



Our Lady of the Way



### SACRED HEART of JESUS & MARY

**Light overpowering darkness**

**Hope replacing despair**

**Love winning over hate**

**Is the message of Jesus risen...**

**But fight we will till the end**

**Not so much just to save our skin**

**But to speak truth to power**

**Counting all the while you  
all are with us in mind and in heart.**

Fr. Stan, SJ



**A BIG SALUTE TO THEM**

## Provincial's Message



*Inaugural Address of the Provincial  
on the Inaugural Celebration of 'Ignatian Year 500'  
on 20 May 2021*

My dear Companions in the Lord, dear Collaborators, Co-workers, Priests and Religious and our dear people and partners in our Mission,

At the outset, kindly allow me to congratulate each one of you, as we enter into a very important jubilee year in the history of our Society of Jesus. I wish you all a happy inauguration of the 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Conversion of our Master St. Ignatius

In reality, the prevailing context does not make us happy. The whole of India undergoes a very difficult time as the pandemic and the lockdown inflict more pain on the common people. Their livelihoods are at stake for more than a year. Several people are stranded on the streets, not knowing what to do with the pandemic-ridden sick kith and kin without beds in the hospital, and many people anxiously wait in a queue in the graveyards and crematoriums with the dead bodies of their loved ones. We are in panic with dejection without knowing what to do and how to proceed, at this challenging time.

We have also lost several members of the South Asian Conference; several priests and nuns, and our own Province has not been spared. Some of our relatives, friends, collaborators and co-workers painfully succumbed to the pandemic. Let us continue to pray that the good Lord give peace and rest to the departed ones in His arms and protect all of us.

In this context of pain and misery, there is an invitation for all of us to gratefully remember the day that the Lord touched our founder Father Ignatius. United in spirit, today we join with the entire Society of Jesus—all its members, our dear Father General, his Counselors, Regional Assistants, Conference Presidents, all the Provincials, and particularly all the members of our Province to joyfully commemorate the turning point of our Father Ignatius—20 May 1521, the day Inigo was hit by a cannonball. We also share our joy with our co-workers, collaborators, benefactors, partners, and

all the stakeholders to whom, with whom and for whom we have committed ourselves through various apostolic activities.

Fr. General invites all the members to celebrate this great event of the 500<sup>th</sup> year of Conversion of St. Ignatius as 'Ignatius 500' revolving around the theme 'to see all things new in Christ'. Fr. General says, *"the Ignatian year is a new call to **draw inspiration** from Ignatius, the Pilgrim. His inner struggle and conversion led him to a **very close familiarity with God**. This familiarity, this intense love, allowed him to find God in all things and to inspire others to form together **an apostolic body**, full of missionary zeal. We are heirs of that charism and **responsible for its legitimacy, in the time we live in**".*

### 1. Drawing inspiration:

The inspiration of Ignatius comes from the depth of his heart when he started realizing the purpose of his birth and the intervention of the Lord in his personal life. The days he spent in Loyola after the grievous event gave him a lot of personal time to introspect his life. The books

he read certainly helped him to enter into the introspection. At the depth of his heart, he asked that famous question: 'While reading the life of Our Lord and of the saints, he stopped to think, reasoning within himself, *"What if I should do what St. Francis did, what St. Dominic did?"* ...But his every thought was to say to himself, *"St. Dominic did this therefore I have to do it. St. Francis did this, therefore I have to do it"*. He drew inspiration from the story of the Lord and that of the saints. Later on, he himself became an inspiration to several people.

We draw inspiration from St. Ignatius to travel within ourselves and to find the way God worked miracles in and through each one of us. If an inspiration remains at the peripheral level, it will fade away or dissolve in the air. If we want to inspire others, first of all, we should have the inspiration from the Lord within our hearts. If it comes from the depth of our hearts, we will learn to sustain it and express it in and through action.

**Jebamalai Irudayaraj**

*To be continued...*



## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### JUNE 2021

- 01 Meeting of Staff of Vidyajyothi and Regional Theologates  
Meeting with Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for donating fund for the CM Corona Relief Fund
- 03 South Zone Provincials' Meeting
- 05 Seminar on World Environment Day by Ecology Commissions of CEN and MDU
- 13 Province Consult

### JULY 2021

- 12-16 Arul Kadal : Class on Social Analysis
- 24 Blessing of the New LIBA Building
- 25 Province Consult
- 31 Feast of St. Ignatius

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS HAS APPOINTED

Rev. Fr. Arulselvam Rayappan, Clergy of Pondicherry-Cuddalore, as Bishop of Salem. This provision was made public in Rome on Monday 31 May, 2021.

## POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

## THANKS ... & WELCOME...

We thank Frs. Deva A. Stephen (MDU), Henry Albert (JAM), Ignatius Britto (MDU), Sebastin Thangadurai (MDU) who served in Chennai Province and returning to their respective provinces. Wish you all the best for your new mission.

We welcome Frs. Albert Joseph from Kohima, Joseph Antony Jacob from Myanmar, Fernando Wellington, Jesudoss Irudayam, Josephraj Savarimuthu, and Richard Hiruthayaraj John from MDU.

## ALTERNATE MOBILE NUMBER

Fr. Benedict Santosh V. : 9498488657



## REPORT HEALTH UPDATE

In the month of May 2021, we were confused of the spread of COVID second wave among our Brothers both in Chennai and Madurai. We have lost **Fr. Antony Raj P.** (10 May, MDU), **Br. Jeganathan Ambrose S.** (17 May, MDU), **Fr. Rajarathinam Rathinam** (24 May), **Fr. Jeyaraj Maria** (29 May, MDU) and **Fr. Lawrence Maria Gabriel** (29 May, MDU).

*May the Lord grant them eternal reward of Peace!*

At the same time, we are grateful to God for the recovery of the following Brothers from COVID:

**Berchmans, Chennai:** Schs. **Anthony Rex Kumar**, **Jacob Prakasam**, **Vincent Vijayakumar** (AND).

**Dhyana Ashram, Chennai:** Fr. **Basil Xavier** (MDU).

**Loyola College, Chennai:** Fr. **Arul Henry William**, Schs. **Albinus Martin & Xavier Samuel**.

**Paathai, Vallam:** Fr. **Yesumarian L.**

**Loyola College, Vettavalam:** Sch. **Jeyasachin Jeyaseelan** and Fr. **Britto Vincent**.

### IN THE MDU HOUSES:

**Beschi Illam, Dindigul:** All the scholastics are back to normal life and some have started moving to their respective places.

