



Memorial Mass, Sringerinagar



Visit to Kaviyapuram Church Construction



Diaconate Ordination



Farewell to Commission Secretaries

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DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai
News Letter

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January 2021

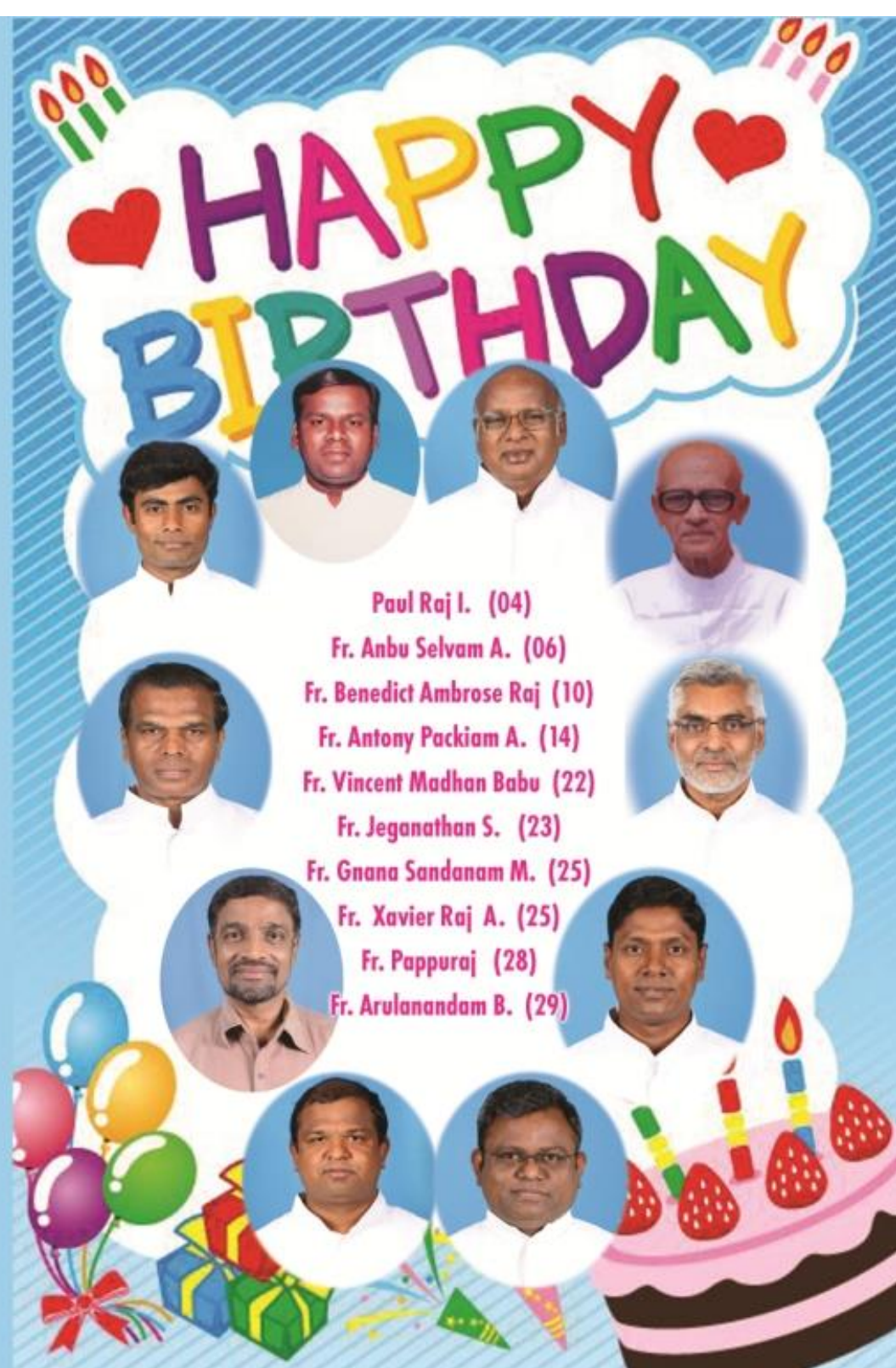
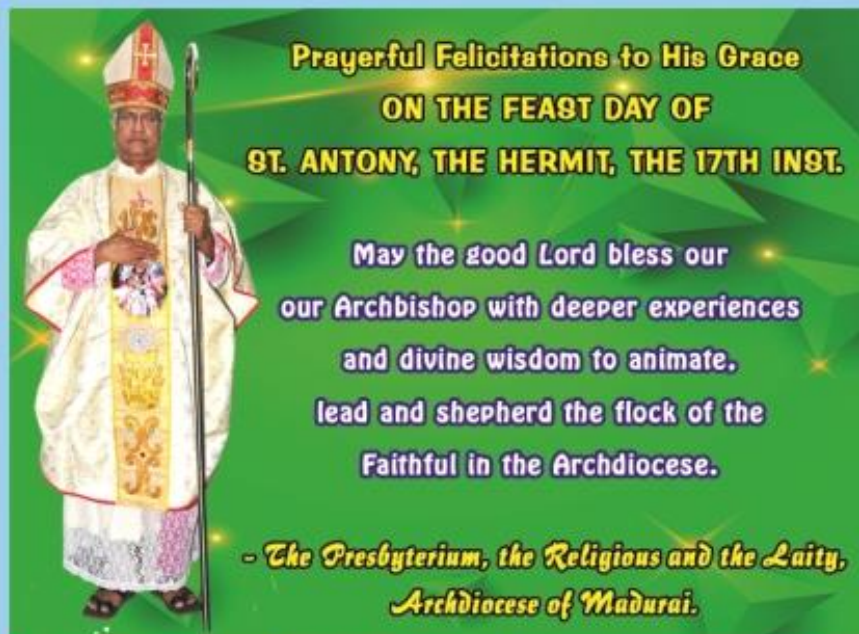
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No. 691



2021-ஆம்,
தூய வளனார்
ஆண்டில், நீதியும்,
கீழ்ப்படிதலும்,
இறைநம்பிக்கையும்,
பிறருக்காக உழைக்கும்
உள்ளம் கொண்ட
தூய வளனார் நம்மை
வழிநடத்துவாராக.





