian community to open innumerable “inns of the good Samaritan”, where love and care can be given to people with various kinds of sickness, especially those whose health needs are not being met due to poverty or social exclusion or to the difficulties associated with treating certain pathologies. In these situations, it is children, the elderly and those who are most frail who most often pay the price. Merciful like the Father, countless missionaries have combined the preaching of the Gospel with the construction of hospitals, dispensaries and care homes. These are precious means whereby Christian charity has taken visible shape and the love of Christ, witnessed by that of his disciples, has become more credible. I think especially of people in the poorest areas of our planet, where it is sometimes necessary to travel long distances to find treatment centres that, albeit with limited resources, offer what is available. We still have a long way to go; in some countries, access to adequate care remains a luxury. We see this, for example, in the scarcity of available vaccines against Covid-19 in poor countries; but even more in the lack of treatment for illnesses that require much simpler medicines.

In this context, I wish to reaffirm the importance of Catholic healthcare institutions: they are a precious treasure to be protected and preserved; their presence has distinguished the history of the Church, showing her closeness to the sick and the poor, and to situations overlooked by others. How many founders of religious families have listened to the cry of their brothers and sisters who lack access to care or are poorly cared for, and have given their utmost in their service! Today too, even in the most developed countries, their presence is a blessing, since in addition to caring for the body with all necessary expertise, they can always offer the gift of charity, which focuses on the sick themselves and their families. At a time in which the culture of waste is widespread and life is not always acknowledged as worthy of being welcomed and lived, these structures, like “houses of mercy”, can be exemplary in protecting and caring for all life, even the most fragile, from its beginning until its natural end.

5. **Pastoral mercy: presence and proximity:** In the past thirty years, pastoral health care has also seen its indispensable service increasingly

recognized. If the worst discrimination suffered by the poor – including the sick, who are poor in health – is the lack of spiritual attention, we cannot fail to offer them God’s closeness, his blessing and his word, as well as the celebration of the sacraments and the opportunity for a journey of growth and maturation in faith. In this regard, I would like to remind everyone that closeness to the sick and their pastoral care is not only the task of certain specifically designated ministers; visiting the sick is an invitation that Christ addresses to all his disciples. How many sick and elderly people are living at home and waiting for a visit! The ministry of consolation is a task for every baptized person, mindful of the word of Jesus: “I was sick and you visited me” (Mt 25:36).

Dear brothers and sisters, to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Infirm, I entrust all the sick and their families. United with Christ, who bears the pain of the world, may they find meaning, consolation and trust. I pray for healthcare workers everywhere, that, rich in mercy, they may offer patients, together with suitable care, their fraternal closeness.

To all I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

Francis

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 December 2021, Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto.

Does European Union is forced to erase its Christian Identity!

European communities, with their sprawling churches, ancient cities, culinary skills, dance, music, et al, were once proud of their Christian roots. They slowly became secular in the 20th century and the evolution continues to move in a trajectory of despising the Christian faith and its followers. When former German chancellor Helmut Kohl suggested that Turkey would never join the European Union (EU), it was hard to dismiss the criticism that he was speaking on behalf of Europe’s Christian fraternity and his concern for preserving a common cultural heritage. When Princess Diana died in a car crash in Paris in 1997, Libya’s Colonel Muammar Gaddafi described it as a Franco-British plot to prevent the princess from marrying a Muslim.

In the past, despite a policy-based separation of church and state, they worked together in crises as hands of the same body. In a secularized society, the state distanced itself from the church in the guise of nationalism

and secular policies. This has led to populist leaders in Europe interpreting religion according to their political views. Their current mantra of “inclusion” excludes the continent’s Christian roots and traditions.

According to liberals, Europe’s strength lies in its diversity, and embracing differences of approach is necessary to prevent another war from taking place among European nations.

In the new millennium, Europe, which is now focused on peaceful trade, is finding Christmas and Christian terminology hard to digest in public places. On a continent where a whole generation of children grew up without any knowledge of Christianity, the church-state union has become thin, allowing a “velvet-gloved” persecution of Christians “cloaked in politeness,” to borrow the words of Pope Francis.