**Maduralaya, Dindigul:** Frs. **Dominic Savio** (MDU) has recovered and is at Beschi extending his rest.

**St. Mary's, Madurai:** Frs. **Arul Irudhayam** and **Charles Michael** have tested COVID Positive and are in Moonru Mavadi hospital under treatment.

**Arulanandar, Oriyur:** Fr. **Joseph Michael** (CEN) and Sch. **Jackson Joseph**, are back to normal life at Beschi taking rest for a few more days before moving to Oriyur.

**SJC, Tiruchi:** All have come back to the community with good health.

**Clives, Tiruchi:** Sch. **Poly Martin** (KER) is still in quarantine.

**Xaveriana, Thoothukudi:** Both Fr. **Ignacy M. Arockiam** and Br. **Arockiasamy Pitchaimuthu** are recovering from significant lung involvement (CORADS 5). The former is still in the hospital and the latter in quarantine back at Xaveriana.

### STILL UNDER TREATMENT/ QUARANTINE:

Loyola College, Mettala: Fr. **Sebastin Thangadurai** (MDU) who was admitted in Apollo, Tiruchi is now back in SJC, Tiruchi under quarantine. Frs. **Boniface Jeyaraj**, **Maria Joseph Mahalingam**, and **Poondy Rajan** were tested COVID positive and are under home quarantine.

On 3 June, Fr. **Fernando Wellington** was back in Kuppayanallur after getting treatment in Muhil, Madurai from 21 March, 2021.

*Let us remain united in prayers !*

*Socius*

## PROVINCE - INAUGURATION OF THE IGNATIAN YEAR 2021-22

On 01 October 2020, Fr. Jebamalai, the Provincial had constituted a Team (Frs. Antony Robinson, Gladwin, Jerry, Maria Arul Raj, Robin Seelan, Prof. Edwin of LCV, Schs. Franklin, Vimal) to plan, deliberate and discern all the proceedings of Chennai Province for the Ignatian Year 2021-2022. The IGY - team's first meeting took place at Dhyana Ashram on 11 December 2020, with a Special Eucharistic Celebration with the presence of Fr. Ilanko, the Socius. Having collected more than a hundred suggestions from superiors, campus ministers, commission coordinators and creative proposals from individual Jesuits, Fr. Jerry the convener of the team categorized and sorted out under various levels such as commission, community, inter-province, conference and universal.

After thorough brainstorming and discernment, we decided to propose some feasible and realistic suggestions to the superiors & commission coordinators so that they could come up with four concrete prioritized action plans for the IGY 21-22. These were listed out in the Superiors' meeting by Fr. Jerry on 19 Dec 2020. The team- members took the responsibility of following up with the commission coordinators and superiors.

The IGY - team's second meeting was held on 03 March 2021 at Loyola College along with the presence of Fr. Jebamalai, the Provincial to chalk out a complete roadmap for the whole year with the agenda, and also the logistical arrangements for the Inaugural Eucharistic Celebration of Ignatian Year on 20 May 2021 at Santhome Cathedral and the Province-Assembly at Dhyana Ashram coupled with the felicitation of Jubilarians. All our meticulous plans came to a standstill due to the sudden second surge of COVID-19 and therefore we had to go for a hybrid celebration both online and offline. A technical team of Frs. Vasanth and A. Irudayaraj along with Schs. Thomas Edison and Zenith made it a reality.

'To see all things new in Christ' was the focus for the commemoration cum celebration. With all the Jesuits and friends, religious and diocesan fraternity united virtually in spirit, we celebrated the Inauguration of Ignatian Year on 20 May, from 10.30 to 12.00 noon. The Scholastics of Berchmans Illam led us into prayer for conversion. Fr. Jerry, at the very outset, invited us to observe a moment of prayerful silence as a mark of our sensitivity and solidarity in the current critical COVID context. Welcoming one and all, he then proceeded to ignite the Ignatian spark that would lead us to a progressive U - turn experience at personal, institutional and ministerial levels.

## SUMMER MEET: பாயணி - 2021

On 18 May 2021, the First Summer Meet of CEN Scholastics was held online with the theme **பாயணி - 2021 (கடந்திட தொடர்ந்திட)**, organized by the first year theologians Schs. Vimal and Udhaya with the guidance of Fr. Antony Robinson (PCF). A talk by Fr. Yesumarian L., on the evolution and growth of CEN Province helped the Scholastics to retrace the historical journey of CEN, and inspired them with the concerted efforts and commitment of the Jesuits who had toiled for the birth of CEN Province.

Fr. Mark Stephen introduced the Scholastics to his historical novel **முனிதந்தி** with a special focus on the ministerial life of Fr. Trincal SJ, which interested them to read more on the history of the Society of Jesus. A presentation on the achievements of the Scholastics encouraged and enthused them to be rooted in the spirit of Magis. With the addresses of Fr. Provincial and Fr. PCF, the Meet ended, binding the Scholastics in the union of hearts and minds to march forward in the Ignatian Year-500 with renewed vigour.



Fr. Provincial exhorted all of us to reflect on the four significant inspirations from the letter of Fr. General, to draw inspiration from the conversion of St. Ignatius, to have close familiarity with God, to inspire others to form together an apostolic body and to be responsible for its legitimacy in the context we live.

Then came Fr. Maria Arul Raj A. explaining the Cannonball moment as a turning point in one's life, and invited Fr. Philip (representing Priests), Sr. Shanthi (Mother General of NJV), Br. Sathanandam Rajasekaran (representing Brothers) and Sch. Frankly (representing Scholastics) to share their own personal Pamplona experience. We could witness the life of St. Ignatius, the experience of Spiritual Exercises and the life of exemplary Jesuits brought the change of heart in diverse ways and means.

