



(For Private Circulation)

Ignatius Soo



**JUNE 2021**

# MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

(Incorporating the changes that had to be made in Fr. Provincial's April-May 2021 programme)

### APRIL 2021

- 01-06 Province Office
- 07-08 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
- 09-10 Visitation: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
- 11 Golden Jubilee Mass of Br. Xavier Amal (AND),  
Madurai
- 12-13 Province Office
- 13 Online Meeting of LS/TL with Campus Treasurers  
and Finance Commission
- 14 Final Vows of Fr. S. Paul Pragash,  
St. Joseph's, Tiruchi
- 15 Silver Jubilee: LIFE, Loyola College, Chennai
- 16 Berchmans Illam, Chennai
- 17-30 Province Office
- 20 Consult (Online)
- 21 Consult, Maduralaya
- 25 JCSA Meeting (Online)
- 28 Online Meeting of LS/TL and Coordinators of  
Commissions

### MAY 2021

- 01-31 Province Office
- 03 Online Meeting of Southern Provincials
- 07 Province Corona Prayer Service (Online)
- 08 Consult (Online)
- 20 Inaugural Celebration of Ignatian Jubilee Year (Online)
- 21-22 Formation Meet (Online)

### JUNE 2021

- 01-30 Province Office
- 03 Conferment of Minor Orders, Beschi Illam, Dindigul  
Online Meeting of Southern Provincials
- 10-17 Retreat, Maduralaya
- 21 First Vows, Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 22 Consult (Online)
- 29 Final Vows of Fr. Selvaraj Soosaimanickam,  
Beschi Illam, Dindigul

### JULY 2021

- 5 POSA Consult – Jor Bagh, Delhi
- 24 Inauguration of LIBA new building, Loyola, Chennai

## STATUS OF FATHERS AND BROTHERS 2021 APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS: LIST II

Normally, our transfers are effected by the first week of June. However, with the raging COVID-19 second wave and our communities being under strain to care for ours during their hospitalization and/or home quarantine, there is need for flexibility. Let the transferees confer with the Superiors/ Team Leaders of the concerned communities/teams and as and when it is safe, effect the transfers.

NAME	DESIGNATION	PLACE
P Albert Muthumalai A.	Acting Superior	St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
P Arul Irudayam	Acting Superior	VMI, Vilangudi
P Ignatius Britto N.	Team Leader	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
P Arockiasamy Santiago	Acting Superior	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
P Amaladoss Xavier	Acting Superior	Carmel HS School, Nagercoil

NAME	FROM	TO
P Albert William M. (CEN)	Loyola College, Vettavalam	St. Mary's, Madurai
P Ambrose Arockiasamy	Christ Hall, Karumathur	Spiritual Ministry, St. Mary's, Madurai
P Anthony Samy M.	St. Arulanandar, Oriyur	Manager, St. Xavier's College Farm, Irudayakulam
P Arockiam Savarimuthu	Sabbatical, Loyola Estate, Sirumalai	Continues in Sirumalai (Assisting Manager)
P Basil Xavier S.	Sabbatical, Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Post Doctoral Studies, Boston College, USA
P Britto Peter A.	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari	Administrator & Treasurer, Thozhamai Illam
P Deva Arockia Stephen	LAV, Vadampakkam	Preparing to go abroad to study MBA
P Fernando Roosevelt	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
P Ignacy M. Arockiam	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	St. Mary's, Madurai (in-charge English Medium Section and Sub-Minister)
P Irudayaraj Maria Susai	St. Joseph's Agri Farm, Perumalmalai	St. Mary's Farm, Ayyampalayam
P John Bosco B.	LTI, Madurai	Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur
P John Britto Bonaventure	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Spiritual Father, Clive House, Tiruchi
P Joseph Antony Samy G.	St. Charles College of Arts and Science, Eraiur	SHC, Shembaganur (Treasurer & Dir: Archives & LISTEN)
P Joseph Arockiasamy	SXC Farm, Irudayakulam	MA Counselling Psychology, Monfort Institute, Bangalore
P Joseph Michael (CEN)	St. Arulanandar, Oriyur	St. Michael's Estate, Palamalai
P Maria Annaraj K.	VMI, Vilangudi	DACA, Madurai
P Maria Bastin Durai	St. Arulanandar, Oriyur	Correspondent (Additional), St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
P Masillamani S. Pauliah	SXC Farm, Irudayakulam	Spiritual Ministry, St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai
P Rajasekaran A.I.	PEAK, Shembaganur	Director, VMI, Vilangudi
P Raphael Alexander G.	SUPAM	Treasurer, St. Arulanandar, Oriyur

