

May 2021-July 2022



St. Ignatius

Year of

St. Joseph

Ignatius



2020-Dec 8-2021

(For Private Circulation)

JANUARY 2021

MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

JANUARY 2021

- 01-02 Province Office
- 03-05 Visitation: St. Mary's, Dindigul
- 06-08 Province Office
- 07 LS/TL Meeting (Online)
- 09-14 Visitation: SJC, Tiruchi
- 15-16 Visitation: Clive House, Tiruchi
- 17 Province Land & Building Committee and Finance Commission Meeting
- 18-19 Consult (Online)
- 20 Province Office
- 21-22 Visitation: DACA, Madurai
- 23-26 Visitation: St. Mary's, Madurai
- 28-31 Visitation: AAC, Karumathur

FEBRUARY 2021

- 01-02 Province Office
- 03 Farm Managers and Concerned Superiors Treasurers Meeting, Maduralaya
- 04-05 Visitation: Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
- 06-11 Visitation: SXC, Palayamkottai
- 13 Visitation: Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
- 14-16 Visitation: Carmel, Nagercoil
- 17-27 Province Office
- 18-19 Consult, Maduralaya
- 22-26 JCSA Meeting (online)
- 28-Mar 01 POSA Consult, Delhi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. General has appointed:

Fr. Leonard Chiti Provincial of South Africa (SAP), a new Jesuit Province in the southern part of Africa.

Fr. Roberto Del Riccio Provincial for Southern Europe (EUM), comprising Italy, Albania, Malta and the Mission of Romania.

Fr. Miguel Garaizabal Regional Superior of Thailand.

Fr. Brian G. Paulson President of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States (JCCU). He will take over from **Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki** at a date yet to be determined in 2021.

Fr. Susai Raj Socius to the Provincial of Patna.



Fr. POSA has appointed:

Fr. Arjen Tete (CCU) Conference Delegate for Formation (CDF).

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

Kohima Region has just launched the Kohima Jesuits website. Kindly log on to www.kohimajesuits.com and feel free to share it with others.

Jnana Deepa, Pune, reverts to its old name **Jnana Deepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology** dropping 'Vidyapeeth' and avoiding the use of the acronym JDV.

House History: Local Superiors and Team Leaders are requested to send their house history for calendar years 2019 and 2020 to the Socius by 25 January 2021.

The Center for Safeguarding, Pune, is organizing an online course "An Overview of Psychosexual Integration" for formators involved in early formation from 22 February to 5 March 2021. It will be conducted by Fr. Konrad and Sr. Anna Mary Thumma (of NVSC). For further information please get in touch with him (kjnoronha2000@gmail.com +91 80077 68508).

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) Human Fraternity

In January 2021, we pray that the Lord may give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Fr. Josephraj Savarimuthu (CEN), Superior of VMI, has a new email id: sjosephrajsj@gmail.com

NEWS DIGEST

JRS Ruby Jubilee (40 Years)

A celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Jesuit Refugee Service was organized by JRS Tamil Nadu at Alverna Retreat Centre near Dindigul, on 9 December 2020. A Eucharistic celebration and a public function marked the event. Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Jebamalai Raja, Provincial of CEN, said: "Transformation of the refugees'



brokenness into wholeness is the hallmark of JRS accompaniment." He added: "The 40 years of JRS accompaniment remind me of the 40-year Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan--an exodus that had liberation as its destination." Fr. Danis Ponniah, Provincial of MDU, stated: "The occasion arouses in me a sense of wonder at the enormous amount of hard work done by the JRS team and at their enduring and enabling accompaniment of thousands of Sri Lankan refugees in India since 1983." He also expressed his deep sense of gratitude to all the Jesuits and religious and lay collaborators who contributed to this admirable humanitarian work.

Two books were released on the occasion: அமைதி வழியில் அகிலம் வெல்ல, a Peace Education Manual in Tamil, and *Local Integration as a Durable Solution for Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees*, a report of the consultation held at Loyola College, Chennai, on 14 February 2020. A video highlighting JRS services over the years was presented by Fr. Leo Pereira, Director of JRS Tamil Nadu and a portrait he painted of Fr. Arrupe was unveiled by Fr. Louie Albert. Some Sri Lankan refugees and former as well as the current team members of JRS Tamil Nadu took part in the celebration. Besides, sharing of experiences, folk dances and songs, too, marked the occasion.

Leo Pereira

Ignatian Year 2021-22

On 4 December 2020, Fr. Vincent Sekhar, Province Convener for the Ignatian Year 2021-22 (IGY 21-22), took part in a webinar with Fr. General. Fr. General's talk was simple, direct, and inspiring, inviting the whole Society and its provinces to make use of the Ignatian year as an opportune time for personal and community transformation. Following

this, the JCSA Coordinator for IGY 21-22 called for a meeting of all the conveners, in which Fr. Sekhar participated and presented the proposals the province committee had prepared. JCSA was very much pleased with the Chennai Province and AAC annual calendars incorporating the Ignatian life-events. On 19 December 2020, Fr. Sekhar presented during the Superiors/Team Leaders, Coordinators and Consultors meeting the proposals of the committee for the communities/institutions, province, and MDU-CEN joint celebrations. Superiors and Team Leaders unanimously welcomed the ideas and they would take them up in their community meetings in the months of January/February 2021. On December 24, Fr. Francis Pudhicherry, JCSA Coordinator for IGY 21-22, asked all the province coordinators for the updates in their respective provinces and I sent him the aforementioned information. On December 26, I wrote to all the commission coordinators to provide me by the end of January 2021 with two or three affordable and realizable proposals for the Ignatian Year celebrations from each of their commissions.

Vincent Sekhar

Human Rights Day

There was a good response to the call given by MDU and CEN Provincials to celebrate the Human Rights Day on December 10 in a meaningful way in both the provinces. The following events were planned and executed by our communities and networking teams.

