



Kerala Tidings

VOL. LX NO. 12 ■ DECEMBER 2020 ■ CHRIST HALL ■ KOZHIKODE

From the Provincial's Desk

A MIRROR AND A WAKE UP CALL

Dear Friends in the Lord,

The webinar we organized for the KCBC and the KCMS on November 27 is still fresh in my mind. The update on the case of Fr Stan Swamy and the search for the way ahead brought clarity to many. Fr Stan's commitment to the Adivasi people was perceived as keeping in line with his religious vocation, the Jesuit tradition of faith that does justice, and the Constitution of India. It has serious implications for the Church's mission too, especially amidst fake news, counter propaganda and 'safe' judicial silence. The seriousness of the situation is very evident.

Fr Stan comes to us as a mirror reflecting the hard reality underneath the shiny surface of the country - the deplorable state of the tribal people, the subhuman condition of our jails, the snail's pace of our judicial system, and the increasing grip of draconian laws. Yet, "humanity is bubbling in Talaja jail", as Fr Stan writes with candour.

Fr Stan's arrest is a wakeup call. It wakes us to the social teaching of the Church that is still a "best kept secret" in the Indian Church. It invites us to take political activity and political processes more seriously. It asks us to see the vital link between the Christian principles and the values that the Indian Constitution embodies. Let us continue to stand with Stan – and what he stood for.

E.P. Mathew, SJ

APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

Fr Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR) as the New Socius, Admonitor and Consultor to the POSA. He replaces **Fr Keith Abranches**.

Fr Roland Coelho SJ (Provincial of Goa) as Consultor to the POSA and Chair of the West Zone provincials.

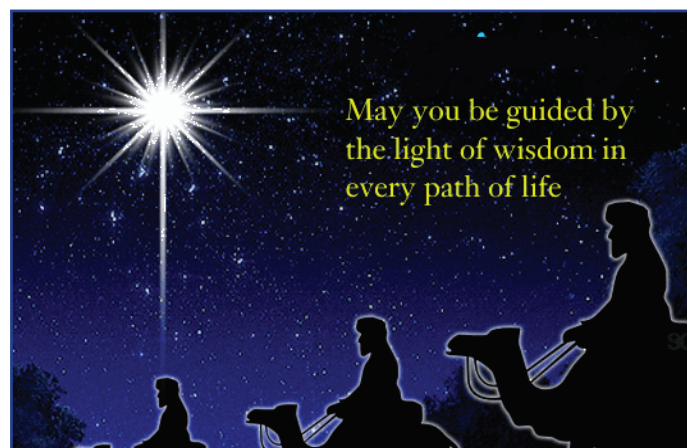
APPOINTMENT BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Dominic Palakeel : Province Coordinator of *Jesuit World Wide Learning (JWL)*.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

IGNATIAN YEAR 2021-2022

The POSA has appointed an Organizing Committee at the Conference level for the Ignatian Year (22 May 2021- 31 July 2022). The members of this committee are Frs Francis Pudhicherry (coordinator), Dionysius Vaz, Ajit Xess, Siji Chacko and Sunny Kunnel.



Fr Provincial & Curia team wish you all a Very Happy Christmas & a Happy New Year !

Our Provincial has appointed a Province level Organizing Committee for the Ignatian Year. Its members are **Frs Xavier Tharamel** (Convenor), **Roy Alex**, **Prince Clarence** & **Deepak Edattu**.

STAND WITH STAN SWAMY

Fr Provincial has appointed a Nodal Team comprising **Frs Binoy Pichalakkattu** and **Prince Clarence**, and a Support Team comprising **Frs Toby Kozhuppakalam**, **George Thenadikulam**, **Sooraj Dominic**, **Joe Mathew**, **P.S. Antony** and **Benny Chiramel**.

Fr Provincial, with the help of the Nodal Team organized a webinar on 27th for the KCBC and Major Superiors of Kerala. A report of the meeting is included in this issue of the Tidings.

JESUIT THEOLOGY FORUM REVIVED

We are reviving the Forum of Theology/Religious Studies of our Province. Fr Provincial has appointed a core team comprising **Frs P.T. Mathew (Chair)**, **Xavier Tharamel** and **Binoy Pichalakkattu**.

An Inaugural seminar is being planned as follows:

Topic: "Fratelli Tutti - a reading from the Kerala context".

Date: **December 12** (Saturday), 2020.

Time: 06.00 to 07.30 pm

Presentation – 1: **Fr S. Painadath**

Presentation – 2: **Fr P.T. Mathew**

Moderator: **Fr Thomas Karimundackal**

All are invited to the webinar. (the link will be sent later)

LEFT THE SOCIETY

Sch Christy Sebastian Chalil left the Society on 11.11.2020.

FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

The community commemorated the **All Saints' Day** and **All Souls' Day** with special Eucharistic celebration and prayers. The community joined the special prayer service on Nov 6 which was organized by the Formation Commission remembering the six brethren who left for eternal reward this year. **Fr KJ Thomas**, Superior, gave a week-long retreat for sisters at Mancheri. **Fr Baby** paid a visit to Delhi as part of his work as revisor of the Delhi Jesuit Province. **Sch Sinesh** attended the Regents' Meet at St Joseph's, Calicut and the Triduum at Chundale,

Wayanad. The community celebrated the birthday of **Fr Raju** on 28th. Christuraja parish celebrated the annual feast of **Christ the King** from 27th to 29th. **Most Rev. Dr. Varghese Chakkalakkal**, Bishop of Calicut, presided over the Solemn Eucharist on the last day. **Frs Vibin Padayadan** and **Salvin Kachirayil** made short visits to the community.

George Karuppallyil

ST JOSEPH'S, KOZHIKODE

Both the schools are conducting online classes in full swing.

Mr Thomas Mathew, the retired Head master of the senior school, was given an affectionate formal send off on 19th November by the staff of the school. During his 29 years of service here, he endeared himself to the students and the teachers alike. His friends were vying with each other in showering encomiums on their former friend, philosopher and guide. As a token of appreciation for the memorable service rendered by him, his former students collected more than Rs. 5 lakhs for providing plastic chairs for the school auditorium. The programme ended with a sumptuous lunch for all the participants.

The junior school successfully conducted the annual cultural programme 'IGNITE 2020' for three days on Google Suite. This programme was inaugurated by His Excellency P S Sreedharan Pillai, the Governor of Mizoram and other celebrities on 12th November.

Fr Salvin, the province PCF found St Joseph's, the most conducive place to conduct the annual get-together of the regents of the Province. They were here on 18th November. Later they left for the sylvan surrounds of Prakrithimitra Franciscan Friary, Pakkalipallam near Chundale for their triduum under the guidance of **Fr Wilson Mulackal**.

The six candidates doing their Plus Two course have come back to the house so as to engage themselves in serious study.

Joseph Edassery

LOYOLA, ALUVA

As the month of October was dedicated to Mother Mary, we conducted a ten-day Special Rosary. The families of the second year novices were invited to visit the novices from the beginning of October. We celebrated the birthday of **Praveen Babu**, the Benjamin of our

province, on 8th of October. **Fr Sunny Jose** guided a three day course for us on the topic “History of Jesuits in India”. In preparation for the month-long Spiritual Exercises, the first year novices went on a pilgrimage to the nearby churches. The Spiritual Exercises for the first year novices began on 19th of October and concluded with a thanksgiving Mass on 20th of November. The second year novices went to Kanjirapally for their hospital experiment in two Rehabilitation Centers of the mentally challenged, and returned on 22nd of November. Thanks for your prayers.... **Fr Xavier Tharammel** found Loyola a conducive place for his annual retreat. **Fr Vipin Padayadan**, on his way from Paris, successfully completed his quarantine at Loyola.

Rina & Thomas

SAMEEKSHA/ ATMAMITRA, KALADY

Frs Antu Xavier Kalamparambil and **Xavier Tharamel** pronounced their Final Vows at the historical shrine of Sampaloor on 21 November 2020. **Fr Provincial** was the main celebrant at the Eucharist. The scholastics now residing at Sameeksha added to the beauty of the ceremony with their music and creative involvement. Fr Varkeychan Mecheril introduced both of them with a brief bio-sketch, and **Fr Sebastian Painadath** spoke on the significance of the Vows in the homily. **Fr Sunny Jose** took us through the historical sites making us familiar with the Jesuit heritage of the place. In the evening at supper the community felicitated Fr Xavier Tharamel. The other programmes at Sameeksha included an inspiring talk on “Universal Spirituality in the Covid Times” by Sri Shivadas from the Theosophical



Society. It was on Google meet and was part of the monthly programme of *Dharmasameeksha*. **Fr Thomas Karimundackal** gave an online course on the Prophets of the Old Testament to the *Jnanasameeksha* students. The community celebrated with the domestic staff the birthday of Fr Sebastian Painadath on 19th and of Fr Xavier Tharamel on 29th. Several individuals and smaller groups make their retreat at Sameeksha under Jesuit guidance.

Rosau Roy

LUMEN-JYOTHIS, KOCHI

The convocation ceremony of the 3rd batch of XLRI-LIPI Certificate Programme in Peace Studies was held on 21 November. Prof Emeritus Carlos E Vasco of the National University of Columbia delivered a breathtaking presidential address. The keynote address by Prof Shiv Vishvanathan of the Global Jindal University, Haryana, was indeed thought provoking. Felicitations were offered by Prof Param Jyothsingh (XLRI), Prof M. P. Mathai (Dean, LIPI), Dr K. Babu Joseph, (Principal Advisor, LIPI), and Dr Jacob Thomas (IAS Retd, Academic Coordinator). Fifty students, including **Fr Devassy Paul**, our Superior, successfully completed the course.

The LIPI Science Talks continue to have enthusiastic takers. During November we had two important lectures - the first one by Dr Ambat Vijaykumar (Dept of Mathematics, CUSAT), followed by Prof Moncy V John on Quantum Mechanics (School of Pure and Applied Physics, M G University). The 4th issue of *Pax Lumina* highlights the plight and reality of manual scavenging. The Newman Association's monthly talk helped to understand the finer aspects of Local Self Government. Messrs P C Cyriac as well as Christie Fernandes exposed the topic with great finesse. **Fr Binoy** delivered online

a two-credit course on Science and Theology for the students of JDV, Pune. **Fr Roy Thottathil** attended a 3-day workshop at Wagamon under the aegis of CARP.

Devassy Paul

SANTHINILAYAM, KOTTAYAM

On November 22nd we all went to AKJM Kanjirapally for the Zonal gathering - the first after the onset of the present pandemic. **Fr Provincial** and **Fr Salvin**, PCF, were with us from the 25th for their official visit. It was a refreshing experience both spiritually and mentally for the whole community. **Sch Jithin** is preparing for his BEd exams, in the college itself, scheduled to begin in the first week of December. **Fr Podimattam** is making his annual retreat here itself keeping perfect custody of his eyes and his tongue.

Steve Thomas

AADI, ATTAPPADI

AADI and Lok Manch partners together organised four Webinars during the month of November. The first one was on 'Food Security' for which the main resource person was **Fr James Morais** from Tripura. The second one was on 'Indian Constitution and Reservation' which was presented by Justice Kurien Joseph. The resource person for the third one on the 'Impact of Covid-19 on Children' was Dr Job Zacharia of UNICEF. The fourth Webinar was on 'Reservation and Social Realities in India' presented by Mr. Sunny Kappikkad, a Dalit writer. All programmes were well attended and appreciated by a large number of people. AADI staff members attended another Webinar on 'Rights of Women and Children' organised by ISI, Bangalore as part of their Cadre

Formation.

Fr Benny Chiramel, State Coordinator of Lok Manch, visited AADI and spent two days with us. He participated in the staff meeting and also visiting various Oouru. There were three virtual meetings of the Province JESA organised by **Fr P.S. Antony**, JESA Coordinator. The members welcomed the meetings since these were taking place after a long gap due to the lockdown. Our lay collaborators from each Centre also attended the third meeting of the JESA General Body on November 30 which was inaugurated by **Fr Provincial**. The Health Department of the Sholayur Panchayat organized one awareness camp for Adivasis on 'mental health and child rights'. Fr Antony gave an on line orientation course on the tribal situation to two batches of MSW and BSW students of S.B. College, Changanacherry and Netaji College, Nenmara.

Mathew Aarthayil

XAVIER TRAINING CENTRE, PACHILAKAD

We welcomed the month of November with 'Kerala Piravi' and with special prayers for the departed Jesuits on the all souls day of the Society. **Fr Wilson Mulackal** began a special course on T.A. and Psychology on Nov. 9. A new member, Albin from kottayam, joined pre-novitiate on 13th.


Fr Bastin and Dn Kamal visited us and helped us in preparing a skit on the life of St Francis Xavier. We had the good fortune to meet the regents of Kerala province, **Brs Deslin, Libin** and **Sinesh** before they began their tridum under the guidance of Fr Wilson. Fr Lal from the diocese of Calicut inspired us by sharing his vocation story.

Joshual

ARNOS PADIRI ACADEMY, VELUR

We are going to celebrate the 320th year of **Arnos Padiri's** arrival in India, **Bhatatha Pravesam 320**, on 13 December 2020 in a fitting manner. The programme will be inaugurated by **Fr M.K. George**, our Regional Assistant and the key note address will be delivered by Dr. Kurias Kumbalakuzhy. **Mar Andrews Thazhath**, Archbishop of Thrissur, will share words of blessing and **Fr E.P. Mathew**, Provincial, will offer felicitation. The Malayalam version of the book on Arnos Padiri, written by **Fr Adapur**, will be released by **Mar Tony Neelankavil** on this occasion. Dignitaries like Prof.

Pope's Intentions
Dec 2020



For a Life of Prayer
We pray that our personal
relationship with Jesus Christ be
nourished by the Word of God
and a life of Prayer

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA

M.K. Sanu, Dr. Thomas Mathew, Dr. P. Mohan, **Fr Francis Macvan SJ** (Surat) and Dr. Cicily Davis will participate. Samadarsana Vedhi and Arnos Forum will organise this programme at Arnos Padiri Academy, Velur.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic protocol our commemoration event will be on digital platform using zoom meet. It will be telecast on **arnos padiri academy** You Tube channel. All the Province members are invited to join this programme.

George Thenadikulam

LOYOLA, MUKUNDARA

Loyola School celebrated the Children's Day online. The active participation of students made the programme a successful one. Our students presented their sentiments through various art-forms. **Sch Libin** was out for a week for the Regents' Meet. **Fr Gracious** went to Loyola, Poovar, to give an orientation programme on Policy Statement on Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults for the staff of Loyola Institute of Commerce. Loyola School has decided to conduct monthly tests online.

Libin Mathew

LOYOLA, POOVAR

This year 45 students have joined Loyola, Poovar for the first year B.Com. An unofficial inauguration of the academic year for the first years was held on 2nd November. Since then, regular classes have been going on. The second and third years have been given online classes. The first terminal exams were conducted for the second years and third years and their results were also published.

In the third week of November Loyola organized a half-day seminar for all its staff members on the Province Protection Policy on protection of children and vulnerable adults. **Fr Gracious Stephen** was our resource person. A one-month certificate programme in tailoring was started in Deepthi campus of Loyola, and 50 selected women from Poovar and nearby villages make use of it. It is conducted in close collaboration with the Kudumbasree. Securing 81% of marks, **Fr Binu Kaduthalakunnel** bagged the second prize in Proficiency for his M.Phil which he did at Bishop Heber College, Trichy.

Binu Michael

ST MARY'S SCHOOL, JAMPUIJALA, TRIPURA



Regular classes are taking place in our school. The hostels are also functioning well. After the exams, a one-week holiday was given for Diwali. We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of **Bishop Lumen Monteiro** of Agartala in our school. It was a special occasion where the Bishop, parishioners, students and teachers gathered together on our campus. Our students and the youth of the parish put up cultural programmes making the occasion very colourful. The weather is becoming cooler from the middle of November. Many children fell sick, and so we had to give holiday for all the students for a couple of days. Now everything is back to normal and regular classes are progressing smoothly.

Dijin Jose George

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (XIDE), KAILASHAHAR, TRIPURA

A three month long GDA (General Duty Assistant) course was started on 2 Nov 2020. The programme was inaugurated by **Fr James Morais**. Twenty students have enrolled for the course. **Sr Annie Joseph SJA** is the trainer. The number of tuition students has been increasing in the Xavier Institute. Presently we have 60 students that include lower primary, primary and high school sections. Spoken English classes also have been





started in the Institute. **Sch Frangle Xavier** takes Spoken English classes for the youth, tuition students and GDA students. The classes are going on well. The construction of the new house was completed. The

Provincial of SJA sisters, **Sr Leena Jacob, SJA** and the procurator **Sr. Prasanna, SJA** visited our community. **Sr Leena** opened the new house by cutting a ribbon.



Fr Babu Paul blessed the house. The GDA students presented a wonderful cultural program on the same day in the evening. The SJA sisters are staying in the new house. The Kumarghat Parish Priest **Fr Lancy, CSC** was hospitalised due to Covid19, but now he has tested negative. **Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Lumen Monteiro, CSC**, Bishop of Agartala diocese, has officially announced the new Jesuit parish in the Kailashahar mission. The new parish, **St Ignatius of Loyola Parish Church, Kailashahar**, has been carved out from Kumarghat Parish. The paperwork of the purchase of land for the school is progressing.

Frangle Xavier

ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, MOIRANG, MANIPUR MISSION

Early November we had very colorful harvest festival with dance, music and campfire followed by a sumptuous meal. From two and half acres of land we ourselves did the reaping and collected 150 sacks of rice grains. On All Souls day, we had meaningful liturgy in the village cemeteries. **Fr Syriac** takes regular English classes for the pre-novices, and **Sch Vysakh** takes Bible classes. Sch



Vysaph has successfully completed the Peace Studies Certificate Programme that was conducted jointly by LIPI and XLRI. As part of it, he presented a paper on Manipuri women which was well appreciated by the team. St Xavier's School is getting ready to accommodate over 4000 students and a 14-crore building project is sanctioned by the Region.

Vysakh Titus

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE (JRS), BAMYAN

November offered despondent moments to the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Bamyan. Since the fall of Taliban in 2001, Bamyan was the safest place in Afghanistan. But a double bomb explosion occurred on Nov 24, 2020 claiming 19 lives and leaving 59 injured. Though the motive was unclear, the miscreants have created havoc and panic in the minds of the people. Common spaces still loom the wounded memories of the lost ones. JRS has temporarily suspended all its activities in Bamyan for two weeks. Currently there are five Jesuits available in Afghanistan who are spread around Kabul, Herat, Bamyan and Daikundi. **Fr Robert Rodrigues (KAR)** and **Br Sandesh Gonsalves (BOM)** are available in Kabul. **Fr Jesuraja (MDU)**, **Sch Ronald Antony (CEN)** and **Fr Linto Kanichai (KER)** operate from Bamyan. The new Country Director (CD) designate for JRS mission Afghanistan is **Fr Jerome Sequiera (JAM)**. Gratitude to **Fr Stan Fernandes (PUN)** who served in the capacity of CD for the past 13 years.

Linto Kanichai

MEETING WITH THE KCBC AND THE MAJOR SUPERIORS OF KERALA

Fr Provincial took initiative to organize a webinar on behalf of the Kerala Province and the JCSA in connection with the arrest of **Fr Stan Swamy**. The participants were exclusively the Cardinals, Archbishops and bishops of Kerala Church, and major superiors of religious congregations in Kerala cutting across rites.

The meeting started with a prayer led by **Fr Prince Clarence**. Fr Provincial welcomed the gathering and explained the objectives of the meeting: to take stock of the developments after the arrest of Fr Stan Swamy, to look at its implications for the Church's mission and to elicit suggestions for further action. **Fr Stanislaus D'Souza**, POSA, logged in and gave a brief opening message. In his address, he clarified that the Society owns up the mission of Fr Stan Swamy and said that his ministry among the Tribals is in line with the Jesuit apostolic priorities.

Fr Siji Chacko (Director, Development and Communications, JCSA) presented the current status of the case. **Fr Joe Xavier** (Director, ISI-Bangalore) provided an excellent update of the legal proceedings. He recommended organizing symbolic protests like collecting sippers and blankets and sending them in bulk to Talaja jail as part of the campaign. The organizers were keen that the focus should not be merely on the person of Fr Stan but rather on larger issues of human rights and justice.

The following are a few suggestions that emerged in the webinar:

- The issues related to the case of Fr Stan are yet to reach the public sphere and Church circles in Kerala. To achieve this, relevant details related to his ministry and the developments after his arrest must be made available to people.
- A delegation of the Church officials could meet either the Prime Minister or other Ministers with key portfolios and present our concerns.
- Adequate measures must be taken to counter the negative propaganda in the social media against Fr Stan labelling him as a Maoist and a terrorist.
- The youth in the Catholic parishes must be mobilised to organize non-violent protests against the silencing of Fr Stan and other human right defenders.
- The issue must be adequately addressed both legally and diplomatically.
- It is important to join the secular groups and persons who have come out in open support of Fr Stan Swamy and others in similar conditions.

The webinar helped to create a deeper awareness of the issue accompanied by a collective owning up of

the cause Fr Stan Swamy stood for. The suggestions for concrete action at the ecclesial level must be followed up. The participants appreciated the Jesuit way of approaching crucial issues of this kind and asked for related materials for future use.

Fr Binoy moderated the sessions and **Fr PT Mathew** proposed the vote of thanks.

OURS IN MEDIA

Fr V.C George, SJ, *Easy English – A New Style of Handling English*, Kozhikode: Grass Roots, 2020.

Fr Mathew Aerthayil, SJ "The Challenges Raised by the Jail Custody of Fr Stan Lourduswamy on the Church" in *Sathyadeepam Weekly*, 25th November, 2020.

Sch Vysakh Titus, SJ, "Being Human is Being Who You Are: The Being of Technology and the Becoming of Humans", *Vidyankur* (Journal of Philosophical and Theological Studies), ISSN: 2320-9429, Jan-June 2019, XXII/1.

GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

Br Jeyaraj Annaviar, SJ (MDU), 78/57
on 03.11.2020 at Dindigul.

Fr Gonzalez Valles Carlos, SJ (GUJ to Spain), 95/79
on 09.11.2020 in Madrid, Spain.

Fr A. Antony Pappuraj, SJ (MDU), 74/57
on 13.11.2020 at Madurai.

Fr Rudolph Fernandez, SJ (BOM), 86/69
on 16.11.2020 at Nashik.

Fr Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj, SJ (DUM), 74/53
on 16.11.2020 at Dumka, Jharkhand.

Br Lawrence Richard Saldanha, SJ (HAZ), 83/58
on 17.11.2020 at Sitagarha.

Fr Cipriano Mendía Echániz, SJ (GUJ to Spain), 89/71
on 17.11.2020 in Loyola, Spain.

Fr S. Paul Lourdusamy, SJ (PAT), 65/43
on 22.11.2020 at Kolkota.

Mr Mathappan Panikulam (72), cousin of **Fr Tom Panikulam, SJ**, on 15.11.2020 at Puthenchira.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER

03 Linto Kanichai

05 Xavier Veliyakam

09 Sanil Mayilkunnel

11 Abraham Pallivathukal

16 Immanuel Koyan

16 Mathew Kannadan

21 George Nedungatt

21 Cicil Shaji Valiyakarottu

22 Philip Thayil

24 Jose Thachil

25 Kuriakose Puthanapra

27 Sebastian Chiriyen Kandath

JANUARY

01 John Elamkunnappuzha

01 David Mathew Madathinakathe

01 Ramlat Mekkulathil

02 Peter Mulluparambil



03 Tomson Vadakkeputhenpura

04 Varkeychan Mecheril

IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

DECEMBER

01 (1958) Aloysius Silva

02 (1991) George Murickan

04 (2007) Mathew Parackal

16 (2011) George Keerankeri

17 (1954) Milbank F Barboza

17 (2012) Joseph Maliekal

18 (2000) Joseph Vattakunnel

19 (1991) Varkey Pullan

29 (1988) Joseph Puthenkalam

31 (2010) Thomas Thayil



2021
Happy New Year

Please send your news before the end of every month.
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