NAME	FROM	TO
P Sahaya Raj Thangasamy	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari	Secretary, St. Peter's Arts and Science College, Andimadam
P Stephen Robert	St. Arulanandar, Oriyur	Minister & Assistant Parish Priest, St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
P Theresunathan Soosai	St. Mary's, Madurai	Tertianship, Kandy, Sri Lanka
P Vijin Antony Raj	SUPAM	Assistant Parish Priest, St. Mary's, Madurai
P Xavier Antony Selvam M.	VMI, Vilangudi	Licentiate, Biblicum, Rome
P Yagoo Y. Sandanam	Sabbatical, Beschi Illam, Dindigul	LTI, Madurai (Minister & Student Counsellor)



## Announcements

### Registration for 3-Minute Zoom Videos

The IGY 21-22 team invites the whole province to register themselves for the opportunity to share their key experiences in the Society of Jesus for 3 minutes. The sharing could be on their vocation to the Society, the changes they have experienced in the Society, experiences they cherished in the Society, handling critical issues in the Society, and so on. These videos will be zoomed during the planned online meetings from July 2021 onwards, several times during the Ignatian Year 2021-'22. Videos will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis, with a preference to the elders in our Province. Do come forward to register. Registration is open from now on and should reach Vincent Sekhar (sekharsj2010@gmail.com / WhatsApp number 9443536530). Once registered, the team will contact the persons for further course of action.

*Vincent Sekhar*

**Alex David Raj A. (MDU) and Rahul Ranjan (MDU)**, two first-year novices, left the novitiate on 23.05.2021.

### Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) The Beauty of Marriage

In June 2021, we 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.

## NEWS DIGEST

### Update on Fr. Stan Swamy's Case

On April 26, two bail petitions (medical bail and regular bail), were filed in the Bombay High Court. The High Court was pleased to admit both petitions and ordered for a medical report to be submitted by May 15.

On May 18, Fr. Stan was administered the first dose of COVID vaccine and taken to JJ hospital for a medical checkup. On May 19, as the medical bail petition came up for hearing, the court intended to speak to Fr. Stan through video conferencing and set up a medical team to do a full-body examination and posted the case to 21 May. Accordingly, Fr. Stan was taken to JJ hospital on May 20.

On May 21, seeing the medical report and hearing the arguments of Mr. Mihir Desai, the counsel for Fr. Stan, the court was inclined to consider the treatment either in JJ hospital or any private hospital but, in video conferencing, Fr. Stan categorically prayed for interim bail and declined the offer of hospitalization. The counsel of Fr. Stan used his wisdom and obtained the permission to approach the court again after speaking to Fr. Stan. For his part, Fr. Stan, too, must have read and reflected on what appeared in



the newspapers about the HC hearing on May 21. On May 23, he telephoned Fr. Joe Xavier and gave his consent to treatment in Holy Family Hospital as an intermediary step. He was also taken on May 24 to JJ Hospital for a routine checkup.