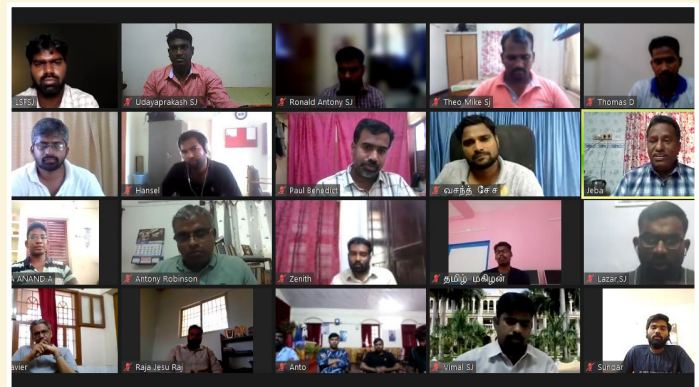
On behalf of the IGY-team, Fr. Robin Seelan introduced a detailed planner for the Ignatian Year which serves as a roadmap to execute all the action plans in a time bound manner. The planner was released by the Seniormost member of our Province Fr. James Rodrigues and received by the Juniormost, Sch. Dhanaventhara. A copy of the IGY - Planner will reach each of our province-men in course of time.

This virtual celebration was graced by an encouraging message and the episcopal blessings of Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras-Mylapore. It was followed by a new IGY-Anthem for our province, composed by Sch. Samroy. Sch. Vimal congratulated him and his team. Fr. Antony Robinson proposed a brief vote of thanks to the Provincial, IGY-team members, technical team and all the participants. A call was then given to have a Special Communitywise Eucharistic Liturgy that evening around 06.30 during which there would be a shared homily by members on their personal Cannonball moment. The Inaugural program came to a fine close with 'Noble Knight', prepared by the Arul Kadal community.

Note: You can watch the programme on YouTube :

[https://youtu.be/pOigGVG\\_oeQ](https://youtu.be/pOigGVG_oeQ)

**Jayanth Frankly (Province IGY-team)**



From 22 to 30 May, an online Annual Retreat was preached by Frs. Arokia Dass and Jerry keeping the Principle and Foundation as the central theme, which exhorted the Scholastics to be more Ignatian in their life and mission.

**John Vimal**

## SUPAM 2020-21

SUPAM 2020-21 is unique and very different from the previous years. Our entry into the parishes and exit now have been invisible due to complete lockdown at both times; however, our mission was fruitful and has enriched us with rich experiences despite uncertainties and restrictions.

Six of us were placed in six different parishes in Sivagangai, Kumbakonam, Pondicherry and Salem dioceses. We began our ministry as deacons and end our pastoral year as people's pastors with multiple experiences. These experiences have given us a solid foundation for our priestly life, helping us to sharpen



our commitments to the PAPs. All the six parishes have given us a wider scope to accompany and work for our target people. COVID-19 restrictions posed bigger challenges to some of our pastoral activities; however, the year has been one of great learning and self-mentoring. Our interactions with the people, house visits, accompaniment with the youth and children, our role in the parish administration and accounts, daily Mass with the people and our involvement in different activities of the parish shaped us and helped us to form ourselves as good shepherds.

SUPAM is not just about our experiences in the parishes, but more than that, is formation under the guidance of the Provincials, PCFs, the SUPAM Co-ordinator and Arul Kadal staff who guided us with their wisdom to revisit our experiences theologically and to sharpen our reflections. Three online meetings that we had during the year, motivated us to renew our commitment, and helped us to clarify our priorities in the light of our PAPs.

SUPAM year came to an end with our final online meeting on 26 May. The participation of both the Provincials of Chennai and Madurai added more joy. We take this opportunity to thank the Provincials, PCFs, Arul Kadal staff - Frs. Raj Irudaya, Sahayaraj Stanley, Arokia Dass and George Joseph. Our special thanks to the SUPAM co-ordinator, Fr. Baskar Antony for his planning, execution and continued accompaniment. With a deep sense of gratitude in our hearts, we are looking forward to plunging into our new ministries backed by the rich resources we have acquired during the SUPAM year. Thanks to everyone for your prayers and support.

*Franklin Peter Rex*

## NEWS DIGEST

### CHENNAI: AICUF

At this time of COVID-19 second wave crisis the AICUFers keep themselves engaged constructively through webinars and group meetings at unit and state levels. We have initiated a program called “*Youth Sharing with other Youth*” every Thursday. On 27 May, we had a session on “*Caste in India*” by Mr. Manoj, TN AICUF Full-timer and on 3 June, we had a session on “*Annihilation of Caste*” by Ms. Smiley, a transperson. We have also distributed ‘*Kabasurakudineer*’ to various town units like Iluppur, Koneripatti, Sentharaipatti, Saveriyar Palayam Dindigul and people around Rayapuram in collaboration with ‘*Siragugal Tharugiroam Paranthu Sellungal*’ and ‘*Food for All*’ Chennai based NGOs.

*Parthasarathi*

### CHENNAI: BERCHMANS ILLAM

We celebrated the feast of St. Joseph with a grand Mass and honoured our co-workers with a token of our love and respect. On 5 May, we started our online Semester examinations and ended on 15 May. Ranchi scholastics left for their province in two batches on 15 and 19 May, respectively. The three Scholastics (two from Tanzania and one from Kenya) left Berchmans Illam after their completion of UG studies and they expressed their sense of gratitude to the Superior, the Province and the community members. On 20 May, we participated in the inauguration of the Ignatian year conducted by the Chennai Province through virtual mode and we conducted the prayer service. On 18 May, Chennai Scholastics and on 21 & 22 May, Madurai scholastics attended their respective Scholastics’ gathering through virtual mode. On 22 May, we began our annual retreat in two groups as Chennai and Madurai Scholastics guided by Frs. Arokia Dass and M.A. Joe Antony (MDU) respectively. We ended our retreat by renewing our vows. On 29 May, Scholastics of Madurai and Chennai got COVID vaccination.

