



Kerala Tidings

VOL. LXI NO. 1 ■ JANUARY 2021 ■ CHRIST HALL ■ KOZHIKODE

From the Provincial's Desk

For all that has been...

My dear friends in the Lord,

Without the usual gusto of sound and fury we have welcomed the New Year 2021 in the midst of corona scare. Someone put it well: The year 2020 had two zeros. The year saw many of our plans and priorities turning out to be zero. Empty class rooms, closed markets, virtual worship, cancelled conferences Our medical army, often unnoticed, turned out to be the real heroes. Corona taught us, Pope Francis observed, to distinguish between the essentials and non-essentials. Many things we thought were important and essential vanished from our checklist. 2020 will be remembered as *annus horribilis*. Interestingly, the UN recently has observed that the year 2020 has been one of the three hottest years in the history of the earth. Despite all these, human ingenuity and inventiveness helped us survive. What lessons do we, as a Province, have to learn from all these? May be it is good that we reflect on the past year so that we are better oriented for the New Year. Let me quote from Pope Francis: "In every personal "Covid," so to speak, in every "stoppage," what is revealed is what needs to change: our lack of internal freedom, the idols we have been serving, the ideologies we have tried to live by, the relationships we have neglected."

Best wishes to each one of you as we step in to the New Year!

E.P. Mathew, SJ

APPOINTMENTS BY POSA

Fr Shin Kallungal: Migrant Facilitation Network, Central Hub, New Delhi (Resides at ISI Delhi).

Fr Arjen Tete (CCU): Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF), w.e.f. 1st Jan, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS BY PROVINCIAL

Fr K.J. Thomas: Province Protection Officer, for protection of minors and vulnerable adults

Fr Immanuel Koyan: Director, Jeevika Migrant Workers's Movement, Kalady (additional charge)

Fr Xavier Tharamel: Province Coordinator for Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network & Eucharistic Youth Movement (PWPN & EYM) [Additional charge]

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

Deacon Rephin Kamal will be ordained a priest on 13 February 2021 by **Most Rev Dr Christudas**, Auxiliary Bishop of Trivandrum Archdiocese. The venue is Loyola Hall Sreekariyam. The solemn function will begin at 10.30 am. Participant's number is restricted to hundred due to the Covid condition. So only a limited number of priests will be able to join him for the function. Dn Kamal requests all other Kerala Jesuits to bless him from where you are.



FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

Fr O.P. Mathew, the motherly presence in Christ Hall, left for his eternal abode on the feast day of St Francis Xavier. **Rt. Rev. Dr. Alex Vadakkumthala**, Bishop of Kannur presided over the funeral Mass, and **Rt. Rev. Dr. Varghese Chakkalakkal**, Bishop of Calicut, officiated at the funeral rites. **Fr Raphael Thottan** preached a fitting homily during the Mass.

COVID-19 did not dampen the spirit of Christmas at Christ Hall. A simple but well-designed Crib was set up in the front yard, thanks to the artistry of **Sch Sinesh**. We had a delightful Christmas gathering with our co-workers on Dec 18. **Schs Deslin** and **Sinesh**, made the day memorable with fun games and other entertainments. **Fr P.T. Mathew** spiritually animated the community with a recollection talk in preparation for Christmas. The staff of Christuraja school and SRC had Christmas gathering on 22nd, and **Fr Deepak** celebrated Holy Eucharist for them. The community had an exciting Christmas get-together on the 25th. **Fr Devasia** our minister, played host and the graceful presence of **Fr George Pattery** added flavour to the gathering. Christmas celebration at Christuraja parish was organized under the able leadership of **Fr Raju**, the parish priest.

Mathrubumi Daily published an article of **Fr Adappur** on Dec 16 to mark Pope Francis' 84th birthday. The community celebrated the 87th birthday of **Fr Philip Thayil** on Dec 22. The domestic staff of the campus had an orientation session on the **Province Protection Policy** led by **Fr K. J. Thomas**. The new book, **Esosabha Keralathil 1542-2018**, a joint work of **Frs. Kottukkappally, Joe Thayyil, Joseph Pulickal and Sunny Jose**, was released by **Fr E. P. Mathew**, Provincial. The first copies were handed over to **Fr George Pattery** and **Sch Sinesh**. We congratulate the authors for this monumental work.

