



## From The Provincial's Desk



### **Greetings of Christ's peace and love!**

I pray that these words find a place in your hearts to dispel the frustrations, sufferings, grief and loneliness of those who have lost loved ones due to the coronavirus pandemic. Christmas is a great reminder of God's infinite love for us in the incarnation of Jesus. Born as our Savior, he came to bring light, joy and peace to the world!

This message of God's constant and caring presence is reflected in the inspiring acts of frontline and in the essential workers during the past year. Their sacrifice and heroism have been a source of courage and perseverance during months of hardships, uncertainties and other challenges. The arrival of the COVID-19 vaccines is a blessing of renewed hope and a much-awaited answer to people's prayers and aspirations of getting back to our normal life.

We begin 2021 with the feast of the Mother of God. The outlook for the New Year is bright, but it depends on us to make it a reality. It allows us to turn the page of time and history to brace ourselves for what better things it offers us. One good thing the pandemic taught us is that we are all in this together, and the best answer to its disastrous effect is our unity and solidarity. Pope Francis said recently in the backdrop of a divided and polarized world, "a crisis can be

overcome by the antibodies of solidarity.” This was the central message in his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, – the call to global fraternity and social friendship, that all people will live together as a family, as brothers and sisters to one another, treating each other with dignity and equality.

Furthermore, in his message for 2021 World Day of Peace, Our Holy Father promotes a culture of care as a path to peace, urging us against the prevailing culture of indifference to the sufferings of others, of waste, of hatred and confrontation, to practice the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church. Let this culture of care start in our communities, where we first learn how to live

together and relate to each other with mutual love and respect. Therefore, we should work hard to bring this culture of care, more so to our nature. One way of doing this is to make sure that all our estates are well taken care of. Let us not leave our properties big or small without any home gardens, long-term crops, short term crops and if there is a possibility to run a farm with animal husbandry. It will also be advisable to find local donors for small projects like home gardening.

The economic devastation the year 2020 has left is going to be a challenging one and among many uncertainties the economic crisis is going to have a major impact on all Jesuit communities and

institutions. Further, all community members should engage in some ministry or other apart from their assigned job to bring some income to their communities.

The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God ushers in the start of the New Year. This is a perfect time to invoke the loving intercession and maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary to help us join together in mutual resolution to live the Gospel values of faith, hope and charity, as well as to grow in our commitment as responsible stewards of God’s gift of creation and to pursue the common good. May God bless us with the peace, joy and hope that 2021 brings. Happy New Year!



## Announcements

**Ignatian Year-Committee Members:** Rashmi Fernando (Coordinator for Sri Lanka), Noel Ajanthan (Coordinator for Pakistan Mission) Lawrence Loganathan, Thurairasa Sahayanathan, Jude Deluxion, Rajitha Waas, Sivarajah Ahilaraj, Alexis Premkumar.

On January 01<sup>st</sup> 2021, **Schs. Randika Fernando, Shiran Fernando and Masilamani Salamanraj** left for Nairobi, Kenya to continue their Theological studies at Hekima College.

## Pope’s World Prayer Network

**HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTION  
JANUARY- 2021**

### Human fraternity



MAY THE LORD GIVE US THE GRACE TO LIVE IN FULL FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF OTHER RELIGIONS, PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER, OPEN TO ALL.

**Year of ST JOSEPH**

**Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network  
SRI LANKA**

## The New Novitiate at Heraliyawela - Kurunegala

The New Novitiate - Deham Sevana, Jesuit Religious Training Centre Hereliyawala, Alakoladeniya, Malkaduwwa, Kurunegala was blessed by Bishop Harold Anthony Perera of the Kurunegala Diocese on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2021 on the Feast day of the Epiphany of the Lord and the Holy Name of Jesus.



### Colombo District

#### JUNIORATE

The Juniors began the month of December with the hope of getting back to their ministries freed from lockdown restrictions imposed on all for a long time. In spite of the restrictions we had our classes in the usual way. Sometimes we had them online. On the 8<sup>th</sup> we had the vows of Danish Khokhar, the days preceding being busy days for the juniors. The vows ceremony was done in a simple way. It was streamed live via Facebook. We also had the opportunity to assist at the ordination of Deacon Rajitha Waas at St. Cajetan's church, Welihena. In spite of the restrictions imposed on all of us, we travelled to Batticaloa for the priestly ordination of Deacons Atputharaj and Jude Deluxion held at St. Ignatius' church, Dutch Bar, Batticaloa. Unfortunately we couldn't make it on time. Happily, we were there for their first masses.