*Vimal*

### CHENNAI: LOYOLA COLLEGE

LCC: Community retreat (13 to 20 May) on priesthood was directed by Fr. Amaladoss M. It was fruitful and enriching to all of us. Frs. Sahayaraj Vijayan and Francis Xavier P. gave talks on “(வீரமாமுனிவர் கால்கு வளனார்)” and “*Art of Spiritual Conversation*” respectively under Jesuit Webinar Series. A good number of participants benefitted from it. Francis Xavier P. gave a webinar for the Juniors of Sacred Heart of Jesus brothers on “*Religious life – an inner Journey*.”

To express our solidarity with the Chief Minister’s efforts to fight corona, Province Curia, Loyola College Society and units in the campus gave Rs 30 lakhs to the CM’s relief fund.

LCAS: Loyola College stands 4<sup>th</sup> in India and first in Tamil Nadu among India’s Top 100 private autonomous colleges. Congratulations to the management!

Loyola Tele Care for COVID (LT4C) was initiated by Loyola College, Chennai to provide emotional support for distress. On 18 May, in Loyola College Campus, COVID Care Centre was inaugurated by Fr. Francis Xavier P., the Rector.

On 17 May 2021, Loyola opened up Women’s Hostel as COVID Care Centre with 100 beds.



Mr. Subramanian, Health Minister of TN, Dr. Ezhilan, Thousand Lights MLA and Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, MP, came to inaugurate the centre. Mr. Gagandeep Singh Bedi the Commissioner of Chennai was present.

Action Aid has offered Loyola 2000 ration kits for the poor and another 1000 ration kits for the Loyola outreach program and further 1000 ration kits for the Migrants and social action centres of our province.

Loyola College outreach program offered Corona Medical Kit to the local leaders with the help of alumni. Fr. Louis Arockiaraj organised it meticulously.

On 5 May, Fr. A. Irudaya Raj, convened an online FDP. Dr. T. T. Sreekumar, Professor and Head, English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), delivered a lecture on *"Democracy, Regulation and Surveillance: A Critical Outlook on the New Indian IT Rules 2021 for Digital Media and OTT Platforms"*.

On 14 May, Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR) organised a webinar on *"Interstate Migrants Mired in the Second Wave of the Pandemic in India"*. Mr. Shabrinath Nair, Labour Migration Specialist ILO India-South Asia Office, New Delhi, Mr. Umi Daniel, Director, Migration and Education Aide et Action South Asia and Dr. Parivelan K.M., Associate Professor, Centre of Statelessness and Refugee Studies, TISS Mumbai were the resource persons. On 26 May, LISSTAR organised a book discussion on *"The Dravidian Model"*.

**LIBA:** CK Prahalad (CKP) Centre for Emerging India in LIBA, coordinated a project titled *"Trans-gendformation"*, through which 38 Trans-genders were trained in ICT skills, in line with the PAP/UAP – empowering the marginalised and walking with the poor. On 23 April they received their certificates from Fr. C. Joe Arun, Director, LIBA. Many of them have been employed in government sectors and private companies, and six of them have been recruited by *Chennai Metro*. On 26 and 27 April, a two-day online FDP on *Quality Research* was organized. More than 40 participants attended from different national and international academic institutions.

**LICET:** *LICET Pattarai* - the student club has conducted an inter-collegiate 'Ideathon' competition for the colleges across India on 1,2 May. The themes were *"Robotics and the Future, Bridging the Technological Gap in Rural Areas, Innovations on Renewable Energy, Bending Reality with AR, VR and AI"*. Around 140 participants registered from various colleges. Budding innovator awards were also given to the school students. On 7 May, as part of the Industry Academia Conclave 2021, a panel discussion was organized with eminent speakers from the Industries on *"Strategies to Turn the Opportunities into a Bright Career in the Industry"*. From 24 May, an online six-day FDTP on *"Cloud Computing"* was conducted, sponsored by Anna University.

On 25 May, LICET's COVID cell organised a talk on *"Avoiding Negative Thoughts When People Around You Turn COVID Positive"* and the speakers were Dr. Gladston Xavier, Loyola College and Dr. Ganesh Kumar, Deputy Director, ICMR. As part of COVID care for students and staff, peer counselling is initiated at the department level.

*Zenith*

#### **HARUR: ARULAGAM**

**Arulagam:** Br. Arockiasamy Kulandai, Fr. Sebastian Crossian and Sch. Arockia Anand as its new members, were warmly welcomed by Fr. Ignatius Britto, the Team Leader during the Holy Eucharistic celebration on the Feast day of St. Joseph, the Worker. Sch. Tony Ajith and Fr. Gladwin were bid farewell and reached their new communities VMI, Vilangudi and Loyola Academy, Vadamelappakkam respectively on 6 & 8 May.

**School:** On 13 May, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, Fr. Paul Benedict, the Headmaster, organised an online prayer service for the staff in order to lead them in faith and service at this difficult time of corona. On 19 May, he also organised an online extended Secondary Education Commission meeting.

**Parish:** The month of May has been a very challenging one to all, as the second wave of Corona started crippling normal life once again. Marian devotion in the month of May has united all of us to pray the Rosary together. As the community felt that days are frozen and all the more the people are in dejection, 'இனிகோ செயற்குறி மையம்' has been established by Arulagam and coordinated by Fr. Sebastian Crossian. It provides spiritual assistance to the weak and the needy. A WhatsApp group also has been created to receive the intentions of the people and jointly pray for them. We also engaged in counselling the depressed and praying for the victims of corona during daily adoration, Rosary and the Eucharistic celebration. Weekly online Mass along with Rosary is organised every Saturday for the intentions of the



suffering and sick. We extended our helping hands to the abandoned and the differently abled people people in and around Harur by giving them dry rations.

*Arockia Anand*

#### **KILPENNATHUR: AHAL CENTRE**

**AHAL:** The first batch of 2020-21 students of Tailoring (Sewing Machine Operator) and Computer (Desktop Publishing (DTP)) Diploma Courses got their certificates. As there were not many takers for the second batch 2021-22, due to lack of transportation, daily bus fare and Corona pandemic, a serious situational analysis was done. As a result, after confirming the good number of possible candidates for the registration of Tailoring and Computer Courses, it was decided to set up Tailoring Course at Irudhaya Nagar, the Substation of Thenimalai parish and Computer Course at Alagananthal, the substation of Pavithram parish. With the cooperation of the Parish Priests and the Village Local Leaders all the arrangements were made in the respective villages.