Sinesh

SARVODAYA, EACHOME

Sarvodaya Jesuit community had Provincial's visitation on Dec 15 and 16. Sarvodaya Higher Secondary School had its Christmas celebration on Dec 22. The Special Corona Christmas Crib with the theme *Athijeevanathinu Pratyasayude Prakasam* was prepared under the leadership of **Fr Wilson Puthussery** was the centre of attraction. It got wide publicity through print and digital media.

Lokmanch State Level Training Program was held at TUDI on Dec 19 and 20. It was guided by



Frs Benny Chiramel, Antony PS and **Mr. Jayant**, the National Coordinator of Lokmanch.

Anil Joseph

S.M. FARM, PARIYARAM

The regional gathering of Jesuits was held at S.M. Farm on 25th for a joint celebration of Christmas. We had a fruitful sharing on our ministries. Online classes in Nirmala ITC are going on well. Nearly half the students come for regular classes and practicals. 59 students are admitted to the first year. We plan to start regular classes for them at the earliest. **Schs Dileep** and **Albin**, are kept busy with their philosophy classes. **Fr Rajesh** is busy with his new initiative at Poonjar. Deacon **Rephin Kamal** has been staying at the Illam for the past two and a half months. He has elevated the aesthetic sense of Illam with his new paintings. **Dn Rephin** came for his diaconate ministry at the Pattuvam Holy Family Parish. He was offering pastoral services in the nearby convents too.

Most of the Covid related inmates have moved out of the Ignatian Retreat Centre. The cleaning up work is in progress.

Manesh Gerald

LOYOLA, ALUVA

This Christmas month gave the novices an energizing jolt as they found themselves in the midst of many activities. In the first week **Fr Jacob Madukkakuzhy** started a course on integrated personality. This course was an eye opener for most of us to in understanding ourselves. We celebrated the feast of St Francis Xavier with solemn Mass and a community get together. We as a community went to exercise our voting rights on Dec 10; for some of the novices it was the first experience. **Fr Jacob Madukkakuzhy** gave a retreat to the FCC sisters at Karimbana, Idukki. The Novices went on a day-long walking picnic. The novices had a special recollection on Dec 19 guided online by **Fr Prince Clarence**. We celebrated Christmas with Vigil Mass and an evening get-together. Our holidays days started on 21st and

Pope's Intentions
Jan 2021



Human Fraternity
May the Lord give us the grace
To live in full fellowship with
Our brothers & sisters of other religions
Praying for one another, open to all
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA

community days on 26th. We were happy to have with us **Frs E J Thomas** and **Jose Pittappillil**, our extended members. and **Schs Rosan Roy, Fransis Parakka, Nikhil George** and **Ivin Tomy** also joined us. **Fr Biju Vadakkumcherry** came from Pune and started his quarantine on 25th.

Rachana

SAMEEKSHA, KALADY

Sameeksha community celebrated Christmas with pomp and gaiety despite the gloom induced by the pandemic. **Fr Xavier** is engaged in retreat direction and vocation promotion. A group of SKD sisters made their month-long retreat this month. Five deacons of the RCJ congregation made a 5-day retreat here in preparation for their ordination. A deacon from the diocese of Palakkad also made his retreat here. The community celebrated the birthdays of **Frs George Nedungatt** and **Immanuel Koyan** with sumptuous evening meals. The community bade farewell to **Schs Rosan Roy** and **Francis Paracka**, as they left for De Nobili College, Pune. The semester examinations of the scholastics staying over here took place in the second and third weeks of December.

Dharmasameeksha dialogue-talk was offered via google-meet on December 12. Mr P M M Gafoor spoke on the culture of compassion in the time of Corona.

Ivin Tomy

LUMEN-JYOTHIS, KOCHI

Fr Roy and members of the CARP team organised an Art Camp in solidarity with the farmers' agitation in Delhi. The theme: *Mud and Mind*. The venue: *Nadukani, Idukki*. The LIPI Science Talks brought us together this month to listen to the great Jesuit Scientist of our time, Dr S. Ignacimuthu. He amply defended the topic *Science Pursuit is Rewarding*. No wonder, he was recently identified as one of the top 1% scientists in the world in the field of biology.

The Kochi chapter of the Newman Association created an opportunity for several luminaries to celebrate Christmas together. **Bishop Alex Vadakumthala**, of Kannur Diocese shared his touching thoughts and released a documentary on **Rev Fr Abraham Adappur**. Shri C. Radhakrishnan, an eminent star of the Malayalam literary world, presented a brief appreciation of the book on Arnos Padiri authored by Fr Adappur and translated into Malayalam by Prof Dr K M Mathew. Cyriac Joseph, former Judge of the Supreme Court and the Kerala Lokayuktha, offered his felicitations.