THE VOICE OF THE PASTOR

My dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

In the Gospel passage of Luke 7:1-10, the Roman Centurion is presented as a model believer by the Jews because of his deep faith in him. The Centurion, though a foreigner, was held in high esteem even by the Jews and that was the reason why the Jews came to plead in his favour: "He is worthy of having you do this for him" (Lk. 7:5). From the Gospel passage we could arrive at the good relationship the centurion had established with the Jews. Hence we read: "For he loves our people and it is he who built our synagogue for us" (Lk. 7:5).



The Centurion was of course, a religious man with deep convictions. He wanted by all means that his slave who was ill should be healed by Jesus. And that was the reason why he sent his friends to Jesus begging Him to use His authority over the illness of his slave with the following words: "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word and let my servant be healed" (Lk. 7:7). Jesus was in praise of the faith of the Centurion with the following words: "I tell you, not even in Israel, have I found such faith" (Lk. 7:9).

To be Christians we must have a total surrender of ourselves to Jesus with childlike confidence. Such a faith was in the Centurion which deserved the praise of Jesus; but such kind of faith was not found in the Jews. The Centurion not only had more faith than the Jews but was more open and responsive to the promptings of the Spirit. Now the question before us is whether we have a living faith as that of the Centurion.

God speaks to us and reveals Himself to us in silence. Hence both the internal and external silence is a must. As men and women of faith we must be able to recognize God in the daily occurrences of our lives. God can and will work miracles and wonders in our lives only when we have strong faith, as it is an affirmation of our trust in God. Our faith cannot be perceived by the naked eyes but it is perceived by our hearts which are open to the promptings of the Spirit. Only when we have strong faith like the Centurion we will feel the healing touch of God in our lives and we will feel our unworthiness and nothingness in the presence of the Lord. Such an attitude will lead us to have all the more deep-rooted trust in the Lord.

Your Loving Archbishop,

+ [Signature]

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Prayer Intention

Intention for evangelization - Human fraternity

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

நம்புதல் : விண்ணகத்தையும் மண்ணகத்தையும் படைத்த எல்லாம் வல்ல தந்தையாகிய கடவுளை நம்புகிறேன். (கி.வா 284)
வேண்டுகல் : உலகம் அமைதி பெற்றிட, நோய் தொற்றிலிருந்து விடுபட.
வாழ்த்தல் : இயற்கையில் இறைவனைக் கண்டு வாழ்வோம், நலமான உலகை உருவாக்குவோம்.

இஸ்ரேலத் விழா கொண்டாடும் பங்குகள்

- | | | |
|---|---|----------|
| 1. மூன்று ஞானியர் ஆலயம், வ. புதுப்பட்டி | - | ஜனவரி 6 |
| 2. குழந்தை இரீயசு ஆலயம், உகார்த்தே நகர் | - | ஜனவரி 15 |
| 3. புனித எபஸ்தியார் ஆலயம், எல்லிஸ்நகர் | - | ஜனவரி 20 |
| 4. வின்சென்ட் பல்லிடாட்டி ஆலயம், திருநகர் | - | ஜனவரி 22 |
| 5. குழந்தை இரீயசு ஆலயம், ஒத்தையால் | - | ஜனவரி 30 |
| 6. தொண்டிபாஸ்கோ ஆலயம், ஆலங்குளம் | - | ஜனவரி 31 |

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும் இறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துக்களும் ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்பசாமி

HAPPY FEAST

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

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Order of Mother of God (OMD) | - 1 st January |
| Society of the Divine Word (SVD) | - 15 th January |
| Society of the Catholic Apostolate (SAC) | - 22 nd January |
| Pallottine Missionary Sisters (SAC) | - 22 nd January |
| Congregation of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) | - 24 th January |
| Congregation of Samaritan Sisters (CSS) | - 25 th January |
| Salesians of Don Bosco (SDB) | - 31 st January |
| Montfort Fathers (SMM) | - 31 st January |

Archbishop's Engagements

01	Fri	Grace Day
03	Sun	M MASHOT Meeting, De Nobili Mat. Hr.Sec.School
08	Fri	M CHAT Meeting, Archbishop's House
10-16		Lectures on Fundamental Pastoral Theology, St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirappalli
16	Sat	E Flag Hoisting, Marambady
17	Sun	Archbishop's Feast Day
18	Mon	M Nuptial Blessing, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dindigul
19-20		Priests' Reunion, Pillar
22	Fri	E Blessing of the Church, Ammapatty
23	Sat	E Consecration of the Altar and Blessing of the Presbytery, Ayyampalayam
26	Tue	E Golden Jubilee Celebration, Vadapatty
27-29		TNBC/TNLBC Half Yearly Meeting, Marthandam
29-03		Apostolic Administrator's Visit to Kuzhithurai Diocese
04	Thu	Archbishop's Consecration Day

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

Please Note



1. New Year Greetings from Archbishop: Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers, I wish you all a Blessed New Year 2021, "THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH". This New Year constantly reminds all of us the salient virtues of St. Joseph, viz., serenity, trusting in God, obedience, hard work, responsibility, selfless service, perseverance, fear of God etc. As the Holy Father has declared this Year, 2021 (December 8th, 2020 to Dec. 8th 2021) as the Year dedicated to St. Joseph through an Apostolic Letter, *Patris corde*, I exhort all of

you to contemplate and meditate, throughout this New Year 2021, on the spirituality of St. Joseph. May the Triune God bless all of you to grow in this New Year in the virtues of St. Joseph, namely Trusting in God's providence, obedience, responsibility, gentleness, not to hurt others and hard work.

