



## PROVINCIAL'S DESK

The Lord has risen therefore we must look with Resurrected eyes. With Resurrected eyes, we can see that the Risen Christ is with us, wherever we are. With Resurrected eyes, we can see that even if we can only gather in small numbers to celebrate, this is how it was when Jesus arose from the tomb. There were just a few women there to witness the miracle! And yet because of them, the Good News has traveled throughout time and across the world to reach us today.

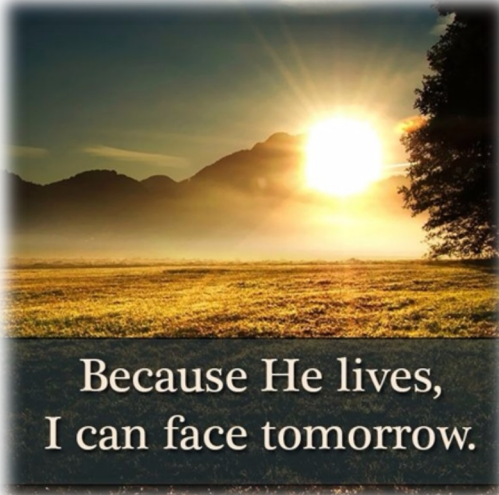
The Risen Christ today is leading us into new ways of living in community, new ways of loving our neighbors, new ways of serving God. This is not only true for us in Sri Lanka, it is true for the global church. We are all in this together: one world, one Body, with one amazing message which binds us together.

“He is not here! For he has been raised, as he said.”  
Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Finally, the story of Noah makes sense to us. Noah also suffered an unimaginable crisis. Noah faced uncertainty, for his family and for the world.

But Noah did all that the Lord commanded him including staying safely in the ark! And Genesis chapter eight ends with this promise from God:

‘I will never again curse the ground because of humankind, for the inclination of the human heart is evil from youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done. As long as the earth endures seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.’ (Genesis 8:21-22)



Because He lives,  
I can face tomorrow.

Dear Friends in the Lord, I know that you are looking for Christ who was crucified. I pray that during this Easter season, you will look with the Resurrected eyes at the world, at our people who are our neighbors, the marginalized

rejected people, the Youth and our Common Home, for God’s promises are sure, Christ has been raised, and Coronavirus is not the end of the story.

**Alleluia, Christ is risen !  
Christ is risen indeed  
Alleluia !**

<p><b>Transfers</b></p> <p><b>Fr. Anthony Pillai</b> to Akkara Panaha. He will continue his spiritual ministry staying at Sneha Niketana, Akkara Panaha.</p> <p><b>Fr. Eustace Fernando</b> to <b>Sneha Niketana</b> Akkara Panaha. He is convalescing from his illness.</p>	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>The Ignatian Year will be inaugurated in Galle on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and its closing ceremony will be in Batticaloa on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2022. All details will be given to you soon.</p>
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# JCSA APPOINTMENTS

## By Fr. General

- Fr. Antonysamy Stephenraj, SJ (PAT) – Regional Director, JRS  
Fr. Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ) – Rector of De Nobili College, Pune  
Fr. Nirmal Raj Arulanandu (DUM) – Rector of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi  
Fr. Sunny Jacob (JAM) – Asst for Mission and Identity for the Secretariat for Education and Jesuit Education Specialist for ‘Educate Magis’

## By the POSA

### Subject to the appointment by CBCI

- Fr. Jesu Benjamin (DUM) - National Director, AICUF

### Jor Bagh, Delhi

- Fr. Shajumon C.K. (DAR) – Superior  
Fr. James Arjen Tete (CCU) – Secretary, Formation  
Fr. Arun Kumar (KAR) – Secretary of Faith  
Fr. John Ravi Selvan (DEL) – Secretary, JEA  
Fr. Nelson Gonsalves (GOA) – Asst Finance Officer, JRS

### ISI, Bangalore

- Fr. Francis Balaraj (KAR) – Administrator and Program Head of Social Inclusion and Democracy

### ISI, Delhi

- Fr. Thomas Perumalil (PAT) – Acting Superior  
Fr. Siji Chacko (PAT) – Director MAIN (Additional responsibility)  
Fr. Shin Kallungal (KER) – Asst Director, MAIN  
Fr. Franklin Rex (CEN) – JRS  
Fr. Alwyn D’Souza (KAR) – Research Scholar  
Fr. Lancy Lobo (GUJ) – Research Scholar

### Satya Nilayam, Chennai

- Fr. Francis D’ Souza (KAR) - Registrar & Treasurer  
Fr. Arul P Stanislaus (CEN) - Minister and Spiritual Director  
Fr. Benedict Lakra (RAN) -Spiritual Director  
Fr. Lindsay Lobo (GOA) – Trial teaching and Asst Program Coordinator of SNRI  
Fr. Martin Gnanapragasam (AND) – Trial teaching

### Papal Seminary, Pune

- Fr. Antony Raj R (JAM) – Moderator of Philoso-

phers & Spiritual Director

- Fr. Rocha Rozario (GOA) – Spiritual Director  
Fr. Linus Dabre (Pune Diocese) – Trial teaching at Jnana Deepa

### Jnana Deepa, Pune

- Fr. Peter Ignatius (PAT) – Registrar and Teacher  
Fr. George Cordeiro (BOM) – Moderator of PG Students and Manager of PG Block  
Fr. Biju Vadakkumchery (KER) – Change of residence to PG Block

### De Nobili College, Pune

- Fr. Paul Chemparathy (NEP) – Treasurer  
Fr. Joji Devara (AND) – PhD  
Fr. Jagdish Parmar (DAR) – PWPN Office relocated to De Nobili College, Pune  
Fr. Clement Jesudoss (MDU) – Teaching at Jnana Deepa

### Vidyajyoti, Delhi

- Fr. Hector Pinto (GUJ) – Registrar & Treasurer, Vidyajyoti, Delhi  
Fr. Anthony D’ Souza (KAR) – Trial Teaching, VJ  
Fr. Edwin Philip Rodrigues (BOM) – Teaching, VJ

### JRS, Afghanistan

- Fr. Jerome Sequeira – Country Director

### Tertianship

- Fr. Irudayaraj Manickam (GUJ) - Tertian Instructor, Sitagarha  
Fr. William Sequeira (KAR) – Tertian Instructor, Kandy  
Fr. Jose Jacob M (KER) – Tertian Instructor, Shembaganur  
Fr. Valerian Mendonca (JAM) – Tertianship at Shembaganur

