



உறுதியுதல் - தூத்துக்குடி



கலைக்கட்டம் மது



திருச்சிலுவை அருட்சகோதரிகள்
வெள்ளிவிழா - கூடல்நகர்



அன்னை தெரசா திருநாள் - விளாங்குடி



காணிக்கை அன்னை மாநில கிரீஸ் சந்திப்பு -
நாகமலை



சூரிய எரிசக்தி பயிற்சி மையம் திறப்பு - MMSSS

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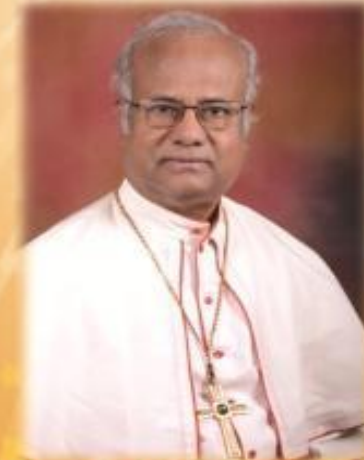
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"Doing Ordinary things
extraordinarily for God".



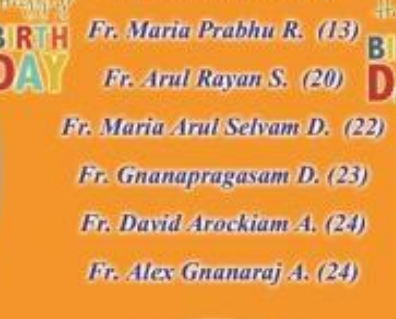
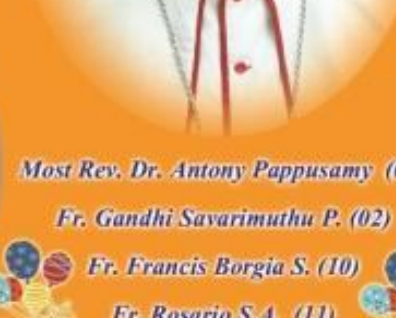
Pray Rosary to fight
against evil courageously.



Happy Birthday to His Grace.
"Ad multos Annos".



HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY
Greetings on Birthday



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HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY

Voice of the Pastor

My dear Fathers, Sisters, and Brothers,

The pastors as leaders of Christian communities are called to build communities where the faithful interact and interrelate with one another in a personal and intimate way. There are four pillars of Christian community life:



1. *Agape* -means fellowship which calls for a deep down attitude of love acceptance and forgiveness and it can be called as God's love given as a gift to us. Hence we read in the Gospel of Matthew: "You are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt 5:48). This love which was manifested by the Father is by its very nature unconditional that should enable us to forgive even our enemies (cfr. Mt 5:44) and this does not in any way mean that we agree with others or approve their ways of functioning.

2. *Koinonia* -means communion which implies sharing of things in common like time, energy, talents, goods, etc. As united with Christ in baptism we have put on Christ like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Jesus Christ (cfr. Gal 3:27-28). This life is shared by us with one another. Therefore St. Paul says, "Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other. When God's people are in need, be ready to help them. Always eager to practice hospitality" (Rom 12:10, 13).

3. *Kerygma* -means proclamation of the Good News to others by word and deed what God has done to us. Hence St. John gives the testimony: "This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And we now testify and proclaim to you that He is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was revealed to us" (1 Jn 1:2).

4. *Diakonia* -means service of material needs that complements the ministry of the Word. The Apostles in order to concentrate on prayer and preaching the Word of God asked the believers to select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and Wisdom to serve at table (cfr. Acts 6:2-4). Service is not merely a function of the deacons alone but it is part and parcel of the mission of every pastor and the people. Service is the natural outflow of genuine love for one another. Therefore Jesus gives us the mandate: "Love each other in the same way I have loved you" (Jn 15:12).

The above-mentioned four pillars will not only build up the communities rooted in Christ but also help the communities to be at the service of each other in love. Let us reflect on these four pillars and see how far our Christian communities in our parishes have strong roots in them.

Your Loving Archbishop,

+ [Signature]

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

- ✦ வேலைவாய்ப்பு இல்லாதவர்கள் வாய்ப்புகள் பெற. . .
- ✦ செபமாவை செபிப்பதன் நன்மை, மேன்மை உணர . . .
- ✦ புனிதர்கள் வணக்கம் போற்றப்பட . . .
- ✦ அன்னை மரியாளின் பக்தி வளர . . .