On 10 May, Tailoring Course in Irudhaya Nagar was inaugurated; and on 17 May, the Computer Course in Azhagananthal. Village local leaders, Parish Priests, villagers and respective course students participated in the inaugural function.

**Parish:** Knowing the importance of having a grotto for spiritual growth, the Kilpennathur parishioners along with the Parish Priest decided to build a new grotto at Antony's street. On 17 May the Parish Priest and the parishioners together laid the foundation stone. The financial support will be extended by the parishioners.

*Raja Jesu Raj*

#### **METTALA: LOYOLA COLLEGE**

In the second week of May, all the members of the community, made our annual retreat. On 15 May, Fr. Thangadurai complained of some discomfort and so he was admitted in SFS Hospital at Kakkaveri run by SMMI Sisters. On 17 May, as the CT Scan revealed that he had 40% of COVID-19 infection in his lungs, he got admitted in Apollo Hospital, Tiruchi. He was discharged from the hospital on 27 May and is in home quarantine at St Joseph's College, Tiruchi.

On 19 May, Fr. R. Rajarathinam complained of ill-health and was taken to SFS Hospital by Fr. Poondy Rajan. His body temperature was 101°F.

A swab test was done. On 22 May, the CT Scan revealed that he had 35% of COVID-19 infection in his lungs. So he was rushed to Apollo Hospital, Tiruchi. On 23 May, he expressed his satisfaction with the treatment given and was improving. At 8.30 pm, Dr. Lydia informed us that his oxygen level was fluctuating and they have increased from 5 litres to 10 litres of oxygen.

On 24 May, after breakfast, Fr. Rajarathinam had tried to go to the bathroom but unfortunately slipped and fell down. The doctors diagnosed a mild heart attack and rushed him immediately to the ICU-COVID-19 ward. They informed us that he had a cardiac arrest and they were taking strenuous efforts to revive him. At 10.30 am we received the shocking news that he had passed away. The Jesuit community at Mettala was plunged into a deep and irrecoverable shock and sadness.

Keeping the constraints of COVID-19 and lockdown, after discussion with all concerned, his body was cremated through a local undertaker and the mortal remains (Ashes) of Fr. Rajarathinam were put in a casket and brought to St. Joseph's Jesuit cemetery premises at 5 pm. His siblings joined at 5.30 pm and Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector, performed the last rites. Thereafter, the mortal remains of Fr. Rajarathinam were interred in the St. Lourdes Church crypt. Br. John Britto, Minister, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi made the arrangements.

On 27 May, an online prayer service was organised to pray for the repose of the soul of Fr. Rajarathinam in which his relatives participated along with the teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and alumni of Loyola Colleges, Mettala & Vettavalam, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi and St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*

#### **VADAMELPAKKAM: LOYOLA ACADEMY**

The new community members Fr. Maria Viyahappan Gladwin and Sch. Hansel Arokiasamy reached LAV on 4 May and 9 May respectively. The entire community barring Fr. Gladwin, made our annual retreat from May 23 to 30 evening. On 31 May, Fr. Tagore Leo celebrated the farewell Mass for Fr. Deva A. Stephen (MDU) and Sch. Jayanth Frankly and the new members were welcomed. The community is very grateful to the outgoing duo for their selfless services to the students, the school and the community for two years.

After summer vacation, the LAV family resumed its online classes from 3 June. On 1 June, preceding the reopening, during the online staff meeting we bade goodbye to Fr. Stephen and Sch. Frankly. Fr. Tagore Leo, the correspondent, thanked Fr. Stephen for his multi-faceted service to the campus and wished Frankly bon voyage. He welcomed and introduced the new Jesuit personnel to the staff. Fr. M.S. Arockiasamy, the Principal, welcomed five new teachers and a counsellor, and encouraged them to give their best. The contractors are busy giving the finishing touches to the hostel under construction.

*Hansel*

**Fr. Jerome Gonsalves** (71/51 PUN) passed away on 07 May 2021 at Sonali Memorial Hospital, Pune (COVID-19 related).

**Fr. Ambrose D'Souza** (66/39 KAR) passed away on 12 May 2021 at Father Muller Hospital, Mangaluru (COVID-19 related).

**Fr. Francis Kurien HAZ** (68/51 HAZ) passed away on 13 May 2021 at the Holy Family Hospital, Koderma.

**Br. Jeganathan Ambrose S.** (72/53 MDU) passed away on 17 May 2021 at Government Hospital, Dindigul (COVID-19 related).

**Fr. Anthony Cruze Arul** (57/35 GUJ) passed away on 19 May 2021 in Ahmedabad.

**Fr. Rajarathinam Rathinam** (62/41 CEN) passed away on 24 May 2021 at Apollo Hospital, Tiruchirappalli (COVID-19 related).

**Fr. Lawrence Maria. Gabriel** (81/56 MDU) passed away on 29 May 2021 at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul (COVID-19 related).

**Fr. Jeyaraj Maria** (86/67 MDU) passed away on 29 May 2021 at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul (COVID-19 related).

**Fr. Ignatius Gyan Hembrom** (51/28 HAZ) passed away on 01 June 2021 at Medanta Hospital, Ranchi (COVID-19 related).

**Sr. Jeyaseeli** (62), niece of Fr. A. Lourdusamy, on 05 May 2021 at Batlagundu (COVID-19 related).

**Sr. Elizabeth OSM** (68), niece of Fr. M.S. Irudayaraj (MDU), passed away on 14 May 2021 at Tiruchi (COVID-19 related).

**Sr. Philo Demel ICM** (75), paternal aunt of Fr. Michael Pugazhendi, passed away on 23 May 2021 at Dindigul (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Amalraj** (77), eldest brother of Br. S. John Britto (MDU) and Fr. Peter Arockiasamy (PAT), passed away on 15 April 2021 at Kalladithidal, Sivagangai.