Devasy

AKJM-JESUIT HOUSE KANJIRAPPALLY

Fr Antu Xavier pronounced his last vows on 21st November at Sampaloor; on the following day he was given a warm reception at the school in the presence of **Fr Provincial** and the staff members. The school conducted the second term exams for Classes LKG to XI. The students and teachers together organized online Christmas celebrations following the Covid directives. Children dressed up in green, red and white presented various programmes. Carol singing and dance items by the teachers and students were the highlights of the celebration.

Three of our members **Frs Varkeychan, Salvin** and **Antu** were tested positive in Covid antigen test. So the whole community was in quarantine. Now all of them are tested negative and are free. After several months of online study staying here, **Schs Savy, Sooraj** and **Christy** (Pune) and **Jaison** and **Nibin** (Chennai) left for their respective places to continue their philosophy studies.

Centre for Ignatian Spirituality, with the help of the community, organized an eight day online Ignatian Retreat for priests and religious from Dec 11 to 19. **Bishop Jose Pulickal**, (Kanjirappally diocese) gave the talk on the first day and **Bishop James Anaparambil**, (Alleppey diocese) on the last day. The other preachers were **Frs Joye James, Raju Augustine, Prince Clarence, Sunny Thomas, M. K. George, Toby** and **Binoy Jacob**. Over nine hundred persons had registered, but many more did attend through the youtube and other media. Besides the talk and adoration, provision was made for online guided meditation and online spiritual guidance for the retreatants. In the evaluation, the participants appreciated the meticulous planning and execution, excellent team work, and technical professionalism. They asked the centre to continue with similar programmes. Schs Nibin, Jaison, Savy, Sooraj and Christi formed the technical support team.

Augustine Peedikamala

SANTHINILAYAM, KOTTAYAM

After much hard work and long waiting, the new book on the history of Jesuits in Kerala prepared by **Frs Joe Pulickal, Sunny Jose, Joe Thayil and Joseph Kottukappally** has come out in printed form. A valuable Christmas gift to the province! **Fr Podimattam** had difficulty with his eyes and he went to Christ Hall, Calicut for the necessary treatment. Santhi Family Counseling Centre has been recognised as a field work agency by Loyola college Chennai, Nirmala Nikethan Mumbai and Indira Gandhi Open University. The KCBC SC-ST commission has recognised the centre as its resource cum program centre.

Steve Thomas

LOYOLA, SREEKARIYAM

The months of November and December were hectic for Loyola College with admission processes. MSW (Disaster Management), the new course, seems to be in great demand attracting a large number of applicants. A series of webinars conducted by different departments of the College made the students alive and active academically. The staff is making all efforts to fulfill the requirements for the forthcoming NAAC accreditation assessment. The annual magazine of the college was released in a virtual meeting in which Mr Madhusoodhanan Nair, the renowned poet, was the chief guest. Classes were being conducted online this academic year till now, but regular classes will begin on January 4 for both first and second year batches. The construction of the administrative cum academic block is progressing under the leadership of **Fr Reji Kunnatheth**.

Loyola School continues to expand its educational programme with the starting of LKG sections after 60 years of its existence. Additional divisions in the primary school, a new basketball court, and a new building to increase the student strength are envisaged. The School celebrated Christmas in a fruitful way by reaching out to 80 needy families with food kits and financial assistance. The Virtual Christmas celebration of the



school became widely known after Mr Sashi Tharoor's Christmas message went viral in the social media. The Golden Jubilee of **Fr P. T. Joseph Puliparambil** was



celebrated on Dec 27. Jesuits of Trivandrum zone and sisters of the neighbouring convent took participated. **Fr Provincial** gave a befitting homily during the liturgy.