In a sermon last April, the pope explained such persecution as state policies that marginalize Christians. Such acts are daily acts of violence, he said. After Europe had become “ashamed of its Christian roots,” subtle acts of violence against Christianity are taking place, Pope Francis explained. Besides legislation, this polite persecution also keeps Christian terminology and symbols at bay.

The rise of new cultural norms consigns religions “to the quiet obscurity of the individual’s conscience or relegates them to the enclosed precincts of churches, synagogues or mosques,” Pope Francis said.

Wrapped under the cloak of tolerance and secularism, the polite persecution ultimately serves the purpose of gradual eradication of Christian beliefs from European public life.

Thomas Heine-Geldern, executive president of Aid to the Church in Need, a papal charity, noted an increase in the number of subtle acts of violence taking place in Europe, which used to swear by a common cultural heritage. “The year 2021 has been marked by gratitude and concern,” wrote Heine-Geldern in a Dec. 27 statement while reacting to its annual Religious Freedom in the World Report 2021. Citing examples of polite persecution taking place in many Western nations, the report noted that the conscientious objection of health professionals in relation to abortion and euthanasia is no longer meaningfully protected under law in many nations. Similarly, religious schools, and Catholic schools in general, are finding it increasingly hard to follow their own religious ethos. Debates over Christian identity and the use of words like “Christmas” have reached the public domain in the West and the European Parliament took it for discussion on Dec. 15, 2021. “This is a bogus debate,” said Spanish center-left MEP Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, echoing the general view that opposed the termination of the Christian ethos.

The circular, meant for communications in EU institutions and titled ‘Union of Equality,’ recommended using the expression ‘holiday period’ in place of ‘Christmas period’. On Dec. 7, the EU was forced to retract a controversial circular after the Vatican accused Brussels of trying to cancel Christmas by banning certain Christian terms.

The document is “anachronistic,” Pope Francis said on Dec. 6 during a press conference aboard the papal flight after his four-day visit to Cyprus and Greece. “Throughout history, many, many dictatorships tried to do it,” he added.

The circular, meant for communications in EU institutions and titled “Union of Equality,” recommended using the expression “holiday period” in place of “Christmas period.” The circular also discouraged the use of Christian names such as “Mary” and “John” in public conversation.

The circular was part of a plan championed by EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen to make sure that “everyone is valued and recognized” across the 27-member trade bloc. Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican’s secretary of state, came down heavily and stated that the EU document shows “forgetfulness of what is a reality” and “a cancellation of our roots,” especially when it comes to “Christian festivities.” There is no doubt that Europe is largely a product of Latin Christianity. But the continent is witnessing a shrinking number of practicing Christians and for many Christianity is no more a religion but more a part of their identity.

Nonetheless, the culture war and the polite persecution undertaken in the name of tolerance could remove Europe’s soul and leave the continent divided when another crisis emerges.

– Ben Joseph (Courtesy: UCA News).

**IS HINDUTVA RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM AFRAID TO LOOK
AT THE FACE OF MOTHER TERESA?
THE FACE OF COMPASSION FOR THE POOR,
MILLIONS OF INDIAN CITIZEN!**

The Missionaries of Charity (MC) congregation has been compelled to shut Nirmala Shishu Bhawan, a home for orphaned, destitute and abandoned children in Kanpur Cantonment since 1968, following the expiry of its land lease. The closure of the orphanage in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh comes close on the heels of the federal

government's refusal to renew the congregation's Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration for foreign donations to carry out its charitable works across the country. India's defense establishment claimed that the Kanpur home was built on its land for which the lease had expired in 2019. It claimed the MC nuns were trespassers and would have to pay penalty charges or face eviction.

Sister Prema, superior general of the MC congregation, felt it prudent to surrender before army authorities and handed over peaceful possession of the home to the Defence Estates Office (DEO) on Jan. 3. "It is unfortunate that an institution that served the abandoned and voiceless in the society is shut down instead of the land lease being extended," said Chhotabhai, convener of the Indian Catholic Forum who has been closely associated with the orphanage since its inception.