இம்மாதம் விழா கொண்டாடும் பங்குகள்

1. செபமாவை மாதா ஆலயம், மதுரை - அக்டோபர் 07
2. குழந்தை இயேசு ஆலயம், உசிலம்பட்டி - அக்டோபர் 15
3. குழந்தை இயேசு ஆலயம், கவிராயபுரம் - அக்டோபர் 16
4. புனித அந்தோனி மரிய சிளார்டு ஆலயம், கருமாத்தூர் - அக்டோபர் 24

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும் இறைமகிழ்ச்சிக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துகளும் ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்டுசாமி

HAPPY FEAST

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

Order of Friar Minors (OFM)	- 4 th October
Order of Friar Minor Capuchins (OFM- Cap)	- 4 th October
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi (SFA)	- 4 th October
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph (FSJ)	- 4 th October
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM)	- 4 th October
Franciscan of St. Mary of the Angels (FSMA)	- 4 th October
Franciscan Sisters of the Destitute (FSD)	- 4 th October
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi (OSF)	- 4 th October
Claretian Missionaries (CMF)	- 24 th October
Servants of Charity (SDC)	- 24 th October



01	Sun	Archbishop's Birthday – Grace Day
	M	Laying of School Foundation Stone, Sundaranatchiarpuram
	E	Inauguration of Niraivazhvu Nagar Parish
02	Mon	M Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Our Patron St. John de Britto, Oriyur
03	Tue	Emmaus Spirituality Centre Trust Meet
04	Wed	M Mass, Capuchin Provincialate, Tirumangalam
06	Fri	Visitors by Appointment*
08	Sun	E Feast Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Madurai
13	Fri	Visitors by Appointment*
14	Sat	M Madurai CRI Meet
15	Sun	M Mass, Carmel Convent, Kodaikanal
16	Mon	E All India Canonists Meet, Madurai
20	Fri	Visitors by Appointment*
22	Sun	E Interreligious Diwali Celebrations, K. Pudur
24	Tue	E MSFS Philosophate Institute Day, Bangalore
25	Wed	E Papal Right Declaration Mass, Sacred Heart Sisters, Vellore
27	Fri	M Nuptial Blessing, Pudur Uthamanur
28	Sat	M Bon Secours Convent Blessing, Thathaneri, Madurai
30	Mon	M Nuptial Blessing, Dindigul
31	Tue	Mass, Puthu Vasantham, Silukkuvarpatty

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

Pope's General Intention for October 2017: **Workers and the Unemployed.**

That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

Please Note

1. **Annual Pilgrimage 2017:** As per the long standing Tradition of the Archdiocese of Madurai, the Archdiocesan Annual Pilgrimage to the **Shrine of Martyr St. John De Britto, Oriyur**, will be held on *2nd October 2017, Monday*. May our Faith be strengthened by the Blood of the Martyr, **Thooya Arulanandar**.
2. As we have our Annual Pilgrimage this month, there will not be a common monthly Recollection in October.
3. **Birthday of His Grace:** The Presbyterium, the Religious and the Laity wish His Grace a very happy Birthday on 1st of Oct. **Ad Multos Annos**.
4. **Patroness Feast Day of Archbishop's House:** The Archbishop's House Community celebrates with joy its Patroness' Feast Day, Feast Day of **St. Teresa of Lissieux** on 1st of Oct. The Saint's statue installed at the corridor of Bishop's House motivates the B.H. Fathers to imitate the Saint's Spirituality of 'The Little Way'.
5. **Centenary of Fatima Apparition**: The 13th of Oct. 2017 is the Centenary Year of Fatima Apparition. His Grace invites all the Parish Priests and the Religious, both men and women to conduct a special **ONE HOUR Prayer** before the Blessed Sacrament exposed for *sanctification of all*. Also it is a reminder to all the Priests and Nuns to encourage the Parishioners and the people in their Institutions to pray Rosary every day at least during this month of Rosary.



6. **Quarterly Account** is to be submitted to Fr. Procurator at once.
7. **Directory 2018:** The Parish Priests and all the religious are requested to update information if there were any change in the old Directory, 2011. Kindly send information to Fr. Chancellor.
8. **Gratitude:** The Archdiocese expresses its heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Joseph S.J., the Preacher of our Annual Retreat held from 17th to 22nd Sept. 2017 at PILLAR and to Fr. Immanuel SAC and his team of PILLAR.
9. **DNL condemns**, together with the CBCI, Hindu Jagran Manch (Hindu vigilante group) for burning Effigy of Cardinal Telesphore Toppo of Ranji. Indian bishops on BJB have called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stem hate attacks on Christians in eastern Jharkhand State after this group burned an effigy of Cardinal Telesphore Toppo.
10. **Mission Sunday:** The Mission Sunday falls on 22nd inst. As of every year this year too, the Archbishop invites all the Parish Priests and Heads of Institutions to procure a good Collection for the Propagation of the Faith.
11. **New Tamil Translation of Liturgy**, approved by the Holy See will come into Force on Ash Wednesday of 2018. The Archdiocese has to prepare the people in the parishes for this adaptation.
12. **Pontifical Mission Society Projects:** The Vicar Foranes are invited to discuss with their Vicariate Priests and finalize the projects for *Propagation of the Faith* and *Holy Childhood*. The last date for submission of the Projects to Fr. Procurator is **October 15th**.
13. **Government Schemes for Minority People:** Archbishop asks all the priests and nuns to make use of the Government Aids for Minorities and thus uplift the lives of poor Catholics in the Archdiocese. The help ranges from educational scholarship, house loans, building houses, renovation of churches of Centenary old etc. The last date to submit the application is Oct. 15th. For further information kindly contact Fr. Lawrence, the Secretary of M.M.S.S.S. (Contact: 94425 35393).