On May 28, the court permitted the urgent mentioning and emergency hearing and granted permission for Fr. Stan to be treated in Holy Family Hospital. The court also permitted Fr. Frazer Francis Mascarenhas (BOM) to serve as his guardian and the hospital to provide attendants round the clock as Fr. Stan needed help for everything. On the same day evening, Fr. Stan was shifted to the hospital and admitted in the COVID ICU and on May 30, he tested COVID positive. Now his health condition seems to be steady and improving and the next hearing in the High Court is on June 14.

*Santhanam*

### **COVID- 19 Second Wave Update**

Foreseeing the havoc that the brutal second wave of COVID-19 would cause, Fr. Provincial sent out directives to protect our men from viral infection. In his letter dated 19 April 2021, he clearly spelled out the safety measures to be observed in our communities in order to prevent the spread of the virus and protect our men. He requested us to join Pope Francis's COVID Prayer Marathon and unite ourselves with the entire humanity praying for a speedy end to the pandemic.

On 28 April 2021, Fr. Provincial called for an online emergency meeting of Local Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators of Commissions and had a very fruitful spiritual conversation in breakout rooms followed by a general session. The suggestions and proposals of the Local Superiors, Team leaders and Coordinators contributed a lot for further thinking and action-oriented deliberations at the community, campus and province levels. On 2 May 2021, Fr. Provincial wrote a letter to the entire province sharing the fruits of the spiritual conversation and presenting action plans to be implemented during this time in our communities, campuses and province. In his letter, he urged the members to say NO to panic, rumours and fake news. He emphasized the importance of not losing hope but staying strong, hopeful and courageous to face the pandemic. In this regard, he encouraged the entire province to get strengthened

and spiritually enriched by unceasing prayers to the Lord for the end of the pandemic praying for all those affected and those working on the frontlines of this emergency. He gave a clarion call to us to plan to reach out to those in need in whatever way possible strictly adhering to safety measures.

At the suggestion of Fr. Provincial, an online prayer service was organized by the Spirituality and Dialogue Commission in collaboration with the Communication Commission. The prayer service conducted on 7 May 2021 inspired many of our staff, students and lay collaborators to seek and obtain more strength and confidence in the goodness of the Lord.

In the midst of this emergency, Fr. Provincial appointed Province COVID Disaster Management Taskforce (PCDMT) to implement our relief works for those who need our assistance during this worst pandemic in living memory. In his letter dated 24 May 2021, he invited the entire province to work closely with the team to carry forward the relief works. The members of PCDMT comprising representatives from different zones of the province, namely Tiruchi, Dindigul, Palayamkottai, Madurai, Kodai Hills and Devakottai, met online and discussed the various possibilities of reaching out to the needy. They have formed local teams of Jesuits and lay collaborators and started their needs assessment and planning of the relief measures. In some of our institutions (e.g., St. Mary's, Dindigul, AAC, Karumathur, SJC, Tiruchi etc.), our hostel premises are used by the government as temporary COVID wards and it is also noteworthy that the alumni of St. Mary's Dindigul have provided 85 iron cots to the government hospital. At the moment, the Spirituality and Dialogue Commission has started a tele-counselling centre (Loyola Spirituality Centre) to give hope to the people in this hopeless situation. In Devakottai, our men have started Aananda prayer group that offers tele-counselling and spiritual support to people in need. On 4 June 2021, the PCDMT organized an online COVID Awareness Event in order to give awareness and hope to our staff, students, collaborators and all those in need. The members of PCDMT will get in touch with you in the coming days with regard to our relief works for people in need. Please extend your fullest support for both online and offline events organized by the team.

*George Stephen Thayriam, PCDMT*

## SUPAM 2020-2021

SUPAM 2020-2021 was unique and very different from the previous years. Our entry into and exit from the parishes have been unobtrusive due to Corona lockdown. However, our mission was fruitful and has enriched us with unforgettable experiences. Six of us were placed in six different parishes in Sivagangai, Kumbakonam, Pondicherry and Salem dioceses. We began our ministry as deacons and ended our pastoral year as people's pastors with multiple experiences. These experiences have given us a solid foundation for our priestly life. All the six parishes have given us ample scope to accompany and work for our target people. COVID-19 restrictions posed big 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, daily Mass with the people and our involvement in different activities of the parish helped us to form ourselves as good shepherds.

