



Ordination of Rev. Dn. Johnson C.S.s.R, - 16.06.2021 - Anjal Nagar



Funeral of Fr. Jeeva Raj



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DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai
News Letter

www.archdioceseofmadurai.com

June & July 2021

(For Private Circulation Only)

No. 697

“இயேசுவின் திரு இருதயமே
என் நம்பிக்கையை உமது
பெயரில் வைக்கின்றேன்”



45th Priestly Ordination Anniversary
Day of His Grace, 07-07-2021.

Ad multos Annos.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June



Fr. Rex Peter (10)



Fr. Britto Suresh (11)



Fr. John Martin (11)



Fr. Ilangoan (11)



Fr. Z. Joseph Selvaraj (12)



Fr. Antony Irudhayaraj (12)



Fr. Arockiam Y. (13)



Fr. John Richard (19)



Fr. Pari Valan (22)



Fr. Joseph Antony (23)

Greetings on Birthday

July



Fr. Antony Rajan (02)



Fr. Thomas Edison (02)



Fr. Thomas Venish (03)



Fr. Vedamanickam A. (05)



Fr. Peter Sahayaraj I. (06)



Fr. Cruz Divakaran (06)



Fr. Devadoss P (07)



Fr. Joseph Arockiaraj A. (09)



Msgr. Jerome Eronimus JR (20)



Fr. Antony Raj G. (20)



Fr. Panneer Raja (31)



THE VOICE OF THE PASTOR

JUNE

My dear Fathers, Sisters, and Brothers,

We are all very much aware of the second wave of the Pandemic situation which is sweeping our country and we have lost not only our near and dear ones but also many priests both religious and diocesans and sisters of different Religious Congregations. There are many more lay faithful in our parishes who also have passed away due to the Pandemic. We offer our sympathies and prayers for all the deceased.



We as Pastors of our people are very much concerned not only of our flock but also people of other faiths. At this crucial time we try to instil hope in them that God is with us and he never abandons us what come may. We also participate in their anguish as the Second Vatican Council puts it: "The joys and hopes, the grieves and anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted these are the joys and hopes, the grieves and anxieties of the followers of Christ" (Gaudium et Spes, no.1)

We as priests in whatever may be the situation or circumstances we are, we must seek God and God alone. The crisis of pandemic also is a crisis of faith. Faith calls us to look at the world not with our human eyes but to look at the world through God's eyes. Hence we must be men of faith and deepen the faith of the people entrusted to our pastoral care without neglecting the people of different faiths. Thus we will be a source of strength in the weakness of the people and source of inspiration in their despair.

May Christ our Good Shepherd and Mary our Mother guide you and lead you all to a deeper commitment of faith and hope on our journey towards God.

May God bless you!

Your loving Archbishop,

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Prayer Intention- June

Intention for evangelization - The beauty of marriage

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

பேராயரின் ஜூன் மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

நம்புதல் : விண்ணகத்திற்கு எழுந்தருளி எல்லாம் வல்ல தந்தையாகிய கடவுளின் வலம்பக்கத்தில் வீற்றிருக்கிறார்.

வேண்டுகல் : கல்வி கற்போர்க்கும், கற்பியவர்களுக்கும். . .

வாழ்தல் : அறியாமை நீக்கி இல்லாமை போக்கும் வழியை உருவாக்குவோம்.

ஜூன் மாதம் விழா கொண்டாடும் பங்குகள்

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. அனுமந்தன்பட்டி, தூய ஆவியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 09 |
| 2. ஜராவதநல்லூர், தூய அந்தோனியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 3. காதக்கிணறு, தூய அந்தோனியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 4. பழங்காந்தம், தூய அந்தோனியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 5. மங்களங்கொம்பு, தூய அந்தோனியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 6. திருத்தங்கல், தூய அந்தோனியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 7. அம்மாபட்டி, தூய அந்தோனியார் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 8. பாக்கியநாதபுரம் | - ஜூன் 13 |
| 9. ஸ்ரீவில்லிபுத்தூர், திருஇருதய ஆண்டவர் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 19 |
| 10. சாத்தூர், திருஇருதய ஆண்டவர் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 19 |
| 11. மூஞ்சிக்கல், திருஇருதய ஆண்டவர் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 19 |
| 12. சிந்தலைச்சேரி, திருஇருதய ஆண்டவர் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 19 |
| 13. இரயில்வே காலனி, திருஇருதய ஆண்டவர் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 19 |
| 14. அஞ்சல்நகர், இடைவிடா சகாய அன்னை ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 27 |
| 15. பாஸ்டியன் நகர், தூய பவுல் ஆலயம் | - ஜூன் 29 |

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும்
கிறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துகளும், ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்புசாமி

HAPPY FEAST - JUNE

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

Society of the Holy Spirit	- 4 th June
Norbertines	- 6 th June
Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga (FSAG)	- 21 st June
Sisters of St. Aloysius (OSL)	- 21 st June
Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SHJ)	- 19 th June
Sacred Heart Sisters (Vellore)	- 19 th June
Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM)	- 19 th June
Franciscan Sisters of Immaculate Heart of Mary (FIHM)	- 19 th June
Sisters of St. John the Baptist (CSJB)	- 19 th June

Please Note - June

1. Month of June is dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** and on the day of this Solemnity (11th June) let us pray to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that the sufferings and cries of people of India, arising out of covid-19 may be transformed soon into joy and comfort.
2. **Congratulations and Appeal:** Together with the Archbishop of Madurai, **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy**, DNL congratulates the newly elected Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **MANBUMIKU MUTHUVEL KARUNANIDHI STALIN** and all the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Tamilnadu for having formed a good government and for having begun a good governance during this turbulent period of Covid 19's second wave. The repeated appeal of DNL is this: It is high time that the Secular Front passes a law in order to offer the same social and economic rights and benefits to the **Christian Dalit people**. The Inclusion of Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Caste List has been an earnest appeal of all the Christians over sixty years. We believe Mr. Stalin would consider this appeal of the Christians, the Minority people in

India and take a action immediately.