**Mr. S. Antony Denis Raj** (49), nephew of Fr. Stanislaus R. (MDU), passed away on 22 April 2021 in Chennai (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Michael Amaladass** (40), brother-in-law of Fr. Clement J., passed away on 24 April 2021 in Madurai (COVID-19 related).

**Mrs. S. Josephine** (70), sister of Fr. S. Marianathan (MDU), passed away on 27 April 2021 at Alavanthankulam (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Jockim Jacob** (32), nephew of Fr. Albert Muthumalai (MDU), on 30 April 2021 at Tuticorin. (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Thiruthuva Doss** (81) brother of Fr. Amaladoss Michael, passed away on 8 May 2021 in Chennai.

**Mr. Arockiaraj** (63), maternal uncle of Fr. Clement J. (MDU), passed away on 10 May 2021 at Tiruchi (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Joseph Sahayaraj** (46), elder brother of Fr. Clement J., passed away on 12 May 2021 in Madurai (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Sebastian** (54), elder brother of Fr. Arockiam K, (MDU), passed away on 12 May 2021 in Madurai (COVID-19 related).

**Mrs. Tharba Mary** (78), niece of Fr. M.S. Irudayaraj (MDU), passed away on 16 May 2021 at Tiruchi (COVID-19 related).

**Mrs. Anthoniyammal** (67), Grandmother of Sch. Arockia Pradeep (MDU), passed away on 16 May 2021 in Kalayarkovil.

**Mr. Anthonysamy** (81), brother-in-law of Br. Antony Pitchai (MDU), passed away on 16 May 2021 at Sivagangai (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. A. Peter** (56), nephew of Fr. Bastian Maria Susai (MDU), passed away on 18 May 2021 in Chennai (COVID-19 related).

**Mrs. Jesammal** (82), elder sister of Br. Arulanandam (MDU), passed away on 19 May 2021 at KuttathuAvarampatty.

**Mrs. Thayabari** (90), mother of Br. A. Kulandairaj (MDU), passed away on 20 May 2021 at Velur, near Oddanchatram.

**Mr. Jesu Raja** (84), Ex-Jesuit known as Bagavathar and related to Fr. A. Lourdusamy (MDU), passed away on 20 May 2021 at Coimbatore (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. M. Francis Xavier** (64), younger Brother of Fr. M. Devasagayam, passed away on 22 May 2021 at Dindigul (COVID-19 related).

**Mrs. Maria Pushpam** (101), paternal aunt of Fr. AmalKulandaisamy (MDU), passed away on 24 May 2021 at Thachankurichi.

**Mrs. Maria Antony Ignatius Rita** (85) Mother of Fr. Antony Inigo D. (MDU), passed away on 25 May 2021 at NGO Colony, Tirunelveli (COVID-19 related).

**Mrs. Jebamalai** (75), younger sister of Fr. M.S. Irudayaraj, passed away on 28 May 2021 at Vellore.

**Mr. Ligor** (63), nephew of Fr. Michael Alosanaya, passed away on 29 May 2021 at Theni (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Alexander** (67), father of Sch. Antony Donic Raja, passed away on 29 May 2021 at Coimbatore (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Stanislaus** (80), father of Sch. Velanganni S. (MDU), passed away on 31 May 2021 at Manapparai.

**Mr. C. Mariaselvam**, maternal uncle of Sch. M. Anthony David, passed away on 31 May 2021 at Thiruvanamalai (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Ramesh** (38), cousin of Sch. Arokia Sundar, passed away on 31 May 2021 at Thiruvarur (COVID-19 related).

**Mr. Pushparaj** (60), bother-in-law of Fr. SelvarajArulnathan, and cousin of Fr. Alphonse Manickam, passed away on 2 June 2021 at Thattanodai, Cuddalore.

**Mr. Junit Ronald** (47), brother of Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan, on 03 June 2021 in Chennai.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Rani** (59), mother of Sch. Raja Jesu Raj, Passed away on 4 June 2021 at Silukkuvarpatti, Dindigul.



## FR. ANTONY RAJ PERINBAM (1945-2021)

Fr. Antony Raj (76/57) was born in Meenthully in Tirunelveli District and had his primary and secondary education in Manapad and Palayamkottai, respectively.



His personal experience in his childhood and his interaction with the marginalized people during his field studies and later research findings, made him devote his entire life for the enlightenment, upliftment, and empowerment of the Dalits. After his B.A. in Economics at

St. Joseph's College (Tiruchi) and M.A. in Sociology at St. Xavier's College (Trivandrum), he did his doctorate in Loyola University, Chicago. His doctoral dissertation was on *'The Social Bases of Obedience of the Untouchables in Tamil Nadu'*, followed by two more research projects on *'Discrimination Against Dalit Christians in Tamil Nadu'* and *'Atrocities Against Dalits in Tamil Nadu'* (both for Missio in Aachen). One of the major findings was that Dalits comprised 70% of the Tamil Nadu Catholic population which was accepted and adopted by the Tamil Nadu-Pondicherry Bishops Conference.

His deep conviction to work for the liberation of the Dalits made him a social activist. He was the Founder-President of *'Dalit Christian Liberation Movement'* (DCLM – 1989) and *'Dalit Integration Federation'* (DIF). He has been the President of the Janodayam (since 1988), an organization for the upliftment of the Adi-Andhras through socio, economic, and educational empowerment. He served the Central Government of India as the Chairman for the Central Board of Workers' Education in the Ministry of Labour; and the Government of Tamil Nadu as an Adviser to the Adi Dravida Welfare Department. He was with the people whenever they were affected. He extended legal help to numerous Dalit leaders and cadres whenever they were in need.

Opposition grew especially from the hierarchy as he took his stand with the Dalits and was fighting for their social and religious equality. He was asked to resign as

the President of DCLM, which he did as a Jesuit in the spirit of obedience.

He believed that together with building up a people's movement, he should also build peoples' institutions. This propelled him to found Dr. Ambedkar Cultural Academy (DACA). Feeling for the rural poor, Dalit girls, he started Vidivelli Girls' Home (1997) which has been offering boarding facilities to over 200 school-going, and now also to college-going girls. Further, he started over 100 evening study centers in seven districts of Tamil Nadu. More than 500 Self-Help Groups came into existence promoting entrepreneurship among rural women. He started a coaching center for civil service exams and a hospital (Ceyrac Medical Foundation recently renamed Siddhar Traditional Medical Center). He registered Madurai Jesuit Downtrodden People's Welfare Trust (MJDPWT) and carried out all these good works.

