



Blessing of Soletmathapuram Church
michaelpalayam

Laying the foundation stone for Pastoral Centre

Blessing of Little Flower House

Blessing of Golden Jubilee Hall, MMSSS



Honoring the Service

Laying the Foundation stone for the
home for the Retired Priests

Silver Jubilee Function, Annai Velankanni Mat. School, Battagundu

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DNL

Archdiocese of Madurai

News Letter

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No. 676

மரியே வாழ்க!



**தூய ஆரோக்கிய அன்மையே
இந்தியாவுக்காக வெண்டிக்கொள்ளும்!**



புனித பத்தாய் பத்திரநாதர் கருமட பொன்விழா



கருப்பேரினம் (ஆகஸ்ட் 10)



Greetings on Birthday

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: That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.

பேராயரின் இம்மாத ஜெபக்கருத்து

- விதைக்க :** அன்றையும் தந்தையும் ஒரு குழந்தையை உலகிற்குத் தருகின்றனர். ஆனால் ஒரு ஆசிரியர் உலகத்தையே குழந்தைக்குத் தருகின்றார்.
- வளர்க்க :** நாம் பெறும் கல்வியறிவு சமூக மற்றும் பண்பாட்டுப் பகுப்பாய்வை உள்ளடக்கியதாக அமைய.
- வாழ்வாக்க :** வெறும் கல்வி மட்டுமல்ல, ஒழுக்கம், பண்பு, ஆன்மீகம், வயாதுஅறிவு, பாலின வேறுபாடுகளையும் களையும் ஆசிரியர்களாக வாழ்ந்திட

இம்மாதம் விழா கொண்டாடும் பாட்குகள்

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1. ழீனாப்படி, அன்கைன தெரசா ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 5 |
| 2. அண்ணாநகர், அன்கைன டவளாங்கண்ணி ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 3. வாடிப்படி, ஆரோக்கிய அன்கைன ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 4. டபாடி, புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்கைன ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 5. பாக்கியபுரம், புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்கைன ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 6. கம்பம், தூய ஆரோக்கிய அன்கைன ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 7. சின்னமலூர், புனித அன்கைன டவளாங்கண்ணி | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 8. சிலுக்குவார்படி, புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்கைன ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 9. கடமலைக்குண்டு, அன்கைன டவளாங்கண்ணி ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 10. ஆர். ஆர். நகர், தூய டவளாங்கண்ணி ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 11. மரியாஜாஸ் நகர், சிவகாசி | - | செப்டம்பர் 8 |
| 12. தும்முச்சின்னப்படி, புனித வியாகுலமாதா ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 15 |
| 13. மதுரை, மரியன்னைப் டபராஸயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 15 |
| 14. டகாடமூர், புனித வியாகுலமாதா ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 15 |
| 15. றிக்கேல்பாஸையம், றிக்கேல் அதிதூதர் ஆலயம் | - | செப்டம்பர் 29 |

இப்பங்குகளில் பணி புரியும் பங்குத்தந்தையர்களுக்கும், துறவறத்தாருக்கும்
இறைமக்களுக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துகளும் ஜெபங்களும்.

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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. **Annual Clergy Retreat – 2019** will be held at PILLAR from 15th to 20th September 2019. The Retreat starts with the supper on the 15th and ends on 20th Friday with lunch. All the Fathers without fail are to participate at this annual spiritual Obligation (C. 276 §2, 4°). Our Archbishop exhorts every priest of the Archdiocese to participate at his holy exercise and grow in *persona Christi*. Kindly bring the following i) The Cassock ii) the Bible iii) writing materials. God bless our Annual Retreat this year.

2. **Greetings on the Feast of Nativity of B V Mary:** Prayerful Feast Day Greetings on 8^{th inst.}, the Feast Day of Nativity of our Blessed Mother, (VeilankanniMadha) to all the reverend Fathers, Sisters and Brothers working in the Archdiocese.



3. **Oriyur Pilgrimage:** As customary the whole Archdiocese will go on Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Patron Saint, **St. John De Britto**, Oriyur on 2nd October 2019 (*Wednesday*). Reverend

Fathers are requested to bring the parishioners in large numbers to participate at the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage and to pray to our Patron Saint, St. John De Britto. Kindly arrange well in advance for this annual pilgrimage.