### IGNIS

- Fr. Somy Mathew Mannoor (JAM) – Editor, IGNIS

### Gratitude for the services rendered to Common Houses and works of South Asia

- Fr. Edward Mudavaserry (HAZ)  
Fr. Michael Thanaraj (JAM)  
Br. Christuraj A (CCU)  
Fr. Jose Thayil (PAT)  
Fr. George Karuvelil (PAT)  
Fr. Paul D’Souza (GUJ)  
Fr. Alex Gnanapragasam (JAM)  
Fr. Chandy Kumblankal (KER)  
Fr. Louie Albert (CEN)  
Fr. Stanislaus Fernandes (PUN)  
Fr. Linto Kanichai (KER)  
Fr. Stephen K.C. (DUM)  
Fr. Keith Abranches (GUJ)

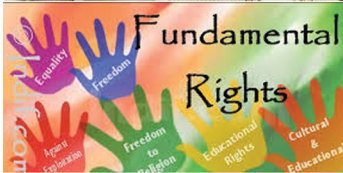


# Pope's World Prayer Network

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION  
APRIL- 2021

Universal Intention - Fundamental Rights

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network  
SRI LANKA



## “Musing & Voicing” of a Sri Lankan scholastic in Regency on the Pope’s Monthly Prayer Intention

The interviewee of the month is **Sch. Shehan Tharuka Appuhami SJ**. What follows would showcase the manner in which Shehan reflected on the April Prayer Intention (*Fundamental Rights*) of the Holy Father, Pope Francis

### 1. Shehan, in your understanding, what is the major role that Fundamental rights play in the world?

Well, Fundamental rights are a group of rights that have been recognized by a high degree of protection from encroachment. These rights are specifically identified in Constitutions or have been found under a due Process of law. Some universally recognized rights that are seen as fundamental, i.e. contained in the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *U.N. International Covenant on Civil and*

*Political Rights*, or the *U.N. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. A few can be enumerated here.

Right to liberty  
Right to freedom of movement  
Right to privacy  
Right to freedom of thought  
Right to freedom of religion  
Right to peaceful assembly and Right to freedom of association

Thus, the absence of any of these rights, lead human societies into chaos and anarchy. Though various countries have opted for certain rights, yet, the imposed fundamental rights have given a massive assurance to the whole world with a well-treated and freedom sustained ambience to live in.

Moreover, fundamental rights became a pivotal tool in the world, due to the various incidents which occurred in the past in different countries. Thus, giving birth to fundamental rights in those countries have created a human-friendly environment to relish freedom and fraternity. In recent years, several world leaders, including the present Holy Father, his Holiness Pope Francis have taken noteworthy measures to promote and ensure those fundamental rights at large in various parts of the world. It is a tremendous and remarkable thing to see that the leaders of the people have come to a better awareness of the establishment and the promotion of fundamental rights on a grand scale.

### 2. What impact does the monthly prayer intention of the Holy Father bring about in the Church in promotion of Fundamental rights?

His Holiness Pope Francis has been a great personality in the Catholic Church because of all the endeavours to bring forth much needed renewal and good will. The dream must have been a human-oriented, equal and fair right based and above all love oriented society at large. The initiatives that the Pope has taken so far to make this possible are extremely commendable as he has been visiting many countries including his recent ground breaking visit to Iraq. Thus, his visits have thrown light to many nations to see the necessity of promoting fundamental rights in numerous feasible ways. He has been and is a good shepherd to all the people in the world. We must continue to pray for him to accomplish all his tasks with the grace of God.

### 3. What are your viewpoints of the Fundamental rights with regard to Sri Lankan ethno-religious settings?

First of all, as a Sri Lankan, When I examine fundamental rights, I strongly believe that we are not on a strong position when it comes to fundamental rights. For instance, the recent incident where the girl who came forward to make a brave statement regarding unprecedented and massive deforestation in *Sinhara-ja* rainforest, was deprived of her rights to freedom of expression. Further, she was threatened and her life was in grave peril. This is a clear indication that we are being led towards a society where the right to freedom and right to expression would no longer prevail among us. Hence, it is obvious that we are losing our rights and we are soon becoming slaves in our own mother land.

As Jesuits, what must we do to promote fundamental rights among our people in Sri Lanka? I believe that it could be done by making the people aware of their rights and duties in various possible ways. Having done that, we would be able to bring much needed hope and strength to a broken society.

As a Jesuit regent, I am currently involved in Loyola Campus, Vavuniya as an English language teaching Facilitator. I adopt all possible ways and means to make my students aware of the discriminations made by our political leaders against our own Sri Lankan people. I firmly believe that by doing so some changes can be brought about. Moreover, we will be able to protect and promote fundamental rights of all, irrespective of ethnic and religious biases. Don't you think dear friends that little drops of water make the mighty ocean? Yes, we can make miracles happen through our prayers. Therefore, let us pray along with Pope Francis for ***“those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.”***

*(Sch. Shehan Tharuka Appuhami, S.J., hails from Chilaw. He is blessed with a younger brother. Shehan completed his Advanced Level at St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa. He joined the Jesuits in 2017 and pronounced his first vows on 21<sup>st</sup> of June, 2019. At present, Shehan Tharuka is fully occupied with the first year of regency at Loyola campus, Vavunia. He is the facilitator at the Loyola Campus Vavunia. He can be contacted via; [shehan.tharukasj@gmail.com](mailto:shehan.tharukasj@gmail.com))*

Fr. Sanjeeva Fernando, S.J.

The month of March has been a blessing in disguise for the Daham Sihila Jesuit Juniorate community. Though the month was packed with some tiresome work for the Juniors, we finished them off with relaxation. Meanwhile each one of us took our own personal initiative to prepare ourselves to partake in a fruitful Lenten season. As Juniors, for the first time we attended the Province days held from 03<sup>rd</sup> to 06<sup>th</sup> of March in Kandy. We met a lot of Jesuits who came to the meeting from different parts of the country. As budding Jesuits, we were given chances to take down minutes in group discussions and to present them in the forums. We gained a lot of fruitful and valuable experiences during those three days.

