

DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai

News Letter

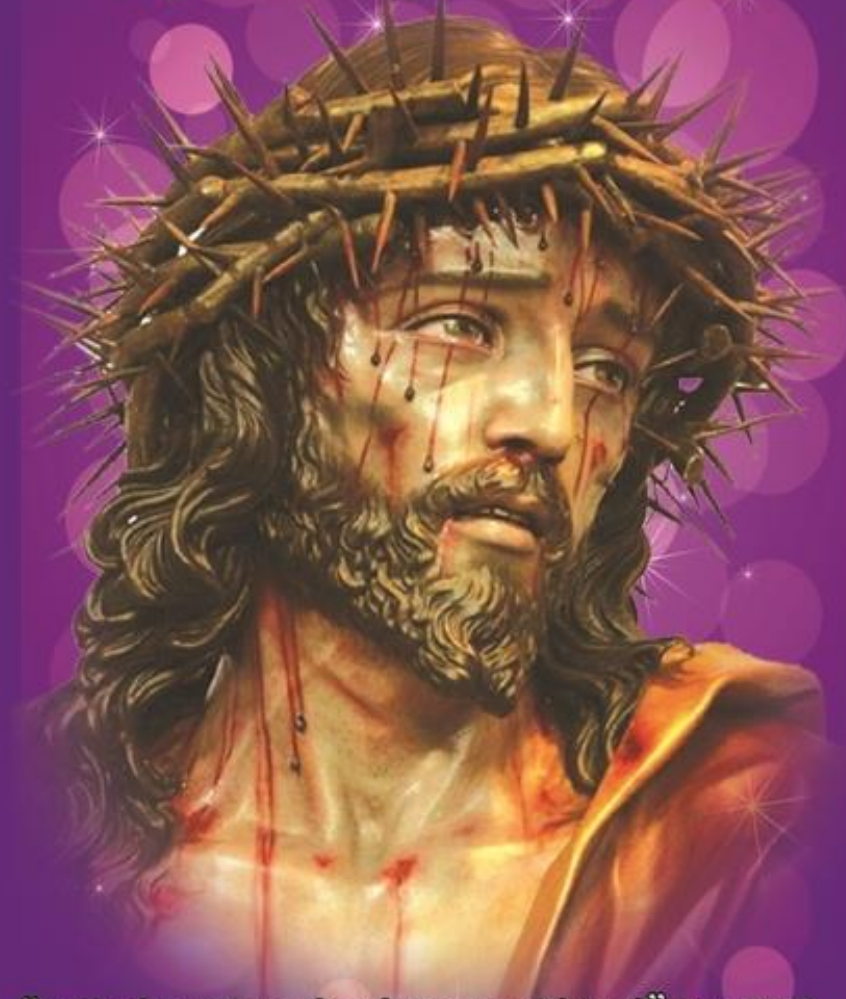
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March 2020

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No. 682

“மெய்யாகவே அவர் நம் பிணிகளைத் தாங்கிக் கொண்டார்.
நம் துன்பங்களை சுமந்து கொண்டார்” (எசா 53:4)



“அவர் தம் காயங்களால் நாம் குணமடைகின்றோம்” (எசா 53:5)



Archbishop's Consecration Day St. Joseph's Church, Gnanoolivupuram



Mass and Blessing of Grotto, Gnanoolivupuram



Published by : Rev. Dr. John Diraviam, Chancellor, Bishop's House.
MAVIGA, Nobili Campus, K. Pudur, Madurai - 7. Ph : 2561300



Greetings on Birthday

Fr. Arputhasamy (02)



Fr. George Stephen R.P (02)



Fr. Antony Samy A. (04)



Fr. James Paul Raj S. (06)



Fr. Paul Ignatius I. (09)



Fr. Gabriel G. (13)



Msgr. Jeyaraj J. (20)



Fr. Sebastian Jerome (20)



Fr. Joseph Amalan (20)



Fr. Britto Jerald Dhinakaran (22)

Fr. John Diraviam M. (24)

Fr. Susai P. Visuvasam (26)

Fr. Benadict Barnabas J. (27)

Fr. Jayeseelan Y. (28)

Fr. Vincent Raja X. (28)

Fr. Varan Vardhan P. (31)

The Voice of the Pastor

My dear Fathers, brothers and sisters,

The same Jesus who was present active 2000 years back is present active through us, because we are the body of Christ. We are his hands, legs, mouths, eyes and ears. So through us He does things and we make Christ present active in the world today.



When we rightly stress the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, we should not neglect his true presence in others and in the community which gathers in his name. Our lack of faith and indifference may paralyse us in such a way that Jesus cannot do through us what he wants to. The members of his body everywhere in the world because of their coldness of faith, worldliness and sin do immense harm to the Church.

It should be a possibility for us who are the members of his body to make Jesus dynamic in our world. By our participation in the Eucharistic celebration and eating his body and drinking his blood we should be transformed in to his body and live by his strength. Let our faith be alive and allow the Holy Spirit work in us so that Jesus will act through us wherever we are. Only by our life in him we will be able to bear much fruit (Cfr. Jn 15/5).

Having renewed our faith and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us we will be able to involve ourselves in the problems of the world. What the world needs today is to bring goods to the poor, to proclaim liberty and to free those bound by sin, to liberate the people who are oppressed and to proclaim that God still loves the world.

Let us be ready to accept the call to be dynamic members in the body of Jesus and allow him to do greater things through us.

May God bless you all,
Your loving Archbishop,

+ *Antony Pappusamy*

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Prayer Intention

Prayer intention for evangelisation : Catholics in China. We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

இலக்கு : மென்களின் நியாயமான கோரிக்கைகளுக்குக் கவனமுடன் செவிசாய்ந்தும் மென்னுரிமைகள் மதிக்கப்பட (கி.வா 42)

நோக்கு : ஆன் - மென் சமத்துவ உறவுச் சமூகம் படைக்கும் இளைஞராக (கி.வா 42)

சீர்தூக்கு : மாலியல் அடிப்படைபிவான அனைத்து வன்முறைகளுக்கும், மாதாடுகளுக்கும் எதிராக நம் திருஅவையின் அன்பணிப்பைப் பதுப்பித்துச் செயல்படுவது (கி.வா 42)

HAPPY FEAST

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

Sisters of St. Joseph of Lyons (SJL)	-19 th March
St. Joseph of Apparition Sisters (SJA)	-19 th March
St. Joseph of Tarbes (SJT)	-19 th March
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny	-19 th March
Suore Ancelle Dell' amore Miseri Cordioso	-19 th March
Suore Missionarie dell' Incarnazione (SMI)	-25 th March
Society of Catholic Medical Mission Sisters (MMS)	-25 th March
Institutas Voluntatis Dei	-25 th March

Archbishop's Engagements


01	Sun	E	Mass and Inauguration of Year of Youth, St. Joseph's Church, Gnanaolivupuram
03-04			Cumbum
05	Thu	M	Nuptial Blessing, Vendasandur
07	Sat	M	Women's Day Celebration, Archbishop's House E Holy Mass and Blessing of Grotto, Nilakottai
08	Sun	M	SC/ST Executive Committee Meeting, Archbishop's House E Blessing of the Church and Golden Jubilee Celebration, Holy Rosary Church, Madurai
10-11			Reunion, PILLAR, Madurai.
14	Sat	M	Tamil Nadu Minority Welfare Conference, Krishnaiyar Hall
14-15	Sun		Pastoral Visit and Confirmation, Holy Rosary Church, Madurai
17	Tue	M	Archbishop's 70 th Birthday Celebration and Festschrift Release, Pillar House, Nagamalai
18-30			Personal Retreat

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

Please Note

1. The First **Reuniuon** of 2020 will be held on 10-11 March (Tuesday and Wednesday) at PILLAR, Madurai. The Session begins at 10:30 am. *Vide:* the programme published at this issue.
2. **Chrism Mass :** The **Chrism Mas** will be held on **7th April**, Tuesday 2020. It will begin at 6:00 pm at Our Lady of Sorrows Cathedral Church officiated by His Grace, who will bless the Holy Oils.
3. **Lenten Practices and Observances: C. 1249:**

"All Christ's faithful are obliged by divine law, each in his or her own way, to do penance[...] On these days the faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves, by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully and especially by observing the fast and abstinence [...] prescribe."



C. 1250: "The days and times of penance for the Universal Church are each Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent."