ARCHDIOCESE OF MADURAI SCHOOL VISIT – 2017

S.N	SCHOOL NAME	DATE	TIME
1.	R.C.HR.SEC.SCHOOL,KATHAKINARU	OCT.11WED	MOR
2.	DENOBILIMAT.HR.SEC.SCHOOL,K.PUDUR	OCT.11WED	EVE
3.	ST.JOSEPH'SHIGH,SAMAYANALLUR	OCT.12THURS	MOR
4.	CHRISTTHEKINGMAT.SCHOOL,SENGOLENAGAR	OCT.12THURS	EVE
5.	ST.BRITTO MATRIC SCHOOL,GNANAOLIVUPURAM	OCT.18WED	MOR
6.	ST.BRITTOHR.SEC.SCHOOL,GNANAOLIVUPURAM	OCT.18WED	EVE
7.	ST.BRITTONUR&PRISCHOOL,GNANAOLIVUPURAM	OCT.19THURS	MOR
8.	R.C.HIGHSCHOOL,PALANGANATHAM	OCT.19THURS	EVE
9.	R.C.TOWNHR.SEC.SCHOOL,MUNJIKAL	OCT.25WED	MOR
10.	ST.XAVIER'SHR.SEC.SCHOOL,SHENBAGANUR	OCT.25WED	EVE
11.	R.C.HR.SEC.SCHOOL,MICHAELPALAYAM	OCT.26THURS	MOR
12.	R.C.HR.SEC.SCHOOL,SILUKUVARPATTI	OCT.26THURS	EVE
13.	ANNAIVEILANKANNIMAT.SCHOOL,BATLAGUNDU	NOV.08WED	MOR
14.	R.C.HIGHSCHOOL,THENI	NOV.08WED	EVE
15.	ST.JOSEPH'SHIGH SCHOOL,UTHAMAPALAYAM	NOV.09THURS	MOR
16.	AMALAANNAIHR.SEC.SCHOOL,T.SINDALACHERRY	NOV.09THURS	EVE
17.	ST.JOSEPH'SHR.SC.SCHOOL,SRIVILLIPUTHUR	NOV.15WED	MOR
18.	R.C.HR.SEC.SCHOOL,MEENACHIPURAM	NOV.15WED	EVE
19.	R.C.HIGHSCHOOL,AYANNATHAMPATTI	NOV.16THURS	MOR
20.	VEERAMAMUNIVARHIGHSCHOOL,KRISHNAPERI	NOV.16THURS	EVE
21.	ST.XAVIER'SHIGH SCHOOL,KANNICHERRY PUDUR	NOV.22WED	MOR
22.	R.C.HR.SEC.SCHOOL,VIRUDHUNAGAR	NOV.22WED	EVE
23.	VELANKANNIMATHAHR.SEC.SCHOOL,SIVAKASI	NOV.23THURS	MOR

Dear Rev. Correspondents, Principals, Vicar Foranes, Superintendent of R.C. Schools, kindly note the dates of school visit and make all necessary arrangements. Thanking you all in advance.

Msgr. Vicar General and Fr. Procurator

Report of the Archdiocesan Annual Retreat 2017

The Annual Clergy Retreat of the Archdiocese of Madurai was held from 17 to 22 September 2017 at PILLAR, Nagamalai Pudukottai, Madurai. The Archbishop and as many as 77 priests (diocesan and religious working in the Archdiocese) attended the retreat. Rev. Fr. A. Joseph, SJ, from Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, preached the retreat.

The Archbishop in his initial address quoted Adrian who has said, “retreat is a time in which God gives each one of us a direction to our own personal life which we will gradually grasp and cooperate with it.” The Archbishop exhorted the priests to be open to the Spirit and to be guided by the Spirit during and after the retreat.

The Emmaus Episode (Luke 24:13-35) was taken as the key text for reflection and interiorisation.

The preacher outlined his talks based on the Episode dividing the text into five sections. He began the retreat saying that the priesthood is not a profession or a task to perform efficiently, but a vocation to be lived effectively. He also underlined that the retreat is the time to re-dedicate our commitment to the Lord, who has called us. This time of retreat makes us realize that (a) we are more than our activities, (b) we are bound by space-time, and (c) we are called to an attitudinal change. The themes that came up during the talks are (a) handing our losses and despair, (b) allowing Jesus to accompany us in life-journey, (c) God’s initiative to dialogue with us, (d) Letting go, (e) Hurdles to recognize Jesus, (f) Breaking of the word, (g) Breaking of the bread, (h) Abiding with and in Jesus, (i) Overcoming our fears, (j) Sin and reconciliation, and (k) Mother Mary.

The participants re-united themselves to God and to one another through (a) Morning, evening, and night prayers, (b) Holy Mass, (c) Eucharistic adoration, and Holy Rosary.

In the valedictory address the Archbishop exhorted that ‘when retreat ends life begins.’ He proposed a ‘covenant model of spiritual life’ (cf. Jer 7:23) to imitate. In this model we need to say ‘yes’ to a threefold promise: (a) yes in faith to a God who chooses to dwell in us and amidst us; (b) yes in hope to a God who is with us when life is dark; and (c) yes

in love to a God who has proved his love for us. Finally His Grace blessed us, wished us well, and sent us off ‘to live as contemplatives in the noisy world.’

The PILLAR is gratefully remembered for its welcome and hospitality.

The place and the preacher arrangements were done by Msgr. J. Jeyaraj, the Vicar General. Fr. A. Antony Samy, the Secretary to the Christian Life Commission, made arrangements for the day-to-day running of the retreat.

The Archdiocesan clergy gratefully acknowledges the kind gesture of the Archbishop who organised and availed this opportunity, and accompanied us in our journey of rejuvenation, refreshment, and re-focus.

- *Yesu Karunanidhi*, Secretary to the Archbishop

PRISON MINISTRY - MADURAI UNIT.

Volunteers involved in the ministry regularly visited prisons in Central prison Madurai for men and women, Melur Borstal school for youth, Thirumangalam sub-jail for men, Nilakottai sub-jail for women, Usilai sub-jail for men, Virudhunagar Dt. Jail for men and Periyakulam sub-jail for men. Our visits were either twice or once a week.

Circular letter of most Rev. Peter Remigius, former Bishop of Kottar and President of Indian Prison Ministry was sent to all our priests requesting them to celebrate Prison Ministry Sunday on 13th August 2017 in their respective parishes. We made an appeal to extend their support to the ministry. We thank our beloved Archbishop for his guidance and all our priests in the diocese for their encouragement and financial support to help the incarcerated.

On August 13th Sunday we celebrated St. Maximillian Kolbe’s Feast day, our patron saint’s heroic life history was retold to St. Mary’s parishioners. It was commemorated as Prison Ministry Sunday all over India by our volunteers. Thanks to rev. Fr. Arockiaraj for allowing us to share about the ministry. We visited Anjal Nagar parish on 27th August to create an awareness, pray for the convicts, their families and victims. It was a moment of touching the conscience of our people to pray for the transformation, renewal and release of the convicts. We continue to visit the parishes in the coming days.

On 15th August we celebrated Independence Day in Central prison Madurai for women. Women behind the bars too expressed their patriotism by pinning national flag on their chest, sung flag song, took an oath to live as true and responsible citizens, crossing barriers such as caste, creed, status and religion. St. Joseph and Ellis Nagar holy Family School children showcased their talents in dances and singing. We conducted games and distributed prizes. Celebration ended with distribution of ladoos to inmates. Superintendent thanked for the effort taken by PMI volunteers and children. Monthly meeting was held on 27th August, Sunday to plan for future course of action.

Sr. Fatima Antony, Secretary, prison ministry

LAITY COMMISSION

The next General Body meeting of the Laity Commission will be held on 8.10.2017, 9.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. at Nobili Pastoral Centre. The Archbishop will preside over. The parish priests are requested to send the two elected representatives of the commission. In case, there are parishes where the representatives are not elected, the parish priests may select two representatives and send them for the General Body meeting.

- *Secretary, Laity Commission*

DIALOGUE COMMISSION

On 27th Septamber 2017, Fr. J. Jeyaraj, Vicar General, Fr. Arul together with Thiru Nanmaran (ex MLA) meet the Madurai Collector and submitted the petition written by the Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop of Madurai, asking the collector to undertake necessary action to give Government honour to the statue of barrister George Joseph a catholic freedom fighter. His statue has been erected in yanaikkal, Madurai.

There will be an interreligious Deepavali celebration in Lourdes' Church, K. Pudur Parish on 22nd October at 6.30 p.m. It will be presided over by the Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop of Madurai, Kuntrakudi ponnambalam Adigalar, writer Gurusamy, Gandhi Museum Amanallah and various other dignitaries. The parish priest along with their parishioners are invited to participate in this and show our solidarity with our Hindu brothers. - *Fr. A. Arul, Secretary Commission for Dialogue.*

கிரண்டாம் உயர்மறைமாவட்ட இளைஞர் நூள்

மதுரை உயர்மறைமாவட்டம்

திருத்தந்தை பிரான்சிஸ் அவர்கள் இளைஞர் நூளுக்கு என்று கொடுத்த கருப்பொருளான 'வல்லவராம் கடவுள் எனக்கு அரும்பெரும் செயல்கள் செய்துள்ளார்' (லூக்கா 1:49), என்ற அன்னை மரியாவின் பாடலை மையப்படுத்தி, 'மரியின் வழியில் வரலாற்றில் வேருன்றி', என்ற தலைப்பில் 2017, ஆகத்து 26,27 ஆகிய நாட்களில் கிரண்டாம் உயர்மறைமாவட்ட இளைஞர் நாளானது மதுரை உயர்மறைமாவட்ட அளவில் பேராயர் மேதகு முனைவர். அந்தோனி பாப்பசாமி அவர்கள் தலைமையில் மதுரை பாத்திமா கல்லூரியில் கொண்டாடப்பட்டது.

ஆகத்து 26 அன்று மாலை 6.10 மணியளவில் பறைமுழக்கத்தோடு, இளைஞர் கொடி மற்றும் திருத்தந்தை கொடி ஆகியனவற்றை ஏற்ற விழா தொடங்கியது. தொடக்கவிழாவிற்கு முதன்மைக்குரு பேரருள்பணி. முனைவர். ஜெ. ஜெயராஜ், அவர்கள் தலைமையேற்றார்கள். இளைஞர் நூள் கொண்டாட்டத்திற்குச் சிறப்பு விருந்தினராக வருகை தந்த திருமிகு. சகாயம் IAS அவர்கள் தனது வாழ்வியல் அனுபவங்களுடன் தமிழ் மரபுடன் நாம் இணைந்திருக்க வேண்டிய தேவையினை வலியுறுத்தி சிறப்புரையாற்றினார். இளைஞருக்கான சிறப்பு ஒளிவழிபாடாகிய தெய்சே வழிபாட்டின் மூலம் அருள்பணி. பாரிவளன் அவர்கள் ஆன்மீகப் புதுப்பித்தலுக்கு வழிநடத்தினார்.

ஆகத்து 27 அன்று காலை 7.30 மணிக்கு மேதகு பேராயர் அந்தோனி பாப்பசாமி அவர்கள் "இயேசுவே இன்றைய இளைஞர்களுக்கு முன்மாதிரி" என்ற கருப்பொருளில் அருளுரையாற்றி திருப்பலி நிறைவேற்றினார். காலை 9.30 மணியளவில் பேராசிரியர் முனைவர். ஜெயசீலன் (எ) குருசாமி (கருமாத்தூர் அருளானந்தர் கல்லூரி) அவர்களின் தலைமையில் விவாத அரங்கமானது, "இன்றைய இளைஞர்களின் சமூக சீர்குலைவிற்கு காரணம் - சமூகம் மற்றும் பெற்றோர்களா? கல்வியா?" என்ற தலைப்பில் நடைபெற்றது. அருள்பணி. முனைவர் பீட்டர்ராய், பொருளாளர் அவர்கள் குருதிக்கொடை பதிவு மற்றும் வேலைவாய்ப்பு பதிவு மையம் போன்ற 2 அரங்கங்களை திறந்து வைத்து வாழ்த்துரை வழங்கினார். 11.30 மணி அளவில் இளைஞர்கள் தங்களின் திறமைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தும் விதமாக கலைக்கதம்பமானது ஒருங்கிணைக்கப்பட்டது. நண்பகல் 12.30 மணியளவில் அருள்பணி. பாக்கியநாதன், (செயலக முதல்வர், சிவகங்கை மறைமாவட்டம்) அவர்கள் இளைஞர்கள் வாழ்க்கையில் மாற்றத்தை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும். வளமான சமூகத்தை உருவாக்கிட வேண்டும் என்ற தலைப்பில் சிறப்புரை ஆற்றினார். பிற்பகல் 2.45 மணிக்கு மேதகு. பேராயர். முனைவர். அந்தோனி பாப்பசாமி

அவர்களது தலைமையில் நிறைவு விழா துவங்கியது. இதில், முனைவர். டயானா கிறிஸ்டி, (தமிழ்த்துறை. பாத்திமா கல்லூரி) மற்றும் அருள்சகோ. முனைவர். பாத்திமா மேரி (மாநில துணைத்தலைவர்) அவர்களும் சிறப்புரை ஆற்றினர். இயக்கப்பாடலுடன் இளைஞர் நாள் விழாக் கொண்டாட்டங்கள் நிறைவுற்றன. - பணி. மபா. மார்ட்டின் யோசு, செயலர், இளைஞர் பணிக்குழு

A Catholic Minister in BJP Government

Mr. Alphons Joseph Kannanthanam was inducted as tourism minister in India's current cabinet early September, purportedly becoming the first 'Christian' in the ministerial line-up.

I do welcome Kannanthanam as a minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The former civil servant has been a member of Modi's pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) since 2011 and has proven administrative qualities to be a minister. However, he cannot be considered a Christian member in cabinet as Christians would not look up to him as such.

Kannanthanam will have to bury his Catholic convictions to be in line with the Hindutva ideology (that aims to establish Hindu upper caste hegemony in India) and cling to his position without facing a humiliating exit. Besides, he will have to win a parliamentary seat within the next six months.

Christians in India stand to gain nothing from this appointment that the BJP initiated. A section of media termed it as Modi's attempt to "appease" Christian minorities. But I cannot see it as a case of appeasement because the Christian community has not been demanding a representative in cabinet.

In a multi-party democracy like India, it is only natural that parties act to win votes, however far away the polls may be.

Induction of Kannanthanam is just another BJP move ahead of national elections in 2019. It needs votes, not only of majority Hindus, but also of minority Christians.

In the chequered history of Indian democracy in the last 70 years, Christians have never sought their own elected representative in parliament. Majority Hindus in the past, with their sense of justice, considered followers of minority religions to be equal. Legal systems and constitutional guarantees were put in place to ensure that minorities

enjoyed the same rights as the majority. There exists no need for a Christian representative in the cabinet to ensure the rights of Christians.

The question being asked today is a different one: will the BJP-led government, and the right-wing Hindu parties that provide it with muscle power, ensure the rights of minorities in the country with the same sense of equality and justice as for the majority community?

Many BJP politicians recognize the need for pluralism in India. But is the "Hindutva ideology" hospitable enough to grant equal status to all religious minorities? Will the push for a Hindu theocratic state end up creating a "Hindu Pakistan in India" as one politician put it? Will it make the religious minorities second-class citizens as in Pakistan?

Such apprehensions arise from a severe sense of insecurity felt by religious minorities across the country.

Just one "Kannanthanam" is not enough to assuage these fears.

The history of BJP's political growth shows how it buys votes of different castes and communities using political machinations and social engineering. It emboldens some political pundits to consider Kannanthanam as bait to get the Christian community in Kerala state, his native place, to join the BJP fold.

That observation is based on a few facts too. Close to 20 percent of Kerala's 33 million people are Christian and their votes are key to winning even one of the 20 parliamentary seats in Kerala because of the peculiar political history of the state.

So far the BJP has not been able to win even a single seat in Kerala, where in some constituencies people vote en masse for communists and Muslim candidates, giving no chance of victory for BJP candidates. The only way for the BJP to win a seat is to gain support from the Christian community.

The easiest way to take the Christian community into its confidence is to get elements of the Christian hierarchy to speak favorably about the BJP. In order to secure such endorsements, the party may pressurize leaders using the machinery of government.

For example, employing a threat to freeze international funding has been successfully used in the past to tame certain members of the Christian hierarchy. In the political bargaining, Kannanthanam could be a communication channel between the party higher-ups and the church hierarchy, some of whom might readily walk an extra mile with BJP to protect their institutional interests more than Gospel values.

The Catholic Church in Kerala, and across India, faces difficult times when bold leadership is required to defend her soul and her body against the bulldozing power of the state.

It will test souls against the pressures of worldly power. If painful steps are not taken, the Gospel will exist under the yoke of an overarching Hindutva ideology, which supports Hindu caste cultural hegemony.

The idea of India, as promoted by the founding fathers of the nation, was to strive for an all-inclusive state, promising justice, equality and freedom to all and ending a social pattern based on caste and subjugation of the majority poor. But unfortunately, the Hindutva idea now attempts to de-construct this notion.

It also attempts to make Hinduism a more organized power structure, such as with the Semitic religions, and finally a state religion like medieval Christianity or the Caliphate of Muslims.

Will Catholic Kannanthanam help in the de-construction of the idea of an all-inclusive India? History will be the judge.

- **Fr. Paul Thelakat**, (Former spokesperson of Syrian Catholic Church and social observer, Kochi)

Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB released

Salesian Father Tom Uzhunnalil was sitting in a room in an unknown location — one of several he had been relocated to during his 18-month imprisonment — when he received some unexpected news.

“Those who kept me came to where I slept (and said), ‘I bring you good news. We are sending you home. If you need to go to the bathroom, go. Take a shower, but quickly!’” Father Uzhunnalil told reporters Sept. 16 at the Salesian headquarters in Rome.

The Salesian priest from India was kidnapped March 4, 2016, from a home for the aged and disabled run by the Missionaries of Charity in Aden, Yemen. On that day, four Missionaries of Charity and 12 others were murdered in the attack by uniformed gunmen.

“I thank God Almighty for this day, for keeping me safe, healthy, clear minded; my emotions were in control until now,” he said after regaining his composure.

“I don’t want to speak too much about the sisters because I get too emotional,” he said.

Although reports following his kidnapping suggested the attack was carried out by the so-called Islamic State, Father Uzhunnalil said his

captors never identified themselves.

“Why they did not kill me, why they didn’t tie my hands, I don’t know,” he said. “Perhaps they wanted some ransom or whatever it is.” After leaving him in the trunk of the car, the militants ransacked the chapel taking the tabernacle, wrapping it with the altar linen and placing it near the kidnapped priest. With his hands unbound, Father Uzhunnalil carefully moved the linen and found “four or five small hosts,” which he kept to celebrate the Eucharist the first few days of his capture.

After his short supply ran out, he said, he continued reciting the Mass prayers when alone despite not having bread and wine.

He spent most of his days praying for the pope, his bishop, his Salesian brothers, and “certainly those sisters, all those persons whom God had called” on the day of his abduction.

Father Uzhunnalil said he found consolation in the words of a hymn, “One day at a time, sweet Jesus.”

On Sept. 11, Father Uzhunnalil was given the news of his liberation.

While he knows few details about arrangements for his release, Father Uzhunnalil expressed his gratitude to those who helped secure his liberation, including Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said of Oman, the government authorities of India, and the Vatican, including Pope Francis whom he met the day after his release.

The new Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis given MotuProprio “Magnum Principium” on 3rd September comes to force on 1st Oct. 2017

Pope Francis through the *MotuProprio* changed the Code of Canon Law on the Norms for Liturgical Translations and their approval. The changes introduced were to paragraphs 2 and 3 of Canon 838.

Canon 838.2 has until now stated that: “It is for the Apostolic See to order the sacred liturgy of the universal Church, publish liturgical books and review their translations in vernacular languages, and exercise vigilance that liturgical regulations are observed faithfully everywhere.”

However, with Pope Francis’ *motuproprio*, the text has been changed to read: “It is for the Apostolic See to order the sacred liturgy of the universal Church, publish liturgical books, recognize adaptations approved by the Episcopal Conference according to the norm of law, and exercise vigilance that liturgical regulations are observed faithfully everywhere.”

Similarly, Canon 838.3 previously read: “It pertains to the conferences of bishops to prepare and publish, after the prior review of the Holy See, translations of liturgical books in vernacular languages, adapted appropriately within the limits defined in the liturgical books themselves.”

The text will now read: “It pertains to the episcopal conferences to faithfully prepare versions of the liturgical books in vernacular languages, suitably accommodated within defined limits, and to approve and publish the liturgical books for the regions for which they are responsible after the confirmation of the Apostolic See.”

The changes apportion a greater share of responsibility for the preparation and approval of liturgical translations to episcopal conferences, rather than the Vatican’s Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Supreme Court verdicts: Priests and Religious can practice Law.

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that Catholic priests and religious are not in a “professional engagement” for profit but a way of life, ending a long-drawn legal dispute over their status in the country.

The Sept. 15 verdict of country’s top court ended a clash that began in 2004 when a Catholic priest and two nuns were not allowed to enroll in the Kerala unit of the Bar Council of India. The priest and nuns said that a religious vocation cannot be equated to a profession while the Bar Council of India said its rules do not permit people in other professions to practice law.

- courtesy: vatican news

குடும்ப நல்வாழ்வு பணிக்குழு நடத்தும் திருமண முன்தயாரிப்பு நடைபெறும் நாட்கள்

அக்டோபர்	07,08.10.2017	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
	14,15.10.2017	கொடைக்கானல்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
	21,22.10.2017	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
	28,29.10.2017	விருதுநகர்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
அருட்தந்தை. ஜோசப், செயலர்			



Vocation Sunday - 2017

Collection as on 23/08/2017	1,10,923.00
Palanganatham	3,000.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017	1,13,923.00
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St. Peter’s Pence - 2017

Collection as on 23/08/2017	47,630.00
Ellis Nagar	9,504.00
Virudhunagar	4,500.00
Palanganatham	3,000.00
Rayapanpatti	3,000.00
Bibikulam	2,500.00
Meenampatti	2,057.00
W. Pudupatti	1,000.00
Ayravathanallur	1,000.00
Karumathur	320.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017	74,511.00
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Communication Day - 2017

Collection as on 23/08/2017	27,430.00
Sivakasi	13,010.00
Ellis Nagar	9,827.00
Virudhunagar	4,500.00
Palanganatham	3,000.00
Rayapanpatti	3,000.00
Bibikulam	2,500.00
Meenampatti	2,018.00
W. Pudupatti	1,000.00
Ayravathanallur	1,000.00
Ammappatti	470.00
Karumathur	450.00
Melur	400.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017	68,605.00
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Prison Ministry - 2017

Collection as on 23/08/2017	14,700.00
Sivakasi	12,650.00
Ellis Nagar	9,351.00
Virudhunagar	4,500.00
Palanganatham	3,000.00
Rayapanpatti	3,000.00
Bibikulam	2,500.00
Packiapuram	2,371.00
W. Pudupatti	1,000.00
Ayravathanallur	1,000.00
Devadanam	1,000.00
Bodinayakanur	600.00
Ammappatti	520.00
Melur	500.00
Karumathur	330.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017 **57,022.00**

Bible Sunday - 2017

Ayravathanallur	1,000.00
Kottur	1,000.00
Melur	400.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017 **2,400.00**

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Fr. Parish Priest, Vadipatti	10,000.00
Anbiam, Vadipatti	5,500.00
Fr. Parish Priest & Parishnors, R.R. Nagar	5,000.00
The Principal, Fusco's School, Vandiyur	5,000.00
Aloysius Provincialate, Vadipatti	5,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Kadamalaikundu	3,850.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Nagamalai Pudukottai	3,000.00
Sacred Heart Sisters, Vadipatti	3,000.00
Fusco's Vadipatti	1,000.00
Pallotting Sisters, Vadipatti	1,000.00
Fr. Alwares Sebastian (8 mass)	800.00
Fr. Ambrose (6 mases)	600.00

Samaritan Sisters, Vadipatti	500.00
Fr. Devasahayam (4 mass)	400.00
Fr. Alwin Mathan Raj (3 mass)	300.00
Fr. Arul (2 mass)	200.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017 **45,150.00**

