



Diocesan News Letter Madurai

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No. 615

O Inigo! Ora pro nobis!



**AD MAJOREM DEI
GLORIAM**

Pope's General Intention for July: That sports may always be occasions of human fraternity and growth.

Pope's Mission Intention for July: That the Holy Spirit may support the work of the laity who proclaim the Gospel in the poorest countries.

Please Note

1. **Monthly Recollection:** The monthly recollection for July will be conducted at vicariate level by the respective V.F.s.

2. **Condolences: Simon Cardinal Lourdusamy:** The Archdiocese expresses its condolences to the demise of His Eminence Simon Cardinal Lourdusamy who passed away on 2nd May 2014 and a Requiem burial mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Puducherry on 9th by the Nuncio with four Indian Cardinals and many Prelates and clergy. The Tamil church is really proud of the *first South Asian Cardinal* to be appointed as the Prefect of *Propaganda* fide. An article of tribute to the



Prelate is published in this issue.

3. **Circular:**

A Workshop for Spiritual/ Pastoral Leaders of Madurai Ecclesiastical Province

In response to the request of the Former Paulists made during the Former Paulists's Day last year and with the approval of the Bishops of Madurai Ecclesiastical Province, St. Paul's Seminary is organising a workshop for the priests of Madurai Ecclesiastical Province. It is a sort of ongoing formation programme for the priests of the said province.

Topic:	Psycho- Sexual Integration
Resource Person	Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam S.J., Ph.D
Date	24-26 September, 2014
Venue	St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirapalli
Boarding and Lodge	Free

Admission policy	First come first served
The last date for registration	31 July 2014
Contact address	Rector, P.B. No.36, St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy-1, email: rectorsps@gmail.com

A brief description of the workshop:

Though our spiritual development/growth is lifelong, it is often taken for granted. Our awareness and assessment of this process of growth may be unhelpfully vague as our minds are clouded with our daily concerns, Even if we agree that this development has to be continuous, our efforts to grow in spiritual maturity may be in spurts due to various known and unknown reasons.

Spiritual growth/development can be understood only in the context of our overall development as human beings. A holistic human development needs to take into account all major aspects of development such as physical, psychological, social and spiritual growth. As celibate pastoral leaders and at the same time as sexual beings we need to have a SWOT analysis of our lives.

This three-days workshop will help us explore the reality in which we live and who we are at this juncture of our lives with a focus on our psycho-sexual integration. Besides gaining psychological insights into our hidden selves, this interactive workshop aims to jointly discuss how to work towards a psycho-sexual integration in our lives so that we could grow continuously as spiritual and pastoral leaders.

Rector, St. Paul's Seminary, Tricuchy.



His Eminence Simon Cardinal Lourdasamy

After retirement from active service in 1991, Cardinal Simon Lourdasamy was living in the Vatican Apartment No. 64, in Via dei Corridori. A few days ago, he was admitted in the Pope Pius XI Clinic in Via Aurelia, Rome, on complaints of slight ill-disposition. He was administered Viaticum and the last Sacrament and was fully conscious till the last moment. He had a very peaceful death and serene end, said Sr. Avis Agheuias, who along with other 3 Sisters, was with Cardinal Lourdasamy since 1973.

The body of Cardinal Lourdasamy was kept at St. Stephen's Chapel, behind St. Peter's Basilica on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on

those two days, there was continuous stream of clergy, religious and laity to pay homage to their dear departed father, friend and brother; guide, model and inspiration. Requiem Masses were offered; Priests and Nuns led the prayers, conducted the Office for the Dead and hymns were sung round the clock. The heartbreaking melody of the hymns and prayers of the Office for the Dead of the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Liturgy, sung by the Kerala Nuns, was a fitting tribute to a great ecclesiastical dignitary, who as the Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, added numerous strings to the beautiful lute of the Oriental Churches.

Among those who prayed at the Coffin and offered floral tributes were His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State and His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the former Secretary of State. But the whole atmosphere inside St. Stephen's Chapel was emotionally charged and many were moved to tears, when His Eminence Cardinal Ivan Dias and His Eminence Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith walked in with broken hearts to pay their last homage to their esteemed friend and guide.

On 8th, Msgr. Guido Marini, Master of Pontifical Ceremonies, conducted a special prayer service at St. Stephen's Chapel and at the end, he read out a short Curriculum Vitae of late Cardinal Lourdasamy, inscribed in a scroll and then the scroll was deposited in the coffin and finally the coffin was sealed in the presence of close relatives of Cardinal Lourdasamy and the four Rev. Sisters. Later on, the body was taken to St. Peter's Basilica for the Funeral Mass. His Eminence Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Dean of College of Cardinals, presided over the Funeral Mass, which was attended by 28 Cardinals, 16 Bishops, scores of Priests and Nuns, a big array of Ambassadors and Civil dignitaries and hundreds of peoples from all walks of life.