His natural thirst for freedom was quenched by his constant and continuous reading of books by social reformers, particularly, Dr. Ambedkar. He was able to move the Dalits from an attitude of victimhood to audacity of hope and an attitude of creative militancy to assert their rights for freedom, equality, and dignity.

In the past few months his health was slowly failing. On 03 May, he was admitted to Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai, with mild COVID symptoms. The Lord called him to his eternal home at 2:30 p.m. on 10 May. After the Mass celebrated by Fr. Marianathan, Rector of St. Mary's, Madurai, and Managing Trustee of MJDPWT, the mortal remains of Fr. Antony Raj were laid to eternal rest in front of the main building in DACA. A group of young volunteers of Muslim Munnetra Kazhagam (MMK) did the burial observing all the COVID protocols.

He was a symbol of courage and an exemplary leader who stood with the marginalized. He never gave up his right to dream and fight for it. He was restless fighting for the liberation of the Dalits and the marginalized. The Jesuit Madurai Province and the Church in Tamil Nadu have indeed lost a prophet and a champion for the rights and dignity of the Dalits.

***May his liberated soul now rest in peace!***

***Francis P. Xavier***

## BR. S. JEGANATHAN AMBROSE (1949-2021)

Br. S. Jeganathan Ambrose was born as the Benjamin of 10 siblings to Mr. Susai Manickam and Mrs. Maria Viyagulam on 17 April 1949 at Veeravanallur, Tirunelveli District. He joined the Society of Jesus on 14 February 1968 at Beschi College, Dindigul, and pronounced his First Vows as a Jesuit Brother on 28 February 1970.

Soon after his Juniorate studies, he was given his first appointment as Assistant Manager of St. Mary's Press, Dindigul. Subsequently, he served in many of our institutions and houses including a short stint at Loyola Public School, Guntur, in AND Province. He did his Tertianship at XTTI, Patna, in 1980 and pronounced his Final Vows on 04 February 1983 at De Britto, Devakottai.

With a cheerful disposition and total availability, he was much appreciated for his service wherever he was placed. Finally, he arrived at the Shrine of St. John De Britto, Oriyur, in 2018 as House Minister. As a brother, Br. Jeganathan spent the major part of his Jesuit life serving as Asst. Director of hostels both in our colleges and schools with dedication and commitment. All his students were very much appreciative of his personal care for each one of them. Planning ahead and executing well were the secrets of his success wherever he had served. He insisted on being transparent in one's accounts and when he sent home Jesuit publications, he would always send also the bills.

Through his exemplary life as a religious brother, he promoted vocations to religious life and priesthood. In his own extended family, he inspired three younger relatives to opt for religious life (two SMMI sisters and a Salesian priest) and to them he would often quote the words of Jesus: "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). To them he would also say: "The Society of Jesus is my Mother House and so let your congregation be your Mother House."

He was deeply spiritual and very obedient to his

superiors. He would often say: "Obey the superiors even if you are not happy". His ever-smiling face welcomed religious and guests who visited the community. Br. Jeganathan was a true Jesuit who sincerely and cheerfully forgave all who offended him. In 2017, on the occasion of his golden jubilee in the Society of Jesus, Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, Superior General, expressing his appreciation, wrote to Br. Jeganathan: "The witness of your Jesuit Religious life has been a grace, both for yourself and for those whose lives you have shared, and I pray for your continued happiness and satisfaction in the years to come. I join my prayers with those of Jesuits throughout the world that you continue to find much consolation and joy in your life of service and dedication as a Brother in the Society of Jesus".

On 7 May, Br. Jeganathan complained of cough and throat congestion. Suspecting COVID infection, he arrived at St. Joseph hospital, Dindigul, on 9 May. On the following day, test results confirmed that he was indeed COVID positive and so he was admitted to the hospital. Though the treatment was intense, his Oxygen saturation level kept going down. On 16 May, his lung involvement was 95% and, as an emergency measure, St. Joseph Hospital referred him to the Government Hospital, Dindigul, where despite the flow of oxygen being at the maximum level, his Oxygen saturation level dropped to 45% and he breathed his last at 2.05 p.m. on 17 May 2021. After the discharge procedures were completed, the mortal remains of Br. Jeganathan were brought to the cemetery of Beschi Illam and were laid to rest at 5.45 p.m. after the prayer of committal by Fr. M. Devadoss. The funeral service was strictly private; only Fr. Provincial and a few Jesuits were present in the cemetery due to COVID related restrictions.

**May God grant unto Br. Jeganathan eternal bliss and may perpetual light shine upon him!**

**M. Anthony Samy**





## FR. RAJARATHINAM RATHINAM (1959-2021)

The Jesuits of Tamil Nadu were shocked and saddened by the sudden and unexpected demise of Fr. Raja Rathinam at 10.30 a.m. on 24 May 2021. He was born on 3 April 1959 as the second son to his parents, Mr. Rathinam and Mrs. Innaciammal, at Mathankovilpatty near Sivakasi in Virudhunagar District. With the help of Frs. Wenisch and Ignatius Sebastian, he entered the Society of Jesus on 30 July 1979 at Beschi College, Dindigul, after completing his B.A. in Economics at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. He was ordained a priest on 24 November 1991 in Madurai.

He was a well-known musician, lyricist, composer and singer and the videos of many of his hymns are popular on online video-sharing platforms. It was he who composed the College Anthems of St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, Loyola College, Vettavalam and Loyola College, Mettala. He was a good teacher, orator, animator and administrator.

From June 1992 till his death, he made a significant contribution to Jesuit Higher Education in Tamil Nadu. In June 1992, he joined as Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. From 1995 to 2005, he worked as the Director of STAND (Students' Training and Action for Neighborhood Development). He extended the services of this outreach programme to the poor people living in non-Christian villages, too. He worked hard to persuade the dropouts from schools to get readmission and continue their education.