Mass Received From Parishes

Fr. Parish Priest, Ayravathanallur, (300 Masses)	30,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Sivakasi (200 Masses)	20,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Munjikkal (200 Masses)	20,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Rayappanpatti (100 Masses)	10,000.00

Collection as on 23/09/2017 **80,000.00**



Felicitations On Ordination Anniversary Day

Fr. Lucas Maria Gnanam		on	18.10.1980
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Adoration Sunday

October		November	
01	Karumathur	05	Melur
13	Theni	12	Alangulam
15	Sengole Nagar	19	Kavirayapuram
22	Christ the king church	26	Gnanaolivupuram
29	K. Pudur		

Necrology

Fr. Alphonse N.P.	03.10.2006
Fr. Santiago G.	09.10.1969
Fr. Benedict Michael	10.10.1977
Fr. Maria Susai S.S.	15.10.1979
Fr. Michael T.A.	21.10.1981
Fr. Packiar G.	22.10.1992
Fr. Irudayam V.M.	23.10.2002
Fr. Antonysamy S.M.	24.10.1970
Fr. Amalorpavam D.	28.10.1982



Madura Mission

IV. Arrival of Western Church via Voyage - Goa

As we have seen before, the Jewish settlers, Thomas Christians and the establishments of Eastern Christians from Syria and Mesopotamia are the first Christians in India. The Chaldean and the Antiochan Eastern churches are the pioneers of introducing Christendom in India. The hierarchy and the liturgy they followed were of Syrian and Nestorian origin. Indeed Indian Church owes its gratitude to the ancient missionary spirit and endeavor exercised by the Oriental churches in India. From the third to the eleventh century one finds very little accounts of ecclesial history in India. However, the dormant historical accounts of Christian communities and their lives during these centuries do not allow us to hastily conclude the disappearance of Christianity in India. We need to make further research of this dormant period especially in Goan and Malabar region.

However, we can trace the ancient bloodline of Christendom through the veins of Eastern Churches in India. After St. Thomas converting One Emperor and six kings in India the branches of Christendom-vine started spreading. The following are the important time line of Indian ecclesial history. In 302 A.D. the Armenian King Tridates decrees that Christianity is the official religion in his kingdom. Constantine, the Roman Emperor decreed Christianity as the world and the official religion in his Kingdom. Following this, a host of missionaries such as Franciscans, Jesuits, Dominicans, MEP Fathers, Lutherans, Baptists, Anglicans, Presbyterians etc., entered into all the parts of India which had been ruled by petty kings.

What happened after the voyage of Vasco da Gama over the Arabian Sea is paramount to the growth of the Western Church (Roman Catholic Church). The Portuguese introduced Christianity to Goa. Upon landing at Calicut in 1498 Vasco da Gama was surprised to find a thriving Christian community established by St. Thomas. This however did not stop the Portuguese from promoting their own brand of European Christianity-Roman Catholicism.

The first missionaries sent to India after the discovery of the sea route were some Dominican Friars who came as chaplains of the Fleet

on Albuquerque's ships to Goa. Soon a church dedicated to St. Catherine was set up in Goa after the conquest in 1510.

The next group that was more successful in propagating Christianity was the **Franciscans**, who arrived in Goa in 1517. For the next quarter century they were active in conversions not only in Goa but also the bordering areas of India. Upon hearing of this success, Pope Paul II subsequently raised the status of Goa to an Episcopal See. He appointed the First Bishop, who died soon after appointment. The Pope then appointed the Episcopal authority to **Dom Fr. Joao da Albuquerque**, who took charge of the diocese in 1538.

The most successful group to arrive soon after were the Jesuits of the newly formed Society of Jesus. St. Francis Xavier took the Gospel to Macao, Japan, Philippines and to the furthest China.

When Vasco da Gama returned to Portugal in 1499 from his pioneering voyage from India, King Manuel straightway sent a second fleet to open relations and trade with the Indian rulers. The Muslim traders who had monopolized the distribution of spices turned the *zamorin* (Hindu prince) of Calicut against the Portuguese. His dependency, however, Cochin welcomed them. In 1503 Albuquerque arrived with his cousin Francisco to protect the ruler of Cochin, where he built the first Portuguese fortress and placed a garrison. After setting up a trading post at Quilon he returned to Lisbon in July 1504, where he was well received by Manuel and participated in the formulation of policy. In 1505 Manuel appointed Dom Francisco de Almeida the first governor in India, with the rank of viceroy. Almeida's object was to develop trade and aid the allies of the Portuguese.

Alfonso de Albuquerque, the conqueror of Goa, had not interfered with Hindu religious practices apart from forbidding the practice of Sati. He also did not destroy any temples during his reign. From 1540 onwards, under the influence of the counter reformation in Europe and with the arrival of the Inquisition to Goa, this liberal policy was reversed. This resulted in suppressing the practices and customs of indigenous church that had been existing from Thomas time in South India.

What happened at the **Synod of Diamper** that was held from June 20 to 26, 1599 is crucial to Indian ecclesial history.

- Jodir.