It was really a grace filled occasion. We enjoyed our stay at Manresa and were happy to listen to the experiences shared by our elderly priests. During our stay we were able to record a song for the competition held by the Digital Jesuits Forum. That enabled us to bring out the beauty of Batticaloa to the outside world. We Juniors also had the opportunity to present essays about world religions. Each Junior studied in detail the particular religion which was assigned to him. The work was done with creativity and presented with enthusiasm and spirit. Along with all these activities the Juniors were courageous enough to face their 2<sup>nd</sup> term examinations. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Term ended with a festive Christmas meal. Some Juniors were sent for their home visit while the others were sent to Lewella Retreat House community to enjoy their holidays.

## Batticaloa District

### LOYOLA CANDIDATES' HOUSE



On Sunday 13 December 2020, all the candidates and pre-novices went to St Ignatius' Parish to clean the Church premises in order to prepare for the Province Ordination. Fr. Roshan organized a day of work for the Loyola Candidates' House (LOCH) boys. On 22 December 2020, LOCH organized a meaningful Christmas celebration at 6.30 pm. Five boys performed a spectacular cultural program for the Jesuit Fathers and supporters of LOCH. Fr. James gratefully acknowledged the contribution of Loyola Campus and other staff members to LOCH students

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2020, Fr. James SJ conducted a program on community orientation for the Holy Cross Sisters at Sathyodaya Ashram, St Joseph's Convent, Kegalle. Four Holy Cross Sisters actively participated in it. Fr. James SJ preached on various themes such as community life, relationship, vows and discernment based on Ignatian spirituality. A faith sharing session was introduced to participants to help them to grow in a sense of belonging and unity. The Sisters were glad to come together as a community for the spiritual nourishment and renewal. They were very grateful to the preacher for his inspiring and thought provoking talks.

Loyola Candidates' House was happy to welcome Fr. Anton Prathapraj. He is residing at LOCH from

16 December 2020. The candidates have gone for Christmas a vacation of 12 days.

## Kandy District

### CSC LOYOLA CAMPUS – HATTON

#### Loyola Campus July – November batch evaluation



On 4<sup>th</sup> December, the staff had a reflection on their positive and challenging experiences with the students, among themselves and about the place and facilities. It was also a great opportunity for them to renew their understanding of JWL's aim of 'higher education at the margins', Loyola Campus' aim of 'educate, empower and transform' and the CSC's aim of 'dignity to the plantation community'. They also proposed suggestions to improve the teaching methodologies, empower the most vulnerable students and promote better coordination and collaboration.

#### Final exam for the tailoring students and cake making training



When Loyola Campus closed for a week from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 6<sup>th</sup> December, the space of CSC Centre was put to optimum use by the estate women for their tailoring training and final exam. Tailoring students of Lonak had their final exam on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, the students of Tientsin and Hollowella on 4<sup>th</sup> and day scholars of the centre had their practice on 2<sup>nd</sup> and the final exam on 5<sup>th</sup>. The day scholars made us happy and proud on the day of the exam wearing their uniforms that they themselves have stitched. On 6<sup>th</sup> all the tailoring students who were interested in cake making came to the centre and prepared a variety of cakes. Ms. Maria, the tailoring teacher of the programme, trained the students in cake making.

**International Children’s day celebration, Preschool concert and release of Malaikural**



On 12<sup>th</sup> December, in spite of restrictions due to corona pandemic, CSC was able to bring the children from the estates except from Lonak and Broadoak for the celebrations. But we had to have the celebrations in two phases to restrict the numbers. The preschool and complementary education students of Mount Jean, Diyagala, Velioya and Hollowella had their celebration at 11 am and the children from Tientsin, Danbar, Aluthgama and Dickoya at 2 pm. Mr. Selvakumar, the principal of Univenture International school and the chief guest of the function, appealed to the staff to discover the unique talents and strengths of the students and to give them equal opportunities to exhibit them. Ms. Dhajani, the vice principal of Panmur TMV was our special guest and she

reviewed the Malaikural magazine in order to motivate the students to have active participation in the creation of the magazine.



Most of the articles, drawings and the poems were done by the students. Mr. Kodipilli, the advocate and our guest of honour congratulated the students and distributed the prizes and certificates. The items that won the prizes were the cultural programmes of the day. The students were brought by van to save them from the corona and the students went home with prizes, certificates of achievement and participation, after the refreshments.