From 2001 till 2005, he held the responsibility of the Province Coordinator for Higher Education. He used to plan meticulously and conduct transparently the faculty recruitment interviews. Everything was above board and staff selection was exemplary. In 2005, he was appointed Principal of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. After taking charge, he left no stone unturned to improve the teaching, learning and evaluation process of the college. He also gave importance to extracurricular activities. In admissions, he tried to implement the Province's preferential option for the

Dalits and the poor. Under his able leadership, the college put up an excellent performance during the NAAC visit and the college was awarded the highest rank in the second cycle of accreditation by NAAC. Eventually, the UGC appointed him as one of the NAAC Peer team members for 12 colleges and three universities. The National Solidarity Council honored him with "*Jewel of India*" and "*The Best Principal*" awards.

A court case foisted on him made his life a veritable Way of the Cross. Although he longed to be exonerated and reinstated, he endured his suffering and went about doing good till the end.

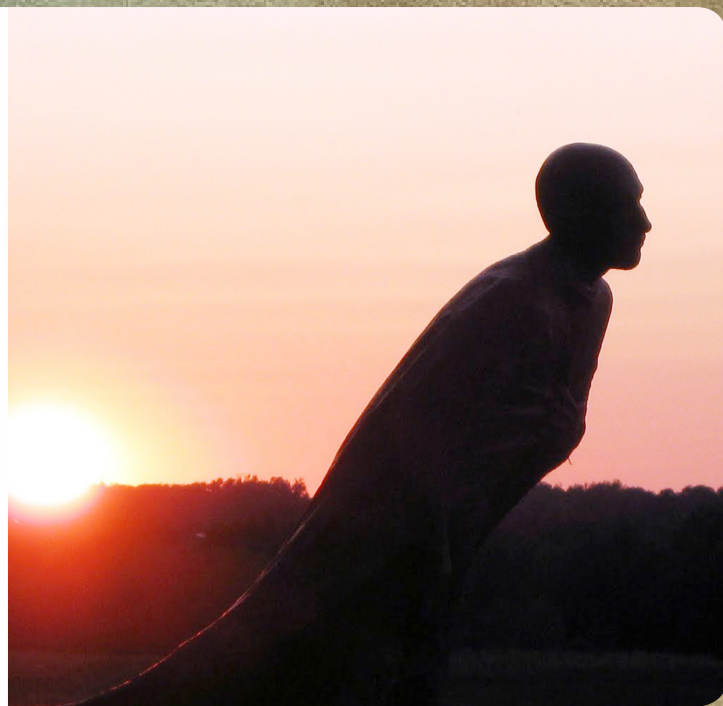


In 2011, he trained students at DACA, Madurai. Then, he served as Minister and Treasurer at Loyola Technical Institute, Madurai, following which he was sent to teach Economics at Loyola College, Meghalaya. From 2015 to 2020, he served in Loyola College, Vettavalam, as Minister, Professor and Secretary. In June 2020, he was appointed as the Campus Treasurer, Loyola College, Mettala, and very quickly he put things in order on the campus.

On 19 May, he felt unwell and on the following day scan results showed a 35% lung involvement and so he was rushed to Apollo Hospital, Tiruchi. He was responding well to the treatment but on 24 May, after he took his breakfast at 8:30 a.m., he had a fall. The doctors diagnosed a mild heart attack and rushed him immediately to the ICU. Despite their strenuous efforts to revive him, he breathed his last at 10.30 a.m. As his death was COVID-related and noting the need to have his funeral within hours in Tiruchi itself, his body was cremated. At 5:00 p.m., his mortal remains were handed over to the Jesuit community of St. Joseph's College. The immediate family members of Fr. Raja Rathinam reached St. Joseph's at 5:30 p.m. and Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector, performed the last rites. Then, his mortal remains were interred in the crypt of college church at 6:00 p.m.

*May God grant unto him eternal rest!*

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*



In the context of COVID-19, it is paramount to instil in our hearts and minds courage and hope. The Ignatian insight on *"Falling is not failing"* would help us achieve it. Falling down doesn't mean failure. If it means so, every child would have been labelled a failure within the first year of its life, learning to walk. Sure, we may have got frustrated and wounded, but we kept it up until we learnt to walk. To keep it short in the words of Bhaghat Singh, *"You can kill me but not defeat."*

Yes, Jesus was killed on the Cross but was never defeated. The risen Christ lives forever. And it is in this fall, the humanity is restored to life: *"...but to us who are being saved, the Cross is the power of God"* (1Cor 1:18). Similarly, what a fall it was for the early Church by the Jews and the Romans! The followers of Christ were threatened, persecuted, scattered and what not, but none of the above stopped them from bearing witness to Christ. And it is in this fall, the Church has risen to its present glory and grandeur. After all, the history of the Church is one of success through failures.

Many a time, God leads us through the so-called failures as in the case of St. Ignatius. It was when a cannonball struck and made him fall, did Ignatius realize the call of God. And it is in this fall, have the soldiers of the Church – the Jesuits – begun their march. Hence, the fall remains no longer a failure, but

a history. In this regard, Ignatius never had the attitude of giving up, rather ever willed to give himself totally to the cause. It is this fitting quality that made him draw inspiration from the Cross and say, *"Do everything as if it depends on you, and leave the rest as if it depends on God."* This Ignatian spirituality invites us to immerse deeply ourselves into the faith that 'God writes straight through crooked lines.'

In all walks of our life, we come across such a fall, be it in relationship, studies, ministries etc. And often we name ourselves as failure instead of naming the particular instance itself and attempt to put an end to it. For Ignatius, the battle might be a failure but he never named himself a failure, so much so even his enemies acknowledged and treated him royally. Hence, it is evident that the moment we give up hope or give in to falling, we ourselves close down bountiful opportunities that would or otherwise open up for us. The situation around COVID-19 is one such moment wherein we cannot give in to fear or give up hope. For, as we know, even a sea of water cannot sink a ship unless the ship allows it to. Hence, just as a child keeps getting up whenever it falls believing that one day it will walk, being strengthened by the Cross and having Ignatius as our model, let us remain strong and hopeful at the time of difficulties.

*Alex and Anto*