C. 1251: "Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*."

C. 1252: The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of soul and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.
4. **Condolences:** DNL offers its deep condolences to **Fr. Sebastian** who lost his beloved Father, **Mr. Saleth Pitchai** on 19th February 2020. The Funeral Mass was officiated by Fr. Sebastian in the presence of Vicar General, with the vast number of presbyterium



and the priests from other Dioceses at Our Lady of Queen Church, Uthamapalayam on the same day at 3.00 pm. May the good soul of Mr. Saleth Pitchai, the father of Fr. Sebastian rest in peace.

4. As communicated last month, the Archdiocese will celebrate in a meaningful way the *Septuagenarian Birthday of our Beloved Archbishop, Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy* on 17th March at Pillar on which day a *Festschrift* of International Repute in honour of His Grace will be released by the editorial endeavour of Rev. Dr. Charles Davis. Invitations will follow from Vicar Generals' Office.



5. The *Directory 2020* is ready to be reviewed. The copies will be kept at Pillar during the Reunion. Fathers are kindly requested to check the details of the present parish's and their former parishes' data. After the Renunion the Directory will be published. It is a reminder for those who have not sent the Annual Statistics to the Chancery Office. The last date is March 7th. – Fr. Chancellor.

6. Congratulations to the Follwing Fathers for the construction of ecclesiastical edifices:

i) **Fr. Sebastian** for the construction of *Sleeping Joseph Grotto* at Gnanaoluvupuram Church which was blessed by His Grace on 8th Feb. 2020.



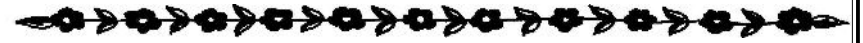
ii) **Fr. John Martin** for the construction of a magnificent and elegant Parish Church dedicated to *The Holy Redeemer* in Theni which was blessed and consecrated by His Grace on 9th Feb. 2020.

iii) **Fr. Procurator & Fr. Sebastin Titus** for the construction of the Presbytery at Devadanam which was blessed by His Grace on 23rd Feb. 2020.

7. **Catechism and Moral classes** are mandatory in all our catholic schools in the Archdiocese. All the Headmasters and

Correspondents of Schools in our Archdiocese, whether they are diocesan or religious, are supposed to buy Catechism Books only from our Diocesan Christian Life Commission. – Fr. Antony Samy A. Secretary, Christian Life Commission.

8. Pope Francis through a Decree dated 21st February 2020 acknowledged a MIRACLE happened through the intercession of **Bl. Devasahayam**, and this has completed the long process of Cananization. Soon Bl. Devasahayam will be elevated to the Altar in the holy Catholic Church.



திருவழிபாடு திருஇசை பயிற்சி

18.01.2020 அன்று கோ. புதூர் நொபிலி மேல்நிலைப்பள்ளியில் நடைபெற்ற பாடகற்குழுவினர்க்கான திரு இசை பயிற்சியில் நமது நமது மறைமாவட்டத்தை சேர்ந்த 30 பங்குகளிலிருந்து 115 பேர் கலந்துகொண்டனர். பயிற்சியை அருள்பணி. அற்புதராஜ் அவர்கள் வழங்கினார்கள். நமது மறைமாவட்டத்தை சார்ந்த அருள்பணியாளர்கள் ஆனந்தம், ஜான் திரவியம் அவர்கள் வாழ்த்துரையும், அருள் பணியாளர்கள் திய்யானந்தம் மற்றும் அருள் அவர்கள் திருஇசை பற்றிய கலந்துரையாடலிலும் கலந்து கொண்டனர். இந்த பயிற்சியில் பத்தாம் பத்திநாதர் குருமட மாணவர்களும் பங்கேற்றனர். பயிற்சியில் கலந்துகொண்டவர்களுக்கும் அனுப்பிவைத்த பங்குத் தந்தையர்களுக்கும் சிறப்பான வாழ்த்துகளும் பாராட்டுக்களும்.

ஆ. அந்தோனிசாமி, செயலர்,
கிறிஸ்வ வாழ்வுப் பணிக்குழு

VBS – 2020 பயிற்சி முகாம்

இந்த ஆண்டிற்கான கோடை விடுமுறை விவிலிய பயிற்சி முகாம் (VBS) 4.4.2020 அன்று நடைபெறும் இந்த பயிற்சிக்கு தங்களது பங்கிலிருந்து 4 நபர்களை அனுப்பி வைக்கவும்.

பயிற்சி நடைபெறும் இடம் : நொபிலி மேல்நிலைப்பள்ளி, கோ. புதூர்,

நாள் : 04.04.2020 சனி

நேரம் : காலை 9.30- மாலை 5.00

ஆ. அந்தோனிசாமி, செயலர், கிறிஸ்வ வாழ்வுப் பணிக்குழு

Reunion
March 10 - 11, 2020
at PILLAR, MADURAI

Programme

10.03.2020, Tuesday

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 10.00 a.m | - Registration |
| 10.30 a.m | - Inauguration: Prayer, Welcome, Introduction |
| 10.45 a.m | - Talk I: Educating, Engaging and Empowering
the Young in the Church
- Rev. Fr. Maria Charles SDB, Delhi |
| 11.45 a.m | - Coffee |
| 12.00 p.m | - Talk II: Educating, Engaging and Empowering
the Young in the Church
- Rev. Fr. Maria Charles SDB, Delhi |
| 01.00 p.m | - Lunch |
| 03.30 p.m | - CAA: its implications and our response -
Adv. Hendry Tiphagne |
| 04.30 p.m | - Tea Break |
| 06.30 p.m | - Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan : Presentation &
discussion |
| 08.00 p.m | - Supper |
| 09.00 p.m | - Holy Rosary |

11.03.2020, Wednesday

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 07.00 a.m | - Holy Mass presided by the Archbishop |
| 08.00 a.m | - Breakfast |
| 09.30 a.m | - Talk : Care beyond Cure : Pastoral care for
the Bedridden patients
- Rev. Fr. Saji Elambasseril SDB
- Rev. Fr. Thomas Poovathummoottil |
| 11.00 a.m | - Coffee Break |
| 11.30 a.m | - Joy of Priesthood : Report of the National
Congress of Priests held at Vailankanni -
Diocesan CDPI Unit |
| 12.15 p.m | - Concluding remarks by Archbishop &
Information |
| 12.45 p.m | - Announcements by Commission Secretaries |
| 01.00 p.m | - Lunch & Departure |

Director, NPC

Pope's Lenten Message 2020

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year the Lord grants us, once again, a favourable time to prepare to celebrate with renewed hearts the great mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cornerstone of our personal and communal Christian life[. . .]

1. The Paschal mystery as the basis for Salvation: In this Lent of 2020, I would like to share with every Christian [. . .] "Keep your eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified, let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt. Contemplate his blood poured out with such great love, and let yourself be cleansed by it. In this way, you can be reborn ever anew" (No. 123). Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer.

2. The urgency of conversion: It is good to contemplate more deeply the paschal mystery through which God's mercy has been bestowed upon us. Indeed, the experience of mercy is only possible in a "face to face" relationship with the crucified and risen Lord "who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20), in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent.[. . .]

In this favourable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Spouse's voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

3. God's passionate will to dialogue with his children: The fact that the Lord once again offers us a favourable time for our conversion should never be taken for granted. This new opportunity ought to awaken



in us a sense of gratitude and stir us from our sloth. In the crucified Jesus, who knew no sin, yet for our sake was made to be sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), this saving will led the Father to burden his Son with the



weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, “turning of God against himself” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 12). For God also loves his enemies (cf. Mt 5:43-48). [...]

4. A richness to be shared, not kept for oneself: Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means **feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present** in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence. They are likewise present in environmental disasters, the unequal distribution of the earth’s goods, human trafficking in all its forms, and the unbridled thirst for profit, which is a form of idolatry.

Today too, there is a need to appeal to men and women of good will to share, by almsgiving, their goods with those most in need, as a means of personally participating in the building of a better world. Charitable giving makes us more human, whereas hoarding risks making us less human, imprisoned by our own selfishness. We can and must go even further, and consider the structural aspects of our economic life. For this reason, **in the midst of Lent this year, from 26 to 28 March, I have convened a meeting in Assisi** with

young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy. As the Church’s magisterium has often repeated, political life represents an eminent form of charity (cf. Pius XI, *Address to the Italian Federation of Catholic University Students*, 18 December 1927). The same holds true for economic life, which can be approached in the same evangelical spirit, the spirit of the Beatitudes.



I ask Mary Most Holy to pray that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God’s call to be reconciled to himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with him. In this way, we will become what Christ asks his disciples to be: the salt of the earth and the light of the world (cf. Mt 5:13-14).

- FRANCIS

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 7 October 2019, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary

DIOCESAN PRIESTS’ NATIONAL CONGRESS - 2020

FINAL STATEMENT

January 28-31, 2020 at Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu

Diocesan Priests’ National Congress convened by the Conference of Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI) was held at the sacred premises of the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Good Health, at Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu, from 28th to 31st January 2020. Around 750 diocesan priests from 91 dioceses (Latin) in India participated in the congress as delegates.



The inaugural Mass was presided over by Oswald Cardinal Gracias, the President of CBCI, and the Archbishop of Bombay. In his homily, Archbishop Anil Couto exhorted the priests to look for

ways and means of celebrating joy in priesthood.

The theme chosen for the National Congress was THE JOY OF PRIESTHOOD as inspired by the spirit of Pope Francis, who opened his very papal ministry with the *Joy of the Gospel*. His positive approach to his ministry as well as the challenges faced by the Church in today’s context has spread an atmosphere of joy all over.

In his Keynote address, Most Rev. Oswald Cardinal Gracias, insisted upon the need of priests being joyful.

Diocesan priest plays a pivotal role in building up the Church universal. Being entrusted to take pastoral care of the souls, following closely the Good Shepherd in his pastoral charity diocesan priest is called to become all things to all!

In profound solidarity with the people of God, he shares the joys and sorrows, hopes and anxiety of the people entrusted to his care. The

diocesan priest so identifies himself with the problems and issues of the people that he becomes another Christ for them.

In our being together here at the very lap of Our Lady of Health and Mother of Priests, we experienced great joy of the priesthood of Christ as many delegates prayerfully shared their own profoundly joyful moments of priesthood as they struggled in very many unfriendly, inconvenient and even dangerous situations. In all of these lonely and challenging moments of our priestly existence, we, the diocesan priests continue to experience the providence of God, proving every Biblical promise made by the Lord come literally true. Along with our Mother, we sing: our souls magnify the Lord, who makes use of us, his servants in so many manifold and wonderful ways to build up His Church. Like St Paul, one of his versatile Apostles, we feel proud in the Lord that He utilizes us as collaborators of our Bishops to build up the Church with our ministry of the Word of God and ministry of the Sacraments in the most silent and simple way.

We, as pastors after the mind and heart of the Good Shepherd, experience immense joy in celebrating Christ, his passion and death in the Sacraments. When we celebrate baptism, the great mystery of the Eucharist, the sacrament of reconciliation, the sacrament of anointing of the sick, and the sacrament of matrimony, we experience great joy in the exercise of ministerial priesthood, as these celebrations of the sacraments are building up the Church.

Against all odds, we feel enthused and motivated to proclaim Jesus Christ in season and out of season. Listening to the life stories of many of our brother priests, we feel one with St. Paul, who even though experiences lots of hardships, yet is not broken or knocked down (cf. 2 Cor 4:7-10).

We consider ministering to the youth of our time is of grave importance. We need to be better prepared during our formation itself for our pastoral ministry by diocesan priests who had reasonable pastoral and missionary experience. We are aware that in the present day world we need to acquire better communication skills so that we can the Church to grow in communion.

In the face of the explosion of the digital communication media, it has become a greater challenge to all of us and especially to our younger clergy to utilize their time and resources more creatively to proclaim Jesus and to build the Reign of God. This digitalized situation challenges all of us to find quality time to be with the Lord and Master so that we find real joy within and to spread the same joy to all who are heavily burdened and tired (cf. Mt 11:28), because it is only the Lord who can



refresh us as well as our people.

In our prayerful reflections during these days, we realize that our responsibility as shepherds cannot be confined only to

our Catholic community alone, but it goes beyond all boundaries of caste, religion, language and culture to embrace all, especially the poor, the down-trodden and the voiceless as Christ had an all-embracing approach in his life and mission. In doing so, even though we might encounter difficulties and challenges, we are assured of great joy in being shepherds to all in the manifold exigencies of their lives.

Having experienced great joy in the priesthood of Christ and having listened to the sharing of so many faithful stories of priests, as well as having listened to the expectations of lay men and women, youth, religious, educationists and politicians, we realize that we are called to be messengers of joy to the world that is so much in need of it.

At the conclusion of the second national congress of the Diocesan Priests, inspired by the Holy Spirit, we resolve and commit ourselves the following:

1. To give quality time to intimacy with Jesus our eternal high priest, for true joy is derived uniquely in the stillness of the heart in prayer.
2. To be like the poor, of the poor, and for the poor and live in solidarity with them in our life style.

3. To take time for ourselves and to update ourselves so as to give better and quality ministry.

4. To find time for cultivating healthy priestly friendships and fraternity.

5. To be creatively involved in different forms of ministry including non-conventional ones so as to serve the integral good of the entire human person.

6. To make ourselves available fully and totally for the service to all sections of people, especially to the people on the peripheries.

7. To have special focus given to the children and youth in our ministry

8. To give due importance to the ministry to the family and to have regular family visits.

9. To acquire communication skills for better communion with all people so as to lead them into communities.

10. To stand with the people always and especially in times of persecutions and trials of all and in particular with the tribals, dalits, fish workers, farmers, and landless labourers.

11. To establish and strengthen the diocesan and regional level CDPI units by having regular meetings.

12. To have more communication among the members of the CDPI through our e-magazine and other means of communication.

13. Overflowing with the joy of priesthood, we resolve to uphold and protect the democratic, sovereign, socialist and secular fabric of our beloved country, India and stand by the values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

Conclusion:

At the conclusion of the national congress of our CDPI, like Mother Mary we hasten in joy to serve all our fellow human beings.

Prepared by Frs. John Kulandai, John Ponnore and Richard Britto

Bp. Udumala Bala

Patron of CDPI
Bishop of Warangal
Warangal

Fr. I. Raymond Joseph

Executive Secretary
CCBI Commission for VSCR
Bangalore

Fr. Michael Aní

President of CDPI
Diocese of Jalandhar
Jalandhar

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA **XXXIV Plenary Assembly, St. John's National Academy of** **Health Sciences, Bengaluru, 13-19 February 2020** **Final Statement**

Dialogue: The Path to Truth and Charity

Introduction

We, the 192 member Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, assembled for our XXXIV Plenary Assembly at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru from 13-19 February 2020. Prompted by our fidelity to Jesus Christ and unflinching loyalty to our beloved motherland we reflected, meditated and deliberated on the ever relevant theme, "Dialogue: The Path to Truth and Charity." We also sought to sincerely evaluate the quality of our apostolic ministry and be renewed in the Spirit to be servant leaders of our people after the heart of Christ who came "to serve and not to be served" (Mark 10, 48). The Church, the community of faith in Jesus Christ, has integral and all-inclusive dialogue at her heart. Indeed dialogue belongs to the very essence of the Christian faith. All through her history the Church has made earnest efforts to engage in dialogue at different levels. As a community of human beings the Church lives in civil society and body politic, continuously inspiring us to be loyal citizens of India. The noteworthy contribution of the Church in the field of education, health care and social transformation has been consistently acknowledged by the people of India.

India: Unity in Diversity

The hallmark of Indian society is its pluralism. From ancient times, India has been a mosaic of many religions, cultures and languages with a strong Indian identity. What unites us is stronger and deeper than what divides us. We are proud of our Constitution that envisions a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic which resolved to secure for all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity as enshrined in the Preamble. Justice is spelt out as social, economic and political; Liberty is explained as liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and Equality is understood as equality of status and opportunity. These Constitutional values form the ethos of Indian identity that promotes Fraternity which leads to the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity

of the nation. Every citizen must be ever vigilant against any attempt to undermine the ennobling human vision of the Constitution so that our beloved country ever remains united.

Biblical Foundations

Various streams of thoughts running through the biblical texts enrich our understanding of the necessity of dialogue among peoples and cultures. Dialogue with other religions is integral to the Biblical Revelation. The different aspects of dialogue in the Bible are rooted in our faith in God as Trinity: God as the Creator of all, the universal presence of God's Spirit, and Jesus as the Saviour of all mankind.

In the Gospels, Jesus' encounters with people reveal that God is the Father of all. The Kingdom of God that Jesus preached embodies the love of God, irrespective of race, sex, colour, class, language and creed. The Good News of Jesus calls upon humanity to establish a society of justice, equality, love, forgiveness and peace. Dialogue begins and grows when we open ourselves to the Lord, and by committing ourselves to his words and deeds, live the mystery of his death and resurrection which paves the path to truth and charity. For example, in the dialogue with the Samaritan woman, Jesus unveils the true horizons of relating with God in truth and spirit. He starts with the dialogue of life and moves to the dialogue of action which is followed by the dialogue of sharing the religious experience, and eventually the dialogue leads to the witnessing of truth.

CHURCH TEACHINGS

The Church encourages believers to respect each other and one another's religious tradition, thus cooperating with one another to promote peace and harmony and work for the common good of all. Pope Francis has urged all people of good will to make every effort to establish peace in society by "inviting all persons who believe in God to unite and work together, so that it may serve as a guide for future generations to advance a culture of mutual respect in the awareness of the great divine grace that makes all human beings brothers and sisters...called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation and the entire universe, and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need..." (*Document on Human Fraternity*, 4th February 2019, Abu Dhabi).

Dialogue is rooted in the very vocation of the Church. Being open to dialogue, calls for being absolutely consistent with one's own religious tradition. Believers enter into each other's depth of life through dialogue.

Dialogue with Cultures and Religions

Every community that lives in India possesses its own cultural identity with its richness, which must be respected at any cost. Attempts to homogenize and impose a mono-cultural pattern pose serious threats to the cultural patrimony of our country. As our Constitution envisions, there cannot be any meaningful dialogue of culture without acknowledging the primacy of human person. People of every culture and religion and those who profess no religion must be esteemed with mutual respect which eventually leads to human fraternity. No culture or religion shall dominate over other cultures and religions. Subduing certain cultures by the dominant culture will destroy the peace and harmony existing in the country. "The enemy of fraternity is an individualism which translates into the desire to affirm oneself and one's own group above others. Religious behaviour, therefore, needs continually to be purified from the recurrent temptation to judge others as enemies and adversaries." (*Document on Human Fraternity*, 4th February 2019, Abu Dhabi).

Dialogue with the Poor, the Dalits and Tribal People

Dialogue with the poor, the Dalits and Tribal people is an urgent priority in the context of India. The Dalits and Tribal people are continually denied their human rights socially. Every step taken in favour of their liberation by eradicating poverty, exploitation, discrimination, and every other form of sinful structures of society is an effective means of dialogue. However, dialogue with the poor shall not be limited only to the works of mercy. The term 'the Church of the poor' reflects the constant self-understanding of Christians that the poor stand in the place of Christ, and therefore charity and justice must be an essential and central dimension of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

In this context, we urge the State authorities to take adequate steps to ensure justice to the Dalit Christians and the Tribal people.

Dialogue with Nature

Dialogue with nature is another important aspect. The earth, our common home, which was created to support life and give praise to God, is crying out with pain because human activity is destroying it. All who believe in God and all people of good will have an obligation to protect the ecological equilibrium of the earth, intended by the Creator. Therefore dialogue with nature includes serious steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and start treating all of creation with respect and concern.

Dialogue with the Unborn

Dialogue should not be limited to those who are born; rather the right to life of the unborn must also be taken seriously into account. We believe that the human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception, that *each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with the respect due to a human person from womb to tomb*. The steps to legalise abortion even to the extent of six months must be condemned as a gross injustice which undermines the right to life of the unborn. We appeal to the State authorities that it immediately withdraw the Bill in the Parliament.

Dialogue of Peace

Interreligious dialogue is one of the most pressing needs of our times. There will be no peace among nations without peace among religions. There will be no peace among religions without dialogue among religions. We are alarmed by continuous persecution on a global level endured by innocent people at the hands of fundamentalist and terrorist groups.

Dialogue in India should aim at collaboration in areas such as peace-building, protection of the environment, eradication of poverty and ensuring the human dignity of all, especially of women and children. Besides, it means that we condemn all wars, violence and terrorism that create insurmountable blocks to dialogue. We pledge ourselves to engage in a process of dialogue for a reconciled society.

A Fervent Appeal

We believe that *patriotism is different from narrow and divisive cultural nationalism, which is radically different from Constitutional nationalism*. No one has the right to question the patriotism of any Indian citizen on subjective grounds. Authentic patriotism **unites us amidst divergences**. *Patriotism is defined as directing the attention of the citizens to the good of the whole human family, united by the different ties which bind together races, people and nations*. “All Christians must be aware of their sense of responsibility and their service of the common good. They must recognize the legitimacy of different opinions with regard to temporal solutions, and respect citizens, who, even as a group, defend their points of view by honest methods” (*Church in the Modern World*, no. 75).

False nationalistic ideologies that instigate contempt for cultures other than the majoritarian dominant culture are capable of

perpetrating atrocities. It is necessary to clarify the essential difference between patriotism and pseudo nationalism. **Patriotism builds up the nation while pseudo nationalism destroys the integrity, unity and harmony of the nation. Nationalism, particularly in its most radical and extreme forms, is thus the antithesis of true patriotism. We appeal to the State authorities to ensure that pseudo nationalism does not continue to give rise to new forms of totalitarianism. Together with the framers of the Constitution, we, the Catholic Bishops of India, affirm that religion shall not be a criterion for determining Indian citizenship. The authorities should come forward with sincere and effective means to erase the sense of fear, anxiety and uncertainty spreading in the country, especially among the religious minorities.**

Needless to say that dissent should not be misconstrued as unpatriotism. Democracy cannot be built on monologue. We call upon **the State authorities** that it is right time to sit around the common table, a place of conversation and of shared hopes. Against the attempts at creating cultural isolation in our beloved country, dialogue will make the elements that are seemingly a barrier or a wall, a bridge of relationship. “Identity and dialogue are not enemies. Our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves. Nor is our authentic identity preserved by an impoverished isolation.” (Pope Francis, *Querida Amazonia*, n. 37).

Conclusion

Dialogue is indeed the path to truth and charity. Let us pray that dialogue grows in every family, at all levels of the Church, among the Christians, among religions and cultures, and among the nations so that God’s Kingdom of reconciliation, justice, peace and love may be established.

Though deeply concerned and anguished with what is happening in our country, we are filled with hope inspired by faith and the innate goodness of all our fellow citizens. We appreciate the majority who uphold the secular values of our nation. We are determined to continue to collaborate in the work of building our great nation, Mother India.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who manifested the exemplary spirit of dialogue through her maternal intercession, guide each one of us on the path of truth and charity!

நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வுதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன் உதவும் உள்ளங்கள்

Diocese of Venice in Florida, U.S.A. (Through Fr. T.R. Jayabalan)	14,40,699.96
Saint Alphonsus Congregation, U.S.A. (Through Fr. Britto Raja Suresh)	6,15,616.62
Fr. Valentine Joseph, USA	1,65,504.00
Fr. Britto Raja Suresh, USA	1,39,835.00
Fr. Arul Joseph, USA	1,04,816.00
Fr. G. Lourdu Raj, Arockia Illam	55,000.00
Fr. Dhivyanandam	50,000.00
Fr. Arul, Secretary, Dialogue Commission	50,000.00
Mr. & Mrs. Irudaya Raj - Lilly Rose, Annanagar	50,000.00
Fr. George Stephen, Germany	50,000.00
Fr. A. Antony Samy, Secretary, C.C.L	25,000.00
Fr. Vincent Mathan Babu	20,000.00
Fr. M. John Diraviam, Chancellor	15,000.00
Fr. V. Joseph, Secretary, Family Commission	15,000.00
Fr. A. Vedamanickam, Palanganatham	10,000.00
Fr. I. Maria Arul Selvam	10,000.00
Mr. Arulanandam, Rtd., H.M, Annanagar	10,000.00
Amaladass Nithya, Annanagar	10,000.00
Mr. Jeevanandam & Elizabeth Mary, K. Pudur	10,000.00
Fr. Xavier Arul Rayan, Packiapuram	5,500.00
The Teachers, R.C. Mid.Sch. P. Chettipatti, Usilampatti	5,000.00
Fr. Gnanasandanam, Arockia Illam	5,000.00
Nazrane Isabella Family, Usilampatti	1,000.00
Mrs. Badma James, Kadachanendal	1,000.00
Total	28,63,971.58

Mass Received From Parishes

St. Mary's Church (1000 Masses)	1,00,000.00
Fr. George Stephen, Germany	25,000.00
Palanganatham (100 Masses)	10,000.00
Total	1,35,000.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 25.02.2020

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/19	Holy See 31/03/19	Hunger Disease 18/04/19	Good Friday 19/04/19	Vocation Sunday 12/05/19
1	A. Nathampatti	300	300	3000	1000	400
2	Alankulam	1000	1000	9000	9000	1000
3	Ammapatty	800	800	8300	4200	1000
4	Anjal Nagar	6080	5672	70938	45470	2000
5	Anna Nagar	10360	9810	130000	20000	8453
6	Aruppukottai	1500	1000	15000	5000	1500
7	Ayravathanallur	4500	2450	15000	15000	2000
8	Bastin Nagar	12000	8000	130300	31000	8500
9	Batlagundu	2600	3000	40000	10000	3000
10	Bibikulam	5000	3140	40580	12580	3330
11	Bodinayakanur	500	500	10000	3000	400
12	Chinnamanur	500	500	10000	1000	500
13	Cumbum	1550	1450	20250	4550	1600
14	Devadanam	2000	1500	24500	4500	1500
15	Ellis Nagar	9845	10534	101192	22510	5984
16	Gnanaolivupuram	7500	7000	125000	45000	6500
17	Hanumanthanpatty	1300	1500	15000	8000	1600
18	Holy Rosary Church	4500	4500	45000	10000	3500
19	Iyyampalayam	1120	328	1050	1510	300
20	K. Pudur	8370	2000	73870	71780	3000
21	Kadachanendal	2000	2000	30000	20000	2000
22	Kadamalaikundu	300	250	4500	4000	300
23	Kalladipatti	500	500	4000	1000	780
24	Kariapatty	1000	1000	8140	5380	1000
25	Karumathur	1450	750	2020	5050	500
26	Kavirayapuram			7100	7140	600
27	Kottur	1100	1200	14500	13800	1500
28	Lourdupuram	1500	1000	6795	6100	1000
29	Megamalai	300	200	300	1000	200
30	Mangalamkombe	500	500	4330	2670	500
31	M. Meenatchiapuram	1410	1630	6800	5210	1690
32	Mathankovilpatti	600	500	620	2300	600
33	Marianus Nagar	500	500	8000	6000	1000
34	Meenmpatti	3100	2064	35000	5000	1952
35	Melur	1350	1000	25000	10000	1500

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 25.02.2020								
	St. Peter's Pence 30/06/19	Communi- cation Day 14/07/19	Prision Ministry 11/08/19	Bible Sunday 29/09/19	Mission Sunday 20/10/19	African Mission 03/11/19	Peter the Apostle 24/11/19	Opus 02/12/19
1	300	300	400	400	15000	300	300	400
2	500	500	500	1500	7100	600	1000	1000
3	900	900	1300	1000	13000	1000	1000	1000
4	1500	1500	2000	1500	38060	2000	2000	2000
5	6500	9110	9230	9864	56900	14070	5140	5400
6	1000	1000	1500	1500	12000	1500	1000	2000
7	2450	2500	2530	3145	20515	5085	2835	2495
8	8000	12000	18000	12000	140000	8000	8000	8000
9	2700	3000	3200	3000	29000	3000	3000	3500
10	4250	3960	3780	3420	80500	3400	3540	4110
11	500	500	500	700	25140	500	500	500
12	500	500	500	500	8000	1000	500	500
13	1000	1000	1500	1200	30600	1300	1400	1200
14	1500	1500	1500	1500	23000	1700	1600	1500
15	12180	12372	10541	9880	270835	11350	13350	13440
16	5000	7000	6000	11000	278271	5000	6000	8000
17	1200	1150	1250	1400	48000	1450	1490	1380
18	3000	4500	3000	4500	45000	3000	3000	3000
19	350	350	400	500	7000	400	400	400
20	13860	9060	18000	15500	60000	10000	2000	2000
21	2000	2000	2000	2000	50500	2000	2000	2000
22	200	1000	250	1500	5500	200	200	200
23	820	620	700	680	17880	870	800	1200
24	1000	1000	1000	1000	27000	1000	1000	1000
25	500	500	500	600	4800	800	500	400
26	550	580	600	650	6080	680	620	1200
27	1200	1400	1300	1000	25000	1500	1500	1500
28	500	200	400	2100		300	300	300
29	200	200	200	200	3500	200	200	200
30	500	500	500	500	7720	580	500	500
31	1650	1710	2210	2180	21650	2100	2680	2260
32	500	530	500	600	4200	550	550	600
33	1000	1000	1000	2000	32000	500	500	500
34	2040	2000	1600	2050	30000	1750	2050	2000
35	1200	1300	1000	1000	22222	1110	1040	1070

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 25.02.2020						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/19	Holy See 31/03/19	Hunger Disease 18/04/19	Good Friday 19/04/19	Vocation Sunday 12/05/19
36	Melakovilpatti			5000	2200	520
37	Michaelpalayam	750	750	*10,000	1500	750
38	Munjikkal	3000	3000	10000	5000	3000
39	Murugathuranpatti	00	00	00	00	00
40	Nagamalai	4000	2000	90000	20000	3000
41	Nakkaneri	1000	1000	11500	2000	1000
42	Nilakottai	1000	500	6400	4200	1000
43	Niraivazhvu Nagar (VNR)	1000	1000	10000	10000	1000
44	Othaiyal	300	200	700	1100	400
45	Packiapuram	2350	2250	25350	10220	2370
46	Packianathapuram					
47	Palanganatham	6000	5000	150000	25000	5000
48	Pandian Nagar	2000	2000	3000	4500	2000
49	Periyakulam	1100	500	21000	4000	1500
50	Perumalmalai	1500	1500	20500	8000	1817
51	R.R. Nagar	3000	3000	35000	6500	2000
52	Railway Colony	2600	1200	5100	4100	1100
53	Rajapalayam	1500	1200	18200	3400	1400
54	Rayappanpatti	6000	3500	30000	25000	3500
55	Rayapuram			10200	3350	
56	Samayanallur	3000	3300	50000	11000	4000
57	Sattur					
58	Shenbaganur	3000	3200	11000	3500	2000
59	Sengole Nagar	2000	2000	60000	43500	2500
60	Sempatti Mission	200	200	200	200	200
61	Silukkuvarpatty	1000	1000	10000	5000	1000
62	Sivakasi	11500	12500	116200	50200	10500
63	Srivilliputhur			15000	40000	
64	St. Mary's Cathedral	10000	5000	60000	50000	5000
65	Sundaranatchiapuram					
66	T. Sindalacherry	3000	1000	19400	20600	1000
67	T. Vadipatti Shrine	1100	1000	10500	16300	1500
68	Theni	4200	3600	42015	19043	3722
69	Thirumangalam	1600	1100	3600	6010	1450
70	Thirunagar	1500	2000	7500	21000	1500

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 25.02.2020								
	St. Peter's Pence 30/06/19	Communi- cation Day 14/07/19	Prision Ministry 11/08/19	Bible Sunday 29/09/19	Mission Sunday 20/10/19	African Mission 03/11/19	Peter the Apostle 24/11/19	Opus 02/12/19
36	420	350	450	650	10490	580	530	500
37	750	750	750	1000	7500	750	750	750
38	3000	3000	3000	3000		3000		
39		250	250	250	12121	250	250	250
40	3000	3000	3000	3000	100000	3000	5000	2000
41	1000	1000	1000	1000	12000	500	500	500
42	700	1000	600	2000	20400	600	500	500
43	1000	1000	500	1000	15000	500	500	500
44	320	200	800	1000	5200	750	635	550
45	5206	3976	5021	5300	85701	3947	3338	5168
46				1654	32520	1325	1320	1410
47	6918	7344	4999	5000	185000	8371	5925	4526
48	2000	2000	2000	2000	41000	2500	3500	3000
49	1150	2500	1200	2500	31000	1200	1200	1300
50	1943	1918	2014	2012	30100	1814	1976	1906
51	1000	1000	5000	3000	20000	3000	1000	1000
52	1330	1040	1120	2010	18100	1310	1290	1200
53	1200	1500	1500	1800	30800	1400	1600	1000
54	3500	3500	3500	3500	160000	3500	3500	3500
55					9000			
56	3000	3100	3000	3400	130000	3000	3100	3000
57								
58	1000	1000	1000	1500	28000	1750	1400	2000
59	2000	2000	2000	2000	125000	2000	2000	
60	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
61	1000	1000	1000	1000	5000	1000	1000	1000
62	15000	12000	12100	12500	450000	10000	10000	11500
63					285170			
64	5000	3000	4000	6000	73000	5000	3000	5000
65								
66	1000	1000	1000	1000	96410	1000	1000	1000
67	2000	2000	1000	3000	18250	1000	1000	
68	4200	3300	3800	4000	110500	3500	4400	2600
69	1100	1000	1200	1500	13300	1400	1200	1300
70	1500	1500	1200	1300	30040	1000	1500	1000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 25.02.2020						
S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 10/02/19	Holy See 31/03/19	Hunger Disease 18/04/19	Good Friday 19/04/19	Vocation Sunday 12/05/19
71	Thiruthangal	3800	2200	25000	9000	3000
72	Thummuchinampatty	750	570	820	1000	850
73	Ugarthe Nagar	2000	2000	25000	15000	2000
74	Usilampatti	3000	1000	25000	6000	1000
75	Uthamapalayam	1000	1000	4000	3500	1000
76	Virudhunagar	9500	9500	130000	70000	9500
77	Vadapatti Mission	200	300	400	600	245
78	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000	9468	10956	1000
79	Y. Othakadai	2000	1022	16141	19725	1830
	Fr. Lourduraj Arockia Illam			1400	1000	
	Holycross Convent, Pambarpuram	10000				
	Fouriere Home, Pambarpuram	20000				
	St. Agnes Home for Children, Rayappanpatti	10000				
	St. Aloysius Instituion Rayappanpatti	10000				
	Mariamalkulam School, T. Vadipatti	10000				
	HolyCrosss Convent Batlgundu					
	Holy Cross Convent M. Vadipatti					
	Angelo Provincialate, Trichy					
	Christ Hall Seminary					
	RCMS W. Pudupatti					
	RCPS Ilandaikulam					
	RCPS Khansapuram					
	RCPS Gopalapuram					
	Total	259385	158920	2149679	982954	157343

NB: * Michaelpalayam Parish Rs. 10,000/- for Hunger & Disease collection paid directly to MMSSS.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 25.02.2020							
St. Peter's Pence 30/06/19	Communi- cation Day 14/07/19	Prision Ministry 11/08/19	Bible Sunday 29/09/19	Mission Sunday 20/10/19	African Mission 03/11/19	Peter the Apostle 24/11/19	Opus 02/12/19
2200	2100	2200	3000	135000	2600	2500	2600
900	900	850	820	3500	500	650	750
2000	2000	2000	3000	50000	2000	2000	2000
1000	1200	3600	2000	15020	2000	1300	1350
1000	1000	1000	1000	18000	1000	1000	1000
9500	8700	6700	9600	205000	9300	9300	8900
400	300	250	300	13500	450	400	
1000	1000	1000	1000	23337	1000	1000	1000
1436	1591	1510	1357	6000	1200	1400	1000
				22000			
				5000			
				10000			
				51060			
				7332			
				7030			
				5550			
				6210			
171923	172461	186705	203222	4240314	177996	155159	153515

<u>KANI (Seminarians Fund)</u>	
Opening Balance as on 28.01.2020	46,14,602.77
Fr. J.E. Arul Raj MMI, Chennai	1,25,000.00
Parishioners, Holy Redeemer's Church, Theni	50,000.00
Parishioners, Munjikkal	40,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, St. Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur	20,000.00
Fr. Francis, Rector, Puliampatti, Tuticorin	20,000.00
Fr. Joseph Amalan, Ayravathanallur	10,000.00
Franciscan Sisters of the Presentation of Mary Shantha	
Provincialate Nagamalai Pudukottai	10,000.00
Mr. Sahayaraj, Nagmalai Pudukottai	10,000.00
Superior General, C.I.C. Generalate, Madurai	10,000.00
C.I.C. Provincialate, Virahanur, Madurai	10,000.00
Mr. Wilson Davidraj, Palakurichi, Dindigul	10,000.00
Mr. Arulpragasam, Gnanaolivupuram	10,000.00
Mr. Clement & Rege, Gnanaolivupuram	10,000.00
Mr. A. John Devadoss, Kodaikanal	5,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, St. Joseph church, Gnanaolivupuram	5,000.00
Narcheithi paniyalargal, Nagamalai Pudukottai	4,000.00
V. Joseph, Secretary, Family Commission	2,000.00
G. Usha Bernadett	1,000.00
St. Thomas Convent, Murugathuranpatty	1,000.00
Mr. Arul, H.M. R.C.P.S. Mariammalkulam	500.00
P. Gnanapackiam, Arappalayam, Madurai	500.00
Unknown Person	220.00
T. Jeyalakshmi, Palani	200.00
Closing Balance as on 25.02.2020	49,69,022.77
Cash in Hand : 10,000.00	
Cash at Bank : 49,59,022.77	
<u>49,69,022.77</u>	

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2020

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 09/02/20	S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 09/02/20
1	A. Nathampatti		36	Melakovilpatti	
2	Alankulam		37	Michaelpalayam	
3	Ammappatty		38	Munjikkal	
4	Anjal Nagar		39	Murugathuranpatti	
5	Anna Nagar	20300	40	Nagamalai	8000
6	Aruppukottai		41	Nakkaneri	
7	Ayravathanallur		42	Nilakottai	
8	Bastin Nagar		43	Niraivazhvu Nagar (VNR)	
9	Batlagundu	3500	44	Othaiyal	1200
10	Bibikulam	7825	45	Packiapuram	
11	Bodinayakanur		46	Packianathapuram	
12	Chinnamanur		47	Palanganatham	
13	Cumbum	1310	48	Pandian Nagar	
14	Devadanam		49	Periyakulam	
15	Ellis Nagar	17103	50	Perumalmalai	
16	Gnanaolivupuram		51	R.R. Nagar	5000
17	Hanumanthanpatty		52	Railway Colony	2200
18	Holy Rosary Church		53	Rajapalayam	
19	Iyyampalayam	400	54	Rayappanpatti	
20	K. Pudur		55	Rayapuram	
21	Kadachanendal		56	Samayanallur	5000
22	Kadamalaikundu		57	Sattur	
23	Kalladipatti		58	Shenbaganur	
24	Kariapatty	1200	59	Sengole Nagar	
25	Karumathur	1500	60	Sempatti Mission	
26	Kavirayapuram	3560	61	Silukkuvarpatty	
27	Kottur		62	Sivakasi	
28	Lourdupuram		63	Srivilliputhur	
29	Megamalai		64	St. Mary's Cathedral	
30	Mangalamkombu		65	Sundaranatchiapuram	
31	M. Meenatchiapuram	2470	66	T. Sindalacherry	
32	Mathankovilpatti		67	T. Vadipatti Shrine	
33	Marianus Nagar		68	Theni	
34	Meenmpatti	3200	69	Thirumangalam	
35	Melur	1500	70	Thirunagar	

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 09.02.2020

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood 09/02/20				
71	Thiruthangal	10050				
72	Thummuchinampatty					
73	Ugarthe Nagar	2000				
74	Usilampatti					
75	Uthamapalayam					
76	Virudhunagar					
77	Vadapatti Mission					
78	W. Pudupatti					
79	Y. Othakadai					
Total		97318				

From the Procurator's Desk

Dear Rev. Fathers,

- ★ Kindly verify the above statement and confirm the remittances. If any discrepancy is found, you are welcome to correct the same with the receipt available with you.
- ★ Please note that the parishes not submitted their parish account will be published in the next Diocesan News Letter. Kindly submit your parish account in time and avoid publication in the Diocesan News Letter.
- ★ The Special Collections of 2019- 2020 will be published in the next month Catholic Sevai.
- ★ **OPUS SECURIOTATIS :** There was a good tradition of celebrating one mass every month and contributing the stipend towards 'Opus Securiotatis' for the purpose of maintenance of the retired priests. Only few priests continue to contribute Rs. 1200 – per year now. This is a fraternal reminder to all our diocesan priests to resume what was forgotten. You can pay either monthly or quarterly or annually. Please pay your contribution and get the receipt from the procurator's office.

★ **For your kind Attention :** Since March - 2020 is our accounting year end, you are requested to collect your Allowance, Mass & Medical bills (if any) before 15th March 2020. Kindly co-operate.

★ **Supreme Court orders** audit of hygiene, entry, assets of all temples, mosques and other religious shrines across India (Aug 23,2018)

The Supreme Court has ordered district courts to conduct audits of religious places and charitable institutions if they receive a complaint regarding hygiene, access and accounts of the institutes.

“Difficulties faced by visitors, deficiencies in management, maintenance of hygiene, appropriate utilisation of offerings and protection of assets with regard to shrines, irrespective of religion, is a matter for consideration not only for the state governments and the centre but also courts,” said a SC bench of Justices Adarsh K Goel and S Abdul Nazeer while hearing a Public Interest Litigation.

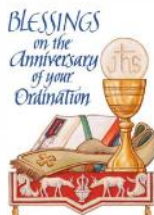
★ **Warning from Home Ministry**

1. Avoid Cash Payments.
2. This requires extra efforts on the part of the organization to develop Financial Control System in such a way to encourage Bank Payments through “Account Payee” cheques only.
3. Also note that cash expenses and withdrawals limit is Rs. 2,000/
4. Do not Mix Foreign Contribution with Domestic Receipts.

- Fr. S. Peter Roy, Procurator

Ordination Anniversary

Rev. Fr. Lourdhuraj G.	24.03.1962
Rev. Fr. GnanaSandanam	24.03.1965
Rev. Fr. Paul Ignatius	27.03.2003



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



07,08.02.2020	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
14,15.02.2020	திருவில்லிபுத்தூர்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
21,22.03.2020	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
28,29.03.2020	கொடைக்கானல்	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்தந்தை. ஜோசப், செயலர்

Adoration Sunday

March

01	Batlagundu
08	Bastian Nagar
15	Bibikulam
22	Bodinayakkanur
29	Chinnamanur



April

05	Cumbum
12	Devadanam
19	Ellis Nagar
26	Gnanaolivupuram

Necrology

Archbishop Arockiasamy

Fr. Asirvatham	22.03.2007
Fr. Saldana	01.03.2013
Fr. Antony Nair	03.03.1973
Fr. Savariraj	03.03.1982
Fr. Alexis S.A.	15.03.1977
Fr. Lawrence Xavier P.	16.03.1998
Fr. Francis Britto	19.03.2006
	31.03.2010



XXXIII. MADURA MISSION - HISTORICAL NOTES

Missionaries in Marava Kingdom : Fr. James de Rossi (1735-1774) and Fr. Augustine Cappelli (1712-1715)

What we have recaptured so far is the triumphant missionary spirit of our forefather-priests, starting from St. Thomas, St. Francis Xavier, St. John De Britto, De Nobili etc., the zealous, the dedicated and the visionaries who founded the local churches in Sothorn India. The big brand names that shone in bold letters in the historical records of Madura Mission were easy to identify and easy to recapture them. However, the expanded celestial mission was not only built by brand names but also by the hundreds and hundreds of valiant priests who gave their body, mind and soul for the mission and the people of God. In such a missionary succession line, the next pair who worked in Marava Land are Fr. Augustine Cappelli and Fr. James de Rossi.

Veda Podakar: Fr. Cappelli, an Italian missionary was taken aback by the persecution that was going on Marava Nadu. His heart was burning with compassion for the innocent new Christians who were tortured and who were deprived of spiritual comfort. Therefore he sent influential emissaries to talk to the Raja. It failed. Therefore he himself wanted to meet the Raja but the answer given to him was that it was the land of Siva and therefore there was no place for his religion. In spite of the royal refute he made all the efforts, with the help of a Moghul captain, to meet the Sethupathi. Having been informed of this dangerous move of Fr. Cappelli by his Catechists themselves, the Mission Superior ordered Fr. Cappelli not to make any effort to meet him. Therefore Fr. Cappelli retired at Aavoor. But the spiritual and social cry of the new Christians in Maravanadu did not allow him to be a silent spectator. Therefore he, again and again pleaded to the Superior the permission to enter into Maravanadu and be with the persecuted Christians. It was granted. Therefore at the confine of the maravanadu, at Kazhukerkadai, he camped where he built a small chapel and a residence. During this period broken down in spirit and shattered in ill health Fr. Cappelli fell dangerously ill. The local medics treated him but

to no avail. His pastoral cry took his spirit also to the heavenly abode. Later when Fr. Vieyra examined him he found the signs of poisoning in his body. Even today thousands and thousands of pilgrims throng to ***Kalukerkadai*** to pray to the holy priest whose tomb is located at the altar.

Sinna Saveriar: Fr. James de Rossi is considered as the last missionary of the old Madura mission. After the death of benevolent poligars, such as Kattathevar and Sasivarna Thevar in 1740, the anti Christian forces raised their ugly heads. Amidst the deadly persecution in Marava Nadu Fr. Rossi built there two strong centers of Chirstianity namely Sarugani and Suranam. He ministered in other three centers namely Ramnad, Sivaganga and Aranthangi. He was the founder of Sarugani village, which was created in a strip of land got from the king of Sivaganga. There Fr. Rossi built a most beautiful church in the whole of Marava land that time. Conversions and administration of sacraments went into thousands every year. He was a great devotee of St. Francis Xavier and therefore like him he was working innumerable miracles with the holy water to Christians and non Christians. Therefore the common people called him *Sinna Saveriar*.

His zeal did not take rest by the conversions of souls; he spent all his time to nourish them also with spiritual food. Therefore he wrote in Palmyra '*Olais*' spiritual treatises and sermons and distributed them to all the churches in Maravanadu. That was the great source of spiritual nourishment for the new Christians. These *Olais* kept up the faith of the Christians for fifty years during the period of Suppression of the Society when no priest was available for spiritual nourishment. All these *Olais* were preserved and at present (1970) kept at Sarukani. He passed in

1774. His tomb which is in Sarugani draws thousands of pilgrims everyday from Maravanadu for obtaining certain favours of spiritual and mudane. The second centenary celebration was celebrated in a grand manner in 1974 in Sarugani by Fr. M. Arulanandam which was presided over by Archbishop P.J. Diraviam.

(to be continued)

- Fr. Jodir.





நம் பேராயர் அவர்களின் தவக்காலசுற்றுமடல் — 2020

(இம்மடல் தவக்காலத்தின் இரண்டாம் ஞாயிறு-8மார்ச் 2020-அன்று

நம் உயர்மறைமாவட்டத்தின் திருப்பலி நடைபெறும் அனைத்து பங்கு ஆலயங்களிலும்,
கிளைப்பங்கு ஆலயங்களிலும்' துறவற இல்லங்களிலும் வாசிக்கப்பட வேண்டும்)

இயேசுவின் மீது நம் கண்கள்!

இருபால் துறவியர்களே, அன்பான இறைமக்களே,

கிறிஸ்துவின் பெயரால் வாழ்த்துக்கள்! இத்தவக்காலச் சுற்றுமடல் வழியாக உங்களோடு உரையாடுவதில் நான் மகிழ்கிறேன். நம் தமிழகத் தலத்திருஅவையில் இந்த ஆண்டை, 'இளைஞரே, ஆற்றலோடு மாற்றம் நோக்கி' என்ற மையப்பொருளில் இளைஞர் ஆண்டு 2020 என்று கொண்டாடி மகிழ்கிறோம். இளைஞர் ஆண்டு 2020இல் நாம் அடியெடுத்து வைத்திருக்கும் இத்தவக்காலத்தின் சிந்தனைக் கருத்துருவாக 'இயேசுவின் மீது கண்களைப் பதிய வைப்போம்' (காண். எபி 12:2) என்னும் இறைவார்த்தையை எடுத்துக்கொள்வோம்.

இளைஞர்கள் மற்றும் எல்லாருக்குமான, 'கிறிஸ்து வாழ்கிறார்' என்னும் தன்னுடைய திருத்தூது ஊக்கவுரையில் நம்முடைய திருத்தந்தை பிரான்சிஸ் அவர்கள் இன்றைய இளைஞர்களின் பார்வையை இயேசுவிடமிருந்து திருப்பும் சில காரணிகளைப் பட்டியலிடுகின்றார்: எண்ணின் ஊடகத்தின்மேல் அதீத ஈர்ப்பு, தலைவர்வழிபாடு, போதைப் பழக்கம், தவறான கருத்தியல்களால் மூளைச்சலவைக்கு உட்படுவது, உடனடி இன்பக் கலாச்சாரம்,

மனச்சோர்வு, விரக்தி, கண்டுகொள்ளாத்தன்மை. இவை நம்முடைய கண்களை இயேசுவிடமிருந்து திருப்பிவிடுகின்றன. அல்லது இயேசுவிடமிருந்து நாம் கண்களைத் திருப்பிவிடுவதால் மேற்காணும் இறப்பின் காரணிகளுக்கு நாம் நம்மையே அடிமையாக்கிக்கொள்கிறோம்.

மறைக்கான துன்புறுத்தல்கள், தவறானபோதனை, நம்பிக்கையின்மை போன்றவற்றால் அலைக்கழிக்கப்பட்ட தன்னுடைய குழுமத்திற்கு ஊக்கம் தருகின்ற எபிரேயருக்கு எழுதப்பட்ட திருமடலின் ஆசிரியர், "நம்பிக்கையைத் தொடங்கி வழிநடத்துபவரும் அதை நிறைவு செய்பவருமான இயேசுவின்மீது கண்களைப் பதிய வைப்போம். அவர் தாம் அடையவிருந்த மகிழ்ச்சியின் பொருட்டு, இழிவையும் பொருட்படுத்தாமல் சிலுவையை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார்" (எபி 12:2) என எழுதுகின்றார். 'ஒரேநாடு, ஒரேமொழி, ஒரேசமயம்' என்று ஒற்றைத்தன்மையை வலிந்து திணித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும் அரசியல் போக்கு, பெரும் பணக்காரர்களையும் பன்னாட்டுப் பெருநிறுவனங்களின் நலன்களையும் மட்டும் கருத்தில் கொண்டு, ஏழையரை ஒழித்தலே ஏழ்மை ஒழித்தல் என்ற எண்ணத்தில் அடித்தட்டு மக்களை அழிக்க நினைக்கும் நிதி மற்றும் பொருளாதார முன்னெடுப்புகள், நமக்கு அடுத்திருப்பவர் நம்முடைய எதிரி என்ற கருத்தியலை உருவாக்கி ஒருவர் மற்றவர்மேல் வெறுப்பை ஏற்படுத்தும் சமூகக் கலாச்சாரம் இன்று நம்முடைய கிறிஸ்தவ நம்பிக்கை வாழ்விற்கு சவால்கள் பெருகிவரும் இக்காலகட்டத்தில், மேற்காணும் இறைவார்த்தை நமக்கும் நம்பிக்கை தருவதாக இருக்கிறது.

ஆக, நாம் சிலகவனச்சிதறல்களில் சிக்கித்தவிக்க, நம்முடைய கவனமும் பலநேரங்களில் போலியான அரசியல் வாக்குறுதிகளால் சிதறடிக்கப்படும் இக்காலத்தில் இயேசுவின்மேல் - அதுவும் சிலுவையில் அறையப்பட்ட இயேசுவின்மேல் - நம்முடைய கண்களைப் பதியவைப்பது அவசியமாகிறது.

'கிறிஸ்து வாழ்கிறார்' என்னும் ஊக்கவுரையில் நம் திருத்தந்தை, இளைஞர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் ஒரு சிறந்த செய்தி (எண். 111-133) என்னும் பிரிவில் கொடுக்கும் மூன்று உண்மைகளை நாமும்,

நம்மோடு சேர்ந்த நம்முடைய இளைஞர்களும் கற்றுக்கொள்வதன் வழியாக இயேசுவின்மேல் நம் கண்களைப் பதியவைக்கமுடியும்.

ஒன்று, **கடவுள் நம்மை அன்புசெய்கிறார்.** அன்பாய் இருக்கின்ற கடவுள் நம் ஒவ்வொருவரையும் – ஒட்டுமொத்த கூட்டமாக மட்டுமல்லாமல், தனித்தனியாக—அன்புசெய்கிறார் என்பதை எப்போதும் நினைவில் நிறுத்தவேண்டும். “பரிவு என்னும் கட்டுக்களால் அவர்களைப் பிணைத்து அன்புக் கயிறுகளால் கட்டி நடத்தி வந்தேன். அவர்கள் கழுத்தின் மேல் இருந்த நுகத்தை அகற்றினேன். அவர்கள் பக்கம் சாய்ந்து உணவு ஊட்டினேன்” (ஓசே 11:4) மற்றும், “பால் குடிக்கும் தன் மகவைத் தாய் மறப்பாளோ? கருத்தாங்கினவள் தன் பிள்ளை மீது இரக்கம் காட்டாதிருப்பாளோ? இவர்கள் மறந்திடினும் நான் உன்னை மறக்கவே மாட்டேன்” (எசா 49:16) என்றுமுதல் ஏற்பாட்டில் வாக்களித்த நம் இறைவன், தம் அன்பார்ந்த மகன் இயேசுகிறிஸ்து வழியாக, “அன்பின் தன்மையை” (காண். 1 யோவா 4:8, 11, 16) நமக்கு உணர்த்தினார். இன்று நம்மைச் சுற்றி வெறுப்பு, பகைமை, கண்டுகொள்ளாத தன்மை மேலோங்கி நின்றாலும், நம்முடைய குடும்பம், சமூகம் போன்றவற்றில் நாம் புறக்கணிக்கப்பட்டாலும் கடவுள் நம்மை அன்புசெய்கிறார் என்பதை நாம் மறந்துவிட வேண்டாம்.

இரண்டு, **கிறிஸ்து நம்மை மீட்கிறார்.** கிறிஸ்து அன்பினால் உந்தப்பட்டு நம்மை மீட்பதற்காகத் தம்மையே தியாகம் செய்தார் (காண். யோவா 13:1). இதையே புனித பவுல், “இறைமகன் மீது கொண்டுள்ள நம்பிக்கையின் அடிப்படையில் நான் இவ்வுலகில் வாழ்கிறேன். இவரே என்மீது அன்பு கூர்ந்தார். எனக்காக தம்மையே ஒப்புவித்தார்” (கலா 2:20) என அறிக்கையிடுகின்றார். ‘கிறிஸ்துவின் உயர்மதிப்புள்ள இரத்தத்தால் மீட்கப்பட்ட நாம்’ (காண். 1 பேது 1:19) விற்பனைக்குரியவர்கள் அல்லர். போலியான கருத்தியல்களுக்கும், கெட்ட பழக்கங்களுக்கும், பாவத்தின் பல்வேறு வடிவங்களுக்கும் நாம் நம்மையே விற்றுவிடக் கூடாது. கிறிஸ்துவின் மீட்பு தந்துள்ள சுதந்திரத்துடன் அன்பில் வாழ வேண்டும்.

மூன்று, **கிறிஸ்து வாழ்கிறார்.** இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவை ஒரு நினைவாக, நம்மை இரண்டாயிரம் ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்பு மீட்டவராகப்

பார்க்கும் அபாயத்தைக் கடந்து, அவர் என்றும் நம்மோடு வாழ்கிறார் (காண். மத் 28:20) என்பதை நாம் உணரவேண்டும். ‘மாலேநேரம் ஆயிற்று. பொழுதும் போயிற்று’ (காண். லூக் 24:29) என்ற நிலையில் நம்முடைய வாழ்க்கைச் சூழல் அமையும்போது, அவர் நம்மோடு தங்கி, பந்தியில் அமர்ந்து, தம்மையே வாழ்கின்ற இறைவனாக வெளிப்படுத்துகின்றார்.

ஆக, கடவுள் நம்மை அன்பு செய்கிறார், கிறிஸ்து நம்மை மீட்கிறார், மற்றும் கிறிஸ்து வாழ்கிறார் என்னும் உண்மைகள் வெறும் புரிதல்களாக மட்டுமல்லாமல், நம் வாழ்வியல் அனுபவங்களாக மாறும்போது, ‘நாம் எந்தச் சமையையும், நம்மைப் பற்றிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் எந்தப் பாவத்தையும் உதறித் தள்ளிவிட்டு, நமக்கு குறிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள பந்தயத்தில் மனஉறுதியோடு ஓடவும்’ (காண். எபி 12:1) இயேசுவின்மேல் நம் கண்களைப் பதியவைக்கவும் முடியும்.

இறுதியாக, நம் ஆண்டவராகிய இயேசு கிறிஸ்துவின் பாஸ்கா நிகழ்வின் மகிழ்வைக் கொண்டாடுவதற்கான தயாரிப்புக் காலமாக நம் தாய்த்திருஅவை வழங்கியிருக்கும் இத்தவக்காலத்தில், கொஞ்சம் நின்று நம்மையே ஆய்வு செய்து பார்த்து, இறைவனிடமும் ஒருவர் மற்றவரிடமும், இயற்கையிடமும் திரும்பிவரும் நாம், பிறரன்புச் செயல்கள், இறைவேண்டல், நோன்புவழியாக, ‘கிறிஸ்துவையும் அவர்தம் உயிர்த்தெழுதலின் வல்லமையை அறியவும், அவருடைய துன்பங்களில் பங்கேற்று இறப்பிலும் அவரை ஒத்திருக்கவும்’ (காண். பிலி 3:10) முயற்சி செய்வோம்.

இத்தவக்காலம் உங்களுக்கு அருளின் காலமாக அமைவதாக! இறைவன் உங்களை நிறைவாக ஆசீர்வதிப்பாராக!

அன்பினில் சேவை மலர உங்கள் பேராயர்,

+ அன்ஜெலிஸ் பஸ்புலு

+ மேதகுமுனைவர் அந்தோனிபாப்புசாமி

மதுரையர்மறைமாவட்டம்