**Christmas Celebration**



Thanks to the initiative and hard work of **Sch. Nimesh**, the students of CSC Loyola Campus gave a grand concert of Christmas carols on 21<sup>st</sup> December. It was a day of fun, piety and celebration. There were three carols: two in English, one in Tamil. The students had fun games, lucky games, dance with Santa Claus, Christmas messages and refreshments. The students appeared in their uniforms and colourful dresses which gave a grand impression to the celebration.

### Annual evaluation of CSC staff at Tredorne, Boragas



Sixteen out of eighteen CSC staff participated in the annual evaluation from 16<sup>th</sup> afternoon to 17<sup>th</sup> afternoon, December. After lunch the staff shared their positive and challenging experiences in their work place, with themselves, with the community and with the administration. After supper there was a spontaneous cultural programme with songs, speeches and dances.

Next day morning, the Catholic staff attended mass. After breakfast, the staff shared their understanding on the vision, mission and the history of CSC which helped them to get back to the original inspiration of Jesuit social action ministry. In the last session the staff did the gap analysis and received a few tips to do better especially in the areas of teaching methods, parents' meetings and infrastructure.

### Certificate awarding ceremony for the tailoring students



Out of 122 who joined the tailoring training in four locations namely Lonak, Tientsin, Haloowella and CSC Centre, 56 women went through their six month training and finally received the certificates on 20<sup>th</sup> December. The certificate awarding ceremony was organized amidst the restrictions due to Covid19 pandemic and with the permission of the Hatton Primary Health Inspector. Mr. Gunalan, the district superintendent of Samurthi Bank, Ms. Gowri, the Vice Principal, Shenan TMV, Mr. Alexander, the Principal of Lonak TMV and Ms. Udayadharshini, the Development Officer, Hatton who were our guests, appreciated the effort of CSC and appealed to the women to be self-reliant.

## Kakuma - Kenya

### Fr. Lasantha writes from Kakuma

**God is with us.....working in and through us**  
 Three weeks before Christmas, Sr. Elizabeth of the Missionaries of Charles de Foucauld Sisters who works tirelessly in the camp with the refugees made a request to get a counselor for a teenager who suffered a severe trauma. She explained to me the pain of the young one: he sleeps a lot, does not socialize with the family of adoption, and gets angry and moody.

My immediate inner movement was to meet the young man personally before connecting to a counselor. With the JRS evaluations, the strategic planning for 2021 and final reports and proposals for the year, I was very busy and did not have time to visit the young man. Several times I made plans

with Sr. Elizabeth but had to postpone due to pending tasks.

A week ago, there was an impelling voice within me to visit him. I stopped my work and even postponed a meeting and visited him with Sr. Elizabeth. As usual, when I am with Sister, I used to listen to her stories from the camp and the situation of the people as she is very much involved. She is a voice of the voiceless. On the journey to see the young man, Cyril, we said the rosary, pleading for God's help as he was in great need.

Cyril is from DRC. When he was 14 years old, two years ago, he witnessed the brutal rape of his own mother, a widow, by soldiers. It was unbearable for him. He shouted in agony and fear. As the soldiers heard the noise, they sexually mutilated him. He was bleeding. One of the pastors who was involved with an INGO rushed him to the hospital and cared for him.

From that moment he did not see his mother. As he recognized the soldiers who were involved, they were sentenced to prison; but now since Cyril's life was in danger he ran away to Kakuma camp. That was in June 2020. When he was brought to the Reception, the transitional camp in Kakuma, the pastor who rescued him recognized and appealed to UNHCR for his adoption. It was granted and from June he lives with Pastor Robert and his family. There Sr. Elizabeth met him.

When we visited Cyril at the home of Robert, he was a bit curious. Robert and Sr. Elizabeth are continually pleading to get a counselor. My inner voice kept insisting we ask the boy, "what does he really want?" Immediately and spontaneously, Cyril answered, "I want to be a man". That was the struggle of his growing up to be a young adult of 16 with his fears of genital mutilation.

I inquired from Robert whether Cyril had received a thorough medical investigation after his arrival in Kakuma Camp and the answer was "No". There we promised to contact the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for further investigation.

We connected Cyril and Robert to the clinic closest to their home. What a blessing! When I contacted IRC, they informed me that just then there was a panel of consultants from Nairobi visiting the camp who were helping the victims of mutilations and ill-effected circumcisions. That was the last day of their work in Kakuma camp. Immediately we acted. They did all the tests, got the X-Rays done and began helping him with post-trauma counseling and medication. After a week, Pastor Robert wrote to us, "Cyril is very sociable. He watches TV with my children. He does not sleep for long hours during the day. He helps the family. He is changed and full of smiles".