1. Two public events were organized in collaboration with many civil society groups and religious and priests at Madurai and Chennai to commemorate the Human Rights Day demanding the release of Fr. Stan Swamy and other human rights defenders and expressing solidarity with the protesting farmers in Delhi. In Madurai, the public protest was arranged under the banner of 'Nattai Kappom-Tamil Nadu'. Mr. Nanmaran, Ex.MLA, Mr. Ellalan, Organizing Secretary of VCK, Mr. Mahaboop John of MDMK and Mr. M. Shanmugavelu MP of DMK addressed the gathering. After the protest, all assembled at Krishna Iyer Mahal and participated in an online meeting organized by the Federation against the draconian laws. The whole event was ably coordinated by Fr. Paul Mike and Advocate C.J. Rajan on behalf of Madurai City Jesuits.

2. Two online meetings on the theme of human rights with a special reference to Stan Swamy were conducted by St. Joseph's for Tiruchi CRI and by St. Mary's, Dindigul, for teachers which became



awareness-building events. Fr. Santhanam was the resource person for both the meetings and Frs. Xavier Arockiasamy, Arul Oli, George Vedamuthu and Gnanaraj gave the lead.

3. On behalf of the social media networking team, LENS (LTI) released on December 10 a video titled as 'வேளாண் சட்ட ஆய்வுகள்' which was scripted and starred by Fr. Xavier Antony describing strikingly the dangers of the new farm laws.

4. The social media networking teams came out with Poster and Just A Minute (JAM) video talk contests on the human rights theme on December 14. Actor, Director and Producer Mr. R. Parthiban as the special guest gave a touching message and announced the 10 prize winners among the 220 contestants. Frs. Vasanth, Thayriam, Sarathi, Gladwin, Irudayaraj and Xavier Antony played important roles in organizing it. Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj as the special speaker highlighted the significance of human rights. A team of media-friendly and digital-savvy scholastics, Schs. Zenith, Frankly and Praveen infused a professional touch to the entire event.

A. Santhanam

GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission

The GBM of Spirituality and Dialogue Commission was held on 5 December 2020 using the Zoom platform. Fr. Selvaraj Soosaimanickam, the new coordinator of the commission planned and organized the GBM and all the members of the commission, directors of campus ministry of our institutions and special invitees from our province actively participated in the GBM.

The meeting began at 9.00 a.m. with a prayer conducted by Br. Rayappan, SHJ, Commission member. Fr. Selva welcomed the participants and explained the dynamics of the GBM. The participants introduced themselves and the input session was on Pope Francis's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. Fr. A.J. Thamburaj was the resource person and he highlighted the need for the due care for the migrants, involvement of Catholics in politics, fraternity for fellow human beings emphasizing the salient features of Chapters 4, 5 and 6 of the encyclical. He interacted with the participants at the end of the talk clarifying their doubts. The session was moderated by Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent.

After a short tea break, we had a reporting session by the campus ministers moderated by Fr. Sahaya Raj. The sharing by campus ministers was really enriching as there were many innovative events organized by our institutions. Many of the institutions had their spiritual activities virtually due to COVID-19. Fr. Selva presented the report of the commission at the end. Fr. Xavier Raj was the moderator for the plenary session. He highlighted the plans proposed by the commission and urged the participants to respond and also propose new ideas.

At the end of the business session, Fr. Provincial shared his concluding remarks and comments based on the reporting session and plenary session. He appreciated the coordinator and commission members and the participants of the GBM for their involvement, particularly in planning out the activities for the forthcoming year. He also gave a few suggestions to make effective use of the social media during this pandemic. At the end, Fr. Selva gratefully acknowledged the support rendered by Fr. Provincial, commission members, campus ministers and all participants in organizing this GBM successfully.

Selvaraj S.

GBM: Brothers Commission

The online GBM of the Brothers Commission was organized on 6 December 2020. Twenty-six brothers from Madurai, Chennai and Jamshedpur Provinces, five priests and Fr. Provincial took an active part in the meeting. It was wonderful to see our brothers in Beschi Illam, Dindigul, and St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, attending the meeting in groups.

The day began with the invocation of God's blessings by Br. Kulandairaj and Fr. Stalin Joseph. Br. John Bosco, one of the commission members, welcomed the gathering and introduced the speaker of the day, Fr. Michael Alosanai, who delivered the keynote address on the theme "Brotherhood in the perspective of St. Ignatius of Loyola." With his inspiring presentation he invited us to do the Lord's Mission with the vision of St. Ignatius for the salvation of souls. In the second session, he described the various grades in the Society and explained the status of brothers at the time of St. Ignatius and after GC 32. His presentation came to an end with

a special invitation to promote more vocations to brotherhood in the Society. After the talk, each of us was given five minutes to share our experience of COVID-19. The sharing was truly an enriching experience and a moment of grace for us as a few shared about their own courageous experience of fighting the pandemic. Most of the brothers felt and expressed their concern about declining vocations for brotherhood in the Society and insisted on creative ways of promoting vocations and providing on-going formation for brothers. Fr. Provincial, in his address to the brothers, appreciated their dedication, love and committed service in the Society of Jesus. He expressed his joy seeing all our brothers using modern communication technology and attending the Zoom meeting. He urged the Brothers Commission members to find the ways and means of promoting vocations to brotherhood. Br. Arockiasamy, the Coordinator of the Brothers Commission, proposed the vote of thanks. For most of our brothers this was the first time to attend a Zoom meeting and they found it to be an enlightening and enriching experience.

Arockiasamy P.

GBM: Dalit Commission

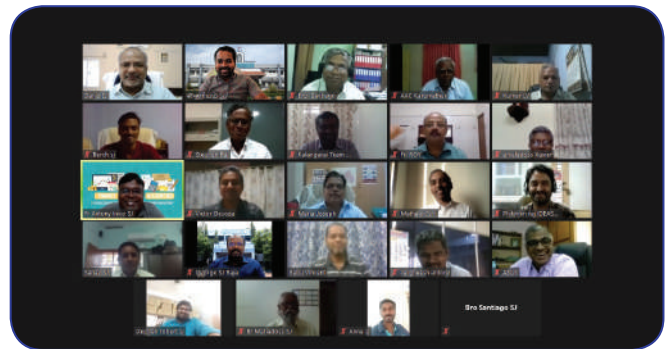
The online GBM of Dalit Commission on 13 December 2020 attracted 105 participants for the inaugural address delivered by Dr. Lella Karunyakara, Director, Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar Centre for Dalit and Tribal Studies and Dean, School of Culture, MGAHV, Wardha, Maharashtra. The main theme of his address as well as of the GBM was 'Education envisaged by Dr. Ambedkar for the Empowerment of the Dalits'. Being a history professor of a Central University, Dr. Lella Karunyakara presented a historical sketch of the education status of the Dalits. He pointed out clearly how the traditional education system in India reserved education only to a particular group of people who kept themselves supreme in the caste hierarchy of the Indian society. Education was denied not only to Dalits but also to all sections of people other than particular dominant caste groups. The professor himself being a Dalit activist thanked and appreciated the Christian missionaries as well as the British, who secularized and made education accessible to everyone. The panelists, Frs. Santhanam and Arul Ravi with his students, presented the reality of Dalit education and challenged the participants to move forward

revolutionizing Dalit education. The deliberations, discussions and the action plans that were finalized made every participant to state that the GBM was fruitful, meaningful and satisfying.