The MC sisters placed over 1,500 orphans with adoptive families over the past five decades. The 11 remaining children, most of whom were severely handicapped, were relocated to other Shishu Bhawan homes in neighboring Allahabad, Varanasi, Bareilly and Meerut, Chhotabhai told UCA News on Jan. 6.

It certainly doesn't paint the army or DEO in a good light. Did it deliberately choose a soft target knowing that it did not have the stomach for a fight? "The congregation also served thousands of needy people including leprosy patients, unwed mothers and families of migrant laborers," he added. The MC congregation founded by Saint Mother Teresa and Catholic Church officials did not react but the Indian Catholic Forum, in a press note, expressed its "deep anguish and dismay." The forum questioned the DEO for demanding a huge amount of ***10 million rupees (US\$250,000) as a penalty from the nuns***, calling them trespassers. It further wondered why the MC congregation did not explore any legal remedies before handing over the land to the cantonment authorities.

"These questions will now remain unanswered. It certainly doesn't paint the army or DEO in a good light. Did it deliberately choose a soft target knowing that it did not have the stomach for a fight? This selective targeting also seems to have the malodor of a communal bias. Is this how the nation repays the true *deshbhakts* [patriots]," it said in the press note.

The Indian Home Ministry on Christmas Day had "refused" the renewal of the congregation's license to receive funding from abroad. Its statement issued on Dec. 27 disclosed that organizations could not meet "the eligibility conditions" under the FCRA conditions, giving no further details.

In a statement issued on the same day, Sister Prema said: "We have been informed that our FCRA renewal application has not been approved. Therefore, as a measure to ensure there is no lapse, we have asked our centers not to operate any of the FC [foreign contributions] accounts until the matter is resolved."

The congregation is running short of funds and has sought public support to carry on with its charitable works.

- Courtesy: UCA News

Pope Francis presides at Vespers for the Solemnity of the Conversion of St Paul, celebrated in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside-the-Walls at the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Representatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and other Christian churches and ecclesial communities joined Pope Francis in the Basilica of St Paul's Outside-the-Walls for an Ecumenical Vespers service marking the conclusion of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme for this year's Week of Prayer is taken from the Gospel account of the journey of the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Child Jesus: "We saw His star in the East, and we came to worship Him."

Beginning in the East: The Pope noted that the Wise Men saw the star in the East, where the sun rises. They were not content with their own "knowledge and traditions," he said, but "desired something more." Pope Francis called on all Christians to follow the star of Jesus, and His invitation to unity, "without worrying about how long and tiring the road may be."

In our own day, the Pope continued, "the East also reminds us of Christians living in various regions devastated by war and violence," and especially in the Middle East. The martyrs of these regions, he said, indicate a clear path to unity.

Arrival in Jerusalem

When the Magi arrived in Jerusalem, they were brought abruptly down to earth when Herod "and all Jerusalem with Him" were troubled at their mission. "In the holy city, the Magi did not see reflected the light of the star, but experienced the resistance of the dark forces of this world."

Pope Francis said that in our own journey towards full Christian unity, "we too can halt for the same reason that paralyzed those people:

confusion and fear.” He invited Christians not to be afraid of novelties that upset our traditions and habits, but “to trust one another and to journey together.”

He noted, too, that despite the resistance they face, it was precisely in Jerusalem that the Magi discovered the path to Bethlehem. He encouraged modern Christians to reflect and meditate upon the Scriptures together, drawing closer to Jesus through His word, but also drawing closer to our brothers and sisters.

Reaching Bethlehem

Ultimately, the Pope said, the Magi arrived at the Bethlehem, where they knelt down and worshiped the Child Jesus. “In this way, the Magi foreshadowed the disciples of Jesus, many yet one, who at the conclusion of the Gospel fell down in worship before the Risen Lord on the mountain in Galilee.” Both these events can become prophetic signs for contemporary Christians who long for the fullness of unity, which the Pope said can only be attained through worship of the Lord. “The decisive stage of the journey towards full communion,” he insisted, “requires ever more intense prayer, the worship of God.”

However, he added, worship also demands humility, falling to our knees, “setting aside our own pretences in order to make the Lord alone the centre of everything.” He invited Christians to ask for the courage of humility, “the one way to come to worship God in the same house, around the same altar.”