Sunny Kunnappallil

AADI, ATTAPPADI

We have our regular Tuesday meetings with the staff of Lok Manch and we had a short Christmas celebration with keeping the protocol of Covid 19. A group of 13 people from Attappady participated in the Lok Manch State level workshop held at TUDI, Wayanad. AADI, along with Lok Manch, organized a National Webinar on international human rights day with the theme 'Farmer's Rights: Agricultural laws and Protest'. Adv. Johny K George, Mr. Alex Ozhukayil, Chairman of Kerala Independent Farmers Association (KIFA) and founder of Farmers First, and Mr. James Vadakkan were the resource persons. AADI and collaborators actively participated in the 'Manushya Mathil' (human wall) expressing solidarity with the agitating farmers. **Fr Mathew Aerthayil** published an article on 'Challenges Raised by the Jail Custody of **Fr Stan Lourduwamy**' in JIVAN December 2020. **Fr P.S. Antony** gave virtual Orientation to the first-year MSW students of Mercy College, Palakkad, and Bharathiar University, Coimbatore.

P.S. Antony

PIUS X JESUIT HOUSE, EDATHUA

The restructuring and repair works of Pius X Edathua are over and Pius X has a new face now. The labs are equipped with modern facilities. In spite of Covid-19 pandemic, we have a reasonably comfortable number of admissions for the various trades for the current year. The first years started their classes with a simple *pravesnolsavam* on Dec 23. Online and off line classes have been regularized. The practical examination for the final years got over and we are waiting for information regarding the theory examination.

Christmas offered the ITI an occasion for philanthropic work on Dec 23 under the leadership of the alumni. Mr. Manoj, an alumnus of Pius X ITI, died at the early



age of 45. He was survived by his his young wife and 12-year old son. Mr. Noble, a neighbouring boy, met with an accident and had to amputate his leg. Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the alumni pooled together Rs. 2,80,500/ and deposited the amount in the name of Manoj's son. The alumni collected another amount of Rs.1,15,000/ for Mr. Noble. During a function on 23rd, the Alumni handed over the documents of Rs 395500/to the manager of the bank. The alumni is also organizing an online X'mas/ New Year celebration on January 2 and a family gathering on Jan 3 in the Institute.

Jose Mathew

LOYOLA, MUKUNDARA

An online Christmas competition was conducted in Loyola School for the students. The School had a simple Christmas celebration with the teaching staff. Loyola community distributed Christmas sweets to the neighboring families since we could not have customary



Christmas celebration with them. **Fr Gracious** was away in Kannur for a week giving an Intensive Journal Programme to the Ursuline Pre-novices.

Libin Mathew

JESUIT MISSION, KHAILASHAHAR, TRIPURA



The month of December was full of celebrations related to Christmas - in villages, in families... We joined for the carol singing in the families around. The gatherings were moments of deep expression of their faith and solidarity. In the

school we had Christmas celebrations after the term examinations on 22nd and the students from all the classes presented beautiful cultural programmes under the guidance of their respective class teachers. **Sch Dijin Jose** gave a meaningful message for the day. A Christmas tree was prepared by Sch Dijin and **Sr Reena**. There was an exchange of gifts among the staff as part of the celebrations. On Christmas day **Fr Babu Paul** celebrated Mass in two villages in Kobroke, a tribal language of Tripura. Sch Dijin, along with **Sch Frangle** and the regents of Kohima Region, participated in the Regents' Triduum organized by the Region in Guwahati. The staff of the school had a two-day training programme guided by **Frs Babu Paul** and **James** during the Christmas holidays. At the end of it, we went on an outing to a nearby orange garden. After a year of running after various government offices, the government has allotted 7.7 acres of land for the school.



Babu Paul

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (XIDE), TRIPURA

The registration of a plot of land has successfully been completed. We bought 5.6 acres of land for the



construction of the new St. Xavier's School at Bhagavan Nagar in Tripura. The youth of Jamtoli Church went to all the seven substation churches for the carol service. The Christmas celebration was arranged well at the Xavier Institute. The nursery students, GDA students and remedial tuition students participated in the celebration and put up their cultural programmes on



Dec 22. They were given Christmas holidays till Jan 3rd. **Fr James Morais** celebrated Christmas Mass at the five substation churches.

Frangle Xavier

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

After successfully completing the COVID-19 antigen test, two theologians and three philosophers of Kerala Province reached DNC Pune on 28th December. We are in self quarantine for 10 days and our classes will begin on January 4th. We thank all the Jesuits in Kanjirappally and Kalady for their love and fraternal concern over the last six months during our stay in Samanvaya and Sameeksha. **Sch Rosan Roy** is the new province coordinator.