On 15<sup>th</sup> of March, we had our South Asian Assistency English exam and followed up by our Juniorate term exams on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March. We did our best in the exams. After successfully concluding our exams, we busied ourselves with some manual labour in order to make our juniorate and novitiate compound tidier. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March we received our Assistency exam results and we all were glad since we had done well in the exam thanks to the efforts of our teachers and our formators. Meanwhile our three scholastics from Pakistan received the good news about flying back to their motherland after four years of stay in Sri Lanka. They are supposed to fly on April 04<sup>th</sup>. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of March we celebrated the feast of St. Joseph. On the same evening we had our farewell party for Fr. Tharanga SJ and the Juniors. We had a good time. Fathers from the Colombo district and Schs. Pious, Britto and Roxan joined with us celebrating this beautiful occasion. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March we received another bit of good news. Schs. Leokanth and Brian had won 2<sup>nd</sup> places in the South Asian Assistency essay and short story competition held for all Juniorates.

After all these events, we had our cultural tour which was postponed due to the pandemic. We travelled to the northern part of our country and it was fixed for three days. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March we left Colombo in the morning and reached Jaffna in the afternoon. Our Dean, Fr. Aniston took up the herculean task of driving. We found our lodging in a Claretian Fathers house in Chundukuli, Jaffna. We visited many historical places in Jaffna such as, the Dutch fort, The Cathedral, Major seminary and some other places. We also visited our companion Sch. Dinesh's home. We had meals with them and spent time chatting and entertaining them. We also visited Fr. Elil's house in order to spend some time with his sick father and mother.

On the third day morning we said good bye to Jaffna and travelled to Mannar. In Mannar too we visited some historical places such as, the Martyrs Shrine, Madhu Church and some other places. We also paid a visit to our Adampan community and we celebrated Sch. Kingsley's birthday too. We also visited Schs. Pious and Britto's homes. Fr. Aniston took us to visit his family. We had a delicious lunch in his sister's house. We enjoyed our touring in Mannar. On the same day evening we travelled back to Colombo.

After coming back, we started preparing and arranging things for our next stage. We also gave a small farewell to our dear teachers on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. These days the Juniors are preparing themselves both spiritually and physically for Holy Week and they will be busy with their ministries in the parishes assigned to them. Thanks to everybody who supported us in various ways. We have had a valuable and memorable time during our Juniorate programme.

## Daham Sevana - Novitiate

We novices, concluded the month of January with an experimental expedition to Batticaloa. For most of us it was our first visit to Batticaloa and we had many enriching experiences. The first place we visited was the Kalkuda estate. There we also celebrated our companion Rizwan's birthday. We gave "positive strokes" to him while enjoying the sea breeze. After enjoying the beach view at Kalkuda, we proceeded to Batticaloa and stayed at Manresa. The following day we experienced the sunrise meditation on the Kallady beach, which was a unique experience we ever had in our lives. After getting a sunlight bath on the beach, we journeyed towards Aythyamalai, where we had a pilgrimage (on foot) to the shrine of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help". After the pilgrimage we celebrated mass at the shrine and had lunch there. In the evening we paid a visit to Unnichchai Tank and ended our day by relishing the beauty of Batticaloa.

The next day, we participated in the feast of St. Anthony at Kallady, Dutch Bar in which the main celebrant was our Fr. Socius. After the celebration, we had breakfast at St. Ignatius' parish house. Having visited in and around Batticaloa, we came to know how our Jesuits forefathers have rendered their service in the mission. We also visited many historical places and parishes in Batticaloa. We made our way back via Trincomalee and had lunch at the pre-novitiate and we spent some time with the Trinco

community fathers at the Residence. The pre-novices showed their love to us by gifting handmade pen holders and a wonderful painting. With this we ended our experiment fruitfully.

We began the month of February, with the preparation for our novitiate house feast. Fr. Master, Fr. Socius and two novices went to Batticaloa for the funeral of Fr. Sahayanathan's mother. Unfortunately, on the way they received the sad news of Fr. Jude's grand mother's death. So, Fr. Jude remained in Batticaloa and others came back for the feast.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, we celebrated our house feast, the feast of "Our Lady of Lanka". Fr. Provincial was the main celebrant. Many Jesuits and other religious were invited for the feast. The mass was followed by a festive lunch.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of February our second year novices went for their hospital experiment to Kegalle, home for elders, under the guidance of the sisters of charity of Jesus and Mary, while the first years began their long retreat, the same evening. This month was full of blessings with experiments, for the novices of both years, long retreat as well as hospital experiment.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March our novitiate community came together after their two experiments. We began our evaluation sessions with Fr. Master on both the experiments. As we were busy getting back to our normal timetable, we heard the news of the death of Fr. Lorio. Fr. Master and five novices went to pay their last respects to Fr. Lorio and attended the funeral mass. The novices too helped in carrying the coffin of Fr. Lorio to the graveyard.



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, our first year novices got their cassocks. Fr. Master blessed their cassocks at the Holy Eucharist. On 12<sup>th</sup> of March, all the novices along with Fr. Master went to Supuwath Arana. For many of us it was the first time to visit that holy place. It was





the happiest moment for the first years as they were wearing their cassocks for the first time outside. At Supuwath Arana, Bible village, we had a spiritual journey by looking at the sculptures. Fr. Master explained the meaning of those sculptures. We had the Holy Eucharist in the chapel of St. Padre Pio. Then we had adoration in the "floating adoration chapel" in the boat. We also made the way of the cross, in which the novices came out with their personal reflections about the way of the cross in their own unique way. This was a wonderful experience for everyone. Now, we wear our cassocks for mass every Sunday.



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of March, we novices and Sch. Sithum received the minor orders of Lector and Acolyte. Fr. Provincial was the main celebrant. During mass, he spoke about the importance of the minor orders. It's a great blessing for us novices. It will certainly help us in our ministries.

As Pope Francis dedicated this year to St. Joseph, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, we celebrated the feast of St. Joseph Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Master was the main celebrant, and the last blessing was given by Fr. Provincial. We had a grand celebration followed by a festive lunch. On the same day we celebrated the birthday of Prashan. In the evening we gave him positive strokes. We strengthened him by commenting on his talents and good qualities.

The whole month was full of blessings and now we are busy with our regular classes with Fr. Socius on the New Testament and learning about the synoptic Gospels. These days we are also busy with making Easter Cards (handmade ones) and other preparations for the Holy Week Triduum.

**We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter...!**



## CYTC - CHOLANKANDA

A second batch of Trainees was admitted to CYTC after their OL examination on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. A good number opted to follow training in motor mechanics. Due to COVID health restrictions, trainees for the computer section had to be limited despite many applications.



On 25<sup>th</sup> of February at about 7 pm the shocking news of the sudden death of Praveen of Digana reached us. He was a young promising student of the CYTC where he sat for NVQ Electrician Level 3 exam, got through well and he was getting ready to appear for Level 4 by December 2021. Due to Corona outbreak he had to forego the dream of going to Colombo to get the training necessary for Level 4. Lately he was employed by Mr. Asela Suranga, had a great liking for the work and continued to stay in Colombo. On this fatal evening at about 6 pm he went to Kollupitiya Beach to collect some sea sand and sea water according to the Hindu customs to prepare to go on a pilgrimage to Munneshwaram. Even by 6.10pm on this fatal evening, he released some of his pictures to Tik Tok. Even though he prepared a bottle and a bag to



collect sea water and sand, he forgot to take them with him to the beach but left them in the three wheeler that took him to Kollupitiya. He went to the sea and collected water and sand in his hand and ran across the railway track not noticing the oncoming train that passed by pushing him onto the second railway track killing him on the spot. He was a dynamic young person who had big dreams of becoming an electrician to earn a big salary to support his parents. His family members and most of all Mr. Asela Suranga who employed him were in a shock to understand the sudden accident that left them speechless. Mr. Rathnayake who prepared him for the Level 3 exam at CYTC addressed the funeral gathering at his house in Digana. Fr. Christian Perera, Mr. Wijaya Kumar and Mr. Rayappan represented CYTC at the funeral. We wish him eternal rest.

Fr. Ranjan Jayamanna who was the principle for 15 years at CYTC visited us on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021. The staff members organized a farewell for him as he left the place last October in a hurry to get ready for his classes and exams in Colombo. The speakers at the farewell admired his long service rendered to the Institution. Fr. Ranjan expressed his heart-felt desire to continue helping CYTC whenever his services would be needed despite his present assignment in Chilaw.



Mr. Wijayakumar who excelled in his studies at CYTC was more than willing to share his humble beginnings and determination to motivate the new comers at CYTC. He narrated his story at CYTC and explained to the students how he reached where he is now. He expressed his gratitude to CYTC that played an important role in his life and encouraged the students to continue their studies without giving up when they encounter challenges. He expressed his gratitude to former directors especially to Fr. Tyrone, Fr. Anton and also to the teachers and office staff who contributed a lot to his life to succeed in his endeavours to

become the person he is today.

Fr. Christian participated in the function organized by the Centre for Social Concern - Hatton to commemorate World Women's Day. It was a well-organized function by Fr. Premkumar, Sch. Nimesh and the staff. There were more than 500 women in total who attended the ceremony.

Fr. Christian attended the funeral of Mrs. Shilani Ranasinghe, a strong and ardent supporter of Satyodaya. She was with Satyodaya during the most difficult times of its history. Despite her feeble health, she faithfully attended all the major functions of Satyodaya and of the Pre-school at Gurukelle. She was an outspoken person for those who challenged the mission and vision of Satyodaya. She was able to establish the oldest preschool of Satyodaya at Gurukelle with Ms. Amara. The temple of Gurukelle started with late Ms. Shilani (Buddhist), Ms. Amara (Hindu), Chandrapala (Hindu) and Mr. Sunil (a Catholic). May she rest in peace!

Reporter CYTC

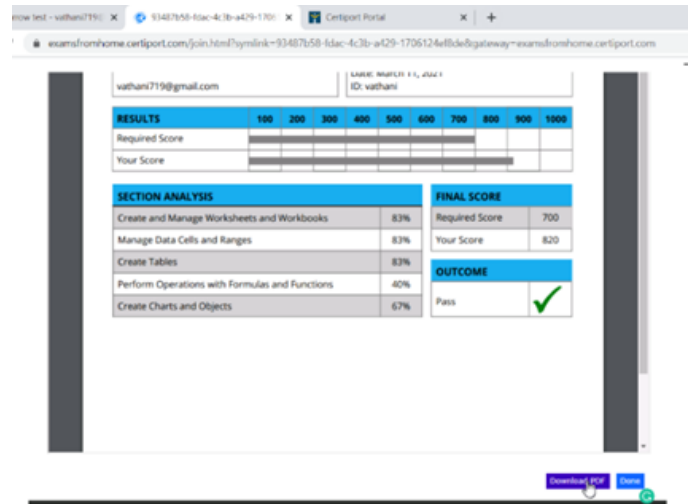


performing around 20 cultural items such as dances, speeches, villupattu, songs and a street drama. Earlier on 8<sup>th</sup> of March, CSC staff went to Hallowella estate to celebrate the women's day. Women and children of Hallowella estate raised their voice with slogans on gender equality and fair wage during the rally. The rally started at the preschool and ended in the street where the people gathered for the cultural performance. The manager asked the women to be alert in their families and take responsibility for their well being.

## CSC LOYOLA CAMPUS - HATTON

### Celebrations of International Women's Day:

Mrs. Ranitha Gnanaraja who won the international women of courage 2021 award by USA government was the chief guest for the International Women's Day celebrated at Manickapilliyar Cultural hall, Hatton on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021. She encouraged the women to get educated and to manage time to get involved in women's issues. Fr. Christian SJ, the director of CYTC, Cholankanda and the guest of honour of the function motivated the students to do their higher education to achieve gender equality in today's society. Around 20 women from the estates where CSC is working and who struggled to bring up their families were awarded with 'ponnaadi'. CSC staff deserve appreciation for mobilizing more than 400 women from 15 estates,



### Completion of Microsoft and Learning Facilitator Courses:

Five students of Microsoft course did their exam on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of March. There were 7 projects in the exam and each project had 5 tasks except the one which had 7 tasks. Within 50 minutes students had to complete their tasks and after the submission, automatically results were released. Miss. Christa and Miss Guna got through their exams. The others unfortunately failed. Three students of Learning Facilitator course completed their online course after 25 weeks of studies in six months in March 2021 and are selected to do Education tools two months online course which commenced on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The students are grateful to the students of Hallowella estate for



their support to do their practicum and both online and onsite facilitators.

## Commencement of Peace Leader Course and Creative Writing and Design Course:



Five students applied for the professional courses; two for Peace Leader and three for Creative writing and Design. They successfully completed screen test in February and Linguistic skill exam in March. All students passed and were selected for the courses. On 22<sup>nd</sup> of March the courses started. Miss. Deepika, the student of Peace Leader could not access her course materials since she along with her family members are in house quarantine due to suspicion of corona in their vicinity. The Peace Leader professional certificate course, certified by Hekima University College (Kenya) is an applied, 6-month blended learning introduction to the role and practices of a peace leader. The Creative Writing and Design professional certificate programme, awarded by St Joseph's College Bangalore (India), equips learners with specific technical skills that will immediately increase their employability, notably their chances to work online or develop their own business. This 6-month programme is divided into three 8-week courses namely Creative Writing, Graphic Design and Web Design.

## Career Guidance Training for OL Students:



The training started with ice breaking games conducted by Ms. Yogitha and Sch. Nimesh. Fr. Premkumar, the resource person of the training, showed four short videos and a PPT presentation on career guidance and made the students reflect on the essentials of career guidance and the relationship among career, education, job market, personality and family background. In the afternoon the students were informed about the JWL Loyola Campus programmes and encouraged to join the Global English Language programme which will start on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

## TRINCOMALEE

### PRE-NOVITIATE



The month of March was full of blessings for all of us as we were in the season of Lent. Fr. Robert and Sch. Arul were trying their best to help the Pre-novices in human holistic learning. Every Friday we did the way of the cross in our Campus and prepared ourselves to remember and meditate on the passion and suffering of Jesus. Our Pre-novices had a three-day Psycho analysis course by Mr. Boram. In fact, they all experi-

enced the different level of understanding the human personality and how to integrate to themselves in a conducive manner. We had a special mass for Fr. Lorio in our chapel and also conducted a prayer service in the Lorio hall with our Loyola students. We became painfully aware of Fr. Lorio's absence. He left an indelible mark on many people's minds and hearts. As Jesuits, he made us all proud.

We had witnessed the grand opening ceremony of three events in Kalkuda estate in Batticaloa. It was a great experience for our young Pre-novices, and they learnt about our flourishing Jesuit missions in Batticaloa. In fact, our pre-novices were inspired by Fr. Sahayanathan SJ and his hard work in the new mission that he is doing. Meanwhile, we also visited two of our Pre-novices' families in Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa and had a good time with the family members.

## LOYOLA CAMPUS



It is time to say thank you to all the JWL faculty members and the staff of Loyola Campus Trincomalee, for accompanying our students during the three month intensive course. We have conducted the final exam for the students who followed the English course as well as the IT course in our center along with a short farewell function for those who completed the course.

We have started admissions for the new O/L students who want to learn English and IT as well. We had an orientation for the students as well as for our new staff to make them understand certain rules and regulations of the center. In fact, this time the number of the students are more than 100 and we are still waiting for some more to join in the second week of classes. We also thanked two of our staff members namely Miss Mahilini and Madona for their services at our center. They want to take leave of absence for a while.

## CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMUNITY



Many attempts were made to spiritually connect everyone in this uncertain situation. In the month of March, two events were successfully held. First, about 60 CLC participants took part in the way of the cross. All the leaders worked together to make it successful and meaningful. That was a deeply spiritual experience. Second, on the 25th of March, we celebrated World CLC Day. A total of 65 people from six parishes participated. Because of the tensed situation, the meeting and Eucharistic celebration were planned for two and a half hours. This event provided an opportunity for all CLC members to pray and plan together in the coming months. All CLC members are planning to commemorate the conversion of Our founder, St. Ignatius. Accompanying people brings peace to the mind and inspires us to do more for the greater glory of God.

## VAVUNIYA

### Pre-School Project

After having a couple of meetings with the Bishop of Mannar, the Bishop agreed to support the 38 pre-school teachers in terms of paying a monthly allowance for them for one year. A joint meeting between the diocesan representatives Fr. Victor Soosai, the vicar general of the diocese, Fr. Anton, the director of Caritas, Mannar and JRSS representatives was held on 27th February 2021 at the JRSS Centre Mannar. Pre-school teachers too participated in the meeting.





## District Apostolic Planning-DAP

The two communities of the Northern District, Adampan and Vavuniya had a two day District Apostolic Planning on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 at Loyola Campus, Vavuniya. The planning process started with the in-depth sharing on how each one feels and thinks of his ministry. It is like sharing one's grace history in the tertianship-keeping silence after listening and giving a positive stroke to him. After the intensive sharing the first day was concluded with the Holy hour followed by Happy hour.

The second day programme started with the sharing of the context of our time and the socio-political situation in the Northern district as one perceives. This sharing was followed by a discussion on our long term perspective in building up the Jesuit mission in the Northern district in view of UAPs and Apostolic priorities that emerged in the Province Assembly. After making a concrete action plan, the day was concluded with a thanksgiving Eucharist. The DAP document will be submitted to the Provincial.

## JRSS and KKM Joint Venture

"If you are born poor it's not your mistake, but if you die poor it's your mistake."  
-Bill Gates

ஏழையாகவே பிறப்பது தவறில்லை; ஏழையாகவே இறந்தால்...???

JRSS - KKM இணைந்து நடாத்தும்  
வறுமையை அளவீடு செய்வது எப்படி?  
How to Assess Poverty?  
கன ஆய்விற்கான ஒரு முன்னோட்ட செயலம்  
A workshop for preparing a practical tool to assess poverty  
26th March, 2021  
Vavuniya

வறுமை ஒழிப்பிற்கான மற்றொரு முன்னெடுப்பு...

JRSS & Kaveri Kala Manram-KKM, a Kilinochchi based social work organization are jointly taking an initiative to write forty short stories of the beneficiaries of KKM in the month of April and May 2021. The stories will be written based on data collection and the family visits to the beneficiaries by both organizations. An initial meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, at KKM, Kilinochchi. Selected staff of both organizations prepared a practical tool for the data collection. This tool was further sharpened during a workshop on How to Assess Poverty, held on 26th March, 2021 at the Loyola Campus' seminar hall, Vavuniya. The team members of this task are in the process of visiting the people. The true stories of the lives of the people are scheduled to launch on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Kilinochchi.



## Loyola Campus - Vavuniya

We are glad to express our felicitations to everyone, as we have successfully completed the academic batch 2020-2021. After going through a tough time, due to the danger of the pandemic, finally we were able to mark a remarkable end to the previous batch in the Loyola Campus, Vavuniya, with a lot of jubiliations and cherishing moments.

It was on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March that we Loyolites made an enriching journey to Trincomalee, so as to make the mindset of the students refreshed and rejuvenated after an intensive four months of learning period, following the JWJ programme. Thus, we made that venture in order to bring a new experience to the students, to give a break to the schedule they were already formed in and for them to come forward with their hidden talents and enthusiasm. It was a great achievement that we could make as Loyolites.

As the course had moved towards its latter stages, we conducted the final exams for our students. They



were so enthusiastic to attend the exams and at the end they had performed really well. We are very glad to complete this batch and at this juncture, we're preparing ourselves to welcome the new batch to our premises with jubilant hearts and minds. Thus, we'd like to ask our friends and well wishers to continue to pray for us so as to make all our efforts worthwhile with the assurance of God.

**We wish you  
A delightful Easter and  
May the Risen Christ enlighten  
our hearts and minds deeply**

## BATTICALOA

### Loyola Candidate House (LOCH)



*At present there are seven Candidates in LOCH.*

Fr. James directed the annual retreat to the AC Sisters from 7th to 14th of March, 2021 at Manresa retreat Centre, Batticaloa. He preached the Ignatian retreat based on the UAPs. Manresa Jesuit team was very happy to have a retreat group after a yearlong gap due to Covid-19.

On 19th March 2021, the feast day mass of St Joseph was celebrated with the parishioners at Kurukal-madam. It was a day of prayer and confession to renew their spiritual life. Fr. James conducted prayer services and he prepared the people well to make a good confession during Lent.



On 20 March 2021, a one-day **Lenten retreat** was organized for the candidates along with hostel girls at **St. Teresa's Convent**, Batticaloa. It was a day for renewing their inner life and discovering one's own life in a better atmosphere. Fr. James conducted fun games, meditations, prayer services, the sacrament of reconciliation and ended the day with the Eucharistic celebration. The day was spent in a meaningful way.

On 26 March 2021, Fr. James prepared the faithful of the Sacred Heart Church, Iruthayapuram for the rite of reconciliation. More than 500 faithful devoutly participated in the Sacrament.

On 27 March 2021, a basketball tournament was organized between **the Evergreen team** from Negombo and Michael Men's Club at SMC, Batticaloa. Loyola Candidate House was happy to welcome the Evergreen youth group to LOCH. After winning the match, the evergreen youth group was delighted to have a delicious meal at LOCH.





## KALKUDAH ESTATE

March 2021 was a month with a heavy load of work on the three projects launched in the Kalkudah Estate to be completed before the opening ceremonies fixed for 27 March 2021. Work was carried out night and day despite intermittent bad weather. The ground work of the projects was completed as planned. Thanks to the donors and all those who supported the Director of the Kalkudah Estate. Our targets were achieved on time. These projects are aimed to care for marginalized people in the neighborhood.

### *Padre Pio Ayurvedic Treatment Centre*



This project was launched to provide free Ayurvedic treatment mainly to the marginalized people of Kalkudah, including seven neighboring villages in this region with a mixed community of different ethnic and religious backgrounds. It is also necessary to mention here that this mixed community constituting mainly laborers and fishermen who earn a marginal income was seriously affected during the past period of unrest in the country.



Padre Pio Ayurvedic Treatment Centre was declared open by His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese of Batticaloa on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021. His Lordship in his speech mentioned that the Jesuits have planned their apostolic activities, especially the three projects to be ceremonially opened today, to suit the present situation in this area and thanked them for their great commitment in achieving the objective of a 'caring common home' and to work for a marginalized community.

### *Fr. Dexter Gray Basket Ball Court*







This project was launched to provide an opportunity to the youth of the area to involve themselves in sports activities on a regular basis and to prevent them from anti social activities. It is also in support of Peace and Reconciliation programs implemented by the Jesuits in Sri Lanka.

Fr. Dexter Gray Basket Court was declared open by Rev. Fr. Dexter Gray SJ, Provincial of the Sri Lanka Province of the Society of Jesus on 27 March 2021. Fr. Provincial spent some time playing basketball with the kids present at the opening.

## Fr. Riemann Cultural Hall

This project was launched to provide an opportunity for the people of the area to forget their mental scars and suffering during the past period of unrest in the country and build peace and reconciliation in the society.

This Cultural Hall was declared open by Rev. Fr. Anthony Winston Rosairo SJ, Batticaloa District Superior and named after Fr. Riemann SJ, a missionary from New Orleans, USA who spent over 20 years in Sri Lanka until his last breath while working at Kalkudah Estate.

Programs of the event included mainly; welcoming and garlanding of guests, lighting of the oil lamps, welcome address and vote of thanks by Fr. T. Sahayanathan SJ, speech by His Lordship Bishop of Batticaloa Diocese and by Fr. Provincial SJ, Speech by the representatives of the public and the local administrative body.

Cultural items were performed by the students of the Rainbow Kids' Campus. A large gathering of people from the area and from distant places like Punanai where the Mission Church was served by Fr. Sahayanathan SJ was present on the occasion. The ceremony ended with a happy note and a delicious lunch for all.





## MANGALORE

It is an immense pleasure for me to join with the province members through this newsletter. We Schs. Rexman, Udara, Maxwell and Pradeep are keeping well by the grace of God during this time of pandemic. Since India is looking forward to moving on in spite of the contingencies, St. Aloysius College also started the activities of the new academic year. Our academic activities are being conducted via digital platforms. We have successfully completed the odd semester and we had offline exams which were really fuzzy. After our exams, we had a few days of experiments in different places in Mangalore. We have rendered our services to the Little Sisters of the Poor, St.

Anthony's Ashram run by the Diocese of Mangalore, HIV rehabilitation centre and Gulbarga mission station.



In the recent past, Mangalore has not faced any severe threat from Covid-19, but still there is fear that it may break out at any time due to the ignorance of the people. We have been taking necessary precautions as per the government guidelines.

As per the college schedule, our offline classes commenced on 1st of March. Sch. Udara attended a youth Red Cross State Level Orientation Training Camp held at University of Agricultural Sciences at Bangalore on 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, representing St. Aloysius College Mangalore. We continue to keep you in our prayers and request your prayers and blessings!

## JRS - KAKUMA

**Fr. Lasantha writes from JRS - Kakuma, Kenya**

### TELLING OUR STORY

The month of March was marked with witnessing about our Project in Kakuma. In the beginning of the month, we had the graceful visit of our New Country Director, Angelo Pittaluga. He has a vast experience in the humanitarian world, working in South Sudan with Caritas Italiana and in Italy with UNHCR. As soon as Angelo assumed office, I requested that he visit Kakuma. **I made a plea, "Come to Kakuma to SEE, HEAR, TOUCH, FEEL and then to THINK and**

**PLAN".** I sincerely believe that without sensory experience we will never plan well.







Angelo had to spend five days in self-isolation following the UNHCR Protocol on Covid prevention and began his visits afterwards. He visited all our Centers of Inclusive Education, Safe Shelters, and Arrupe Learning Centre. Angelo met the incentive staff and had very interactive sessions on his unofficial yet “See-Hear” tour. The youth group, Vijana Twaweza welcomed him to their own community and showed him their fishing and agriculture projects. Angelo was very much impressed. In Arrupe Learning Centre, he exchanged ideas with our Post-Secondary students on the ECDE (Early Childhood Development Education), PTE (Primary Teacher Education), CBD (Community Business Development) and Digital Literacy programs on the Pathfinder Vision.

Angelo had a warm welcome at the Sub Office of UNHCR when he called on Kahin Ismail, the head of the sub-office on a courtesy call. Kahin was so generous as to invite Mayada the Program Officer and Alex the Senior Protection Officer to meet Angelo. They really appreciated the works of JRS and our fine relationship: “We are very happy with JRS. May we continue from strength to strength...”.

I could imagine the words from the same office an year ago.....(What a change?????) – Lord, you have done WONDERS through our efforts....

Angelo had friendly chats with our national staff too. The Don Bosco Fathers hosted a grand and delicious farewell dinner in honor of Angelo before his departure (A beautiful gesture.... I could imagine JRS- Don Bosco relationship two years ago...What a change?...Lord, you have done WONDERS through our efforts).



As JRS Kakuma, gets ready for its Strategic Planning for 2022-2024, Angelo invested time to listen to various voices within and outside of JRS on “What are the real needs of the Refugee brothers and sisters?” in various forums. It was a revealing experience. After a week, Angelo left after “SEEING, HEARING and EXPERIENCING” a tiny reality of Kakuma.

Then we had a wonderful time with UNHCR on our 2020 Performances with its successes and challenges. It was tough but very promising for the future. Our







team did a superb witnessing on our project. We planned well with a rehearsal and one of our staff

was playing the role of UNHCR with potential questions.

Yes, JRS is re-finding itself with a unique face in Kakuma for a Quality Service in Kakuma: **“What are the greatest needs of our refugee brothers and sisters?... What needs do we not attend to? .....How best can we respond? ... What is the uniqueness of our services?... With whom do we need to collaborate? All for the greater Glory of God”** – This is JRS’ daily Prayer to God through various persons on different faith traditions.

## REMEMBERING OUR BROTHERS GONE BEFORE US

### Rev. Fr. Harold John Weber, SJ A Man of Pioneering Spirit (20 Feb.1914 - 14 April 1998)

Fr. Weber was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA on 20<sup>th</sup> February 1914. After usual studies in the Society of Jesus, he answered a call for volunteers for the New Orleans Jesuits’ new mission in Ceylon in 1946. He was selected for the group coming out in 1947, with Frs. McNair and Heaney.

The story of his assignment is easily told. He arrived at St. Michael’s College, Batticaloa in late 1947 and he kept the same assignment for the whole of his fifty years. He never was Principal or Rector, or even Minister, Student Counsellor or Sports Director. What glory in those? With him it was glory. No one is more affectionately remembered than he is. He taught whatever from 6<sup>th</sup> standard religion in Tam-



il, to Advanced level History, to theology in the Sommers School for nuns of the 50's. He collected and showed religious films for Catechetical groups, said weekly Mass for students, conducted the Way of the Cross during lent, and prepared candidates for the Seminary or Novitiate.

The career which caught the attention of the public was one into which he fell almost naturally. Though he was not a top athlete, he was a good amateur of sports, and keen observer of techniques. He started to attend practices of teams, and in a short while introduced moves and changes that he saw would improve performance. In a couple of years, he found himself recognized as a coach. And his boys were winning top places in the Colombo competitions. He coached all, not only St. Michael's College boys, but any one, boy or girl who showed up at the grounds to play. First in Batticaloa, then nationally, his fame as a top class sports coach was recognized.

This opened the way for another achievement of his, which now has become a monument. **The Weber Stadium.** The old esplanade was low lying, and so the rain water logged in. He became a driving force to reclaim sections of the grounds, getting the tennis club to move and even transferring an old cemetery with the consent of the families whose ancestors lay buried there. He talked to Morrison Knudsen Engineers building the Gal Oya Dam, to send their giant earth movers from Ampara on weekends and raised the level of nine acres almost a foot to improve the draining. All of this was done gratis, with great persistence, care and time of his own. It was so obvious for the civic leaders to name the stadium after him when work was completed a few years later. One of the first wreaths received at his funeral was from the municipality workers with whom he spent many afternoons preparing the ground for sports events.

Fr. Weber took to a motor cycle as a means to get about, which he did constantly in his early years and used it up to his eightieth year. When getting about became more difficult, and when TV age had come, he opened up a new interest, providing TV programs, either recorded from stations

or tapes collected by him, for boys who might not have TV at home or for special educational or religious tapes for classes of the school. Old boys abroad and local friends supplied tapes for his programmes in "Weber Studio" This was his last new career, one he was absorbed with to the end. His health gradually deteriorated for weeks due to loss of appetite and diarrhea, until on doctor's advice it was felt he would be helped by ward treatment with saline injection. To the surprise of all, he passed away on the evening of the first day in the ward. Certainly, he did not want a long period of hospitalization. So, from this he was spared, but rather abruptly.

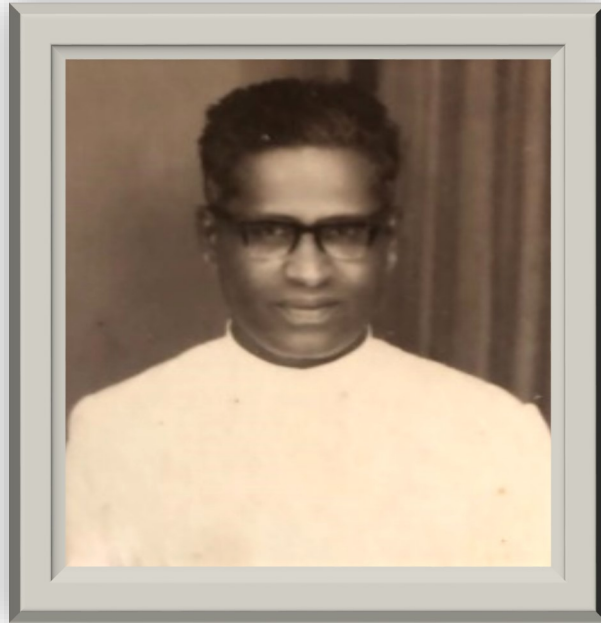
His funeral was unmatched in living memory in Batticaloa. The town was closed down during his wake and funeral. The wake at St. Michael's saw a steady stream of a wide variety of people and groups on whom he had made a profound impact; sports clubs en masse parish and pious groups, societies civic and scholastic, even bus loads, and leaders of the town, army and police officials, Members of Parliament and government administrators.

The wake ended after two days at the College Chapel, and moved to St. Mary's Co-Cathedral for the last rites. After the service thousands formed the funeral procession that wound its way around the town to Weber Stadium for a last prayer and tribute. And back to the college where he was buried, by popular demand, near St. Ignatius' statue at the College front.

The common expression of all was a great loss to the whole town. This was from all communities and all institutions, and every one. A feature of his later years of serving the convents, was his daily Mass at the community chapel, with a congregation of regulars. When kids came to Weber studio expecting video shows, Fr. Weber was found at the Reading Room, "holding court" or simply reading to all who came. The house was never empty while he was here especially in the later years. (Reminiscence of Fr. Weber by late Fr. Miller SJ)



**Rev. Fr. Anthony Cruze Gnanapragasam SJ**  
**A Faithful Servant of God**  
(13 Nov 1921 – 25 April 1980)



Fr. Cruze Gnanapragasam, who was well known as Gnanam or A.C will be celebrating his hundredth birthday on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021. He hails from '*Little England*' Nuwara-Eliya. He entered the Society of Jesus on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1944. He was sent to Sacred Heart College Shembaganur, Kodaikanal, India to do his Novitiate. After completing Juniorate studies at Vinayalaya, Bombay, India, he once again returned to Shembaganur, for his Philosophical studies. Returning to the Trincomalee Mission in 1951 he was assigned to St. Michael's College, Batticaloa for Regency, before going for his Theological Studies at De Nobili College, Poona (now Pune) India. He was raised to the order of Priesthood on November 21st in 1956.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Mayer SJ, who wrote the posthumous appreciation, after the death of Fr. Gnanapragasm in the Newsletter, has this to say "Fr. Gnanam died on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1980. He left on his desk a little booklet containing every important date in his Jesuit life from the day he entered the Novitiate. The only entry he missed was his birth day into heaven. No, he did not have the gift of prophecy, but he had a lot of other fine qualities".

Fr. Gnanam was an orderly man. He kept a neat list of the 23 assignments which he had received from the Society, during 36 years as a Jesuit. He had neatly recorded the name of every Jesuit that he had to say suffrages for. This includes the Jesuits of Sri Lanka who died, the men in the Province in India where he was

residing, and the Jesuits of New Orleans Province America to which he belonged until Sri Lanka became an Independent Vice Province in 1962. It's only a tiny book that fits into the palm of your hand and it had less than 30 pages.

For Fr. Gnanam his earthly life came to an end all of a sudden. He had been at "*Nazareth*", the house of the Christian Brothers to celebrate Mass for them on 23<sup>rd</sup> evening. He had returned to "*Tredorne*", Boragas, the next morning about 10 o'clock. Frs. Peter Kurukula Aaratchi and Paul Peiris were the only two Jesuits holidaying there. On Fr. A.C's return he had collapsed and had diarrhea and spells of vomiting. He has refused to go to a doctor. After lunch, Fr. Peter had got the car from the Parish Priest of Padinawela, Fr. Reginald and two of them persuaded Fr. A.C. to go to the doctor. They took him first to the Co-operative Hospital Nuwara-Eliya, where they could not find a doctor, and then to the General hospital, where they had said that he has suffered a "massive heart attack" and despite their efforts to revive him he might not last through the night. Fr. Peter was by his bedside throughout the night and had anointed him at about 10.00 pm. The next day, Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> he passed away peacefully at 12.10 p.m. The body was brought to Kandy on 26<sup>th</sup> evening after funeral services conducted at the Parish Church of Nuwara-Eliya by Bishop Paul Perera. On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> after a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Claude Daly, the Provincial, he was laid to rest at the Jesuit burial ground, Lewella Kandy.

# REMEMBRANCES

## APRIL

01/1969	Bp. Nicholas Laudadio	78/64
01/1975	Fr. Mark Anthony Fernando	83/51
05/1975	Fr. Joseph Jacono	74/54
05/1998	Fr. Basil Corera	87/69
08/1980	Fr. Salvador Carubba	86/57
10/1978	Fr. Edward Diricq	67/49
11/1968	Fr. Ernest Gaspard	78/60
12/1995	Fr. Peter Gomez	74/51
14/1998	Fr. H. J. Weber	84/67
16/1937	Sch. John O'Connor	32/13
21/2004	Fr. Peter Christopher	62/45
22/1910	Fr. Gerard Van Antwerpen	43/23
23/2016	Fr. Anthony Fernando	71/53
25/19/80	Fr. Cruze Gnanapragasam	59/36
27/1993	Bp. Ignatius Glennie	86/69
29/1947	Fr. Alphonse Reichard	73/55

# MANY HAPPY RETURNS

## APRIL

09/1934	Aloysius Pieris
12/1982	Anton Robert Jesudasan
16/1989	Shiran Fernando
24/1944	Anton Pieris
24/1977	Thushara Sampath
27/1950	Angelo Ponniah
28/1987	Atputharaj Sahayanathan
29/1983	Sachintha Fernando

## MAY

03/1967	Premkumar Alexis
10/1971	Thurairasa Sahayanathan
11/1994	John Britto Lambert
20/1996	Randil Jayamaha
26/1978	Juan Carlos Pallardel
30/1943	Perera Baylon
30/1958	Stanley Charles Philips
30/1964	Pitchai Richard

## NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Monday 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2021 to the Editor,  
Sri Lanka Jesuits' NEWSLETTER

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