4. **Ad Limina Visit:** DNL wishes His Grace Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, our Archbishop a fruitful Ad Limina visit. Limen in Latin means “Threshold”. Accusative is Limina. *Ad Limina Apostolorum* means towards the Threshold of the Apostles (Peter and Paul). Now the term is shortened as Ad Limina visit. By this, every bishop in the world has to visit the threshold of the Apostles Peter and Paul, their Cemeteries, once in five years and meet the Pope, the Successor of Peter, and render an account of the state his diocese. Ad limina not merely includes visiting the Tombs of the two Pillars of the Church, it also includes the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at four major Basilicas: Mary Major, St. Peter, St. John and St. Paul outside the wall. Meeting and sharing with the Holy Father is also a gesture of accepting him as the universal Head of the holy Catholic Church and participation in the collegial nature of Petrine ministry. The individual bishops also visit different Dicasteries for the needs of their local church.

It is also called **Quinquennial** visit meaning a visit made once in five years. A very detailed and through **Quinquennial report** of the Diocese has to be sent to Rome ten months before the visit, and based on the available data, the Dicasteries will be already prepared for the fruitful visit of the bishops from different parts of the world. Archdiocese has sent in 2018 December itself the Quinquennial report to Vatican. A group of 4 Regions, namely Tamilnadu, Kerala, Andhra and Karnataka are clubbed this time at the Ad Limina 2019. DNL wishes His Grace, our Archbishop the Head of Tamilnadu Region a fruitful and meaningful Pilgrimage to Rome.

5. **Congratulations** to the following Fathers for their construction works:

i) **Fr. Lawrence** for the construction of Golden Jubilee Hall, MMSSS, blessed by our Archbishop on 3rd August 2019.

ii) **Fr. Xavier Raj S.** for the construction of Salethmadhapuram chapel, Michaelpalayam, blessed by our Archbishop on 14th August 2019.

6. **Condolences:** i) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. Alex Gnanaraj** for the sad demise of his beloved Father, **Mr. Antony Samy**, aged 73, who passed away on 16th August 2019.

ii) DNL expresses its deep condolences to **Rev. Fr. Pappuraj** for the sad demise of his beloved Father, **Mr. Veilankanni**, aged 84, who passed away on 16th August 2019.

The Funeral Mass of both the deceased was conducted by Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy with the large participation of the Presbyterium and the people on 16th August 2019 at Karisalpatti. May the Souls of Mr. Veilankanni and Mr. Antonysamy rest in peace.

7. **Erection of 77th New Parish, Packianathapuram** was done by Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy on 25th August 2019. Part of Anjalnagar parish and the major parts of Gnanaolivupuram were bifurcated and formed into a new parish, St. Antony of Padua parish, Packianathapuram. Fr. VinothMathyas, the first Parish Priest, was also installed during the solemn Mass. God bless the new and young parish community in the pastoral ministry of Fr. VinothMathyas. There are altogether 79 'parish' units in the Archdiocese including 2 Mission stations, Sempatti and Vadapatti.

கறப்பு தினம்

இந்த வருடம் ஆகஸ்டு 10 - 2019, நமது SC/ ST பணிக்குழுவின் சார்பாக திருவில்லிபுத்தூர், விருதுநகர் மறைவட்டார அளவில் தலித் கிறிஸ்தவர்களை SC பட்டியலில் சேர்க்க வலியுறுத்தி மேற்கொண்ட களப்பணிகள் மற்றும் நடைபெற்ற மாபெரும் பேரணி, ஆர்ப்பாட்டத்திற்கு இரண்டு மறைவட்டங்களிலும் இருந்து வருகைபுரிந்து சிறப்பு செய்த மறைவட்ட அதிபர்கள், பங்கு அருட்தந்தையர்கள், அனைத்து பங்கு மக்கள், பணிக்குழு ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் பணிக்குழுவின் செயலர் தந்தை என்ற முறையில் பாராட்டுகளையும், நன்றிகளையும் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறேன். தொடர்ந்து வரும் ஆண்டுகளில் இணைந்து செயலாற்றுவோம் நம் மக்களுக்கான பணிகளில்.