At the end of the Mass, His Holiness Pope Francis offered special prayers and blessed the Coffin. His Holiness also met a few members of Cardinal Lourdasamy's family and the four Household sisters and conveyed His Holiness' condolence.

After the Funeral Rites at St. Peter's Basilica, the body was taken straight away to the Fiumicino Airport to undergo a 24 hour formalities before the body is flown to Chennai, from where it will be transferred to Pondicherry, the hometown of Cardinal Lourdasamy. As these few lines are written, the body of late Cardinal Lourdasamy is lying in state

in the Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Rome, awaiting to be flown to his homeland, along the same route which Cardinal Lourdasamy used to take occasionally to spend a few days of vacation in India, his motherland, which he loved most and which he represented in international fora with pride and dignity.

The funeral services took place at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pondicherry, at 10 a.m. on Monday, 9th June, 2014. Their Eminences Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, Cardinal George Alencherry and the Apostolic Nuncio, His Grace Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio were among those ecclesiastical dignitaries, participated in the Funeral Services at Pondicherry.

Cardinal Simon Lourdasamy was born on 5th February, 1924 in Kalleri in Pondicherry. After the school education, he entered the Minor Seminary in Cuddalore. Later, he did his Philosophy and Theology courses at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, during 1946-1951. He was ordained Priest on 21st December, 1951. While serving in different Parishes as Assistant Parish Priest, he also pursued his secular studies at Loyola College, Madras. In 1953, he was sent to Rome to take up the study of Canon Law at the Pontifical Urbaniana University, from where he obtained a Doctorate in Canon Law with rare distinction. On returning from Rome, he served as Archdiocesan Chancellor and Secretary to the Archbishop, besides being in-charge of Catholic Doctors' Guild, Catholic Nurses' Guild, Newman Association and Catholic University Students' Union.

On 2nd July, 1962, he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Bangalore by Pope John XXIII, and he was consecrated Bishop on 22nd August. Bishop Simon Lourdasamy was thus able to participate in the Second Vatican Council in its Sessions 2, 3 and 4. On 9th November, 1964, he was appointed Co-adjutor Archbishop of Bangalore, and on 11th January, 1968, he succeeded Archbishop Thomas Pothacamury as Archbishop of Bangalore. As Archbishop of Bangalore, he was a true shepherd, guiding the destiny of people in the midst of great challenges. Archbishop Lourdasamy tried his best to bring together the various factions of his flock, some of whom were sharply divided on language and ethnic issues.

One of the greatest achievements of Archbishop Lourdasamy during his tenure as Archbishop of Bangalore was his initiative to establish a National Centre for Liturgical and Catechetical Training and for Biblical studies. And today the National Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre (NBCLC), Bangalore, stands out as a colossal monument of

Cardinal Lourdasamy's unique contribution to the Indian Church and as an eloquent testimony of his ardent desire to translate the spirit of the Second Vatican Council into the mainstream life of the Church in India.

On 2nd March, 1971, Archbishop Simon Lourdasamy was appointed Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples by Pope Paul VI, and thus became the first Indian Prelate to be appointed in the Vatican Curia. As Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Archbishop Lourdasamy reinvigorated the missionary thrust in the mission countries and masterminded many a programme for the Missions, especially as the President of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

On 25th May, 1985, Pope John Paul II raised him to the rank of a Cardinal and appointed him Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, an office which His Eminence held till he retired from the active service. As Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Lourdasamy's far-sightedness and creativity were seen at their best. The Oriental Churches, and in particular, the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Churches, are greatly indebted to Cardinal Lourdasamy for a number of initiatives and programmes, aimed at strengthening the Oriental Churches, especially His Eminence's initiative to have a College for the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Priests in Rome. The Oriental Churches will ever remember Cardinal Simon Lourdasamy with gratitude for his unprecedented initiatives and well-thought of designs to reinforce the identity of Oriental Churches in the Catholic Church, especially in the Indian Context.

Even after being relieved from the Office as Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches on completion of the term of office, Cardinal Lourdasamy continued to serve the Church actively till he reached the age of retirement. He was Member-Consultor for several Congregations, Pontifical Councils, Pontifical Commissions and Secretariats. Cardinal Lourdasamy was assigned several special missions during this period by the Holy Father, including the assignment as the Papal Legate for the funeral of Blessed Mother Teresa on 13th September, 1997. Towards the last years, especially after the age of 75, Cardinal Lourdasamy led a rather retired life, mostly confined to the apartment, occasionally succumbing to ill-health, but always ready to render any help to those who approached him. Even in those years of retirement and solitude, his heart was always throbbing with the love for the Church and pulsating for the love of His Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Cardinal Simon Lourdasamy was indeed a versatile genius, brilliant scholar, able administrator, zealous missionary, effective mediator and, above all, a passionate lover of the Church. He was meticulously true to his motto throughout his life, namely, *Aedificare domum Dei*. Cardinal Lourdasamy tried to build the house of God, on this earth all through his life and now he is fondly received by God to live with Him in His house for all eternity!

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India pays its rich tribute to the fond memories of one of the most illustrious Prelates, the Church in India has ever produced and also prays for the repose of the soul of this highly favoured son of our Motherland.

May I remind you to offer one Holy Mass for the repose of the soul of Cardinal Simon Lourdasamy.

- Fr. Joseph Chinnayyan

CBCI, Deputy Secretary General.



A GENUINE AND ZEALOUS SHEPHERD

- His Eminence GEORGE ALENCHERRY

Cardinal, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

In I Peter 5:1-4, St Peter gives an exhortation to all the shepherds of the Lord as to how to lead His flock: "Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it – not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away". And here is a Pastor in the person of the Lord who did lead his flock diligently and eagerly, not for self gain but always with an attitude of self giving. And this is the moment for him to receive from the Lord the unfading crown of Glory. Now as he moves to the shores of eternal life, we are bidding farewell to this great shepherd of the Lord, and illustrious son of the soil, India and a Priest of Pondicherry. He was a priest for more than 62 years, a Bishop for more than 51 years and a Cardinal for more than 29 years. As Pope Francis wrote in the message of condolence which was read out just now,

"Cardinal Lourdasamy's priestly life was spent in spreading the Gospel first in India and subsequently in service to the universal Church in numerous capacities".

His Eminence Cardinal Simon Lourdasamy brought laurels of the highest order to India, and Church in India through his life of holiness, dedication and eminent services rendered in national and international level and through his close collaboration with three Popes of the Holy Catholic Church and by meriting several national and international awards. As the Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and later, as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, he had a decisive role to shape and mould the policies of the universal Church as well as of the Eastern Churches. Similarly it won't be an exaggeration to say that the impact of Cardinal Lourdasamy on the Indian Catholic Church as well as on the Syro-Malabar Church and the Syro-Malankara Church is very significant.

My first contact with Cardinal Lourdasamy was at the All India Seminar of the Catholic Church at Bangalore in 1969. As the Archbishop of Bangalore, he was in the forefront to bring about the renewal envisioned by the Second Vatican council in the Indian Catholic Church. Hardworking and indefatigable, he remained always a source of strength for all those who came into contact with him.

A unique recollection I have of him, very strongly imprinted on my mind, was seeing him carrying a heavy file as he was going up by the elevator in the House of the French Foreign Missionary Society when I was staying there as a student priest. Seeing the Cardinal carrying such a heavy file left an indelible impression in me of his simplicity and hard work. I had the happiness of meeting him personally when I was the Director of the Pastoral Orientation Centre at Kochi. As the Director of the Centre, I went to Rome to seek his support for the activities of the Centre and I am very delighted to note that the Cardinal who was then the Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, was very generous to offer his help for the Centre. Later, I had the privilege of welcoming him to the Centre when he came to Kerala to visit the various dioceses of the State.

Innumerable are his services to the universal Church as well as to the Church in India and to the Oriental Churches. He collaborated for more than ten years with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who later became the Pope, and Cardinal Christoph Schonborn for the preparation of the

Catechism of the Catholic Church. Cardinal Lourdasamy was also the special delegate appointed by the Pope John Paul II to represent him at the funeral rites of Mother Teresa.

As the Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, his contribution to the development of the Syro-Malabar church is inestimable. He prepared the background to issue a letter by the Holy Father to the Bishops of India which led to the creation of the Eparchy of Kalyan in Bombay. The visit of Pope John Paul II to India became a reality when he was the Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches. One has to recall with gratitude the effort the Cardinal took in getting Collegio Damasceno for the Syro-Malabar priests who study in Rome. He was also very helpful in securing scholarships and other forms of financial assistance for seminarians and priests from the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara Churches.

It can be said without any hesitation that he spent all his time in Rome for the development of the various Churches that were under his care. Many of the missionary projects of the Particular Churches all over the world were kept alive by his support and missionary zeal.

It is to be noted that everyone who met the Cardinal came away with the impression of a person who works hard and who would spare no effort to help the Church to grow and develop. He was particularly notable for his intelligent grasp of facts and details of the subject matter whenever he was present at a meeting.

May the Lord, who has guided Cardinal Lourdasamy throughout his existence, receive this tireless servant of the Gospel and the Church in the heavenly Jerusalem!

May he be a source of inspiration to the Indian Catholics to spread the Gospel of love and compassion throughout India! Amen.



Holy Childhood Collection -2014

Collection as on 27/05/2014	1,06,375.00
Holy Rosary Church	2,750.00
Thirunagar	1,500.00
Collection as on 28/06/2014	1,10,625.00

Holy See Collection -2014

Collection as on 27/05/2014	25,445.00
Holy Rosary Church	2,000.00
Thirunagar	2,000.00
Munjikkal	1,500.00
Meenampatti	1,000.00
Perumalmalai	1,000.00
Uthamapalayam	1,000.00
W. Pudupatti	1,000.00
Usilampatti	600.00
Kottur	300.00
Collection as on 28/06/2014	35,845.00

Hunger & Disease Collection -2014

Collection as on 27/05/2014	4,68,225.00
Sivakasi	62,000.00
Holy Rosary Church	40,000.00
Packiapuram	25,000.00
W. Pudupatti	24,000.00
Silukkuvarpatti	22,000.00
Meenampatti	20,000.00
Shenbaganur	18,000.00
Ugarthe Nagar	7,350.00
Thirunagar	7,000.00
Usilampatti	5,600.00
Perumalmalai	4,000.00
Kottur	1,160.00
Collection as on 28/06/2014	7,04,335.00

Good Friday Collection -2014

Collection as on 27/05/2014	3,04,406.00
Sivakasi	36,000.00
Packiapuram	12,000.00
Ugarthe Nagar	8,240.00
Holy Rosary Church	7,250.00
Thirunagar	6,000.00
Silukkuvarpatti	5,600.00
W. Pudupatti	4,000.00

Shenbaganur	4,000.00
Meenampatti	3,000.00
Perumalmalai	3,000.00
Usilampatti	2,400.00
Kottur	2,040.00

Collection as on 28/06/2014 3,97,936.00

St. Peter's Pence Collection -2014

Uthamapalayam	1,000.00
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Collection as on 28/06/2014 1,000.00

Vocation Sunday Collection -2014

Collection as on 27/05/2014 **6001.00**

Anjal Nagar	6,415.00
Sivakasi	6,050.00
Bibikulam	2,800.00
Hanumanthanpatti	2,500.00
Holy Rosary Church	1,500.00
Thirunagar	1,500.00
Munjikkal	1,500.00
Silukkuvarpatti	1,500.00
Meenampatti	1,000.00
Perumalmalai	1,000.00
Uthamapalayam	1,000.00
W. Pudupatti	1,000.00
Usilampatti	600.00
Kottur	300.00

Collection as on 28/06/2014 34,666.00

Seminarists Fund

Fatima Matha Anbiam, Bibikulam	2,500.00
Fr. Victor, App, Sundaranatchiapuram (Bination Masses)	1,050.00
St. Theresa Convent, Pambarpuram	260.00
Mrs. Mary Grace, Silukkuvarpatti	200.00

Collection as on 28/06/2014 4,010.00

Wishing Happy Birthday

Fr. Antony Rajan	02.07.1972
Fr. Vedamanickam A.	05.07.1947
Fr. Murali Anand	05.07.1981
Fr. Peter Sahayaraj I.	06.07.1962
Fr. Devadoss P.	07.07.1978
Fr. Joseph Arockiaraj A.	09.07.1973
Fr. Jerome Patrick M.F	12.07.1967
Fr. Jerome Eronimus JR	20.07.1960
Fr. Antony Raj G.	20.07.1974
Fr. Panneer Raja	30.07.1984



Adoration Sunday

July		August	
07	Srivilliputhur	04	Chinnamanur
14	Virudhunagar	11	Uthamapalayam
21	Thirumangalam	18	Karumathur
28	Kadachanendal	25	Kadachanendal

Necrology

Fr. M.A. Thamburaj	09.07.2001
Msgr. S. Irudayam	10.07.1980
Fr. T.A. Soosai	11.07.2001
Fr. S.P. Arulsamy	13.07.1938
Fr. Francis Xavier A.	19.07.2003