Savy George

WEBINAR ON FRATELLI TUTTI

The Theology Forum of the Province organized a webinar on *Fratelli Tutti – A reading from the Kerala context* on December 12. **Fr E.P. Mathew**, Provincial, welcomed the gathering of nearly 40 Kerala Jesuits and urged them to pay heed to Fr General's suggestion to support Pope

Francis through theological reflection on his agenda of renewal. **Frs S. Painadath** and **P.T. Mathew** presented papers, and **Fr Thomas Karimundackal** moderated the session.

Fr Painadath systematically presented *Fratelli Tutti* (FT) with focus on the call for universal fraternity. He briefly went through each chapter summarising the ideas in a nutshell. He noted that Pope Francis' vision of a new culture of universal brotherhood is marked by benevolence, solidarity and fraternity that go beyond all human boundaries. Diversity of cultures adds to the quality of life in a nation, provided that all live-in mutual respect and creative dialogue. Expressing concern for migrants, FT says: "If all are my sisters and brothers, if the world belongs to everyone, then it matters little whether my neighbour was born in my country or elsewhere." We need to "welcome, protect, promote and integrate the migrants". FT envisages a new political order in the post-Covid age where "politics will not be subservient to economy, nor economy to the dictates of an efficiency-driven paradigm of technology". The final chapter of FT is on the importance of inter-religious dialogue. Politics demands civic coexistence; but religions with the wisdom of generations motivate us to fraternity.

Fr P.T. Mathew guided the group to read FT with the Kerala context in mind. FT is basically a social document, he said, and so has to be read in concrete socio-political contexts. He dwelt at length on two concepts in FT that have special significance for us here. The first is *political charity* that affirms common good and goes beyond individual acts of charity. FT invites us to re-examine our charitable engagements as part of a 'better kind of politics'. The second is *culture of encounter* that accepts differences and urges us to go beyond borders whether religious or ethnic or any other. This is crucial when Islamophobia is on the increase and walls are being erected between communities. FT is a call to us Christians for introspection. A lively discussion followed the presentations helping to clarify many areas of confusion that we face.

Finally, the group asked the Forum to continue to organise periodic reflection sessions on theological topics of importance.

Xavier Tharamel

OURS IN MEDIA

Fr K.T. Chandy, *Invisible Injustices*, Noida: Media House, 2020. The book is dedicated to **Fr Stan Lourdsamy**, and consists of 115 case studies of Invisible Injustices. Pages 548.

Fr Thomas Karimundackal (ed.), *Logos: Proclaiming and Witnessing to God's Word* - Biblical Essays in Honour of Prof. Dr. Scaria Kuthirakattel, SVD (Christian World Imprints, New Delhi, 2020.) It has two articles by Kerala Jesuits:

- **Fr Henry Pattarumadathil** : "Journey to Emmaus: A Journey of Faith", 19-30.
- **Fr Thomas Karimundackal** : "Imperatives of Discipleship: A Gospel Perspective", 143-159.

ഈശോസഭ കേരളത്തിൽ 1542 - 2018, by **Frs Joseph Pulickal, Sunny Jose and Joseph Thayil**, Kumaranalloor: Yatra Publications, 2020.

GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

Fr Augustine Lopes (BOM), 75/49
on 01.12.2020 at Mumbai.

Br Desmond Dias (BOM), 87/65
on 02.12.2020 at Mumbai.

Fr O.P. Mathew (KER), 75/54
on 03.12.2020 at Kozhikode.

Bro Epiphanio Dias (GOA), 99/77
on 07.12.2020 at Mapusa, Goa.

Br Saul Abril (Guj), 89/73
on 13.12.2020 At Ahmedabad.

Fr Cyprian Andrade (GUJ), 74/56
on 17.12.2020.

Fr Stanley D'Souza (DEL), 88/63
on 19.12.2020 at Delhi.

Fr Linus Dungdung (RAN), 69/47
on 29.12.2020 at Ranchi.

Mrs Suni Freddy (44), sister of **Fr Saji Joseph Arithiyal Puraidam, SJ**, on 29.12.2020.