3. **Monetary Help of Tamilnadu Church:** A Team of Members comprising of His Grace, Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, the President of TNBC, the Bishops of TNBC, the CRI President and other Dignitaries on 8th inst. offered to the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, **Rs. Two Crore and Three Lakhs** as a **Pandemic Relief Fund** collected from all the Dioceses of Tamilnadu and the major Religious Congregations.
4. **Gratitude and Prayers:** DNL owes it immense gratitude to all Front line Workers, the Doctors, Nurses, hospital Workers, volunteers etc., for their selfless service to the affected people. It also prays to the Almighty God for them every day during this Pandemic period. May the good LORD bless them abundantly and keep them safe.
5. **Condolences:i)** DNL expresses its condolences and deep prayers to all our reverend Fathers, Sisters and Brothers in the Archdiocese, who have lost their beloved family members due to this pandemic. May the good Lord grant the departed Souls eternal rest.

ii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to the Apostolic Administrator of Pondichery and Cuddalore, Most Rev. Antonysamy Peter Abir and the clergy of Pondi for the sad demise of His Grace, **Most Rev. Antony Anandarayar (75)**, who passed away on 4th May at St. Thomas hospital, Chennai due to Covid 19 attack. May the soul of Most Rev.



Anandarayar, the Emeritus Archbishop of Pondichery- Cudalore rest in Peace.



iii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to the clergy of Sivagangai Diocese for the sad demise of **Msgr. Packianathan A. (64)**, the Administrator of Sivagangai Diocese who passed away on 27th May 2021 at a hospital,

Madurai due to Covid 19 sickness. May the soul of Msgr. Packianathan A., rest in Peace.

6. **Caution:** Due to the II wave of the pandemic, Covid 19 all the reverend Fathers are reminded to follow the guidelines of the Government namely, being alone; sanitizing hands, and masking the mouth and the nose. We are also warned about the third wave of the pandemic which may start in July to continue up to October/ November 2021.
7. **Prayer offering:** As responsible citizens of India, we do continue to pray for our country, for all the affected people and the poor ones, who, in particular, are suffering heavily during this continuous lock down periods.
8. **Congratulations** to Fr. Alex Gnanaraj for erecting a Flag Pole at Thooya Ubahara Annai Church, Kalpodu, substation of R.R. Nagar, which was blessed by Msgr. J.R. Jerome Eronimus, the Vicar General on 5th April 2021.

9. **Felicitations to Msgr. Arul Selvan Rayappan, the Bishop Elect** on his appointment as the Bishop of Salem. Holy Father appointed Fr. Rayappa on 31st May 2021 as the 5th Bishop of Salem. DNL offers it's cordial felicitations and fervent prayers to the **Bishop Elect, Msgr. Rayappa** to begin his new episcopal ministry in Salem.



Here below is the communique from the CCBI:

"His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Rev. Fr. Arulselvam Rayappan, of the Clergy of Pondicherry-Cuddalore, as Bishop of Salem. This provision was made public in Rome on Monday 31st May 2021. He is presently Professor and Director of the Centre for Canon Law Studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, and a Judge of the Archdiocesan Tribunal of Pondicherry.

Fr. Arulselvam Rayappan was born on 18 November 1960 in Sathipattu, Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. He completed his studies in the following Institutions: St. Agnes Minor Seminary and St. Joseph's Hr. Sec. School, Cuddalore

(1974-1978); Philosophy at Christ Hall Seminary, Madurai (1978-1981); Theology at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore (1982-1986).

He was ordained priest on 20 May 1986 for the Archdiocese of Pondicherry- Cuddalore. He obtained a Masters in Canon Law from St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore (1990-1992) and Doctorate in Canon Law from Pontificia Università Urbaniana, Rome (1992-1994). He served in the following ministries: Vice-Rector, St. Agnes Minor Seminary, Cuddalore (1986-1988), Asst. Parish Priest at Viriyur and Karaikal (1988-1989), Parish Priest at Kurumbagaram (1989-1990). After his studies in Rome, since 1994, he has been teaching Canon Law at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. He was then Director of the Centre for Canon Law Studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore (1996-2001), Vice-Rector, St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore (200-2006), President, St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore (2010-2017), Executive Secretary of CCBI Commission for Canon Law and Legislative Texts (2010-2018). He was President of the Canon Law Society of Tamil Nadu for two terms and Secretary General of Canon Law Society of India for a term. He was President of the Canon Law Society of India for two terms (2013-2017)".

- Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General, CCBI

10. **Cordial Welcome to the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli:** The new Apostolic Nuncio who was appointed to India was given welcome by the CCBI officials on his arrival to Delhi on 29th May. DNL wishes His Grace all God's blessings in his diplomatic ministry in India for the Church of India.



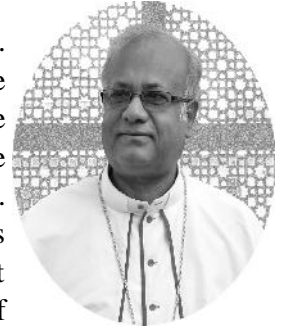


புனித தோமையாரே
இந்தியாவுக்காக வேண்டிக்கொள்வோம்

THE VOICE OF THE PASTOR JULY

It's enough Corona!

Social distancing. Mask. Sanitizer. Quarantine. It is enough Corona! We are fed up with these words. You are invincible yet vulnerable. Like the disciples (Mt8:23-27) in the Gospel we are caught up by a turbulent storm. We are fragile. You caused dramatic loss of human lives worldwide and you continue to present unprecedented challenges to public health of mind and body, food systems and the world of work. Our innermost being breaks forth in pain and grievance. The economic and social disruption caused by you is devastating. We find ourselves afraid and lost.