செயலர், அருட்பணி. ச. சந்தனசகாயம்

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 26.08.2019

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			4500	4000	
23	Kalladipatti	500	500	4000	1000	
24	Kariapatty	1000	1000	8140	5380	1000
25	Karumathur	1450	750	2020	5050	500
26	Kavirayapuram			7100	7140	
27	Kottur	1100	1200	14500	13800	1500
28	Lourdipuram	1500	1000	6795	6100	1000
29	Megamalai	300	200	300	1000	200
30	Mangalamkombu	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 26.08.2019

	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								
2	500	500						
3	900	900						
4	1500	1500	2000					
5	6500	9110	9230					
6	1000	1000						
7	2450	2500	2530					
8								
9	2700	3000						
10	4250	3960						
11	500	500						
12	500	500	500					
13	1000	1000						
14								
15	12180	12372						
16								
17	1200	1150	1250					
18								
19	350	350						
20	13860	9060	18000					
21	2000	2000	2000					
22		1000						
23								
24								
25	500	500						
26								
27	1200	1400						
28								
29								
30	500	500						
31								
32	500	530						
33								
34								
35	1200	1300						

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 26.08.2019

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	
37	Michaelpalayam					
38	Munjikkal					
39	Nagamalai	4000	2000	90000	20000	3000
40	Nakkaneri	1000	1000	11500	2000	1000
41	Nilakottai	1000	500	6400	4200	1000
42	Niraivazhvu Nagar (VNR)	1000	1000	10000	10000	1000
43	Othaiyal	300	200	700	1100	400
44	Packiapuram	2350	2250	25350	10220	2370
45	Palanganatham	6000	5000	150000	25000	5000
46	Pandian Nagar					
47	Periyakulam	1100	500	21000		
48	Perumalmai	1500	1500			
49	R.R. Nagar	3000	3000	35000	6500	2000
50	Railway Colony	2600	1200	5100	4100	1100
51	Rajapalayam	1500	1200	18200	3400	1400
52	Rayappanpatti	6000	3500	30000	25000	3500
53	Rayapuram			10200	3350	
54	Samayanallur	3000	3300	50000	11000	4000
55	Sattur					
56	Shenbaganur	3000	3200	11000	3500	2000
57	Sengole Nagar	2000	2000	60000	43500	2500
58	Silukkuvarpatty	1000	1000	10000	5000	
59	Sivakasi	11500	12500	116200	50200	10500
60	Srivilliputhur			15000	40000	
61	St. Mary's Cathedral	10000	5000	60000	50000	5000
62	Sundaranatchiapuram					
63	T. Sindalacherry	3000	1000	19400	20600	1000
64	T. Vadipatti Shrine	1100	1000	10500	16300	1500
65	Theni	4200	3600	42015	19043	3722
66	Thirumangalam	1600	1100	3600	6010	1450
67	Thirunagar	1500	2000	7500	21000	1500
68	Thiruthangal	3800	2200	25000	9000	3000
69	Thummuchinampatty	750	570	820	1000	850
70	Ugarthe Nagar	2000	2000	25000	15000	2000

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 26.08.2019

	St. Peter's Pence 30/06/19	Communi- cation Day 14/07/19	Prison 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								
37								
38								
39	3000							
40								
41	700	1000						
42								
43	320	200						
44	5206	3976						
45								
46								
47			1200					
48								
49								
50								
51								
52	3500	3500						
53								
54	3000	3100	3000					
55								
56	1000	1000	1000					
57								
58								
59								
60								
61								
62								
63	1000	1000						
64								
65	4200	3300						
66								
67	1500	1500						
68								
69	900	900						
70	2000	2000						

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 26.08.2019

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	Usilampatti	3000	1000	25000	6000	1000
72	Uthamapalayam					
73	Virudhunagar	9500	9500	130000	70000	9500
74	Vadapatti Mission	200	300	400	600	245
75	W. Pudupatti	1000	1000	9468	10956	1000
76	Y. Othakadai	2000	1022	16141	19725	1830
	Fr. Lourduraj Arockia Illam			1400	1000	
	Holycross Convent, Pambarpuram	10000				
	Fouriere Home, Pambarpuram	10000				
	Total	212135	151720	2101979	956254	143876

ஏநாபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்

புதிய கட்டிடம் மலர்வதற்காக 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. 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. A. Vedamanickam, Palanganatham	10,000.00
Fr. I. Maria Arul Selvam	10,000.00
Mr. Arulanandam, Rtd., H.M, Annanagar	10,000.00

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS - 01.02.2019 TO 26.08.2019

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
1000	1200						
9500							
1000	1000						
93116	78308	40710					

71
72
73
74
75
76

Amaladass Nithya, Annanagar	10,000.00
Mr. Jeevanandam & Elizabeth Mary, K. Pudur	10,000.00
The Teachers, R.C. Mid.Sch. P. Chettiapatti, 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	27,93,471.58

Mass Received From Parishes

Fr. Dhivyanandam (100 Masses)	10,000.00
Total	10,000.00

KANI (Seminarians Fund)

Opening Balance as on 25.07.2019	34,11,066.77
Fr. Parish Priest, Gnanaolivupuram	50,000.00
Fr. Lawrence, Secretary, MMSSS, Madurai	20,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Munjikkal	10,000.00
Dr. R.V. Panneerselvam & Mrs. Elizabeth, Madurai	10,000.00
Fr. Parish Priest, Michaelpalayam	5,000.00
Fr. Xavier, Rector, Anjal Nagar	5,000.00
Fr. Xavier, Corres., Annai Velankanni Matric. School, Batlagundu	2,500.00
Mr. Amalraj	1,000.00
	35,14,566.77
Less: Payment to Sacred Heart Seminary - 19875	19,875.00
Closing Balance as on 26.08.2019	34,94,691.77
Cash in Hand : 10,000.00	
Cash at Bank : 34,84,691.77	
	34,94,691.77

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 seperatly by Cheque or Bank Draft favouring **The R.C. Diocese of Madurai** to the Procurator's Office. This is in accordance with Government norms for restricting cash transactions.

NEW ADDRESS BOOK is available in the Diocesan Office & Nobili Book Center. It costs Rs. 110/- only.

- Fr. Procurator

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



07,08.09.2019	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
14,15.09.2019	திருவில்லிபுத்தூர்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
21,22.09.2019	நொபிலி அருள்பணி மையம்	சனி, ஞாயிறு
28,29.09.2019	கொடைக்கானல்	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		October	
01	Karumathur	06	Alangulam
08	Theni	13	Kavirayapuram
15	Sengole Nagar	20	Gnanaolivupuram
22	Melur	27	T. Vadipatti
29	Pudur		



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

XXVII. Birthday of Madurai Faith

Oriyur is 40 kilometer away from Ramanathapuram. When they first took Fr. Britto as a prisoner they took him only on horse back. After some time they dragged him chained by foot. Our Saint with the bruise all over his body was dragged through many villages as political prisoner. When the people at Pullur saw the saint's sufferings and his thirst they offered him buttermilk and water. Fr. Britto asked about the name of the village. As they answered he blessed them that the village would be called from then on Nellur. Due to that though there were draught at the surrounding villages Nellur always yielded plenty. The local people even today believe it is because of the blessing of the Saint. There is another story about the village "Panjam Thangi Oorani". When Fr. Britto was dragged behind the hoofs of the horses, he felt thirsty. He drank the water which gathered around the hoof print. From then on people of that village never had a draught. So the village is called now "Panjamthangioorani". There is another story of a present parish in Sivagangai Diocese called "Pahai Anjan" In 1692 after hearing and seeing the truth for himself, one Mr. Karuppanan belonged to the untouchable caste desired to embrace Christianity and received Baptism from our Saint. Immediately the villagers declared that he was not to be socialized or helped by anyone and by any institution in the village such as pettishop, water source the village tank etc. Yet, he was courageously keeping up his faith. Therefore he was later called "pahaianjan" and in his name the thrived Christian community named their village.

As our saint was dragged by foot both the feet became very sore. After walking continuously for three days, our Saint reached Oriyur Fort. Even today one can see the damaged Fort at the southern side of the Shrine. Nearby there is a perumal temple. The remnant of this temple also can be seen today in fragments. As the soldiers believed that if a guru of any religion were to be tied at the temple at night he would be killed by the deity of the temple that night. But nothing happened to our Saint.

On 31st January UdayaThevar of Oriyur called the accused in front of him. He was a leper and he was also suffering from paralysis. When Murugappapillai read the decree of Sethupathi, UdayaThevar told Fr. Britto that he had the power to kill him and therefore he demanded to heal him of his disease. The reply of the Saint was, “if it was God’s Will, you will; and moreover what I desire is not freedom but Martyrdom.” Frustrated with the reply the petti king of Oriyur ordered to keep the saint in custody till he cures him. The next day the wives of the king pleaded Fr. Britto to cure their husband. But the Saint did not speak with them and sent them away. On February 1st again UdayaThevar requested Fr. Britto to heal him with the promise of freedom. Like our Lord Fr. Britto stood calm and quiet without any answer. The infuriated king drew his sword to kill the Saint on the spot but his wife pleaded not to do any harm to the holy man. Meanwhile Murugappapillai was also in rage and told UdayaThevar that he would need to complain to Sethupathi for prolonging the execution of the Order. Again Thevar called the Saint and requested to heal him. The same was the response. Therefore he immediately called Perumal Kudumban and after reading to him the decree of the King he ordered to execute Fr. Britto. But due to the pleading of his wife he postponed the execution one more day. But he realizing any postponement would surely dethrone him he did all the arrangements at a sand hill called Thittai, northern side of Oriyur fort and to the southern side of Pamparu on 4th February. The sword and the Pole were also ready. On 3rd February, Fr. Britto himself wrote a letter from the Oriyur prison to Fr. Leinus, the regional superior about all the ordeal that he bore for Christ and about the unquenchable thirst for dying for Christ for which twice he came to India from his country. Next day Fr. Britto wrote a letter to De Costa the secretary to the provincial and his close friend in which he told that the Catechist would explain to him in detail. His letter goes on like this: “As soon as I reached Oriyur I was brought before the Court of the King where they enquired about my faith. I am happy that I answered all their questions and established the truth and the glory of our Faith. Once again I was thrown into the prison and I am waiting eagerly the crown of martyrdom. Kindly remember me in your holy Eucharist and pray for me. I am not able to write more as the soldiers are surrounding me.”

The 4th of February dawned. Fr. Britto was jubilous to walk on the Calvary as our Lord. Soldiers came and tied his hands at the back and led him to the northern side of the Fort. Many of the faithful gathered around the place to see for the last time their pastor. Muthammal, an eye witness who testified on the Beatification Ceremony states thus: “I saw the soldiers taking our holy father towards Thittai. Our Samie was also walking fast. I could see in his face divine light of joy, as if he was waiting for this particular moment in his life. As he was walking with his sandals someone from the crowd remarked that he was walking with his sandals! So he removed his sandals and walked bare foot over the hot sand. He reached the execution pole and knelt down and was praying. He was praying the *Magnificat*, the song of our blessed Mother joyfully. All those saw his joyous face and the uttering from his lips were astonished to understand how could a person who is about to be murdered could be so joyful filled with divine light!”

Perumal Kudumban was ready to behead! But two of the Christians, unable to bear their sufferings and anguish ran towards our Saint to stop the innocent killing but they were stopped by the soldiers. As time was running short UdayaThevar sent his son to accomplish execution immediately. Our Saint also after praying for his flock and for his *Madura* and *Marava* mission he uttered to the executioner that he could do his duty. Kudumban before beheading saint’s head tied his beard over his chest so that the head will hang over the chest. He unrobed his cassock upto the waist. When he saw a scapular on his neck he feared it to have magical power and therefore he cut it off. He could not see the holy face of Fr. Britto. So much experienced Kudumban, on that day he was shivering to execute. Without looking at the face of our Saint he uttered “O God forgive me”; and with that prayer he lifted his hand with the sword and struck it on the neck of Fr. Britto. With the single strike and blow the head was cut. What a surprise! Instead of falling and hanging in front the face fell at the back facing the heaven. When the body stopped its twists Kudumban cut separately the legs and hands and hanged them all over the execution log. There existed a great silence among the people. It was Wednesday, 1693, February 4th our Patron Saint of the Archdiocese gave his life for the spread of the Faith in our land.

(to be continued)

- Fr. Jodir.