The gifts of the Magi

Finally, the Holy Father reflected on the gifts the Magi presented to Baby Jesus, which symbolize the gifts the Lord desires to receive from us: Gold, showing that God must be in first place; frankincense, symbolizing the importance of prayer; and myrrh, calling us to “honour the body of Jesus taken down from the Cross,” which “speaks to us of care for the suffering flesh of the Lord, reflected in the wounds of the poor.”

In conclusion, the Pope invited Christians to follow the example of the Magi, who returned to their homes “by another road.” “Like Saul before his encounter with Christ,” he said, “we need to change course, to invert the route of our habits and our ways, in order to find the path that the Lord points out to us: the path of humility, fraternity and adoration.”

Pope Francis prayed, “O Lord, grant us the courage to change course, to be converted, to follow your will and not our own; to go forward together, towards you, who by your Spirit wish to make us one.”

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 - 24.01.2022

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 07/02/21	Holy See 14/03/21	Hunger Disease 01/04/21	Good Friday 02/04/21	Vocation Sunday 25/04/21
1	A. Nathampatti					
2	Alankulam	700	1000	2500	2500	600
3	Ammapatty			4000	4600	
4	Anjal Nagar	2000	1500	76222	49165	
5	Anna Nagar	13000	7950	87600	34300	
6	Aruppukottai	1500	1000	15000	5000	
7	Ayavathanallur	5340	3400	24840	8111	1070
8	Bastin Nagar	15000	10000	106050	45200	10000
9	Batlagundu	7220	3440	42000	10700	4100
10	Bibikulam	15000	3800	51640	16480	3800
11	Bodinayakanur	500	500	10000	3500	500
12	Chinnamanur	500	500	500	500	500
13	Cumbum	500	500	6230	4220	
14	Devadanam	4000	2000	32000	5270	1500
15	Ellis Nagar	10170	6526	120192	24797	
16	Gnanaolivupuram	5412	4998	79549	35818	
17	Hanumanthanpatty	500	600	1000	1200	600
18	Holy Rosary Church	3500	3000	30000	15000	2000
19	Iyyampalayam	400	400	6000	3000	
20	K. Pudur	21290	2000	101820	80050	2000
21	Kadachanendal	2300	2300	32000	20000	2400
22	Kadamalaikundu			4200	5000	
23	Kalladipatti	2000	1000	2300	2000	1000
24	Kariapatty	1200	1200	8450	5550	1200
25	Karumathur	1500	500	2000	3000	500
26	Kavirayapuram	800	1000	12630	11200	1000
27	Kottur	1500	800	10000	2000	900
28	Lourdupuram	500	500	3500	2000	400
29	Megamalai					
30	Mangalamkombu	500	500	4500	3000	500
31	M. Meenatchiapuram	1000	1000	8000	2500	500
32	Mathankovilpatti	1000		5000	2000	
33	Marianus Nagar	2500	2000	15000	5000	2000
34	Meenampatti	2100	1600	13300	4600	2100
35	Melur	3000	1000	33333	16666	800

	SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 - 24.01.2022							
	St. Peter's Pence 04/07/21	Communi- cation Day 11/07/21	Prision Ministry 15/08/21	Bible Sunday 26/09/21	Mission Sunday 17/10/21	African Mission 01/11/21	Peter the Apostle 21/11/21	Opus 08/12/21
1								
2	500	500	500	1000	3300	600	600	1000
3	500	500	500	500	7500	500	500	500
4		1500	1500	2000	21160	1500	2000	
5				3050	70000	7940	8030	9160
6					14000	1000	1000	2000
7	1000	800	800	2000	16000	1500	1000	2000
8	3000	3000	3000	5400	230000	5000	5000	5000
9	3000	3320	3280	3740	50030	3400	3200	3000
10	4000	2000		2000	64020			
11	500	500	500	500	9500	500	500	500
12	500	500	500	500		500		
13					8500	1000	1000	
14			1300	1300	11000	1300	1300	1300
15	2000	8420	2000	7280	202380	7040	7060	7020
16				4500	315525	6500	6000	7200
17					49250	550	480	500
18	3000	2000	2000	3000	50000	2000	3000	2000
19	400	400	400	400	10000	400	400	400
20	2000	5650	2000	3810	83700	8400	2000	2000
21								
22					4000			
23	400	400	400	1500	9000	800		
24	500	500	500	500	10000	1000	1000	1000
25	500	500	500	500	5000	600	500	500
26	800	600	500	500	3830	500	500	500
27	900	1000						
28	350	400	350	500	5200	280	340	480
29								
30	500	500	500	500	8220	500	500	500
31	500	500	500					
32								
33	2000	2000	1000	2000	30000	1000	1000	1000
34				1500	31111	1510	1630	1930
35	750	700	700	1000	31113	800	800	1000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 - 24.01.2022						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 07/02/21	Holy See 14/03/21	Hunger Disease 01/04/21	Good Friday 02/04/21	Vocation Sunday 25/04/21
36	Melakovilpatti	2000	500	3000	1000	500
37	Michaelpalayam					
38	Munjikkal	2000	2000			
39	Murugathuranpatti	1121		32000	4727	
40	Nagamalai	10000	3000	105000	20000	
41	Nakkaneri	1000	1000	14000	4250	
42	Nilakottai	1500		13000	5000	
43	Niravazhvu Nagar (VNR)	1000				
44	Othaiyal	700	500	5000	1500	500
45	Packiapuram	11111	4060	60120	20655	3340
46	Packianathapuram	1900	1500	10000	3500	1020
47	Palanganatham	12500	11200	130000	30000	10000
48	Pandian Nagar	3100	1200	6100	4050	1000
49	Periyakulam	500	500	15000	5000	500
50	Perumalmalai	1000	1000	15000	10000	1000
51	R.R. Nagar	1500	600	6000	1500	600
52	Railway Colony	1500	1400	8000	4000	1000
53	Rajapalayam	1300	1200	12600	3400	1000
54	Rayappanpatti	8500	4000	35000	30000	3500
55	Rayapuram			4040	2810	
56	Samayanallur	8000	2000	68140	16915	2000
57	Sattur					
58	Shenbaganur	2000	1100	4000	2500	750
59	Sengole Nagar	7060	6630	71585		
60	Sempatti Mission			1100	700	
61	Silukkuvarpatty	1000	1000	5000	5000	
62	Sivakasi	7429	8292	50264	32451	4861
63	Srivilliputhur			20000	50000	
64	St. Mary's Cathedral	10000	4000	45000	40000	4000
65	Sundaranatchiapuram					
66	T. Sindalacherry	4100		11000	17000	2000
67	T. Vadipatti Shrine	1000	1000	10000	15500	1000
68	Theni	4000				
69	Thirumangalam	6240	1500	2500	7040	1000
70	Thirunagar	4340	4090	27080	22410	3630

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 - 24.01.2022							
St. Peter's Pence 04/07/21	Communi- cation Day 11/07/21	Prision Ministry 15/08/21	Bible Sunday 26/09/21	Mission Sunday 17/10/21	African Mission 01/11/21	Peter the Apostle 21/11/21	Opus 08/12/21
36	400	450	400	500	2300	450	
37							
38							
39							
40				2000	63000	2000	1500
41	500	500	500	500	13000		
42					15000		
43							
44	500	500	700	500	6000	500	200
45	2000	2000	1000	2000	50000	2000	2000
46	500	1000	1000	1500	20000	1500	1500
47	11500	10500	10300	10800	201000	10800	11500
48	800	750	750	1450	5400	1480	1000
49	500	500	500	500	20000	1000	1100
50	1000	1000	1000	1000	10000	1000	1000
51	600	1500	600	3300	6000	1500	600
52	1000			1500	25500	1000	1000
53	1000	1000	1000	1000	18000	1000	1000
54	3500				160100	3500	3500
55					6080		
56	2000	2000	2000	3000	40600	2000	1000
57							
58	715	650	700	750	15000	600	650
59							
60							
61	1270	1074	1134	1277	21859	1584	2121
62		5361		2726	485000	3726	5300
63							
64	5000	4000	3000	5000	75000	4000	3000
65			1000	1000	35000	1000	1000
66	1500	2000	1500	4000	72200	1500	
67	1000	1000	1500	1500	18500	1500	1000
68							
69	1500	1000	1200	1500	17380	1500	2100
70	1100	3470	1320	2280	35430	2100	4250