Life was very fast. We never slowed down, until you crept in our society. You stilled everything under the sun. Oh God! Have mercy on us and allow us to breathe without mask. We would like to sing, dance, study, work and celebrate life. This is the prayer of the people all over the world. Post operative of Covid 19 has both positive and negative impacts in us. Let us focus on the positive impacts: We have been so blinded by our lifestyles, the fast paced life. The invincible virus makes us to realize, 'what really matters in life'.

Faith has a reason when science can't answer. We may not be able to go to church to worship and pray. But we are able to make our home a place of worship. Faith wins in such moments of anguish. Corona killed rich and poor, literate and illiterate, doctors and patients. It simply means life is more important than our wealth, qualification, status...etc. A small gesture of love, a simple act of kindness, the spirit of sharing, a life style

of simplicity and humility, transmitting a ray of hope, honouring each person small or great make our lives meaningful.

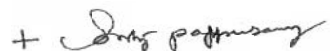
However, practically speaking, we find ourselves afraid and lost. When Jesus woke up and calmed the wind and waters; he turned to the disciples said in a reproach voice, “Why are you afraid? Have you no faith? (Mt 8:26)”. As we invite Jesus in to our boats of our lives and hand over our fears, worries and anxieties to Him, He conquers us. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” (Phil 4:6).

Jesus brings serenity into our hearts. He will make us to enjoy the paschal joy after this tragic pandemic. With this deep faith and hope let us radiate the positive vibration to the whole universe:

- ☆ to include the intention of the people around in our daily prayers
- ☆ to look in to our hearts and find kindness and compassion
- ☆ to broaden our vision towards the needy
- ☆ to become the good Samaritan to the wounded
- ☆ to come out of our comfort zone to meet those in pain
- ☆ to sacrifice something to fill the hungry.

“The Lord meets them to transform their mourning into Joy and to comfort them in the midst of affliction (Jer 31: 13). Can I be His instrument in this pandemic? Can I say ‘I have done something for His people during this crisis? God bless you all.

Your loving Archbishop,

+ 

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Prayer Intention- July

Universal intention - Social friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

ஜூலை மாதத் தீர்மானக் கொள்கைகள் பட்டிகைகள்

- | | | |
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| 1. பெருமாள்மலை, புனித தோமையார் ஆலயம் | - | ஜூலை 3 |
| 2. வத்தலக்குண்டு, புனித தோமையார் ஆலயம் | - | ஜூலை 3 |
| 3. கல்லப்பாடி, சந்தனமாதா ஆலயம் | - | ஜூலை 26 |
| 4. விருதுநகர், புனித இஞ்சாசியார் ஆலயம் | - | ஜூலை 31 |
| 5. நக்கனேரி, ஆலயம் | - | ஜூலை 31 |

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும் இறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துகளும், ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்டுசாம்

HAPPY FEAST - JULY

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

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|---|---|-----------------------|
| Franciscan Sisters of St. Thomas (FST) | - | 3 rd July |
| Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD) | - | 16 th July |
| Congregation of Teresian Carmelities (CTC) | - | 16 th July |
| Sisters of Society of St. Anne of Chennai (SSA) | - | 26 th July |
| Sisters of St. Anne of Tiruchirapalli (SAT) | - | 26 th July |
| Sisters of St. Anne, Bangalore (SAB) | - | 26 th July |
| Sisters of St. Anne, Luzern, India (SAS) | - | 26 th July |
| Society of Jesus (SJ) | - | 31 st July |

பேராயரின் ஜூலை மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

நம்புதல் : அங்கிருந்து வாழ்வோருக்கும் இறந்தோருக்கும் தீர்ப்பு வழங்க மீண்டும் வருவார்.

வேண்டுகல் : தலைமைப் பொறுப்பில் இருப்போர்களுக்காக. . .

வாழ்த்தல் : தள்ளலம் நீக்கி, மக்கள் நலன் பேண நம்மிடம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டப் பணிகளைப் பொறுப்புடன் செய்வோம்.

Please Note

1. **Felicitations to His Grace:** On the 45th Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary Day of you, Your Grace, We, the *Presbyterium*, Priests, Religious and the Laity of the Archdiocese of Madurai, with fervent prayers wish you a Blessed Sacerdotal Ordination Anniversary Day on 7^{th inst.} May God be praised. Ad multos Annos.
2. **Ordination Celebration:** Congratulations to the Ordinandis, **Rev. A. Arun Babion and Rev. R. Chinnadurai** who will be ordained by His Grace Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy on 4th July at 10:30 a.m. at Archbishop's House Chapel. May the good Lord bless them with his choicest blessings in order to do His ministry at the Vineyard of the Archdiocese of Madurai.
3. **Condolences:** DNL expresses its deep condolences over the sudden demise of **Fr. Jeevaraj L.**, who was getting treatment for covid-19 disease at Vadamalayan hospital, Madurai and succumbed to the disease on 15th June 2021. As per Covid-91 protocol, His Grace conducted the funeral service of Fr. Jeevaraj at the Cemetery with limited participants at 10.30 am., on the same day. May the soul of Fr. Jeevaraj L., rest in peace.
4. **Requiem Mass:** A separate Requiem Mass for the soul of Fr. Jeevaraj was celebrated by His Grace on 17th June 2021 at Bishop's House chapel with the concelebration of Bishop's House Fathers. May the good Lord grant eternal peace to the soul of Fr. Jeevaraj. All the priests are reminded to celebrate three requiem Masses for the soul of Fr. Jeevaraj.