Aruldoss

GBM: Finance Commission

The online GBM of the Province Finance Commission was held on 14 December 2020. The meeting began with a prayer service conducted by Fr. Mathew Cyril. In the first session, auditor C. K. Ayyanar enlightened us all on the topic Finance Related New Compliances. He shared about the recent amendments in Taxation of Charitable and Religious Trusts. He urged us to fulfil the compliances before 30.06.2021 with the help of the auditors. In the second session, Fr. G. Alex (JAM), talked on the Effective Role and Responsibilities of Treasurers. He highlighted the different features of the Instruction on Administration of Goods and Financial Management and invited the Jesuit treasurers to keep in mind the Society's spirit in handling money. Prior to the session, Fr. Provincial released the book, *Registered Charitable and Religious Trusts in India* by Fr. G Alex. In the afternoon session, Fr. Thayriam, the PDD, shared his thoughts on how to mobilize funds with the help of our Alumni and generate more local income. Then, the treasurers of different communities were invited to share their current financial situation and they expressed their strategy of financial management and difficulties faced during the pandemic.



In the business session, Fr. Maria Joseph requested the treasurers to act diligently to fulfil the finance-related compliances in 2021 with the help of their auditors. He emphasized that the present pandemic has taught us to create a reserve fund in the province and unit levels in order to meet the unexpected expenses. Province Land and Building Committee and Province Finance Commission will meet on 17 January at Maduralaya

and discuss the utilization of the existing resources and another wider level consultation will be held on 3 February. He also presented the treasurers' role in implementing the PAPs as proposed in the GBM held in 2018. Fr. Provincial in his final sharing stressed the imperative need for financial accountability and transparency of the treasurers. He invited the treasurers to adopt a kind and humane approach towards the domestic staff members. The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Berchmans Maria Joseph, followed by the concluding prayer by Fr. Sahaya Raj Thangasamy.

A. Victor Desoza

GBM: Formation

The GBM of the Province Formation Commission was held on 15 and 16 December 2020 on the theme Jesuit Formation in the Forthcoming Decade. The online meeting began with the lighting of the lamp by Fr. Provincial and prayer service by the novitiate community; 42 Jesuits and lay collaborators participated in the GBM from all over the world. On the first day, the guest speakers from various social movements addressed the gathering.

Ms. Brinda Adige, a women's rights activist, gave us a clarion call to find a "feminism" within all of us while challenging us to think beyond patriarchy. Mr. Ravi Nair, Executive Director of South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre, reminded us that the Church and the faithful have an obligation to raise their voices against oppression. Mr. Harsh Mandar, Columnist, Author and Researcher, hit the bull's-eye with his statement that the Church has been weak in speaking out against the massive project of spreading hatred against the Muslim Community.

All the speakers gave us the wake-up call to speak louder than we have been speaking, to see beyond what we have been used to seeing and to walk beyond what we have been used to walking.

The highlight of the day was the address of Fr. Mark Ravizza, General Counsellor for Formation, from Rome; 250 scholastics and priests from the southern provinces (Andhra, Chennai, Karnataka, Kerala and Madurai) attended this meeting. He shared that our formation in the forthcoming decade must prepare us to answer the call of God's dream for the Society which is part of a larger dream of renewal for the Church. We had group discussion and business session on the second day.

Fr. Provincial in his address to the participants shared the salient points of Fr. General's recent address on vocation promotion: "To rekindle the culture of vocation promotion." He thanked various people who rendered their selfless service for the smooth running of formation during this lockdown. The GBM ended with a vote of thanks and the *Angelus*.

Stephen L. Pragasam

LS/TL, Coordinators and Consultors' Meet

The virtual meeting of the Local Superiors, Team Leaders, Coordinators and Consultors of our Province was held on December 18 to 20, 2020. On the first day, the meeting for the coordinators began with a prayer service conducted by Fr. Selvaraj Soosaimanickam. Fr. Santhanam moderated the session in which the Coordinators shared on the salient features of the GBMs, action plans, major challenges and opportunities and PAP implementation report. In the evening, we had discernment in common to arrive at concrete action plans for the commissions and the province.

On the second day, the meeting began with a prayer by Fr. A. Francis Xavier. Fr. Thayriam, the Province Development Director, briefly presented a recap of the Coordinators' meeting. Fr. Provincial officially welcomed the participants and explained the dynamics of the meeting and Fr. Thayriam presented the collated report of PAP from communities and commissions. He highlighted some of our important initiatives and ended the presentation with his appreciation to Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators for their commitment to PAP and made some suggestions for better implementation in the future. Fr. Thomas Alex, a member of NEP Committee, presented elaborately the major challenges posed by the National Education Policy and the Committee's response and recommendations which the floor collectively approved. Fr. Santhanam, a member of EIA Committee, shared the major challenges and recommendations on Central Government's Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2020. Fr. Arulanandam briefly shared about the possibility of producing an E-Book on 'Healing Earth'.

The afternoon session on the MoU between

Madurai and Chennai Provinces was attended by the Superiors, Team leaders and Consult members of both provinces and was moderated by Fr. Leo Fernando. Fr. Provincial presented the MoU and sought suggestions and recommendations from the floor. This session ended with a lot of appreciation for the committee that drafted the MoU.

In the evening, Fr. Aruldoss, the moderator of the day welcomed Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent, the convener of the Province Ignatian Year Committee, to present proposals for consideration. Fr. Sekhar presented several concrete action plans for a meaningful celebration of the Ignatian Year at community, zonal, province and interprovincial level. Then, Fr. Philomin Raj presented the Province Policy on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults and its implementation.

On the final day, after the prayer led by Fr. Xavier Raj and the recap of the previous day's proceedings, the report of the CBSE School Feasibility Study Committee was presented by Fr. S. M. John Kennedy in the place of Fr. P. Joseph Xavier. The sharing was followed by suggestions and recommendations from the floor. A collated report on the adverse impact of COVID-19 from communities was presented by Fr. L. R. Michaelraj. Though there were a number of adverse impacts, there were also many moments of consolation to be grateful for. Members appreciated the care and concern of the province during the pandemic especially the instructions and guidelines from Fr. Socius to protect many of our Jesuits. It was a very moving experience to listen to the sharing by our estate managers about the adverse effects of COVID-19 as well as the challenges and opportunities it presented. There was a great feeling of gratitude for their humble and generous service. Fr. Maria Joe, the Province Treasurer, in his address spoke about the financial situation of the Province. Fr. Provincial presented Fr. General's address to the JCSA Major Superiors on vocation promotion. He highlighted the importance of developing a culture of promoting vocations giving due importance to vocation to the brotherhood. Fr. Provincial thanked all the members and the meeting ended with a prayer by Fr. Paulraj Packiam.

A. Vargheesh and T. Sahaya Raj

Dindigul: Beschi Illam

Fr. Danis Ponniah, our Provincial, had his canonical visitation of Beschi from 7 to 12 December. It was a grace-filled occasion for the community to have had this visit during the COVID pandemic. On December 21, the novices and juniors went round the other units in the campus singing carols and sharing their Christmas joy. On the following day, Fr. John Britto Bonaventure, the chief guest of our Christmas celebration with the co-workers, inspired us with a message "To those who do good things, every day is Christmas." The presence of our co-workers and the cultural programs by our novices and juniors added colour to the celebration. Our co-workers wished us all with a song in English. Fr. Michael Doss, Superior, thanked our co-workers and, as a token of love and gratitude for their generous and committed service during this hard time, distributed gifts to them all. At the Vigil Mass on December 24, Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj was the main celebrant and Fr. Swaminathan preached a pithy and inspiring homily. Fr. James Thamburaj offered an art workshop from 26 to 28 December on the theme "ART – Astounding, Refreshing Touch- where the invisible can be made visible" to the novices who found it very creative and experienced the healing movement in themselves.

Our novices had three informative sessions on December 29 and 30: First Aid workshop by Sr. Amali, ICM, Human Sexuality by Professor Mrs. Jeyaseeli, Tutor, Our Lady Nursing Institute, and Health Hygiene by Sr. Smita, PDDM. These helped our novices to be more knowledgeable with regard to caring and respecting the self and the other.

We had a solemn Holy Eucharist for the New Year vigil presided over by Fr. Michael Doss and Fr. Harry Martis (GUJ) preached an inspiring homily. The entire liturgy was moving and we had three hymns written for the occasion by Fr. Antony Inigo and composed by Fr. M.S. Bastian. At the stroke of the midnight hour, to mark the beginning of the New Year, the community members sang in joy and shared hope and peace with one another.

Michael Panimaya Raj

Juniorate

We, the juniors participated in the poster designing and "Just A Minute (JAM)" speech competitions organized by the CEN-MDU Provinces on the Human Rights Day to show our solidarity with the prophetic voices across India. Fr. Danis Ponniah, during his visitation of Beschi Illam, met us on December 8. While addressing us, he highlighted the importance

of gratitude and leadership in the Society of Jesus, invited us to be discerning persons, and emphasized the importance of saying no to mediocrity and yes to Magis. The II term in the Juniorate came to an end on December 19 and all of us passed the examinations with flying colours. On December 22, Fr. Antony Robinson, PCF (CEN), met the juniors of Chennai Province. During this short visit, he motivated us to give our best in the coming days.

Joseph Danial

Dindigul: St. Mary's

We organized a class-wise Parents Teachers Meeting in the first week of November. We conducted an online test for the students of 6th to 12th Stds (both Tamil and English Medium Sections). The students were very enthusiastic about writing and submitting papers. Our teachers have been preparing their own materials in the form of short videos and making them available to the students. On 10 November 2020, the management and the staff participated in the protest against the injustice done to aided schools by the TN Government which passed a bill in the State Assembly to provide 7.5% reservation in medical colleges exclusively to government school students who clear NEET. Our student, Master Vishnu Kumar, gave a thought-provoking message regarding the issue and our staff Mr. V. Kulandairaj also addressed the gathering.

On Human Rights Day, the Human Rights Club of our school and Dindigul CRI jointly organized an online webinar for teachers. Teachers from different schools took an active part and expressed their concern against the prevailing human rights violations in the country.

Selected students from 10th Std have been trained for the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE). Now, the training for the National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMS) exam is on for selected students from 8th Std. A team of committed and generous staff are engaged in this training programme.

On December 21, we celebrated Christmas together with our primary and high school staff. On the following day, we celebrated Christmas with our co-workers from the residence and hostel and shared Christmas gifts. Thanks to the campus ministry team headed by Fr. Joe Xavier for making this a joyful celebration.

On 30 December, we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Br. Thomas Arulappan, our Minister. Given the current circumstances, we could not invite anyone for



the celebration. The Jubilee Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Stephen Martin, our Superior, and Fr. Joe Xavier made the day memorable with the joint efforts of his team.

Arockia Amalan

Dindigul: Maduralaya

After months of lockdown and travel restrictions, we were overjoyed to receive guests in our community. On December 8, Frs. Jebamalai Raja, Joseph Ignacy and Vasanth from Chennai stayed at Maduralaya and took part in the Ruby Jubilee celebrations of JRS. Given the COVID-related restrictions, we could not have the usual Christmas get-together with the families of our co-workers. However, we had a very simple and meaningful celebration only with our co-workers on December 24. After months of social distancing, it was a true delight for us to join the Beschi community for the Christmas and New Year celebrations. We marked our Christmas celebration in a unique way by taking the New Born Jesus to the streets of Dindigul. On December 25, we went around and gave some Christmas gifts to the pavement dwellers who blessed us with so much of warmth and gratitude.

Thayriam

Devakottai: De Britto

On 7 December 2020, we published two books and released the first E-Magazine of our school. During this lockdown, Fr. M. Vincent Amalraj wrote “மனநலமே மாமருந்து” and Fr. Arockiasamy wrote “தூரத்து இருட்டு கிழக்கு உனக்கு.” Sch. Joe Praveen was the coordinator for the E-Magazine, which was written by our school staff. Fr. Jesuraj K. Christy from Arul Anandar College, Mr. Mohamad Mukthar and Mr. Nedunchazhiyan were our guests of honour and they released the books.



On December 14, we conducted a one-day recollection and Christmas programme for our school staff. Fr. Anbin Amalan was the preacher. On the following day, we had Christmas celebration for our hostel co-workers.

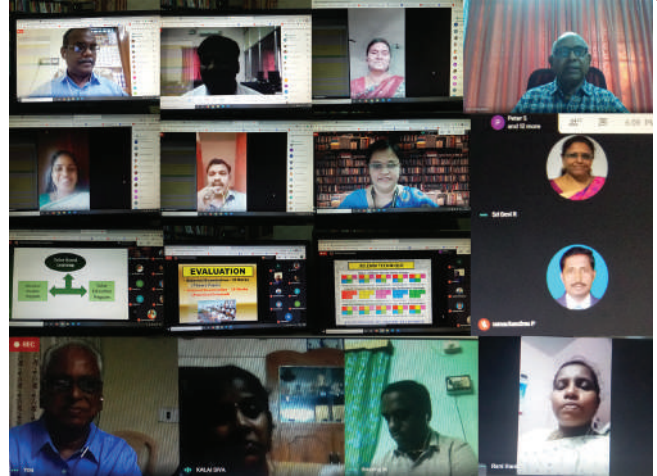
We organized an online Zoom Parents' Meeting for our 10th and 12th English Medium students on December 21-22, and we also had the evaluation of the online classes and the examinations. Fr. Arockiasamy, our Head Master, gave some guidelines both to the students and to the parents. We have also conducted the online quarterly examinations for our students.

Digital Jesuits organized 4G Jingle Bells competitions. Our schoolboys participated in the drawing competition and Ajay Kannan, our 12th Std student, won the third prize.

Salamon Joseph Praveen

Karumathur: AAC

The odd semester for the academic year 2020-22 came to a successful close with students writing their semester exams online. The NAAC preparation is still on with the full involvement of the departments and their faculty. We had the Eucharistic celebration for the feast of St. Francis Xavier presided over by Fr. Gilbert Camillus and the experience-based homily was by Fr. Anbarasu Maria Raj. The Department of Human Excellence under the guidance of Fr. Vincent Sekhar and the coordinators organized two Intercollegiate webinars on 11 and 18 December 2020 on Foundational Values in Human Development and Soft Skills Training, respectively. All the Jesuit colleges of Tamil Nadu and a few colleges from Madurai city took an active part in the online seminars, sharing their best practices in teaching and learning, evaluation method, and text materials. Incidentally, Fr. Vincent Sekhar was invited to share about the Department of Human Excellence and the courses taught in AAC, their intended outcome, and the way students learn



the human skills during an International webinar organized by ESADE, Barcelona, Spain, and Santa Clara University, California, USA, on Secularization, Higher Education, and Interreligious Dialogue.

The Campus Ministry of AAC celebrated the Interfaith Christmas 2020 on 23 December 2020. Three professors, a Hindu, a Muslim, and a Christian, shared their Christmas message. The staff as well as the Jesuit community rendered Christmas carols on the stage and Fr. Anbarasu, in the guise of Santa Claus distributed prizes to the winners of the games conducted by Fr. Godwin Rufus, the Principal, prior to the stage event. Similarly, there was a day set apart for the hostel Christmas celebrations along with the co-workers. We also had a short year-end Thanksgiving event online for the entire college, particularly the staff. Dr. Sundar Raj, Deputy principal, enumerated God's blessings on the college and its staff and students whose representatives thanked God for the blessings showered on the college. Fr. John Pragasam, Superior, blessed the gathering and Fr. Godwin Rufus, Principal, thanked the participants.

Vincent Sekhar

Madurai: DACA

DACA'S Evening Study Centers (ESCs) observed the month of December as Ambedkar Month in order to commemorate the death anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on 6 December 2020. Every day, one of his quotes and a social awareness song were shared with the children of ESCs through social media. At the beginning of the class, the students familiarized themselves with the quote and song of the day. Through this practice, we were able to instil the liberating ideas of Dr. Ambedkar in young minds.

Due to torrential rains, we celebrated back to back the death anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Human Rights Day on December 9 and 10. At the

village level, a grand meeting was organized in 12 places, in which we encouraged the children to draw inspiration from the life and writings of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. As part of our celebration, 244 children from 28 villages were given prizes and certificates for winning various e-cultural contests that had been conducted recently.

Once again, our Province generously supported us to provide dry rations (3 kg of dhal, 1 kg of tamarind and ½ ltr of cooking oil) to the needy. In the fourth phase of COVID relief work, DACA reached out to over 120 deserving Dalit families. The beneficiaries expressed their sincere sentiments of gratitude to the Province and DACA.

P. Theophine Michael

Madurai: Loyola Technical Institute

AITT (All India Trade Tests) were held for the outgoing students on 2 December 2020. Fenner (P) Ltd., and GECO Special Machines conducted campus recruitment. LITI reopened for the freshers and the old trainees on December 7. Since then, LITI is functioning with full strength. All our students were instructed about the Standard Operating Procedures given by the government. On December 30, Fr. Xavier Antony, Superior of LTI, celebrated the Holy Spirit Mass and prayed for the students, staff and the institution.

On World Human Rights Day, LENS provided technical assistance for the protest organized in Madurai against the agricultural laws and also for the release of the human rights activists especially Fr. Stan Swamy. LENS has come out with the following uploads in the month of December:

1. Farmer's Protest (Social Issues) – Fr. Xavier Antony
2. What is UAPA? (Social Issues)– Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj
3. வேளாண் சட்ட ஆய்வுகள் (Social Issues) – Fr. Xavier Antony
4. பெரும் போராட்டத்தில் முன்னணி ஊடகங்கள் எங்கே? – Media Education Series 03 - Fr. Stephen Martin
5. கன்னி ஈன்ற செல்வமே – Lyrical Video – Fr. Sigamani
6. கன்னி ஈன்ற செல்வமே-பாடல் பிறந்த பதிவுகள் - Fr. Sigamani
7. மண்ணில் பூத்த விண்மலரே- Lyrical Video – Fr. Sigamani

Amith Shajan

Madurai: St. Mary's

The Christmas carol service team, headed by the Parish Priest, Fr. S. Marianathan and his Assistants, Frs. Theresunathan and Manuel Savariar, visited the substations and the religious institutions in St. Mary's Cathedral Parish and blessed them on December 19 and 21. Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop



of Madurai, celebrated the joyous Christmas Solemn Mass on December 24 in St. Mary's Cathedral at 8:00 p.m. Thousands of people belonging to various religions in and around Madurai came to the Christmas crib in St. Mary's Cathedral to pay a pious



visit to Infant Jesus while adhering to the health care norms of the government. Vincent de Paul Society distributed clothes to 250 poor people in their houses on December 27.

Manuel Savariar

Nagercoil: Carmel

To commemorate the International Human Rights Day and to create awareness about Human Rights violations including Bhima-Koregaon case, Carmel School conducted the first-ever online singing and speech competitions for the school students of Nagercoil. The participants were asked to speak on

the given topics related to Human Rights and sing the songs written by them. They sent the recorded videos through WhatsApp. The selected students for each competition performed on the school stage and received prizes on December 10 during the special function held in our school.

An online quiz open to all was conducted on Human Rights issues, COVID-19 and Fr. Stan Swamy. About 180 members from different parts of Tamil Nadu participated in the quiz. The winners were given prizes on December 18 by Fr. A. Xavier Raj, our Superior. Our Alumni Association sponsored all the prizes amounting to Rs. 10,000. Our special appreciation and thanks to Headmaster Fr. A. Simonraj for preparing and organizing everything successfully.

Our annual Alumni Day was held on December 26. Even amid the pandemic, about 150 alumni actively participated in the programme. We honoured the



alumni who passed out in 1970 as Golden Jubilarians and in 1995 as Silver Jubilarians with mementos. The alumni gave very concrete and constructive suggestions for the growth and development of their alma mater, especially for the forthcoming centenary in 2022. Fr. Maria Singarayar, Alumni Director, and the Executive Committee Members planned well and executed the program meticulously.

Maria Singarayar

Oriyur: St. Arulanandar

On December 10, we conducted a seminar on EIA, NEP and New Farm bills for our Oriyur parishioners. It helped them to know the hidden agenda of the government and the danger they will face in the future. We also conducted the same seminar for our higher secondary school teachers on December 22. Fr. Anthony Samy was the resource person for both the



seminars. On December 23, our parish choir members went for a Christmas carol competition to Thondi, our neighbouring parish, and won the first prize. In our parish, we conducted a crib competition for our parishioners and we gave prizes to all the participants.

Jackson Joseph

Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's

St. Xavier's College commenced the even semester offline classes for the seniors on 16 December 2020. It has become a member of ICT Academy, which is an initiative of the Central and State governments. This will help us in conducting various motivational and training programmes for both staff and students. On December 17, a memorial service was held for Fr. Antony Pappuraj, former Rector and Principal, and Dr. Liberty V. Rayan, former Professor of Mathematics. The Christmas programme was conducted on December 23 through the public address system.



Fr. Henry Jerome offered a one-credit optional course on 'Cyber Ethics' to the second and third year theologians of St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchi, from 11 to 19 December. On December 14, the diocese of Palayamkottai commemorated the first anniversary of the episcopal ordination of our Bishop Most Rev. Antonysamy with a Eucharistic celebration at which Fr. Henry Jerome preached the homily.

SXCE had a meaningful and educative online programme of homage to our patron Saint Francis Xavier on December 1, during which reflections were given by Fr. Baskar, providing an opportunity especially to the newcomers to the college to learn about St. Francis Xavier. As part of the students' enrichment programmes, the first-year prospective teachers were offered online webinars on de-addiction, consumer rights and human rights successively on 7, 8 and 10 December 2020. It was well-received by the students, who raised many questions that were answered by the speakers. On December 12, SXCE's unique Teacher of the Month programme had Mr. Arul Raj, PG Asst. of Carmel HS School, alumnus of SXCE and TN State Best Teacher Awardee of 2020, as the special speaker. His sharing with 32-years of service was applauded for his down-to-earth thinking and practical tips to become an effective teacher. Christmas was celebrated online with Fr. Henry Jerome as the president and Sr. Irudhayamary of Stella Matutina College of Education, Chennai, and alumna of SXCE, as the special speaker. The carols sung by the students were well appreciated. Currently, the second-year students are busy with their semester exams, while the first-year students are preparing for internal tests.

On December 2, Dr. Joseph Dass, a Siddha specialist, enlightened the community on 'Post COVID-19 Care' with his vast medical experience. The community offered a special Mass for the repose of the soul of Fr. Pappuraj on the 40th day of his death (December 22). On the same day, there was a modest Christmas celebration for our domestic workers.

Y. Baskar

Thoothukudi: Xaveriana

On 24 November 2020, we began for our staff, students and their parents an online novena in preparation for the feast of St. Francis Xavier. Since we had already announced a quiz competition on



the life of our Patron Saint and exciting prizes for the winners, many took part in the novena prayers enthusiastically. During the novena days, we took turns to give creative reflections on the life and mission of St. Francis Xavier. This initiative, which came from Br. Arockiasamy, was appreciated by the people very much. On the feast day (3 December 2020), we had a solemn Eucharistic Celebration in Pope Francis Hall in the school. Fr. Ignacy, our Superior was the main celebrant and Fr. Sales and three teachers inspired us all with their sharing on St. Francis Xavier. Then, we served tea and snacks to the staff and alumni, who had come for the Mass. It had to be a low-key celebration due to COVID-19. Br. Arockiadoss, our headmaster, took the initiative to meet our school students and their parents in their respective parishes on Sundays after the Mass in order to introduce himself to the students and parents and request their help in getting more admissions. The parish priests welcomed the move and encouraged us. However, there was a mixed response from the students and their parents. Br. Arockiadoss executed this plan with the cooperation of the staff and the Jesuit community members on three consecutive Sundays.

In view of the International Human Rights Day on December 10, we conducted a drawing competition on the theme of human rights for our school students. A video mime titled "Manitham Kappom" portraying the violation of human rights was directed by Mr. Dyson, our school English medium teacher, and was released online. On the occasion of the birthday of our dear Pope Francis, we organized an essay competition for the students. During the Advent season, a crib competition was also conducted for our students. The winners of the



above competitions were given prizes, which were sponsored by our school alumni association.

This year we wanted to have a simple and meaningful Christmas celebration with our staff and students. Therefore, our staff and the management contributed some money to buy a hundred sets of clothes to be distributed to 100 poor students of our school. On 22 December 2020, there was a Eucharistic celebration at 10.30 a.m. in Pope Francis hall in the school. Fr. Victor Desoza was the main celebrant and Fr. Sales and two teachers shared their reflections on what Christmas is to them. At the end of the Mass, Fr. Ignacy, our superior, gave the Christmas message and New Year greetings to the staff, students and their parents. Then, we distributed new clothes and half a kilogram of cake to the selected 100 poor students. We have created a mini kitchen garden in Xaveriana campus and are cultivating many vegetables thanks to the efforts of Fr. Ignacy.

Francis Sales

Tiruchi: Clive House

After completing the odd semester exams on 15 December 2020, we started our online classes for the even semester on December 16. We had a short community meeting with minimum members to discuss community activities during the forthcoming semester. As part of academic requirements, the 3rd year UG students began their internship programme on 16 December 2020 and ended it on 3 January 2021. While the 3rd year scholastics residing in their respective provinces

began their internship, the four 3rd year scholastics from Clive House went to different schools for their internship programme, finding accommodation in nearby Jesuit communities.

In preparation for Christmas, we had a day of recollection on 19 December, in which Fr. Joe Antony gave points to ponder over the joy of Christmas at the time of pandemic. As a community, we shared our Christmas joy by singing carols and distributing gifts to elderly people in Amaithi Nilayam, an old age home, and with children with special needs at Vidivelli. As a sign of love, and to express our solidarity with the poor, we distributed food packets to the needy on 23 and 24 December. Ten of the scholastics staying in Clive House, had a fruitful and meaningful triduum at VMI, Vilangudi, from 30 December 2020 to 2 January 2021. Fr. Annaraj, Director of the Pre-novitiate, preached the triduum.

Sagayam Rajan

Tiruchi: SJC

The premises of AHEAD (Arrupe Health Enclave for Alcohol/Drug De-addiction) were blessed on 29 November 2020 by Fr. Leonard Fernando, our Rector. Present were the President of Mullaikudi Panchayat and ward members and a representative contingent of the St. Joseph's community. In his welcome speech, Fr. Francis Jayapathy, Director, AHEAD, emphasized that addiction has long been put, wrongly, in the basket of moral evils, while it belongs properly to the basket of diseases. AHEAD is a homage to Servant of God Pedro Arrupe. On 22 May 1982, Fr. Pittau read out the 'final testament'



of Fr. Arrupe: “To my spiritual sons, I bequeath the young manipulated by drugs.” “It is fitting, therefore, that this fresh initiative is dedicated to his care and guidance”, said Fr. Jayapathy.

The first group of 12 patients began their recovery process on December 1 and concluded on December 21. The concluding ceremony was held on December 20 with a prayer service presided over by Fr. Rector. The participants and their families were felicitated by the Directors of Work of St. Joseph’s. The audience was moved by the sharing of patients, who spoke of their recovery process. The function concluded with some games, carol singing and the Christmas fellowship meal.

The campus ministry at SJC headed by Fr. Richard Hiruthayaraj (CEN) became an online ministry during the past few months of the pandemic. Every month, he organized online Masses for the Catholic staff and students. He also organized monthly motivational talks for the students and staff of other faiths.

The Christmas celebration for the teaching and non-teaching staff and the students, who were present on the campus, was also organized and the campus ministry team along with our Clive House scholastics enriched the celebration with their melodious carols. The college officials greeted the gathering with fitting Christmas messages. The Camboulives College and School Band filled the air with the festive music.

Earlier, the Camboulives Band led by Fr. Leolin Arockiadass, its Director, presented Christmas carols to the St. Joseph’s Jesuit community and Holy Cross College community, Tiruchi.

Fr. Richard was invited by the Human Resource Development Centre, Madurai Kamaraj University, to talk on ‘Counselling Strategies, Ethical and Moral Codes of Counselling’ in the Faculty Induction Programme (FIP) on 27 November 2020. About 40 professors from across the country participated in the online programme.

Thanks to the timely efforts of Fr. Rector, Fr. Treasurer and Fr. Paul Pragash, Hostel Director and his team, the second half of 2020 witnessed a major renovation in the New Hostel, involving structural stitching to deal with the deep cracks in one of



its oldest buildings. The cracks, running through rooms and verandas, down to the foundations, had developed over the past few years and posed a nightmarish threat to the hostellers. The renovation guarantees stability to the structures and safety to the occupants for some more years.

Inmates of St. Theresa Women’s Hostel, who returned in December for their practical classes celebrated Christmas on 19 December evening. Fr. Principal gave the Christmas message, inviting them to be thankful to God and to help the needy. Prior to the celebration on December 19, they had the sacrament of reconciliation as a preparation for Christmas.

On December 23, Fr. Rector, along with a few young priests and scholastics, went around the streets close to the college at night and offered Christmas gifts, consisting of blankets and sweets, to about 100 pavement dwellers. The gifts were procured from the thoughtful contributions made by the members of the Jesuit community from their Christmas gift money. The entire activity was coordinated by Fr. John Wilson.

The Christmas Vigil Masses, celebrated at 9 p.m. and 11.45 p.m. in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, drew a large number of Catholics and people of other faiths. Safety protocols were followed to make the church premises a safe zone for people, who came to celebrate the birth of our Lord braving the cold weather and the pandemic.

Leolin Arockiadass

Vilangudi: VMI

After finishing the second term exams on 16 December 2020, we had our Christmas celebration as a community on December 17. The pre-novices went home for their Christmas holidays the following day. During the holidays, Frs Annaraj, Selvam, and Sch. Joshua visited the houses of pre-novices for better understanding and accompaniment. They also requested their parents to continue praying for their sons to grow in their vocation. The pre-novices returned to VMI on 4 January 2021 and have started their third term with renewed vigour.

Joshua S.

Chennai: Arul Kadal

On 4 December 2020, we celebrated, with gratitude to God, the 81st birthday of Fr. Xavier Rajan. On the following day, he was taken to Madras Medical Mission Hospital where he underwent a coronary artery angioplasty. Sch. Anto assisted him during his recuperation.

On December 11, we had the online GBM of Aikiya Alayam Society. Fr. Irudayaraj gave an online monthly recollection talk expounding the incarnation in today's context. On December 13, Fr. Raj Irudaya presented the Gospel of John in a nutshell, highlighting the "Vision and Mission of Jesus in John" in a webinar organized by the Digital Jesuits. Fr. Sahayaraj Stanley, Schs. Joseph, Kamilas, Richard and Velanganni attended the online MDU Formation GBM on December 15 and 16.

We thought that it was time to move the crib from the manger to the 'Delhi National Highways' in solidarity with the farmers' protest and so,



மறுக்கப்பட்ட டோரின் மனுமகனாய் was the theme of the crib, which depicted the birth of Christ amidst the justice-seeking farmers. Fr. Raj Irudaya, in his Christmas vigil homily, raised a pertinent question whether we really needed to celebrate Christmas in the context of COVID-19 and the farmers' protest and answered it himself in the affirmative explaining how we ought to celebrate Christmas keeping in mind that it is the manifestation of hope and joy.

Arulkadalites attended the Jesuit Chennai Province Day virtually at Dhyana Ashram on December 28. A well-prepared prayer service by us kick-started the day's proceedings by setting the right tone. On that day, our skit depicting our solidarity with the protesting farmers was part of the online cultural programme. The odd semester evaluation of our life and mission in Arulkadal was held on December 29.

Felix Sahayaraj

DNC, PUNE

The mid-semester examinations were completed during the season of Advent. The Christmas triduum was preached by Fr. Mathew Cyril from 21 to 23 December which helped us to joyfully welcome the Baby Jesus in our hearts.

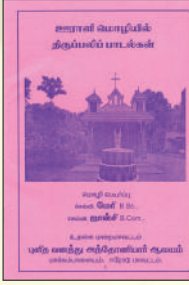
The-first year philosophers were handed over the responsibilities in the first week of December. Sch. Emmanuel Akilan became the new coordinator. He together with Sch. Praveen participated in the online Formation GBM representing the DNC philosophers. All the philosophers attended the recommended common sessions.

The visitation of Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam, PCF, on December 26 was a time of grace for us. Earlier, Fr. Antony Robinson, PCF (CEN) had visited and met the CEN scholastics. Both the PCFs encouraged and boosted us to do everything in the spirit of magis. The DNC scholastics were asked to come to Pune before 4 January 2021 and so on December 28, we bid farewell to SHC community, Shembaganur. We reached DNC safe and sound in the afternoon of December 29th and started settling down. We wear masks and maintain social distance to keep ourselves and others safe. We have our online community Mass and evening prayer. and the online classes will begin on 4 January.

We gratefully remember the help and accompaniment given by Beschi-SHC superiors and communities, the CEN-MDU PCFs and Fr. Pugazhendhi during the Pandemic.

Sujin Wilson and Emmanuel Akilan

New Books



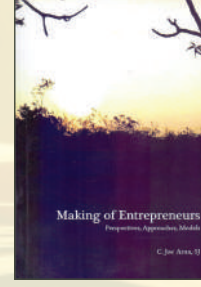
செல்வி மேரி & செல்வி ஜார்ஜ்

ஊராளி மொழியில்
திருப்பலிப் பாடல்கள்
புனித வனத்து அந்தோணியார் ஆலயம்
மாக்கம்பாளையம்
ஈரோடு மாவட்டம் 2020



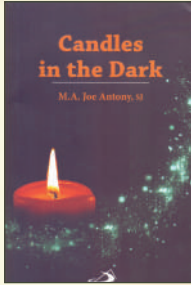
Jerry, S.J.

Indrum Endrum
Vaigarai Pathippagam
Dindigul
2020



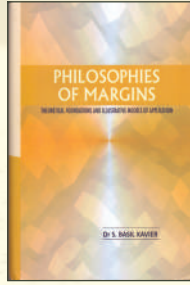
C. Joe Arun, S.J.

Making of Entrepreneurs
Archers & Elevators
Publishing House
Bangalore 2020



M.A. Joe Antony, S.J.

Candles in the Dark
Better Yourself Books
Mumbai
2020



S. Basil Xavier, S.J.

Philosophies of margins
Shanlax Publications
Madurai
2020



M.A. Joe Antony, S.J.

Staying in Love
New Leader Publications
Chennai
2020

Abide with the Lord



Br. Basil Tirkey (73/46 RAN) passed away on 07.12.20 in Ranchi.

Br. Saul Abril (89/73 GUJ) passed away on 13.12.2020 in Ahmedabad.

Fr. Cyprian Andrade (74/56 GUJ), passed away on 17.12. 2020 in Ahmedabad.

Fr. Stanley D'Souza (88/63 DEL) passed away on 19.12.2020 in Delhi.

Fr. Linus Dungdung (69/47 RAN) passed away on 29.12.2020 in Ranchi.

Mrs. Chinnarani (91), mother of Fr. Albert William, passed away on 17.12.2020 at Palayamkottai.

Mrs. Alphonsa Mary (72), mother of Fr. Justine Yasappan Emmanuel passed away on 20.12.2020 at Dindigul.

Mr. Irudayaprakasam (78), father of Fr. Irudaya Valanarasu passed away on 06.01.2021 at Thiruvarangam.

Mr. M. Edward George (59), younger brother of Fr. M. Devasagayam (CEN), passed away on 07.01.2021 at Tiruchirappalli.