- 2. *Patris corde*,** the Apostolic Letter was issued by Pope Francis on 8th December 2020 declaring the year 2021 (8th Dec. 2020 to 8th Dec. 2021) as the Year of St. Joseph. This is to mark the 150th Anniversary of the declaration of ***St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church*** by Pope Blessed Pius IX on 8th December 1870 through a Decree issued by Sacred Congregation of Rites, named *Quemamodum Deus*. Also by this Decree the Pope raised St. Joseph's Feast of March 19 to the rank of double of the first class. An article on *Patris corde* is published at this issue.
- 3. Happy Feast:** The Vicar General and all the Priests of the Presbyterium, the Religious and the Laity offer their prayerful felicitations to His Grace on the usual Feast Day, 17th Jan. 2021. May the good Lord bless His Grace with good Health and Joy to shepherd this Archdiocese towards the green pasture.
- 4. Urbi et orbi– New Year 2021 Message:** Holy Father Francis has given a World Day of Peace Message on the Title "*Culture of Care as a Path to Peace*". vide: Urbi et Orbi Message.
- 5. Welcome to Deacons:** The Presbyterium congratulates and welcomes Dn. Arun Babion and Dn. Chinnadurai who were ordained as Deacons on 30th Dec. 2020, by His Grace at Archbishop's House Chapel.
- 6. Pongal Greetings:** DNL offers to all its readers இனிய பொங்கல் நல்வாழ்த்துகள். வாழ்க தமிழ்மொழி! வளர்க தமிழர் நல் வாழ்வு!!
- 7. Archdiocesan Website:** In collaboration with the Communication Office of Vatican Curia, the Archdiocese has included the Vatican website at our Website. Hence one can have access to the current Vatican news from our website itself, www.archdioceseofmadurai.com. – Chancellor.



8. **Excardination:** Fr. Jerome Patrick, as per his request, was excardinated as per C. 267 from the Archdiocese of Madurai and was incardinated into the Diocese of La Crosse, WI, USA. The Archdiocese gratefully remembers the fruitful ministries of Fr. Jerome Patrick exercised at our Archdiocese for over a period of 15 years, dedicated ministries in Parishes, Commissions and in De Nobili School. The Archbishop and the Presbyterium wish all God's graces to Fr. Jerome Patrick in his new Diocese, La Cross, WI, USA.
9. Kindly send to the Chancery Office the **Annual Statistics** before 31st inst.
11. **DNL Congratulates** the following Fathers for their contribution to the material building of the Archdiocese:
- Fr. Xavier Raj S.**, for the construction a Church at Santhiagapparpalayam, Michaelpalayam which was consecrated by His Grace on 12th December 2020.
 - Fr. Thomas Venish** for the renovation of the Sanctuary and Altar, and for paving the campus with Favor-block floor, erection of compound wall, purchase of a Generator and construction of a religious article shop.
 - Fr. Maria Michael and Fr. Arulanandam** for the erection of Grotto at the entrance N.H. Main Road, Sengole Nagar.
10. **Reunion:** There will be Reunion held on 19-20th January 2021 (Tues & Wed) at PILLAR. Fathers are requested to arrive at PILLAR much earlier on 19th so that rooms can be obtained leisurely. Reunion starts at 10.00 am with Coffee. Vide: Details of the programme next pages.

Congratulations to the Deacons

Dn. A. Arun B abion

D.O.B. : 24.10.1990

Parish : West Mariyanathapuram, Dindigul

Parents : (Late) S. Arockiasamy

& A. Sandal Uprasiasa Mary

Siblings : 1 brother



Dn. R. Chinna Durai

D.O.B. : 01.10.1989

Parish : Uthamapalayam

Parents : S. Raj & R. Bercmans Mary

Siblings : 2 brothers & 1 Sister



Reunion

January 19 - 20 , 2021
at PILLAR, MADURAI

Resource Person - Rev. Dr. Joseph Michael Raj, Palayamkottai
Programme

19.01.2021, Tuesday

10.00 a.m	- Registration & Coffee
10.30 a.m	- Inauguration: Prayer, Welcome, Introduction
10.45 a.m	- Talk I : Patris Corde
01.00 p.m	- Lunch
03.00 p.m	- Talk II : Fratelli Tutti
04.30 p.m	- Tea Break
06.30 p.m	- Clergy Meeting
08.00 p.m	- Supper
09.00 p.m	- Holy Rosary

20.01.2021, Wednesday

07.30 a.m	- Morning Prayer
08.00 a.m	- Breakfast
09.00 a.m	- Talk III - Fratelli Tutti
10.00 a.m	- Coffee Break
10.30 a.m	- Jubilee Mass
12.00 p.m	- Felicitation
01.00 p.m	- Lunch & Departure

Fr. Benadict Barnabas
Director, NPC

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MADURAI NORMS REGARDING MASS STIPENDS

1. As per the Archdiocesan policy, an offering of Rs.100/- (For high Masses it may go upto Rs. 125/-) is requested for each mass intention. Can 942\$2 earnestly recommends priest to celebrate Mass for the intentions of Christ's faithful especially of those in need, even if they are unable to give an offering.

2. As a rule, there will be only one intention per Mass. Even many intentions are read in a mass, separate Masses should be applied for each intention for which is accepted (Cf. Can. 948). In accordance with the Decree *Mos lugiter* issued by the Congregation for the Clergy (22 November 1999), a single mass for multiple intentions can be offered **but not more than twice each week**. In this case, the faithful must voluntarily agree to have their intentions combined in a single celebration and they are to be informed of the date and time of the celebration. The celebrant can retain for himself only the offering for one intention. The rest of the amount must be forwarded to the Archdiocesan Procurator.

3. A Priest is entitled to offer Mass for anyone living or dead (Can. 901). It is an obligation for the Priest to celebrate and apply mass for the intention of those who made an offering, even if the offering received has been lost for no fault of him (Can. 949).

4. Any offering accepted for an intention must be applied within a year, and the time count begins from the day and time of the reception of an offering (Can. 955\$2). No Priest may accept more offerings for Masses to be celebrated by himself than he can discharge within a year (Can. 953).

5. Those parishes that receive more requests of intentions than that can be celebrated in their territory within a year are to transfer those excess intentions to the diocese (for the procurator's office).

6. Parish Priests are not encouraged to transfer the excess Mass intentions to the priests of their own choices. All the excess Mass Intentions should be transferred to the diocese, so that the priests in the institutions and in remote or mission parishes might be supported.

7. **There should be one Mass diary in every parish** (including all the substations) and the **number of Masses accepted, celebrated and transferred to are to be properly recorded** (Cf. Can. 955\$ 3,4).

8. When a priest celebrates a number of Masses on the same day, may apply each Mass for the intention for which an offering, was made. (Generally, for the priests in parishes, bination on week days and trination on Sundays and feast days are allowed). Only on Christmas day, a priest can take an offering for each Mass he celebrates.

9. On Sundays and Holy days of obligation, all the parish priests are obliged to celebrate one Mass for the Parishioners and benefactors of the Parish (Misso Pro Populo) for which no offering should be obtained. He may obtain an offering for the second Mass he celebrates.

10. When there is no offering of intention, the Priest can offer one Mass per day for the intentions of the procurator and receive the offerings from him.

11. Every month all Priests (Incardinated / working in the diocese) are to offer one Mass for the intention of the sick and elderl clergy and that offering is to be added to the '**Opus Securitatis**' Fund.

12. When a brother Priest expires, every Priest (Incardinated / working in the diocese) is to offer three Masses for the **repose of the soul of the deceased priest**.

13. The GIRM, Added to the Can. 902, states that con-celebration appropriately expresses the unity of the priesthood, of the sacrifice, and also of the whole People of God. When a Mass is concelebrated, each priest offers the sacrifice of the Eucharist and each priest is able to have his own intention. Hence, a priest who concelebrates a Mass may also receive an offering for an intention; but, if he concelebrates on the same day a second Mass, he may not under any title accept an offering for that Mass (Can. 951\$2).

14. There should be no trafficking or trading of Masses and even the semblance is to be entirely excludud from the Mass offering (Can. 947).

15. Each and every priest has to **submit the personal mass diary to the Archbishop on the occasion of the annual retreat** for the necessary scrutiny (Canon 958\$2).

16. Any alteration or change in this regard is subject to and limited only to the Archbishop.

Kindly send the duly filled Mass slip to the Procurator's office on or before 3rd of every month so that it could be easy to transact Mass stipend on 5th of the same month.

Conclusion:


When those people who have made the offering for mass are present for the celebration of the Eucharist, their intentions are brought before God. Each celebration of the Eucharist is for all those present and for the particular intentions and needs of the church. A Mass is never celebrated only for a particular intention, but a particular intention can be remembered during the celebration of any Mass. Thus, the Church continues the tradition of Mass offerings.

When a priest accepts a Mass stipend, he sets up a contract with those persons to pray for their intention at a specific Mass. The priest contracts to pray for that intention specifically, but that does not nor can it preclude him from praying for other intentions as well.

All participants, including the priest, and all celebrants, may and hopefully will, not only pray for their own intentions at Mass, but also for the intentions of all present, as well as for the needs of our world, Church, and local community. Each of the Eucharistic prayers have within them prayer for many intentions... the Prayer of the Faithful does likewise. Therefore, the Mass is never offered for a single intention.

“Celebrate the Holy Mass as if it is

Your First Mass,
Your Last Mass, and
Your Only Mass.”

+ 

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

Guidelines on the Use of the Mass Diary

Concerning the Mass Diary and the Mass stipends we would like to notify to you the following:

1. The norms regarding the Mass stipends are given at the beginning of the Mass Diary. Kindly take a moment to go through them in detail. The instructions are self-explanatory, and comprehensible. They will help you use the Diary and the Statement of Mass Intentions attached at the end of the Diary. (See the PDF file attached at our website.)

2. There are two types of Mass statements. (a) For the Parish Priests and the Assistant Parish Priests serving in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Madurai.

(b) For the Priests serving in the Institutions, i.e., Priests rendering service in the Archbishop's House, Nobili Pastoral Centre, Matriculation Schools, Sathangai Communication Centre, MMSSS, and the students who are on studies (student priests), sabbatical, medical leave, elderly priests, and others.

After making the entry, the Parish Priests have to send the duly-filled in Mass statement slip to the Procurator's office on or before the 3rd of every month by email (to: procuratormaduraidiocese@gmail.com), and thereafter may receive the Mass stipends.

In the same way the Priests serving in the institutions may send the duly-filled in Mass statement slip to the Procurator's office on or before the 3rd of every month by email (to: procuratormaduraidiocese@gmail.com), and thereafter may receive the mass stipends.

3. Kindly send the duly-filled- in Mass statement slip to the Procurator's office **on or before the 3rd of every month** so that it would be easy to transact the Mass stipends on the 5th of the same month. (The Mass statement slip is available for the download as a PDF file from our Archdiocesan Website (www.archdioceseofmadurai.com), or from our official WhatsApp Groups. The printed slips are available at the Procurator's office).

Thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation,

Fr. Samuvel A.
Secretary to the Archbishop

Urbi et Orbi Message

54th World Day of Peace : 1-1-2021

In his message for the Catholic Church's World Day of Peace, Pope Francis appeals to the international community and every individual to foster a “culture of care” by advancing on the “path of fraternity, justice and peace between individuals, communities, peoples and nations.”

“There can be no peace without a culture of care,” the Pope stresses in his message for the 54th World Day of Peace, held on 1 January 2021, which was released by the Vatican on 18th December 2020.

The Holy Father calls for “a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and good of all, a willingness to show care and compassion, to work for reconciliation and

healing, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance.” In this task, Pope Francis offers the principles of the Church’s social doctrine as a compass on the path to peace.

Lessons from the pandemic

Pope Francis begins his message noting how the “massive Covid-19 health crisis” has aggravated deeply interrelated crises such as those of the climate, food, the economy and migration, causing great sorrow and suffering to many. He makes it an occasion to appeal to political leaders and the private sector to spare no effort to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines and to the essential technologies needed to care for the sick, the poor and those who are most vulnerable.

Alongside the pandemic, the Pope also notes a surge in various forms of nationalism, racism and xenophobia, and wars and conflicts that bring only death and destruction in their wake. These and other events of 2020, he says, have underscored the importance of caring for one another and for creation in our efforts to build a more fraternal society. Hence, “*A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace*” is a “way to combat the culture of indifference, waste and confrontation so prevalent in our time,” he says.

Evolution of the Church’s Culture of Care

The Holy Father traces the evolution of the Church’s *Culture of Care* from the first book of the Bible to Jesus, through the early Church down to our times.

After the creation of the world, God entrusts it to Adam to “*till it and keep it*”. Cain’s response to God – “Am I my brother’s keeper?” – after killing his brother, Abel, is a reminder that all of us are keepers of one another. God’s protection of Cain, despite his crime, confirms the *inviolable dignity* of the person created in God’s image and likeness. Later, the institution of the Sabbath aimed to restore the social order and concern for the poor, while the Jubilee year provided a respite for the land, slaves and those in debt. All this, the Pope says, shows that “everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationship with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others.”

The Father’s love for humanity, the Pope says, finds its supreme revelation in Jesus, who asks His disciples to do likewise. The early Christians followed Jesus by sharing what they had and caring for the needy, thus making their community a welcoming home.

Today, the Church has “many institutions for the relief of every human need: hospitals, poor houses, orphanages, foundling homes, shelters for travellers...”

Church’s social doctrine – a “grammar” of care

This culture of care of the Church, enriched by the reflection of the Fathers and the charity of luminous witnesses to the faith, the Pope continues, became the “beating heart of the Church’s social doctrine.” This, he says, can serve as a “grammar” of care: commitment to promoting the dignity of each human person, solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, the pursuit of the common good and concern for the protection of creation.” The Christian concept of the **person**, the Pope says, fosters the pursuit of a fully human development. “Person always signifies relationship, not individualism; it affirms inclusion, not exclusion; unique and **inviolable dignity**, not exploitation.” “Each human person is an end in himself or herself, and never simply a means to be valued only for his or her usefulness.”

According to the “compass” of social principles of the Church, every aspect of social, political and economic life achieves its fullest end when placed at the service of the **common good**, which allows people to reach their fulfilment more fully and easily.

In this regard, the Pope says, the Covid-19 pandemic has revealed that all of us, fragile and disoriented, are **in the same boat**. All of us are called to row together”, since “no one reaches salvation by themselves.” The Church’s social principles also urge us to concrete **solidarity** for others because we are all really responsible for all. It also stresses the interconnectedness of all creation, as his Encyclical *Laudatosi*’ points out.

This highlights the need to listen to the cry of our brothers and sisters in need and the cry of the **earth our common** and care for them.

“A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be authentic if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings,” the Pope says, citing his encyclical.

“Peace, justice and care for creation are three inherently connected questions, which cannot be separated.”

Church’s social doctrine – a “compass”

In the face of our throw-away culture, with its growing inequalities both within and between nations, Pope Francis urges government leaders, and those of international organizations, business leaders, scientists,

communicators and educators, to take up the principles of the Church's social doctrine as a "compass". It is capable of pointing out a *common direction* and ensuring "a more humane future" in the process of globalization. He also calls on everyone to take this compass in hand and work to overcome the many existing social inequalities.

Humanitarian law needs to be respected, especially in situations of conflict and war, which cause enormous suffering to children, men and women. Instead of regarding conflicts as something normal, the Pope says, we need to convert our hearts and ways of thinking in order to work for true peace in solidarity and fraternity.

Weapons and peace

In this regard, the Pope calls for resources spent on arms, especially nuclear weapons, to be used for priorities such safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care. He says it would be a courageous decision to "establish a 'Global Fund' with the money spent on weapons and other military expenditures, in order to permanently eliminate hunger and contribute to the development of the poorest countries!"

Educating to peace

The promotion of a culture of care calls for a *process of education*, the Pope says.

This begins in the family where we learn how to live and relate to others in a spirit of mutual respect. Schools and universities, the communications media, as also religions and religious leaders are called to pass on a system of values based on the recognition of the dignity of each person, each linguistic, ethnic and religious community and each people.

"At a time like this, when the barque of humanity, tossed by the storm of the current crisis, struggles to advance towards a calmer and more serene horizon," the Pontiff says, "the 'rudder' of human dignity and the 'compass' of fundamental social principles can enable us together to steer a sure course."

Pope Francis concludes his message, urging "We never yield to the temptation to disregard others, especially those in greatest need, and to look the other way." "Instead, may we strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another."

Pope Francis proclaims "Year of St Joseph"



With the Apostolic Letter "*Patris corde*" ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint

Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.

By Vatican News

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled ("*With a Father's Heart*"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The Letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation." A beloved, tender, obedient father Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

And because of his role at "the crossroads between the Old and New Testament," St Joseph "has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people" (PC, 1). In him, "Jesus saw the tender love of God," the one that helps us accept our weakness, because "it is through" and despite "our fears, our frailties, and our weakness" that most divine designs are realized. "Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser," emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God's mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we "experience

His truth and tenderness,” – because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us”.

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his ‘fiat’ he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation”.

Welcoming the will of God

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” - an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the Bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand, “setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

Joseph’s spiritual path “is not one that *explains*, but accepts” - which does not mean that he is “resigned.” Instead, he is “courageously and firmly proactive,” because with “Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude,” and full of hope, he is able “to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.” In practice, through St. Joseph, it is as if God were to repeat to us: “Do not be afraid!” because “faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad,” and makes us aware that “God can make flowers spring up from stony ground.” Joseph “did not look for shortcuts but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.” For this reason, “he encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak”.

A creatively courageous father, example of love

Patriscorde highlights “the creative courage” of St. Joseph, which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” explains the Pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his Family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

In this sense, St. Joseph is “the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.” As the guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph cannot “be other than the guardian of the Church,” of her motherhood, and of the Body of Christ. “Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every

stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is ‘the child’ whom Joseph continues to protect.” From St Joseph, writes Pope Francis, “we must learn... to love the Church and the poor”.

A father who teaches the value, dignity and joy of work

“A carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family,” St Joseph also teaches us “the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one’s own labour.” This aspect of Joseph’s character provides Pope Francis the opportunity to launch an appeal in favour of work, which has become “a burning social issue” even in countries with a certain level of well-being. “there is a renewed need to appreciate the importance of dignified work, of which Saint Joseph is an exemplary patron,” the Pope writes.

Work, he says, “is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion.” Those who work, he explains, “are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us.” Pope Francis encourages everyone “to rediscover the value, the importance and the necessity of work for bringing about a new ‘normal’ from which no one is excluded.” Especially in light of rising unemployment due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pope calls everyone to “review our priorities” and to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!”.

A father “in the shadows,” centred on Mary and Jesus
Taking a cue from *The Shadow of the Father* - a book by Polish writer Jan Dobraczyński - Pope Francis describes Joseph’s fatherhood of Jesus as “the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father.”

“Fathers are not born, but made,” says Pope Francis. “A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child.” Unfortunately, in today’s society, children “often seem orphans, lacking fathers” who are able to introduce them “to life and reality.” Children, the Pope says, need fathers who will not try to dominate them, but instead raise them to be “capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities.”

This is the sense in which St Joseph is described as a “most chaste” father, which is the opposite of domineering possessiveness. Joseph, says Pope Francis, “knew how to love with extraordinary freedom. He never made himself the centre of things. He did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus.”

Happiness for Joseph involved a true gift of self: “In him, we never see frustration, but only trust,” writes Pope Francis. “His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust.” Joseph stands out, therefore, as an exemplary figure for our time, in a world that “needs fathers,” and not “tyrants”; a society that “rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.”

True fathers, instead, “refuse to live the lives of their children for them,” and instead respect their freedom. In this sense, says Pope Francis, a father realizes that “he is most a father and an educator at the point when he becomes ‘useless,’ when he sees that his child has become independent and can walk the paths of life unaccompanied.” Being a father, the Pope emphasizes, “has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a ‘sign’ pointing to a greater fatherhood”: that of the “heavenly Father”.

A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,

Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;

in you Mary placed her trust;

with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,

show yourself a father

and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,

and defend us from every evil.

Courtesy : Vatican.va

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2020 TO 18.12.2020

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 09/02/20	Holy See 22/03/20	Hunger Disease 09/04/20	Good Friday 10/04/20	Vocation Sunday 03/05/20
1	A. Nathampatti					
2	Alankulam	2350				
3	Ammapatty	500	500			
4	Anjal Nagar	1500		22860		
5	Anna Nagar	20300				
6	Aruppukottai					
7	Ayavathanallur	2395				
8	Bastin Nagar	13000				
9	Batlagundu	3500				
10	Bibikulam	7825	1500	12000		
11	Bodinayakanur	500	1000	3850	500	500
12	Chinnamanur	500	500			
13	Cumbum	1310				
14	Devadanam					
15	Ellis Nagar	17103				
16	Gnanaolivupuram					
17	Hanumanthanpatty	1100	1300			
18	Holy Rosary Church	4000	3000	30000	2000	2000
19	Iyyampalayam	400		1200		
20	K. Pudur					
21	Kadachanendal	2000				
22	Kadamalaikundu					
23	Kalladipatti					
24	Kariapatty	1200				
25	Karumathur	1500	500	1500		500
26	Kavirayapuram	3560				
27	Kottur	2000				
28	Lourdupuram	420	300			
29	Megamalai					
30	Mangalamkombu	500	500			500
31	M. Meenatchiapuram	2470				
32	Mathankovilpatti	1500				
33	Marianus Nagar	2000	2000	5000	3000	2000
34	Meenmpatti	3200	1500			
35	Melur	1500				

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2020 TO 18.12.2020							
St. Peter's Pence 05/07/20	Communi- cation Day 12/07/20	Prision Ministry 16/08/20	Bible Sunday 27/09/20	Mission Sunday 18/10/20	African Mission 01/11/20	Peter the Apostle 22/11/20	Opus 02/12/20
1							
2							
3	500						
4			1500	23845			
5			3620	35190	5120		
6							
7			1143	22140	3755	2360	3110
8							
9			2800	66750	3800	4020	3900
10	1000	1000	2600	63500	2000		
11	500	500	500	11200	500		
12				5600			
13							
14							
15			10050				
16							
17			1250	48400	1150		
18	2000	2000	3000	50000			
19			400	11000	400	400	400
20							
21			2000	24000	2000	2000	2000
22							
23							
24			1200	27000	1200	1200	
25	500			5000			
26				10190			
27							
28		400	1200	6500	500		
29							
30	900	400	500	7610	500		500
31		1000	1000	12650	1000	1000	1250
32				6400			
33	2000	2000	1000	35000	1000	1000	
34			1600	30310	1350		
35				25555			

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS -01.02.2020 TO 18.12.2020						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 09/02/20	Holy See 22/03/20	Hunger Disease 09/04/20	Good Friday 10/04/20	Vocation Sunday 03/05/20
36	Melakovilpatti	1800				
37	Michaelpalayam	1000	1000			
38	Munjikkal	2000	2000			
39	Murugathuranpatti	3371		9300		
40	Nagamalai	8000		70000		
41	Nakkaneri	1000	1000	13000	2000	1000
42	Nilakottai					
43	Niravazhvu Nagar (VNR)					
44	Othaiyal	1200				
45	Packiapuram	16328		50555	1000	1000
46	Packianathapuram	1250	1000	1000	1000	500
47	Palanganatham	7000		15000		
48	Pandian Nagar	1600	1500	2600	4000	1800
49	Periyakulam	1300				
50	Perumalmalai					
51	R.R. Nagar	5000	500	5000	500	500
52	Railway Colony	2200				
53	Rajapalayam	1600				
54	Rayappanpatti	8000	3500	20000		
55	Rayapuram					
56	Samayanallur	5000	3000	50150	10000	5000
57	Sattur					
58	Shenbaganur	750	750	2000	2000	400
59	Sengole Nagar	2000	2000	10000	1000	2000
60	Sempatti Mission					
61	Silukkuvarpatty	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
62	Sivakasi	12500	12500	36500	22500	14100
63	Srivilliputhur	8000				
64	St. Mary's Cathedral					
65	Sundaranatchiapuram					
66	T. Sindalacherry					
67	T. Vadipatti Shrine	1000	1000	1000		1000
68	Theni	4800				
69	Thirumangalam	1200		750		
70	Thirunagar	2050				

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2020 TO 18.12.2020							
St. Peter's Pence 05/07/20	Communi- cation Day 12/07/20	Prision Ministry 16/08/20	Bible Sunday 27/09/20	Mission Sunday 18/10/20	African Mission 01/11/20	Peter the Apostle 22/11/20	Opus 02/12/20
36		400	550	6000			
37							
38			2000	30500	2000		
39				12736			
40	2000	2000	2000	90000	2000		
41	800	1000	1000	600	12600		
42			1200				
43							
44							
45	1000	1000	1000	5029	108432		
46	500	500	1000	1000	10000	1000	1000
47				5850	100000		
48	1500	1800	1800	1560			
49		1900		2300			
50							
51	500	500	5000	2000	15000		
52							
53				1200	31000	1500	1500
54				3500	140000	3500	3500
55					9190		
56	3500	3000	3100	5000	105000		
57							
58	450	475	300	400	10175	750	800
59	2000	2000	2000	2000	60000	2000	
60							
61	1000	1000	1000	1000	5000	1000	
62	13400				480000	10200	11300
63				7530	270000		
64							
65							
66				73900			2110
67	1000	500	500	500	10000	1000	1000
68				5559			
69				1100	13430	1075	1150
70				1850	26870	1630	1720

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS -01.02.2020 TO 18.12.2020						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/20	Holy See 22/03/20	Hunger Disease 09/04/20	Good Friday 10/04/20	Vocation Sunday 03/05/20
71	Thiruthangal	10050				
72	Thummuchinampatty	800				
73	Ugarthe Nagar	2000				
74	Usilampatti	4460		18200		
75	Uthamapalayam					
76	Virudhunagar	9500		48300		
77	Vadapatti Mission					
78	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000			
79	Y. Othakadai	1000				
	Total	227892	44350	430765	50500	33800
<p align="center"><u>Mass Received From Parishes</u></p> <p>Anna Nagar (300 Masses) 30,000.00</p> <p>Srivilliputhur (150 Masses) 15,000.00</p> <p>Rayappanpatti (100 Masses) 10,000.00</p> <p>Sengole Nagar (Fr. Arulanandam) (54 Masses) 5,400.00</p> <p align="right">Total 60,400.00</p> <p align="center"><u>நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்</u></p> <p align="center">புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன் உதவும் உள்ளங்கள்</p> <p>Opening Balance as on 26.08.2020 28,93,971.58</p> <p>Saint Alphonsus Congregation, U.S.A.</p> <p align="right">(Through Fr. Britto Raja Suresh) 10,33,884.00</p> <p>Collection as on 25.09.2020 39,27,855.58</p>						

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2020 TO 18.12.2020

	St. Peter's Pence 05/07/20	Communi- cation Day 12/07/20	Prision Ministry 16/08/20	Bible Sunday 27/09/20	Mission Sunday 18/10/20	African Mission 01/11/20	Peter the Apostle 22/11/20	Opus 02/12/20
71				2600	56000	2200	2300	2250
72				2000	10000			
73				1500	50000	1500	1500	1500
74				1000	14000			
75								
76				6000	180000			
77					16500			
78								
79				1500	7200	1400	1400	1400
	33050	20575	25500	105691	2481373	57030	37380	25890

From the Procurator's Desk

Dear Rev. Fathers,

NEW ADDRESS BOOK is available in the Diocesan Office & Nobili Book Centre. It costs Rs. 110/- only.

NEW ORDO is available in the Diocesan Office & Nobili Book Centre. It costs Rs. 70/- only.

Dear Rev. Fathers,

The Parishes sending the collections to the diocese through RTGS (or) NEFT are kindly requested to inform the diocese about the amount, collection details and UTRL number to issue the receipt.

Kindly co-operate with us.

Thanking you.

- Fr. S. Peter Roy, Procurator

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Opening Balance as on 25.11.2020	47,81,607.72
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Mr. Jeyabalan & Mrs. Lourdhumary Family, Virudhunagar	20,000.00
Vallal R. Sebastian, Bastin Nagar	20,000.00
Mr. John Peter, Driver, Archbishop's House	10,000.00
Superior General CIC Generalate, Madurai	10,000.00
CIC Provincialate, Virahanur, Madurai	10,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Michaelpalayam	5,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Sengole Nagar	5,000.00
Mrs. Ganagavayola, Bibikulam	5,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Anna Nagar (Bination Mass)	3,000.00
Narchaithi Paniyalargal, Nagamalai	2,000.00
Fr. Director, NPC, Madurai	1,500.00
Mr. Amalraj	1,000.00
P. Gnanapackiam, Arasaradi	500.00

48,74,607.72

Less :

Payment for St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy	- 50,000.00
Payment for St. Pius X' Seminary	- 40,000.00

90,000.00	90,000.00
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Closing Balance as on 18.12.2020	47,84,607.72
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Cash in Hand	- Nil
Cash at Bank	- 47,84,607.72

47,84,607.72

Felicitations On Ordination Anniversary Day

Fr. M. Santhiyagappan on 04.01.2019



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



02,03.01.2021	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
09,10.01.2021	விருதுநகர்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
23,24.01.2021	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
30,31.01.2021	கொடைக்கானல்	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்பணி. எஸ். ஜேம்ஸ்பால்ராஜ், செயலர்

Adoration Sunday

January

03	Rajapalayam
10	Kalladipatti
17	Thirunagar
24	Meenatchiapuram
31	St. Mary's Cathedral



February

07	Alangulam
14	Ammapatti
21	Anna Nagar
28	Anjal Nagar

Necrology

Archbishop Justin Diraviam on	25.01.1991
Fr. Alexis Diamond Raj on	01.01.1997
Fr. Savarimuthu V.A. on	08.01.1982
Fr. Ignatius I. on	08.01.1986
Fr. Balthasar A. on	16.01.1986
Fr. Peter Roy on	29.01.1964



Historical Notes – Madura Mission

XXXX. At the Footsteps of Our Elder Brothers

The first Bishop which the Diocese of Madurai offered to Tamilnadu church was Fr. Manuel Visuvasam who was lovingly called by the flock Si. Ma. Visuvasam. Msgr. Visuvasam hailed from Kamanayakkanpatti on 18th June 1916. As a Seminarian he joined the Seminary for the then Diocese of Trichinopally and was sent to Rome for Major Seminary where he completed his studies of Theology and was ordained in Rome on 22nd December 1941. He was ordained for the Diocese of Madurai and was incardinated into our Archdiocese. During the 38 years of his priesthood he had created records of marvelous ministries at our Archdiocese.

Fr. Ci. Ma. Visuvasam (=Sima) was a Holy Priest, Orator, Writer, abled Administrator, Visionary and an original thinker. His new vision for the Tamil Church can be observed from his many writings. An acute writer as he was, Fr. Sima established the truth about the holy Catholic Church in all his writings. During the time of freedom fight Fr. Sima became the Editor of the Catholic magazine called “*Thozhilalar*”. It was mainly meant to create awareness among the Catholic workers, the Minorities etc., at the political arena of then Tamilnadu. It began its journey as a Catholic magazine but later became a shelter and shield for all the workers in and around Madurai cutting across caste and creed. It liberated the all the workers, in particular, the Catholic workers, from the clutches of Labour Union of Communists parties. This Diocesan magazine became an icon at the houses of all the workers in Tamilnadu and the subscription of the magazine grew in thousands. Then learned Editor and Scholar, late Prof. Suguna states that it is because of Fr. Sima, the Catholic workers were freed from the evil of communism which tried to incorporate all the working forces into materialistic Etheism.

In 1948 when Fr. Sima took the rein of *Catholikku Sevai* magazine it found its powerful new journey. Articles from Fr. Sima on the Rights of workers and editorials on social service to the poor became the central theme of Sevai. Sevai broke its image and status as merely of an ecclesiastical magazine and became an instrument for raising the voice

of the poor and in particular the workers. What was known the church magazine, became to be known as a progressive journal of socio, political, economic and pastoral magazine. It was during the time of Fr. Sima, Sevai found its rightful place at all Catholic houses. His highly praiseworthy Tamil literary skills and broad knowledge about human rights helped him to write fiery editorials even against Rajaji, the then CM of Tamilnadu. In 1952 he wrote editorial on Rajaji which criticized his Sanathana Ideology; and in 1953 Fr. Sima's editorial on Thiru. Vi. Ka praised Thiru. Vi. Ka, the great Tamil Scholar, known as "*Thamizh Thendral*" who had a great devotion to Jesus Christ. This Tamil scholar has also wrote a book on the Sayings of Christ in Kural form as "**Kristuvin Arul Vettal.**" Fr. Sima also wrote editorials on DMK party's thirst for social justice and abolishing of castes in Tamilnadu. Thus he raised the standard of Katholickku Sevai and earned an important seat for Sevai among the socio-economical-political-cultural and pastoral intellectuals of Tamilnadu. He also named highly qualified lay people to take up the leadership of Katholickku Sevai. The outcome is Prof. Su. Gu Na, Prof. James, Prof. Henri Dalmeida etc., to name a few. He also wrote a book on Catholics critical look on DK party, namely "*Diravida Kazhakamum Katholickakarum*", by which he lashed against the dangerous etheism.

Workers movements grew rapidly in Madurai under the leadership of Fr. Sima. He also strengthened the diocesan project of "**Seva Sangam**" into a mighty organ of social service society. He introduced Seva Sangam in all the parishes and did social service projects for the poor. He gave his whole priestly blood and sweat for the growth of *Seva Sangam*. He introduced 'One Rupee Savings Scheme' and Cooperative Schemes among the poor Workers class. Fr. K. M. Sengole says that it is Fr. Sima, who liberated the Catholic workers from the snares of Communist parties ideologically and economically from the greedy and ruthless money Lenders. When he was the Director of "Madurai Katholiku Samuga Seva Sangam" he established a "Seva Sangam Center" at Karimedu which gave birth to the vibrant present Catholic center at Gnanaolivupuram.

He established Libraries and Seva Sangams at all villages. The faithful were encouraged to write articles and poems on several topics

and were hounoured with so many prizes. Due to the strenuous efforts of Fr. Sima schemes such as 'Coin saving Sangam', 'Educational Fund', 'Cooperative stores' etc., emerged at church campus which was never heard of before the arrival of Vatican II. Seva Sangams of Karimedu, Virudunagar and Soosaiapparpattanam became the active and model centers at that time. In early 60-s Karimedu raised fund of Rs. 15000 and invested in low interest schemes to the workers. Susaiapparpattanam also was successful in Co-oprative scheme. One appraisal at our Archive says that Fr. Sima had a vision to start a Catholic Bank in Tamilnadu. In Gnanaolivupuram he purchased a land and created a Catholic center for Karimedu Catholics who were the pioneers of Gnanaolivupuram parish. He **created Visuwasapuri of Ten streets**. Later, those who could not tolerate the growth of Christians in the localilty and of Seva Sangam, changed some of the streets name into secular streets. However a couple of them exist now to place it in record the vision, social thrust and ministry of our elder Brother in Madurai. Then he bought half an acre of land at Visuwasapuri to establish a Seva Center for the local faithful which is yielding its harvest now.

He also started a Seva Center in one hundred acres at the foothill of Nagamalai Pulloothu and named it as **Boys Town** where poor boys were given education and training on Tools and Trade. Later it was given to Christian Brothers (De La Salle Brothers) who started building it in sixties as **St. Pius X Boys Town**. This Boys Town which is the brain child of Fr. Sima has given birth to so many employment opportunities to poor boys and orphans who have settled in life with a trade at hand.

On 3rd Feb 1972 Fr. Sima was announced as the Bishop of Coimbatore and on 3rd May 1972 Fr. Sima became the Bishop of Coimbatore. Thus Madurai gave a pearl to Coimbatore. After seven years of Shepherding ministry he reached the havenly abode on 2 June 1979. Long live the fiery name of Fr. Sima. Visuvasam of Madurai.

(to be continued)

– Fr. Jodir.