Cyril had his second round of medication and counseling. The doctors have promised further assistance from Nairobi. Eve of Christmas, Sr. Elizabeth, Fr. Bill and I visited the family of Robert with Cyril to wish for Christmas with some gifts. Surely, during this Christmas, Cyril will experience that TRULY God is with us and working with us.

**GOD is with us and working through one another. We shall recognize it if we listen to him in the midst of noise and worldly affairs.**

***(Cyril and Robert are pseudo names to protect the identities of our beneficiaries)***

Just before Christmas, I developed a severe urine infection and rushed to the Kakuma Mission Hospital on 24<sup>th</sup> midnight for urgent care till I fly back to Nairobi. There Dr. David helped me with a catheter and relieved me of my pain. I celebrated Christmas Masses with a catheter on. When I returned to Nairobi, I had the best care by Dr. Ajay our House Physician from Nairobi Hospital.

In my moments of pain and anxiety, I experienced great support of the Don Bosco Fathers who rushed me to the hospital, Fr. Kizito the Provincial of AOR, Peter our Loyola House Superior and in a special way my Jesuit Companion in Kakuma JRS Mission, Fr. Bill. He was accompanying me from the beginning till the end, waiting with me as the catheter was introduced; spending hours at Dr. Ajay's Clinic and for lab results at Nairobi Hospital. **Truly, Fr. Bill was "God walking with me in my pain and distress".**

## Warm Welcome to our Scholastics



It was a grace to welcome Schs. Randika, Salomon and Shiran in Nairobi as they landed after a long journey. Before they went to Hekima, they had dinner at Loyola Provincial House Community. They are now settling down in Hekima with great African Hospitality.



## REMEMBRANCES

### JANUARY

01/1905	Fr. Charles Royer	59/30
01/2019	Fr. Henry Miller	93/77
02/1972	Sch. A. M. Packianather	31/14
03/1973	Fr. Ralph J. Rieman	59/41
05/1973	Br. Aloysius Seravelli	83/49
06/1963	Fr. Arthur Rothenfuss	83/65
08/1996	Fr. Francis X. Mayer	76/59
11/1997	Fr. Antonio Sabino	87/68
16/1941	Fr. Leo Dupont	76/58
16/1956	Sch. Antoine Braquet	29/10
17/1943	Sch. Xavier Soosaipillai	32/16
17/1990	Fr. Emmanuel Crowther	92/71
18/1976	Fr. Whitmel Macnair	56/38
19/1965	Fr. Ed. Lermusieaux	90/68
21/1994	Fr. Realino Chiriatti	94/77
23/1939	Fr. Oliver Feron	77/60
23/1922	Fr. Achille Verstraete	64/47
24/1995	Fr. George Hamilton	91/64
25/1985	Fr. Percival Abraham	67/35
25/1987	Br. Joseph Lando	73/55
27/1970	Fr. Rene Van Abbelle	73/55
29/1995	Br. Anthony de Noia	70/49

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

### JANUARY

01/1984	Jude Deluxion	19/1950	Sebastian Maria Anthony
02/1996	Hanif Masih	23/1961	Lasantha de Abrew
03/1943	Christlin P Rajendram	26/1933	Eustace Fernando
03/1966	Benedict Savarimuttu	26/1955	Gamini Perera
04/1936	John Joseph Mary	26/1997	Joseph Maxwel
08/1959	Thierry Robouam	28/1998	Brian A. Fernando
09/1971	Lalith Fernandopulle	31/1969	Christian Perera
11/1978	J. Anthon das Morais	24/1991	Krishnaraja Pradeepan
14/1960	Bernard Jayasinghe	25/1998	Shahzad Raheel
18/1997	Shehan Appuhamy	29/1997	Pervaiz Rizvan

### FEBRUARY

04/1981	Chandrakumar A. Pratapraj	14/1972	Sivarajah Ahilaraj
05/1977	Francis Rohan Fernando	15/1980	Prabhat Sanjeeva Fernando
08/1933	Frederick Leon	17/1955	Lakshman Peiris
10/1968	György Tőkés	24/1938	Satkunanayagam Paul
12/1991	Ladiston Rexman Delima		

### NEXT EDITING

Please send your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>, January 2021 to the Editor,

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