Mrs Thresiamma Pathrose Poovathinkal (76), maternal aunt of **Fr Varkeychan Mecheril, SJ**, on 30.12.2020.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY

- 01 John Elamkunnappuzha
- 01 David Mathew Madathinakathe
- 01 Ramlat Mekkulathil
- 02 Peter Mulluparambil
- 03 Tomson Vadakkeputhenpura
- 04 Varkeychan Mecheril

- 06 Biju George Kunnappillil
- 06 Joseph Pulickal
- 07 Biju Vadakkumcherry
- 08 Abraham Adappur
- 08 Augustine Paruthipallil
- 10 Roy Alex Kuzhimannil
- 11 Thomas Erinjery
- 13 Rabin C
- 16 Rejoy Johny Chiriyankandath
- 18 Joseph Edassery
- 20 Jacob Kumminiyil
- 20 Jijimon Puthuveettikalam
- 25 Antu Xavier Kalamparambil
- 26 James Pullokaran
- 26 Thomas Panikulam



FEBRUARY

- 01 Anil Kochumethikalam
- 02 Eby Shajan Parankimalil
- 04 George Varangalakudy
- 05 George Vattukulam

IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

JANUARY

- 02 (2019) Samuel Rayan
- 06 (2007) Cecil Veliath
- 06 (2014) Linus Maria Zucol
- 07 (2006) Kurian Padapurackal
- 13 (2018) George R Kandathil
- 13 (2020) John Molekunnel
- 15 (2007) Antony Manipadam
- 18 (1967) Thomas Kalam
- 19 (1977) Joseph Koilparambil
- 21 (2003) Chandy Varickamakal
- 23 (2007) Dominic Gomez
- 26 (1963) Fortunatus Cutinho
- 31 (1986) Cherian Karippaparambil



Obituary

FR MATHEW OLNIDIAN, SJ

(September 21, 1945 – Dec. 3, 2020)

Fr O.P. Mathew left for his eternal reward on 3 December 2020. He was the first vocation and the first Jesuit from the Chirackal Mission founded by the Italian missionary **Fr Caironi S J** of blessed memory. He joined the Society in 1966 as a brother at Christ Hall, Kozhikode, but was later ordained a priest in the society. He lived 55 years a Jesuit.

'Some are born great, some achieve greatness' said Shakespeare. True to this dictum, Mathew was all what he achieved. Born in 1945 in humble circumstances, he lost his father while still a child. So he grew up in the Boys' Home run by the Mission in Mattul. Though he was intelligent, he could not complete his High School due to reasons beyond him. The Fathers employed him as a Prefect in the Boys' Home. The life of the missionaries made a great impact on him. So, he entered the Jesuit novitiate at Christ Hall in 1966. It was Providential that **Fr Aloysius Del Zotto** as Provincial received him into the Society. Del Zotto was his guardian and mentor at the Boys' Home.

"Whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave."(Mt. 20:26) Mathew knew his Bible well. That molded Mathew into a hard working and exemplary brother. He never forgot his roots. This made him kind and concerned to all entrusted to his care. Mathew was benign by nature. His hospitality to guests as Jesuit Minister was allegorical. He proved his empathy for the poor and orphaned students while at St Vincent Boys' Home, Kozhikode. Many of them were helped by him in training and getting a job; they used to visit him with their families while he was bedridden. His encouraging and affectionate

words baked in the oven of hard life guided them through thick and thin.

Mathew was 45 years old and had completed 25 years as a brother when he wrote the Master's exam in Sociology privately and came off with flying colours. *'Way leads on to way,'* says Robert Frost, and so magis to magis. Lending his ears to the whispering of his inner voice, Mathew applied for Priesthood and the request was accepted by the Society. He was ordained on 27 November 2000 at his own parish Church of Mattul, Kannur. He was 55 years old.

His first years of pastoral ministry were in the parishes of Thiruvananthapuram Diocese where the parishioners still keep his memory framed in their hearts. Later, he was transferred to Pariyaram, Kannur, to assist **Fr Zucol**, the great Italian missionary. The octogenarian was busy with varied activities. Mathew was the interpreter to Zucol who was short of hearing. Mathew accompanied him in every activity of the parish. The heavy schedule was too much for Mathew.

He soon collapsed with his neck down paralyzed. Eswar (God), a famous surgeon, was instrumental in his recovery. Mathew assisted Zucol for nine years. After the death of Fr Zucol which almost orphaned him, he started stumbling and falling occasionally. This, ultimately, made him bed ridden. He struggled for four years to be back on his foot and serve his people.

'Man proposes but God disposes.' Mathew breathed his last on the feast of St Francis Xavier. Like St Francis, his eyes were set on his mission. But the good Lord had His own plans for both of them.

Raphael Thottan, S J

Please send your news before the end of every month.
Editor's Email ID: kjscalicut@gmail.com

[www: keralajesuits.org](http://www.keralajesuits.org)

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY