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Archdiocese of Madurai

News Letter

www.archdioceseofmadurai.com

September 2018

(For Private Circulation Only)

No. 664

வினிலிய மாதம்

திறந்திருக்கட்டும் வினிலிய புத்தகம்



வீடடுக்கொரு வ்வுலயம்! நாளுக்கொரு அத்தயாயம்!!

மதுரை ம. உள்மன்றமாவட்ட பேராயராகப் பொறுப்பேற்ற 4ஆம் ஆண்டு விழா



தலித் கிறிஸ்தவர்கள் அரசியல் எழுச்சி மாநில மாநாடு திருச்சி



புதிய பி. அர்ச்சிபி - கம்பம்

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



Fr. Sebastian Chinnadurai S. (02)



Fr. Lucas M. Gnanam (03)



Fr. Lourduraj G. (06)



Fr. Appoline Claret Raj M. (09)



Fr. Louis A. (11)



Fr. Maria Michael M. (19)



Fr. Maria Louis A. (25)

Fr. Joseph V. (29)

Fr. Sahaya Raj K. (30)



The Voice of the Pastor

My dear fathers, brothers and sisters,

Love is secure. When we properly love others we are in touch with our true selves and realize that we are tremendously loved by God. When we are such persons we feel secure in the exercise of love towards others. We feel secure enough to extend love towards others in various ways, even when little or no love is returned.



Closely connected with the feeling of security in love is the intuition of love in realizing the evils of possessiveness. Love never tries to possess the persons whom we love but leaves the others free. The fact is that authentic love for the others makes the others more free and helps the others to grow in all ways, including growth along the paths of real freedom. When our love is authentic then it leaves the others free to grow in all sorts of ways, such as to relate to other people and to undertake new initiatives, activities which might make the loved ones less accessible.

Let our love towards others be genuine and non-possessive allowing others to grow in ways that God wants them to be.

May God bless us,

Your loving Archbishop,

+

+ Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy
Archbishop of Madurai

Pope's General Prayer Intention

Universal: Young People in Africa

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

சீந்திக்க : 'கோடரியைத் தீடாமல் பயன்படுத்தினால் வேலை செய்வது கடினம்.' (சூ 10:10)

செய்க்க : இளைஞர்கள் கல்வி, கேள்வி, வேலைகளில் சிறக்க.

செயல்பட : நம்மை உருவாக்கிய ஆசிரியருக்கு நன்றி கூற.

இம்மாதம் விழா கொண்டாடும் பாங்குகள்

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------|
| 1. மீனம்பட்டி, அன்னை தெரசா ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 5 |
| 2. அண்ணாநகர், அன்னை வேளாங்கண்ணி ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 3. வாழ்ப்பட்டி, ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 4. போடி, புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 5. பாக்கியபுரம், புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 6. கம்பம், தாய ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 7. சின்மனூர், புனித அன்னை வேளாங்கண்ணி | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 8. சிலக்குவார்பட்டி, புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை ஆலயம்- | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 9. கடமலைக்குண்டு, அன்னை வேளாங்கண்ணி ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 10. ஆர். ஆர். நகர், தாய வேளாங்கண்ணி ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 11. தம்முச்சினம்பட்டி, புனித வியாகுலமாதா ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 15 |
| 12. மதுரை, மரியன்னைப் பேராலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 15 |
| 13. கோட்டூர், புனித வியாகுலமாதா ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 15 |
| 14. மிக்கேல்பாளையம், மிக்கேல் அதிதூதர் ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 29 |

இப்பங்களில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும்
இறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துக்களும் ஜெபங்களும்.

+ பேராயர் அருந்தோளி பாம்புசாமி

Archbishop's Engagements

01	Sat	E	Platinum Jubilee Mass, Alavanthankulam, Palayamkottai
04	Tue	M	CRI Officials Meeting, , Bishop's House, Madurai
07	Fri	E	Flag Hoisting, Silkuvarpatti
08	Sat	E	Feast Mass, Anna Nagar
09	Sun	M	Feast Mass, NGO Colony, Palayamkottai
10	Mon	E	Thiruvartupravai Executive Body Meeting, NPC Madurai
11	Tue	M	Mass, Puliyampatti, Palayamkottai
14	Fri	M	Feast Mass, Holy Cross Convent, Sulakarai, Virudunagar
15	Sat	E	Feast Mass, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai
16-21	Sun	M	ANNUAL RETREAT , VEILANKANNI
22	Sat	M	Adoration Chapel Blessing, Thenkasi
23-29	Sun	M	CBCI Meet, Bangalore
30	Sun	M	Installation of lay ministers, St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai

October - 2018

01	Mon		Archbishop's Birthday – Grace Day
		E	Blessing of R.C. Mahal, Gnanaolivupuram
02	Tue		Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Oriyur

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



HAPPY FEAST

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

Missionaries of Charity (MC)	5 th September
Sisters of Charity of St. Mary (DSS)	5 th September
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross (SCSC)	14 th September
Sisters of the Holy Cross (HCM)	14 th September
Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod (SCC)	14 th September
Congregation of Mother of Sorrows	
Servants of Mary (The Servites) OSM	15 th September
Vincentians (VC)	27 th September
The Monfort Brothers of St. Gabriel	29 th September



Please Note

1. **Prayerful Feast Day Greetings** on 8th inst., the Feast Day of the Nativity of **Blessed Virgin Mary** (ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை) to all the reverend Fathers, Sisters and Brothers ministering in the Archdiocese.
2. **Invitation from the Vicar General for the Clergy Retreat 2018:** The Clergy Retreat is obligatory for all our diocesan priests. Due to the natural disasters in Kerala, the venue of our Retreat has been changed from Chalakudi to Velankanni. But no change in the time schedule.

All our Fathers are expected for Lunch in the Archbishop's House on Sunday, 16th September. Lunch will be available till 2.00 pm. We will proceed to Velankanni at 2.30 pm and reach there for Supper. The Retreat starts at 9.00 pm on the same day and it will be over with Lunch on Friday, 21st September and we return from

Velankanni to Madurai immediately after Lunch. Please bring with you NRSV Bible and Breviary.

If anyone is not able to attend the Retreat due to serious and unavoidable reasons, he must write to His Grace in advance and get exception, stating at the same time where and when he will fulfil this annual obligation otherwise.

3. **Annual Pilgrimage 2018:** The Archdiocesan Annual Pilgrimage to the **Shrine of Martyr, St. John De Britto, Oriyur** will be held, as per our Archdiocesan tradition, on 2nd October 2018 (**Tuesday**). Reverend Fathers are requested to make necessary pilgrimage arrangements for their flock.
4. Congratulations to the following Fathers for their Contribution:
 - i) **Fr. Alex Gnana Raj** – Construction of Altar, Cumbum
 - ii) **Fr. Adaikala Raja**- Construction of St. Thomas Chapel, Kallukuzhi
 - iii) **Fr. Edwin Sahaya Raja** – Construction of Altar, La Salette, Kodaikanal
5. **Bible Month:** Month of September is to be observed as Bible Month. Reverend Fathers are reminded to arrange pastoral activities such as distribution of Bibles, Quiz, Seminars, competitions, Bible Posters, Bible Classes, Bible T-shirts Mela etc., at their parishes and Institutions.
6. **Erection of New Mission Stations:** Sempatti (Mission) bifurcated from Usilampatti Parish and Vadapatti (Mission) bifurcated from Thiruthangal parish will be erected soon.
7. **Report of Metropolitan Tribunal Madurai:**

The following Marriage Nullity cases are judged and awarded with the following Sentences till August 2018: (A= Affirmative; N = Negative; P = Pending; UP=Under Judicial Process)

2017

M.T.Ad.MNO: 1/2017- A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 2/2017- A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 3/2017 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 4/2017 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 5/2017 - A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 6/2017 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 7/2017 - A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 8/2017 - A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 9/2017 - A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 10/2017 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 11/2017 - A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 12/2017 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 13/2017 -P

2018

M.T.Ad.MNO: 1/2018 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 2/2018 -A
M.T.Ad.MNO: 3/2018 -P
M.T.Ad.MNO: 4/2018 -P
M.T.Ad.MNO: 5/2018 -P
M.T.Ad.MNO: 6/2018 -P
M.T.Ad.MNO: 7/2018 -P
M.T.Ad.MNO: 8/2018 -UP
M.T.Ad.MNO: 9/2018 -UP
M.T.Ad.MNO: 10/2018 -UP
M.T.Ad.MNO: 11/2018 -UP
M.T.Ad.MNO: 12/2018 -UP

- Rev. Dr.M. John Diraviam, Judicial Vicar

Pope's Quotes on Bible Reading

1. **“Consult the Bible as often as your Cell phone”** on *June 12th 2018*: Pope asked the young people “What would happen if we turned back when we forget it, if we opened it more times a day, if we read the message of God contained in the Bible the way we read messages on our cellphones?”

Pope Francis explained how, “If we always carried God’s Word in our hearts, no temptation would distance us from the Father, and no obstacle would take us off the path towards good.”

2. **“Carry a Pocket Size Bible”:** He then encouraged the faithful to carry a pocket-sized Bible so that it would be easy to consult throughout the day.

3. **“Bible is extremely a dangerous Book”** *Oct. 17, 2015*: Writing the prologue to the new German edition of the Youcat Bible, Pope Francis speaks lovingly of an old, worn-out Bible he has carried around for half his life.

4. **“Have personal Bible as my own worn-out Bible.”** “If you could see my Bible, you would not be particularly impressed. What—

that's the Pope's Bible? Such an old, worn-out book! You could buy me a new one for \$1,000, but I would not want it. *I love my old Bible, which has accompanied me half my life. It has been with me in my times of joy and times of tears. It is my most precious treasure. I live out of it, and I wouldn't give anything in the world for it.*

5. **“Don't keep your Bible on the Shelf”**. And then ...? And then it disappears on a shelf, collecting dust. Your children find it one day and bring it to the flea market. It must not come to that.

6. **“Dangerous Book”** I'll tell you something: There are more persecuted Christians in the world today than in the early days of the Church. And why are they persecuted? *They are persecuted because they wear a cross and bear witness to Jesus. They are convicted because they own a Bible. The Bible is therefore a highly dangerous book*—so dangerous that you are treated in some countries as if you were hiding hand grenades in your closet.

7. **“Bible is not a simple Literature; a Dynamite to change all civilization”** It was a non-Christian, Mahatma Gandhi, who once said: “You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature.”

So what do you have in your hands? A piece of literature? Some nice old stories? Then you would have to say to the many Christians who go to prison or are tortured because they own a Bible: “How foolish you are; it's just a piece of literature!”

So you have something divine in your hands: a book like fire! A book through which God speaks. So notice: The Bible is not meant to be placed on a shelf, but to be in your hands, to read often—every day, both on your own and together with others. You do sports together or go shopping together. Why not read the Bible together as well—two, three, or four of you? In nature, in the woods, on the beach, at night in the glow of a few candles ... you will have a great experience!

Read with attention! Do not stay on the surface as if reading a comic book! Never just skim the Word of God! Ask yourself: “What

does this say to my heart? Does God speak through these words to me? Has he touched me in the depths of my longing? What should I do?” Only in this way can the force of the Word of God unfold. Only in this way can it change our lives, making them great and beautiful.

8. **“I read a little and contemplate”**: I want to tell you how I read my old Bible. Often I read a little and then put it away and contemplate the Lord. Not that I see the Lord, but he looks at me. He's there. I let myself look at him. And I feel—this is not sentimentality—I feel deeply the things that the Lord tells me. Sometimes he does not speak. I then feel nothing, only emptiness, emptiness, emptiness.... But I remain patiently, and so I wait, reading and praying. I pray sitting, because it hurts me to kneel. Sometimes I even fall asleep while praying. But it does not matter. I'm like a son with the father, and that is what's important. So, Would you like to be happy? Read the Bible!

9. **“First Fake News is found in the Bible”**: *On World Day of Communication Sunday 2018*: At a time when “fake news” is spreading, Pope Francis is calling on journalists, “protectors of the news,” to rediscover the dignity of their profession and the responsibility they have to communicate the truth.

The pontiff also said that the first fake news is found in the book of Genesis, when the “crafty serpent” tempted the woman “by pretending to be her friend,” to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

“God's paternal command, meant for their good, is discredited by the seductive enticement of the enemy,” Francis said. “This biblical episode brings to light an essential element for our reflection: There is no such thing as harmless disinformation; on the contrary, trusting in falsehood can have dire consequences.” That first fake news, Francis added, began “the tragic history of human sin, issuing in the countless other evils committed against God, neighbor, society and creation.”

Hence, don't spread fake news and don't spend your valuable time in reading and forwarding fake news.

10. **“Spend two minutes everyday reading Bible”**²⁸, *May 2018 To the young people in Argentina*: “You know better than me that computers and cell phones need updates to work better. Also our

pastoral ministry needs to be updated, renewed, we need to revise the connection with Christ in the light of the Gospel – the one that from now on you will carry in your pocket and you will read for two minutes a day – by looking at the world today, discerning and giving new energy to our shared mission

11. **“Be nourished and enlightened by the Word of God”** 31 May 2018: “We know that the Word of the Lord is of indispensable help so as not to get lost, as is clearly recognized by the Psalmist who, speaking to the Lord, confesses: “Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119[118]:105). How can we face our earthly pilgrimage with its difficulties and its trials without being regularly nourished and enlightened by the Word of God which resounds in the Liturgy?”

Of course it is not enough to listen with our ears without welcoming into our heart the seed of the Divine Word, allowing it to bear fruit. Let us remember the Parable of the Sower and of the results achieved by the different types of soil (cf. Mk 4:14-20).”

12. **“We can’t apply the Theory of Inspiration in a mechanical way”** – Pope Benedict XVI, 2 May 2011. “It is possible to perceive the Sacred Scriptures as the word of God” only by looking at the Bible as a whole, “a totality in which the individual elements enlighten each other and open the way to understanding,” the pope wrote in a message to the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

“It is not possible to apply the criterion of inspiration or of absolute truth in a mechanical way, extrapolating a single phrase or expression,” the pope wrote in the message. The commission of biblical scholars, an advisory body to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, met at the Vatican May 2-6 to continue discussions about “Inspiration and Truth in the Bible.”

In his message, the pope said clearer explanations about the Catholic position on the divine inspiration and truth of the Bible were important because some people seem to treat the Scriptures simply as literature while others believe that each line was dictated by the Holy Spirit and is literally true.

- (courtesy: Vatican.va)

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.08.2018

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood	Holy See	Hunger Disease	Good Friday	Vocation Sunday
1	A. Nathampatti	300	300	1500	1000	400
2	Alankulam	600	600	2250	2250	600
3	Ammapatty	1180	1280	8150	4130	
4	Anjal Nagar	6125		65257	43351	
5	Anna Nagar	12530	10360	150000	38726	8850
6	Aruppukottai	1500	1000	15000	5000	1000
7	Ayavathanallur	2000	2000	10000	8000	
8	Bastin Nagar	15000	9000	124000	29000	11000
9	Batlagundu	2600	2400	40000	10000	2500
10	Bibikulam	4500	2750	43017	10183	3440
11	Bodinayakanur	500	500	10000	3000	300
12	Chinnamanur	460	270	1050	2030	417
13	Cumbum	1600	1270	17200	4400	1520
14	Devadanam	3930	1600	23270	3880	1800
15	Ellis Nagar	11917	7560	110981	23220	9947
16	Gnanaolivupuram	7000	7000	116110	43500	6390
17	Hanumanthanpatty	1200	1300	14000	7340	1150
18	Holy Rosary Church	5000	5000	50000	10000	3000
19	Iyyampalayam	200	200	1300	1200	200
20	K. Pudur	2000	2000	40000	30000	2000
21	Kadachanendal	1500	1500	25500	17000	1500
22	Kadamalaikundu	200		3500	2700	
23	Kalladipatti	1000	1000	5000	2100	1000
24	Kariapatty	1000	1000	6230	6070	1000
25	Karumathur	630	510	1500	3650	500
26	Kavirayapuram	350	350	2810	4860	320
27	Kottur	1000	1000	15000	16700	1000
28	Lourdipuram					
29	Megamalai	200	200	200	300	200
30	Mangalamkombu	400	470	3000	1955	400
31	M. Meenachiapuram	1020	1210	4520	3700	1280
32	Mathankovilpatti	600	500	5000	1500	500
33	Meenampatti	3860	2120	31333	4035	2077
34	Melur		1910	12762	6260	
35	Michaelpalayam	2100	2200	15000	10000	2100

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.08.2018

St. Peter's Pence	Communication Day	Prison Ministry	Bible Sunday	Mission Sunday	African Mission	Peter the Apostle	Opus
1000	1000						
600	1000						
1000	1000	500					
2020	2050	2461					
3000	5000	7000					
1870	1630	1350					
2500	1300	2050					
3500	3500						
3000	3100	3500					
13250	14500						
3300	3300						
2000	2000						
4000	3200	3100					
4200							
500	500	610					
2000	2000						
1000	1000	6221					

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.08.2018

S. No.	Parish Name	Holy Childhood	Holy See	Hunger Disease	Good Friday	Vocation Sunday
71	Virudhunagar	6000	8000	85000	75000	8000
72	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000	35000	5000	1000
73	Y. Othakadai			15962	20725	2650
	St. Agnes Home for Children, Rayappanpatti	10000				
	Holycross Convent, VNR				5000	
	Melavadakkur			557	556	
	Fr. Lourduraj, Arockia Illam			900	1100	
	St. Anne's Provincialate Ansarinagar			4000		
	J.A. College, Periyakulam	15800			10200	
	Total	217942	143040	2001773	869555	141481

NB: * Periyakulam Parish Rs. 26,000/- for Hunger & Disease collection paid directly to MMSSS.

Mass Received From Parishes

Munjikkal (344 Masses)	34,400
Sivakasi (250 Masses)	25,000
Anna Nagar (200 Masses)	20,000
Virudhunagar (200 Masses)	20,000
Rayappanpatti (50 Masses)	5,000

Total 1,04,400

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.

Kindly remit all the Diocesan Collections (13 Nos) and the DMF (1%) Collections only by Cheque or Bank Draft to the Procurator's Office. This is in accordance with Government norms for restricting cash transactions.

- Fr. Procurator

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2018 to 25.08.2018

St. Peter's Pence	Communi-cation Day	Prision Ministry	Bible Sunday	Mission Sunday	African Mission	Peter the Apostle	Opus
9000	18000	9000					
1000	1000						
86531	97481	39842					

நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக தாராள மனதுடன் உதவும் உள்ளங்கள்

Fr. G. Lourdu Raj, Arockia Illam	55,000
Fr. Dhivyanandam, Ayravathanallur	50,000
Fr. A. Antony Samy, Secretary, C.C.L	25,000
Fr. Vincent Mathan Babu	20,000
Fr. A. Vedamanickam, Palanganatham	10,000
Fr. I. Maria Arul Selvam	10,000
Mr. Arulanandam, Rtd., H.M, Annanagar	10,000
The Teachers, R.C. Mid.Sch. P. Chettiapatti, Usilampatti	5,000
Fr. Gnanasandanam, Arockia Illam	5,000
Nazrane Isabella Family, Usilampatti	1,000
Total	1,91,000

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Opening Balance as on 25.07.2018	18,22,149.77
Fr. Parish Priest, Pudhumai Nagar, Kamanayakkanpatty	12,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest & Parishioners, Nilakottai	10,500.00
Fr. Parish Priest & Parishioners, Cumbum	10,440.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Church, Munjikkal	10,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Shenbaganur	10,000.00
St. Joseph Matriculation Hr. Sech. School, Koodal Nagar	10,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Anna Nagar (Bination Mass)	9,100.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Gnanaolivupuram	9,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Packiapuram	5,000.00
Sr. Provincial Superior, St. Anne's Maria	
Provincialate, Ansari Nagar, Madurai	5,000.00
Aloysius B.Ed College, Amalagam, Rayappanpatti	5,000.00
Sirumalar Girls Hr.Sec. School, Nagamalai	5,000.00
St. Aloysius College, Rayappanpatti	5,000.00
Mr. A. Sahayaraj	2,000.00
Usah Bernadett	1,000.00
Fatima Matha Anbiam, Bibikulam	900.00
A. Monica, D/o. L. Arockiasamy Tr.	500.00
St. Therasal Hr. Sec. School, Pambarpuram, Kodaikanal	140.00

Closing Balance 25.08.2018 **19,32,729.77**

Cash in Hand	: Nil
Cash at Bank	: 19,32,729.77
	<u>19,32,729.77</u>

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



01,02.09.2018	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
08,09.09.2018	திருவில்லிபுத்தூர்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
15,16.09.2018	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
22,23.09.2018	நிலக்கோட்டை	சனி, ஞாயிறு

அருட்தந்தை. ஜோசப், செயலர்

Happy Ordination

Anniversary

Rev. Fr. Britto Jerald Dhinakaran	on	21.09.2014
Rev. Fr. John Richard M.	on	21.09.2014
Fr. Pappuraj V.	on	26.09.2010

Adoration Sunday

September

02	Karumathur
09	Theni
16	Sengole Nagar
23	Melur
30	Pudur



October

07	Alangulam
14	Kavirayapuram
21	Gnanaolivupuram
28	T. Vadipatti

Necrology

Fr. Joseph Lazer	-	09.09.1979
Fr. Sandanam Manuel	-	28.09.1981
Fr. Peter R.S.	-	09.09.1985
Fr. Joachim M.P.	-	25.09.1985
Fr. Pudumai	-	06.09.1992
Fr. Aruldoss	-	16.06.1997
Fr. Kulandaisamy A.S.	-	12.09.1999



MADURA MISSION - HISTORICAL NOTES

XV. The Era of the Martyr – Tanjore Mission

Till 1601 the Jesuits had only one province in India, Goa. Later in 1601, a separate province for South India, *Malabar Province* was established having Cochin as its headquarters. Then a separate mission called *Madura mission* was instituted in order to take care of the pastoral needs of Parava Christians who migrated from coramandal coast to Madurai for trade. In the early decades of the seventeenth century, Nobili played a vital role in introducing Christ to the Tamil land. His missionary design was carved exclusively for the Brahmins, the high caste Hindus. Later the Pandaraswami Order was instituted in order to offer pastoral care for the low caste people. It is also known as the *Sudra mission*.

In 1744 this missionary system for the low caste people evolved and it got approval from Rome; Pope Benedict XIV instituted a Class of *Pandaraswamis* which was exclusively reserved for Adi Dravidas. So, like two branches of a same tree, the *Brahmin Sanyasi Mission* advocated by Nobili and *Missionary of Pandaram* branched out throughout Tamilnadu. However, there was no clash between the two branches of missionaries. One should not consider them as parallel or rival institutions of Jesuit mission; rather it was only a strategy to convert the middle class and lower class without affecting the conversion of the Brahmins whose conversion was vital for getting rooted in Taminadu.

The first Pandaraswami was Fr. Balthazar da Costa (1640); the second one was Fr. Antony de Provenca (1653); the third one was Fr. Andrew Freyre (1656) and the fourth one was our ***Patron Saint, Fr. John De Britto*** (1691). By the dresses they wore, the missionaries of those days were set apart as three. The first group were in black cassock; they covered their heads with hats and legs with shoes; spoke Portuguese. They were highly disregarded by the local people and they were called *Paranghis*. The second group, called *Brahmin Sanyasis*,

dressed like Acharyas carrying Kamandalam who never associated with low caste priests and people. Nobili belonged to this group. The third group of missionaries, the *Pandaraswamigal* wore ordinary saffron dress like sages and worked among the poor and socially less privileged people. Our Patron Saint belonged to this group of missionaries. Britto as a Pandara sage carried a staff in his hand, wore rings on his ears and covered his head with a turban.

When Fr. John arrived at Ambalakat (where first Tamil books (catechism) were printed at Jesuit press) by boat, Fr. Andrew Fryre welcomed him and introduced him to Madura mission. Meanwhile, Fr. John learnt Tamil language with all its customs and mores. He Tamilised his name as “Arulanandar”, the equivalent to the name John. Having Tamilised his name as Arulanandaswamy, he set out to Kolei (கொலை) via Trichur, Coimbatore, Sathyamangalam and Dharmapuri. In those days (1670) the Gingi province (Chingalpet diocese) had two centers/residences namely Kolei and Koronapattu. Fr. Britto was in-charge of Kolei, which had jurisdiction over Udayarpalayam, the districts of Kumbakonam, Pandenallur, Mayavaram, Mannarkudi and till the frontiers of Maravanadu.

Like his favourite Saint, St. Francis Xavier Fr. Britto went in search of his flock on foot most of the times, walking through deadly forests and the mountains, assisted by the lay Catechists. He always brought with himself trained Catechists who prepared the Catechumens for months together. Fr. Britto would baptize them only after a thorough preparation for months. Personally he used to teach them the basic tenets and articles of Catholic faith and would exhort them to live by the Teachings of Christ and of the Catholic Church. Also he used to celebrate Feasts such as Easter with pomp and jubilation inviting all the flock around the region. In 1681-82, when he was at Kuttur of Gingi (Chingalpet Diocese), he remained there the whole Lent and celebrated Easter with a large number of 5000 Christians. This kind of grand liturgical celebrations helped the new Christians to openly profess their faith in

Jesus Christ and it served as an incentive to the non-Christian brethren to taste and see the Catholic Faith as well.

The Annual Letter of Fr. Andrew Freyre reports that Fr. Britto heard 3000 confessions and baptized 300 catechumens. In 1678 the official report records that in the churches of Kuttur and Sirukadambanur situated at Cauvery delta Fr. Britto baptized 280. At Ginji and Tanjore he prepared nearly 1000 neophytes for baptism. When he was at Pandenallur, he received a distressing news from his flock at Kumbakonam noting that a severe epidemic had broke out in that area due to the large concourse of pilgrims to festival of *Mahamaham* that caused death and sickness to many. Immediately Fr. Britto rushed there and ministered to his flock and healed their body and soul.

Fr. Britto’s missionary journey was not always easy. He had to face innumerable sufferings from the forces of hostile nature and the hostile Brahmins. However with his brave will he overcame all the hurdles of nature such as extreme hot climate, polluted water and food etc. But it was very hard for Fr. Britto to escape from the hands of his enemies, the high caste Brahmins who instigated the local rulers and officials against the missionaries. Here we need to mention that Fr. Britto had a knack of befriending the rulers and officials for the sake of protection of his flock. When he was ministering near Cauvery delta area, he established a friendly rapport with the *Poligar* (a Leader in-charge of several villages appointed by the Nayak of Madurai) of Udayarpalayam who gave credentials and letter to our Saint that the missionary and his followers were to be allowed in their religious practices and should be treated with respect and reverence. After the missionary initiation at Kolei, Fr. Britto started working at Tatuanchery. (*to be continued*)