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 - 24.01.2022						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 07/02/21	Holy See 14/03/21	Hunger Disease 01/04/21	Good Friday 02/04/21	Vocation Sunday 25/04/21
71	Thiruthangal	2600	2500	21000	10500	
72	Thummuchinampatty			1000	2500	
73	Ugarthe Nagar	1500	1500	15000	10000	
74	Usilampatti	8850	1000	42584	7390	1500
75	Uthamapalayam					
76	Virudhunagar	7500	8600	165000	71260	
77	Vadapatti Mission	250	200	350	1100	
78	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000	2200	2500	
79	Y. Othakadai	4000	1400	8000	12000	1000
	J.A. College Periyakulam					
	Fr. Xavier Arul Rayan					
	Christ Hall Seminary Karumathur					
	Total	277133	142186	1996019	912085	81871

From the Procurator's Desk

Dear Rev. Fathers,

NEW ADDRESS BOOK is available in the Diocesan Office & Nobili Book Centre. It cost Rs. 120/- only.

NEW ORDO is available in the Diocesan Office & Nobili Book

- Fr. S. Peter Roy

நெப்பிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன்

இதுவரை 2 தனிய 2 ள்ளங்கள்

Collection as on 24.01.2022	39,27,855.58
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Mass Received From Parishes

Nagamalai (100 Masses)

10,000.00

Collection as on 24.01.2022

10,000.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2021 - 24.01.2022

	St. Peter's Pence 04/07/21	Communi- cation Day 11/07/21	Prision Ministry 15/08/21	Bible Sunday 26/09/21	Mission Sunday 17/10/21	African Mission 01/11/21	Peter the Apostle 21/11/21	Opus 08/12/21
71	2000				103000	2050	2100	2200
72		1500		1000	11000			
73	1500	1500		2000	50000	1500	1500	1500
74	1100	1050	2000	1000	8865	1000	1000	1000
75								
76					175000	10000	10000	10000
77								
78					50757	1287	1295	1191
79	1000	1000	1000	1000	10000	1500	1485	1000
					50000			
					2000			
					85000			
	71085	81495	57334	104063	3336310	121197	112041	107463

Adoration Sunday

February

06 Alangulam
13 Ammapatti
20 Anna Nagar
27 Anjal Nagar



March

07 Aruppukottai
14 Ayravathanallur
21 Ayyampalayam
28 Batlagundu

Necrology

Fr. Jude Vadakara

Fr. Jacob Manala

Fr. Arulappar



01.02.2013

03.02.1998

28.02.2004

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Opening Balance as on 21.12.2021 **36,07,720.57**

Leonard Hospital, Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Batlagundu	50,000.00
Mr. J John Peter, Bastin Nagar	25,000.00
Mrs. Asha Savari Antony, Gnanaolivupuram	17,000.00
Mr. Amalraj & G. Usha Bernadett	12,000.00
Mr. Anthony Raj, Gnanaolivupuram	12,000.00
Fr. Secretary, MMSSS, Madurai	10,000.00
Fr. Correspondent, Morepatty, Vadamadurai, Dindigul	10,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, K. Pudur	10,000.00
Immaculate Generalate, Pondicherry	10,000.00
V.F. Amalraj, Kochadai, Bastin Nagar	10,000.00
Dr. Julie, Bastin Nagar	10,000.00
Narcheithi Paniyalargal, Nagamalai Pudukottai	6,000.00
Mr. Michael Arul Rayan & Bakia Selvi, Gnanaolivupuram	4,000.00
Mrs. Viyakula Selvi, Gnanaolivupuram	3,000.00
Mr. Arumainathan, Gnanaolivupuram	3,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Anna Nagar (Bination Mass)	1,100.00
Selvi, Gnanaolivupuram	1,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Devadanam	1,000.00
P. Gnanapackiam, Arasaradi	500.00

38,03,320.57

Add: Bank Interest - 24, 780.00 24,780.00

38,28,100.57

Less:

Payment for Sacred Heart Seminary - 33,569.00	
Bank SMS Charge	0.90
	<u>33,569.90</u>
	33,569.90

Closing Balance as on 24.01.2022

37,94,530.67

Cash in Hand - Nil

Cash at Bank - 37,94,530.67

37,94,530.67

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



06,06.02.2022	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
12,13.02.2022	நிலக்கோட்டை	சனி, ஞாயிறு
19,20.02.2022	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
26,27.02.2022	உத்தம்பாளையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்பணி. எஸ். ஜேம்ஸ்பால்ராஜ், செயலர்

Historical Notes – Madura Mission

LI. At the Footsteps of our Elder Brothers ...

Fr. P. S. Antonysamy: Fr. P. S. Antonysamy was born Oothampatti of in Marambadi parish and our Archbishop says that he is the first Priest from Marambadi who inspired many vocations after him. For a long time he had been working as the Parish priest of Kamanayakkanpatti says Fr. Gnana Sandanam. He remembers that Fr. PS invited him for eight days of Novena to Kamanayakkanpatti. He was loved by the people very much says he.

Fr. PS was the first Parish Priest of Batlagundu where he ministered for five years (1944 – 1949). The Protestants were well established in Batlagundu since 1834 and the Catholics were without much pastoral assistance.

Accepting the request of the local Catholics, Bishop Leonard created Batlagundu a new parish, carving out from Silukkuvarpatti and appointed the gigantic priest Fr. PS. as he first parish priest. And Fr. PS caused to the gigantic growth of the parish too. Soon the Catholics outnumbered their separated brethren. He ministered at several parishes in Sivagangai diocese and finally he came for rest at St. Joseph's Block, Bishop's House as a Confessor for the Seminarians. During his retirement days he became deaf and having suffered dimensia he passed away on 01-05-1992. Long live the gigantic name of Fr. P. S. Antonysamy at the annals of the Archdiocese.

Fr. G. Packier: Fr. G. Packier, native of Michaelpattinam has worked in many parishes of the united Archdiocese. He was the parish priest of Batlagundu from 1962 – 1966. Then he was ministering as a Parish Priest of Aandichoorani from 1966 – 1971. Later he ministered as the parish priest of Melur from 1972 – 1975. Then he was transferred to Aandichoorani where he worked an Parish priest from 1966 - 1971. Then he was the parish priest of Kariapatti from 1980 – 1983. He built the bell fry at Kariapatti church. He was parish priest of Palanaganatham from 1985-1988. During his period he established Parish Council, Vincent de Paul Society, Tuesday novenas to St. Antony etc. And he put up a strong fence around the parish cemetery in order to protect the parish property. He passed away on 22-101992. Long live the friendly name of Fr. G. Packiar at our Archdiocese.

Fr. A. Arul Doss: Fr. Arul Doss was born in Holy Rosary parish for the parents Mr. S. Arockia Samy and Mrs. Annammal, a wealthy family. He was the only son and yet the parents offered him to priesthood as the young boy who even had obtained admission in a college for his secular studies. Fr. Pudumai, the Rector of St. Peter's Seminary, Bishop's House, Madurai welcomed him and paid to him special attention. After his major seminary studies at St. Paul's, Trichy he was ordained on 19-03-1964 in Trichy by Bishop Mendonca.

Those days Fr. Arul Doss was often delivering sermon notes at Radio Veritas, Philippines and would travel to north Indian states for preaching. He was ministering as the Assistant Parish Priest in Silukkuvarpatti, Aathoor, Susaiapparpattanam and Puliya. He was appointed as the parish priest of Thangachimadam, Andavoorani, Irudayapuram and Orikottai. He served Usilampatti as the parish priest from 1984 – 1987. Then became the parish priest of Aruppukkottai (1987 – 1988). He became the first Vicar Forane of Virudunagar in 1988 upto 1990. Then he served Periakulam as the parish priest (1989 – 1996) and later he succeeded Fr. V. M. Irudayam at Kariapatti in 1996 where he passed away on 16-09-1997. Long live the elegant name of Aruldoss at the annals of the Archdiocese of Madurai. (to be continued)

– Fr. Jodir.