5. **Zoom Vicariate Meetings:** It is praiseworthy that like Virudunagar some Vicariates are regularly conducting Vicariate Fathers meetings via zoom online. His Grace finds that it is important that all the members of the Archdiocese of Madurai, in their own small groups, are somehow connected in prayer and in fraternity making use of the social media. Let us keep the flame of faith and hope alive during this very hard time.

6. **The New Book VI (Sanctions in the Church) of Canon Law:** The Holy Father Francis approved and promulgated the Reforming of the VI Book of Code of Canon Law through an Apostolic Constitution "*Pascite gregem Dei*" (Shepherd God's Flock) on 23rd May 2021, the Solemnity of Pentecost. This new Book VI of the Code of Canon Law, containing regulations on criminal sanctions in the Church will come into force on 8 December 2021, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. CBCI is organizing webinar on the new penal law so that all the bishops and the priests will be informed of sanctions (penal laws of cc.1311 - 1399) in the church.

This revision of the Book VI was started in 2009 by Pope Benedict and in 2011 the first formulations were sent to all the Episcopal Conferences, the dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the Major Superiors of the Institutes of Consecrated Life, faculties of canon law, all the consultants and a large number of other canonists. More than 150 detailed opinions were received from the consultation, which, after being systematised, were used for the subsequent work of the group, resulting in a new amended Schema in mid-2016. The finalization of the text was approved on 20th January 2020 and now on the Pentecost of 2021 Pope Francis has promulgated which was published on 1st June 2021 by Vatican press. As a result of the work, of the 89 canons that make up this Book VI, 63 have been amended (71%), 9 others moved (10%) while only 17 remain unchanged (19%).

6. **World Day for the Elderly and Grandparents – 25th July :** The Holy Father has asked us to celebrate the Grandparents Day on 25^{th inst.} Kindly offer your Sunday Mass on 25th July as the

Grandparents' Mass. The liturgical guidelines are furnished below together with Pope's Message on Grandparents Day 2021.

Grandparents Day Pope's Message 2021

I ask the Lord that, also through his example, all of us may open our hearts in sensitivity to the sufferings of the poor and intercede for their needs. May each of us learn to repeat to all, and especially to the young, the words of consolation we have heard spoken to us today: "I am with you always"! Keep moving forward! May the Lord grant you his blessing.

Rome, St. John Lateran, May 31, 2021,

Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

even now be at our side, caring for us. These kinds of memory can help to build a more humane and welcoming world. Without memory, however, we will never be able to build; without a foundation, we can never build a house. Never. And the foundation of life is memory.

Finally, prayer. As my predecessor, Pope Benedict, himself a saintly elderly person who continues to pray and work for the Church, once said: "the prayer of the elderly can protect the world, helping it perhaps more effectively than the frenetic activity of many others." He spoke those words in 2012, towards the end of his pontificate. There is something beautiful here. Your prayer is a very precious resource: a deep breath that the Church and the world urgently need (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially in these difficult times for our human family, as we continue to sail in the same boat across the stormy sea of the pandemic, your intercession for the world and for the Church has great value: it inspires in everyone the serene trust that we will soon come to shore.

Dear grandmother, dear grandfather, dear elderly friends, in concluding this Message to you, I would also like to mention the example

of Blessed (and soon Saint) Charles de Foucauld. He lived as a hermit in Algeria and there testified to "his desire to feel himself a brother to all" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 287). The story of his life shows how it is possible, even in the solitude of one's own desert, to intercede for the poor of the whole world and to become, in truth, a universal brother or sister.

live once the storm has subsided. All of us must "take an active part in renewing and supporting our troubled societies" (*ibid.*, 77). Among the pillars that support this new edifice, there are three that you, better than anyone else, can help to set up. Those three pillars are dreams, memory and prayer. The Lord's closeness will grant to all, even the frailest among us, the strength needed to embark on a new journey along the path of dreams, memory and prayer.

The prophet Joel once promised: "Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men will have visions" (3:1). The future of the world depends on this covenant between young and old. Who, if not the young, can take the dreams of the elderly and make them come true? Yet for this to happen, it is necessary that we continue to dream. Our dreams of justice, of peace, of solidarity can make it possible for our young people to have new visions; in this way, together, we can build the future. You need to show that it is possible to emerge renewed from an experience of hardship. I am sure that you have had more than one such experience: in your life you have faced any number of troubles and yet were able to pull through. Use those experiences to learn how to pull through now.

Dreams are thus intertwined with memory. I think of the painful memory of war, and its importance for helping the young to learn the value of peace. Those among you who experienced the suffering of war must pass on this message. Keeping memory alive is a true mission for every elderly person: keeping memory alive and sharing it with others. Edith Bruck, who survived the horror of the Shoah, has said that "even illuminating a single conscience is worth the effort and pain and pain of keeping alive the memory of what has been.

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers, Dear Elderly Friends,

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. “I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone!

I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods.

The Lord is aware of all that we have been through in this time. He is close to those who felt isolated and alone, feelings that became more acute during the pandemic. Tradition has it that Saint Joachim, the grandfather of Jesus, felt estranged from those around him because he had no children; his life, like that of his wife Anne, was considered useless. So the Lord sent an angel to console him. While he mused sadly outside the city gates, a messenger from the Lord appeared to him and said, “Joachim, Joachim! The Lord has grandparents, and those among you who had to emigrate and know frescoes, seems to set the scene at night, one of those many how hard it is to leave everything behind, as so many people continue to do today, in hope of a future. Some of those people may sleepless nights, filled with memories, worries and longings to which many of us have come to be accustomed.

Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: “I am with you always”. He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother,

every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

The Lord, however, also sends us messengers through his words, which are always at hand. Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord’s faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today. For at every hour of the day (cf. Mt 20:1-16) and in every season of life, he continues to send labourers into his vineyard. I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new. The Lord is always

– always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us. You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (28:19-20). These words are also addressed to us today. They help us better understand that our vocation is to preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young, and to care for the little ones. Think about it: what is our vocation today, at our age? To preserve our roots, to pass on the faith to the young and to care for the little ones. Never forget this.

It makes no difference how old you are, whether you still work or not, whether you are alone or have a family, whether you became a grandmother or grandfather at a young age or later, whether you are still independent or need assistance. Because there is no retirement age from

the work of proclaiming the Gospel and handing down traditions to your grandchildren. You just need to set out and undertake something new.

At this crucial moment in history, you have a renewed vocation. You may wonder: How this can be possible? My energy is running out and I don't think I can do much. How can I begin to act differently when habit is so much a part of my life? How can I devote myself to those who are poor when I am already so concerned about my family? How can I broaden my vision when I can't even leave the residence where I live? Isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? How many of you are asking just that question: isn't my solitude already a sufficiently heavy burden? Jesus himself heard a similar question from Nicodemus, who asked, "How can a man be born when he is old?" (Jn 3:4). It can happen, the Lord replies, if we open our hearts to the working of the Holy Spirit, who blows where he wills. The Holy Spirit whose freedom is such that goes wherever, and does whatever, he wills.

As I have often observed, we will not emerge from the present crisis as we were before, but either better or worse. And "God willing... this may prove not to be just another tragedy of history from which we learned nothing... If only we might keep in mind all those elderly persons who died for lack of respirators... If only this immense sorrow may not prove useless, but enable us to take a step forward towards a new style of life. If only we might discover once for all that we need one another, and that in this way our human frailty can experience a rebirth" (Fratelli Tutti, 35). No one is saved alone. We are all indebted to one another. We are all brothers and sisters.

Given this, I want to tell you that you are needed in order to help build, in fraternity and social friendship, the world of tomorrow: the world in which we, together with our children and grandchildren, will

Pastoral Guidelines for Grandparents Day 2021.

FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

PASTORAL GUIDELINES

The decision to hold a World Day for Grandparents and Older People has come at a time marked by a pandemic and by the suffering of our older generations in recent months in every part of the world. Reports of elderly people having to die alone and then not even being given a funeral, have been a cause of deep pain to the Church. It is one of the crosses of our time that was rightly brought to mind during the Way of the Cross with the Pope on Good Friday this year: "People jumped out of the ambulance dressed like astronauts, wearing protective suits, gloves, masks and face shields. They took away my grandfather who had been having difficulty breathing. That was the last time that I saw my grandfather. He died a few days later in hospital. I think of how lonely he must have felt. I could not be near him physically to say goodbye and to comfort him".

To be unable to be close to those who suffer is at odds with a Christian's calling to show compassion. This World Day is an opportunity to reaffirm that the Church can never remain distant from those who carry a cross. The theme chosen by the Holy Father, "I am with you always", expresses clearly that, during the pandemic and in the better times that will hopefully follow, every ecclesial community wishes to be *with the elderly always*.

It was over a year ago when the first wave of the pandemic was at its height that the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life wrote: "as individuals and as local Churches, we can do a lot for the elderly: pray for them, cure the disease of loneliness, activate solidarity networks and much more. Faced with the scenario of a generation hit so severely, we have a common responsibility". When the storm has subsided, this task must take on an ordinary dimension in the life of parishes and the entire Church. The annual celebration of a

day dedicated to older people is a way of incorporating attention for the frail elderly into the routine fabric of our pastoral work.

It cannot be said that the concern for the elderly shown by Pope Francis is something new. Recent Popes have given similar attention to the aged and have addressed them with words of wisdom and human warmth.³ Pope Francis has demonstrated his spiritual closeness to the elderly throughout his pontificate, and this should be read in the light of the ecclesiology that distinguishes him. Like other sectors that have not always received adequate pastoral care, older people have a precise mission to fulfil as holy faithful People of God. Pope Francis identifies their task as being to keep memories alive and to transmit the faith to the younger generations, but, more importantly, he considers them to be a significant component of the Catholic laity. They are not simply ‘users’ of the Church, but they are also companions on the journey. That is why this World Day is not an occasion to produce a document on old age, but rather there is a message addressed to the elderly in which the Holy Father asks them to share responsibility for the way the Church will go in the future and to take part in the construction of the world after the pandemic. This is something new that fits into the synodal perspective advocated by Pope Francis. According to the Pope, older people form part of “all of the baptised, who are the subject of the *sensus fidei* – infallible – *in credendo*.”⁴ This perspective shows us how important it is to provide better pastoral care for a generation that we may have often forgotten, mainly because we tend to consider older people to be already evangelised.

This first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is being celebrated midway through the year dedicated to family by the Holy Father on the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. This is a deliberate choice that stems from awareness of how the elderly “all the elderly, including those who are not grandparents” need a family environment in which to live, and also how it is necessary for families to become aware of the role being played by their older members. In a globalised world, the relationship between the elderly and families is no longer taken for granted, but

is, on the contrary, constantly being called into question. This is a trend that has different connotations according to geographical and cultural context, but there are some recurring features that suggest that there may be a crisis under way between the elderly and family, a sign of the times that must be taken into account. Family pastoral work itself, often concerned only with couple relationships and those between parents and children, has difficulty in focusing on the relationship between elderly parents and adult children and between grandparents and grandchildren.

The Pope wrote clearly about this in the encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. He said, “We have seen what happened to the elderly in certain places in our world as a result of the coronavirus. They did not have to die that way. Yet something similar had long been occurring during heat waves and in other situations where older people found themselves cruelly abandoned. We fail to realize that, by isolating the elderly and leaving them in the care of others without the closeness and concern of family members, we disfigure and impoverish the family itself. We also end up depriving young people of a necessary connection to their roots and of wisdom that the young cannot achieve on their own” (FT 19). These are important words that deserve to be raised up again. They can help us to reflect on the debt that families “and family pastoral care” owe to a generation that has in some respects fallen into oblivion.

This complex scenario (the pandemic, the search for a new leading role for the elderly, and the crisis in family relations), in addition to the need to help people avoid discouragement and despondency, has led the Church to choose a simple way of setting out on a collective journey and of nurturing solidarity: to celebrate. Seniors and young people together: parents and children; grandparents and grandchildren; people who may not belong to the same family. The Church is aware of the need for reconciliation between generations and of the difficulties experienced by older people, but blame is not attached to the failings of anyone. The way chosen is to have an occasion of joyful celebration together.

As we see in the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father, festivities can overcome the divisions that have scarred a family. The son had probably considered his father to be old and near death, and so he asked for his inheritance which he then squandered. His father welcomed him back and forgave him, and so he is reconciled with his elderly parent and also with himself. This is all celebrated with a feast in which they took part together. The merciful father is not unaware of the problems, betrayals and ambiguities, but he still chooses to celebrate. This is because only the joy of the Gospel is capable of filling the heart and setting us free “from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness” (EG 1). It is the basis on which to build renewed relationships between the generations and, thanks to the wisdom shown by the elderly, it is a rock on which to build our societies after the pandemic.

That is why we want the celebration of the first World Day of Grandparents and Older People to be experienced as a moment of celebration involving all generations. It is not a matter simply of happiness, but of joy born from the knowledge that the Lord is close to the lives of the elderly as well as the young, for *God is with us always*.

There are many pastoral tools that can give concrete expression to our pastoral concern for older people. For this purpose, it would be helpful to refer to a document concerning older people that was published years ago by the Pontifical Council for the Laity.⁵ It contains a wide-ranging reflection on the meaning and value of old age and gives concrete pastoral suggestions that are equally valid and relevant today. Among the many ways in which local churches and individuals can be close to older people, we would like to suggest one which is easy to implement and highly effective, and that is to visit them. It is a tangible sign of a Church which goes forth. To pay a visit is a way, rooted in tradition, of showing compassion, including towards those who are ill or in prison. Today it seems that we need to add to the well-known list of the seven works of mercy, the ‘work’ of *visiting the elderly who are alone*. The decision of the Apostolic Penitentiary to grant a Plenary Indulgence to those who carry this out underlines its urgency.

Here we would also like to offer various other ideas on how to celebrate this World Day. We suggest that each parish or ecclesial entity could celebrate a Mass on the occasion of this *World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly* to commemorate the elderly of their community who died as a result of Covid-19; to ask young people to visit their grandparents, and especially the elderly who are alone, to give them the Holy Father’s message. In addition to what we have proposed, we are convinced that every Church community will creatively find the best way to celebrate it in their particular context. May this World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly be a festivity filled with the joy of the Gospel for all!

Rev. Alexandre Awi Mello, I. Sch.

Secretary

Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

Card. Kevin Farrell

Prefect

Dicastery for Laity,
Family and Life

PLENARY INDULGENCE

- ✳ On 13 May, the Apostolic Penitentiary promulgated a Decree granting a Plenary Indulgence on the occasion of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.
- ✳ The elderly can obtain an Indulgence by participating in one of the Masses celebrated on the occasion of this World Day.
- ✳ In view of the continuing health emergency and the fact that some elderly people are unable to attend Mass in person for health reasons, the Indulgence is extended to those who participate via television, radio or the internet.
- ✳ The Indulgence is also granted to all those who perform a ‘work of mercy’ on this World Day by visiting an elderly person who is alone.

In places where visiting in person is expressly forbidden by the public authorities in order to avoid contagion, it is also possible to obtain the Indulgence through a virtual meeting.

Liturgy Notes for Grandparents Day 2021

LITURGY NOTES

- One of the Masses on Sunday 25 July may be dedicated to the celebration of this World Day with grandparents and elderly people of the parish or community.
- To encourage the presence of older people at Mass, members of the community can be involved in organising transport for those who are unable to get there independently.
- During the celebration, young people from the parish or community can present the Holy Father's message to grandparents and the elderly.
- On 25 July and on the days immediately preceding and following it, liturgical celebrations for World Day could take place in hospitals and homes for the elderly. Where possible and in accordance with health regulations, members of the parish should be involved so that the Masses may be well animated.
- The collection from the Masses for this World Day can be dedicated to supporting projects to help poor elderly people in the community.

HOMILY RESOURCES

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B
2 KINGS 4:42-44; PSALM 144; EPHESIANS 4:1-6; JOHN 6:1-15

- This World Day that we are celebrating today can help us to understand that all of us, young and old, grandparents and grandchildren, whether or not we belong to the same family, are “one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call”. This awareness comforts us and shapes us as a people as we gather around the altar on which the Lord multiplies the bread of life and the Word of our salvation. The elderly “like the young” are important. Without them the body of the Church

lacks something. That is why it is necessary for them to have their rightful place within each of our communities. It is crucial that we share in the lives of older people in the same way that the Lord, in giving us his Body and Blood, has made us sharers in his own.

- The Church is mother to a people who gather around the Lord and who do not seem to be able to feed themselves. It needs each and every one of us. Just as we heard in today's Gospel how the Lord allowed a boy to assist, today it seems necessary to multiply the faith and wisdom of the elderly. In their spiritual depth there is a treasure to be discovered. The Pope has often spoken of this. On the occasion of the conference "The richness of many years of life" organised by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life, he said that the elderly "are the indispensable link in educating children and young people in the faith."
- We must get used to including them in our pastoral horizons and to considering them, in a non-episodic way, as one of the vital components of our communities. They are not simply people whom we are called to safeguard. They can be the protagonists of a pastoral evangelizing ministry, privileged witnesses of God's faithful love".
- Even the most impoverished and frail of us possesses those two fishes of love and prayer. To pray is a vocation accessible to all. In his message for this World Day, the Pope quotes Benedict XVI when speaking of prayer as a specific mission of the elderly: "the prayer of the elderly can protect the world and help it perhaps more incisively than the toil of so many. Your prayer is a most precious resource: it is a lung of which the Church and the world cannot be deprived (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 262). Especially at this time [...], your intercession for the world and for the Church is not in vain, but shows everyone the serene confidence of having a firm foothold".

[illegible]

Guidelines for the forthcoming Synod of Bishops is given below:

THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS (2021 - 2023)

XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

“FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION”

Pope Francis, on the 24 April 2021, approved a new synodal programme for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Initially the Synod, “*For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission*,” was hoped to commence in the month of October 2022. The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops has proposed new method for the journey toward the Synod.

This path toward the celebration of the Synod comprises of three phases, between October 2021 and October 2023, a diocesan phase and a continental phase that will give life to two different *Instrumentum Laboris*, and finally a conclusive phase at the level of the Universal Church.

The Synod of Bishops is the dynamic point of convergence that calls for mutual listening to the Holy Spirit at every level of the Church’s life(cf.*Address of His Holiness, Pope Francis, Ceremony Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops*, 17 October 2015). The articulation of the different phases of the synodal process will help to make possible a true listening to the People of God to ensure the participation of all in the synodal process. It is not just an event, but also a process that involves in synergy the People of God, the College of Bishops and the Bishop of Rome, each according to their proper function.

The journey toward the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will follow the following path.

- Opening of the Synod (October 2021)

The opening of the Synod will take place in the Vatican and in every diocese. The Holy Father in the Vatican will inaugurate this synodal

path: 9-10th October. Under the guidance of the local bishop, each diocese will open with the same celebration on Sunday 17th October.

- Diocesan Phase (October 2021 – April 2022)

The objective of this phase is to consult the People of God (cf.*Episcopalis Communio*, 5,2) so that the synodal process is carried out through listening to all of the baptised, who are the subject of the *sensus fidei*– infallible –*in credendo*.

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops will send a Preparatory Document, accompanied by a Questionnaire and a *Vademecum* with proposals for consultation in each local church.

The Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the Union of Superiors General - International Union Superiors General (USG - UISG) and other Unions and Federations of Consecrated life, international lay movements, and University/Faculties of Theology will also receive this Document.

Dioceses (local churches) and Episcopal Conferences or other corresponding bodies

Each bishop will appoint a diocesan contact person (and eventually a team) for the synodal consultation; they shall be a point of reference and link with the Episcopal Conference. They will accompany all the stages of the consultation process in the local church. (*Before October 2021*)

Each Episcopal Conference will also appoint a contact person (and eventually a team) responsible for liaising with both diocesan officials and with the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. (*Before October 2021*)

Dioceses

Consultation in the particular Churches will include those groups of participation as envisioned in *Episcopalis Communio*, without excluding other modalities deemed appropriate for the consultation to be real and effective (cf.*Episcopalis Communio*, 6).

Consultation with the People of God in each particular Church will conclude with a pre-synodal meeting, which will be the culmination of diocesan discernment.

After the conclusion of the diocesan phase, each particular Church will submit their contributions to their Episcopal Conference on a date determined by the Episcopal Conference itself. The Eastern Churches will submit their contributions to their corresponding bodies.

Episcopal Conferences or corresponding bodies

A period of discernment will begin for bishops gathered in an assembly (Episcopal Conference). They will listen to what the Spirit has inspired in the churches entrusted to them.

Participants in the drafting process of the synthesis include the contact person of the Episcopal Conference with regard to the synodal process and their team, as well as those representatives elected to participate in the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod, following their ratification by the Holy Father.

This synthesis will be sent to the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops along with the contributions of each of the local churches. *(Before April 2022)*

Other contributions

The Dicasteries of the Roman Curia, the Universities/Faculties of Theology, the Union of Superiors General/International Union Superiors General (USG/UISG) and other Unions and Federations of Consecrated life, and international lay movements, shall also provide their own contributions to the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops. *(Before April 2022)*

General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops will proceed with the drafting of the first *Instrumentum Laboris*. *(Before September of 2022)*

- Continental Phase (September 2022 – March 2023)

The purpose of this phase is to promote dialogue at the continental level about the text of the first *Instrumentum Laboris* and deepen discernment within the specific cultural context of each continent.

General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops will publish and release the first *Instrumentum Laboris*. *(September of 2022)*

International Reunions of Episcopal Conferences

Each International Reunion of Episcopal Conferences will also appoint a contact person to liaise with both the Episcopal Conferences and the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. *(Before September 2022)*

Pre-synodal discernment in the continental Assemblies. The criteria for the participation of the residential bishops and other members of the People of God is to be established.

The Assemblies will conclude with the drafting of a final document to be sent to the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops. *(March 2023)*

General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops will proceed to draft the second *Instrumentum Laboris*. *(Before June 2023)*

- Universal Church Phase (October 2023)

The General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops will send the second *Instrumentum Laboris* to the participants of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.

Celebration of the Synod of Bishops will take place in Rome according to the norms established in the Apostolic Constitution *Episcopalis Communio*. *(October 2023)*

- Courtesy: Vatican.va



May the soul of
REV. FR. JEEVARAJ
Rest in Peace



I. Bio-Data

Date of Birth	- 18-04-1974
Place of Birth	- W. Pudupatti
Ordination	- 22-04-2001
Place of Ordination	- Anna Nagar, Madurai

II. The Family

Parents	- Mr. S. Lourdu
	- Mrs. T. Lourdammal

Brothers & Sisters

1. Mr. Chinnappan	- Brother
2. Mrs. Maria Madalene	- Sister
3. Bro. David Raj	- Brother
4. Mr. Yakkan	- Brother
5. Mr. Deva	- Brother
6. Mrs. Irudaya Mary	- Sister



III. The Study– Secular

Primary Education: 1979-84-	W. Pudupatti
Middle School Education	- W. Pudupatti
Hr. Sec. School	- St. Britto, Gnanaolivupuram
M.A. English	- Madurai Kamaraj University

Ecclesiastical Studies

Pettit Seminary, XI- XII	- St. Pius X Seminary, Gnanaolivupuram
Minor Seminary	- St. Peter's, Viraganur
Philosophy	- Arulanandar College, Karumattur
Theology	- St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy

Regency at St. Xavier's Home - Shenbaganur, Kodaikanal

M.Th., St. Paul's Seminary - Trichy
M.A. – Master Advanced studies in
 Theology (Moral) and Religion - Catholic University, Leuven,
 Belgium
Doctorate - Ph.D in Moral Theology- Catholic University, Leuven,
 Belgium
Diaconate Ministry: 2000-2001 - Shrine of O.L. of Veilankanni,
 Anna Nagar, Madurai

Ordination - **22-04-2001**,
 Shrine of Our Lady of Veilankanni, Anna Nagar, Madurai



IV. Clerical Ministries

Assistant Parish Priest, Virudunagar - 2001 - 2002
 Professor & Minister, St. Peter's Seminary, Viraganur, Madurai
 - 2002 - 2004
 M. Th. Study Professor of Moral Theology, St. Paul's Seminary Trichy
 - 2004 - 2006
 Ph.D in Moral Theology, Catholic University Leuven, Belgium
 - 2006 - 2010
 Professor of Moral Theology, St. Paul's - 2010 - 2018
 Property-in - Charge, Archbishop's House, Madurai
 - 2018 - 2019
 Ambiam Facilitator, Bishop's House - 2019
 Professor, St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy - 2020

Heavenly Journey - 15 - 06 - 2021

V. Special Charism

Preaching Retreat
 Animating Lay People



“நன்று, நம்பிக்கைக்குரிய நல்லபணியாளரே, சிறிய
 பொறுப்புகளில் நம்பிக்கைக்கு உரியவராயிருந்தீர். எனவே பெரிய
 பொறுப்புகளில் உம்மை அமர்த்துவேன். உம் தலைவனாகிய எம்
 மகிழ்ச்சியில் நீரும் வந்து பங்குகொள்ளும்.” (மத் 25,21).

Necrology - June - July

Fr. Maria Pancras	01.06.1992
Fr. Irudayam	06.06.1969
Fr. Arulanandam M.A.	06.06.1966
Fr. Manuvel N.A.	12.06.2003
Fr. Susai R.	13.06.1979
Mons. S.M. Selvaraj	08.07.2012
Fr. M.A. Thamburaj	09.07.2001
Msgr. S. Irudayam	10.07.1980
Msgr. T.A. Soosai	11.07.2001
Fr. S.P. Arulsamy	13.07.1938
Fr. Francis Xavier A.	19.07.2003
Fr. Arun Arulapan	29.07.2016



Historical Notes – Madura Mission

XLV On the Footsteps of our Elder Brothers

Correction: The last Issue, XLIV's history on Fr. Zacharias is to be corrected as that one who upgraded the High School of Michaelpalayam into Hr. Sec. School is *Fr. Maria Arul Selvam D.* It is also uncertain from the records whether the birthplace of Fr. K.S. Visuwasam is from Palayamkottai region or Sivagangai region.

Fr. Sandanam Manuel: Fr. Sandanam Manuel, a noble priest was born on Christmas day, on 25th December 1893 at Pachery. His parents were Sandanam and Arockiammal. He had his secular studies at St. Mary's High School, Madurai and his ecclesiastical studies at St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore and St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy. He was ordained on 8th December 1924 by Msgr. Augustine Faisandier in Trichinopoly.

He ministered as parish priest at Hanumanthanpatti, Panjampatti, Kottaikadu, Palakkurichy, Muthupettai, Koothalur, Oothumalai, Karangadu, Rayappanpatti, Natham and Kalugumalai. After his retirement he was also working at Holy Rosary Church, Madurai, Kovilpatti, Periyoor Estate and Kodaikanal estate. He was a kind hearted priest and known for his hospitality. The good Lord took him at his advanced age, eighty

St. Anne



seven, on 28-09-1981. May the good Lord reward this committed priest who was kind and gentle in his ministries all through his life.

Fr. T. A. Michael: Fr. T. A. Michael was born on 17th July 1921 at Rajakembeeram to the parents of Mr. Alangaram and Mrs. Irudayammaland was ordained on 25th March 1947. One of his sister Rev. Irene Mary is a nun. He served the Archdiocese of Madurai for 34 years with pastoral zeal prudence in the following parishes: Assistant parish priest at Soosaiapparpattanam, Irudayapuram, Andavoorani; Parish Priest at Irudayapuram, Veeravanallur, Chidambapuram, Thiruppattur, K. Pudur (1972), Batlagundu and as a Vicar Forane in Ramanathapuram.

When he was the parish priest of Batlagundu he built St. Thomas church and also constructed churches at Malayappanpatti, Kattuppatti, Venkatasthirikottai. He also constructed the Towers at Veeravanallur and constructed churches at Vallathinambikulam, Kaakatchi and Ambasamuthiram. Having suffering from heart disease, Fr. Michael prepared himself for the heavenly journey; and when he was at Ramnad the good Lord took to himself on 21-10-1981. Long live the prestigious name of this zealous and committed pastor.

(to be continued)

– Fr. Jodir.