SUPAM is not just about our experiences in the parishes but, more importantly, it is a significant period of Jesuit formation under the guidance of the Provincials, PCFs, the SUPAM Coordinator and Arul Kadal formators who guided us with their wisdom to review our experiences so as to theologically sharpen our reflections. Three online meetings that we had during the year, motivated us to renew our commitment to our mission. SUPAM 2020-2021 came to an end with an online meeting on May 26. The participation of both the Provincials of Chennai and Madurai added joy to our collective reflection. We take this opportunity to thank them, the PCFs and Arul Kadal formators. Our special thanks to Fr. Baskar Antony, SUPAM Coordinator, for his planning, execution and continued accompaniment. With a deep sense of gratitude in our hearts, we look forward to plunging into our new ministries.

*Franklin Rex*

## POP 2021 – Shembaganur

Despite the looming pandemic threat, POP 2021 got off the ground at Shembaganur as scheduled on April 13 with an inaugural Eucharist by Fr. Stephen Lourdu Pragasam, the PCF of Madurai, and ended well on May 13 by the grace of God. A total of 23 scholastics from CEN, KAR, KHM, KER, and MDU took part in the

programme. Thanks to the travel arrangements made well in advance by the PCFs, all arrived on/before April 13 except the three KHM scholastics who joined the group on April 15. The resource persons were: Frs. Joe Arun (CEN), Xavier John Bosco (AND), M. Kulandai Raj (AND), Jerry Rosario (CEN), Arul Sivan (MDU) and Fr. S. Arockiam (MDU) and all of them were able to make it to Shembag.



Fr. Joe Arun set the right tone at the start of POP 2021 by orienting the scholastics to dispose themselves with the mind and heart of St. Ignatius. Thus, apart from regular input sessions, during the 30 days there were opportunities to feel a sense of being the members of a *Society of Love* and celebrate friendship through a mini-group recreation held twice, a cultural recreation organized twice, and a grand dinner hosted twice by the Shembag community. On the very first day, an article on the importance of priesthood in the Society of Jesus was given for our reflective reading, based on which we shared our insights in the group on the following day.

Fr. Bosco shared with us some practical NLP techniques on how to transform one's negative emotions into positive ones by modeling on Jesus and by anchoring with positive emotions and events of the past. Fr. M. Kulandai Raj animated the group towards psycho-sexual-spiritual integration by organizing sharing in small groups. Fr. Jerry made it clear that in the Society of Jesus priesthood is not a qualification or a status symbol but a sincere commitment to be fully immersed in service for the redemption of the whole creation.

Fr. S. Arockiam from his own life experience shared that living a priestly life is about maintaining and integrating a whole human nature of body, soul, mind, and spirit, and that being a priest in the Society of Jesus is to be a contemplative in action. Fr. Arul

Sivan explained in detail the practice of discernment. Prior to the eight-day retreat, his explanation helped the scholastics to prepare themselves for an effective self-examination and for the choice that would have to be made towards priesthood in the Society of Jesus. As an immediate preparation for the retreat, an article of Fr. Arrupe concerning the Jesuit Priesthood was presented by Fr. M. A. Selvam to the group and, later, a group sharing was held on the insights acquired. The climax of POP was the eight-day retreat guided by Fr. S. Arockiam on the theme of Jesus' Leadership.

On the fifth day of the retreat, the Karnataka and Kerala Scholastics had to leave for their respective Provinces due to apprehensions about the impending lockdown. However, thanks to Google Meet online platform, the 'lost sheep' were able to join the flock, continue and complete their retreat. The final session of the POP was also online, during which, Fr. Joe Arun explained that living as a priest in the Society of Jesus is about manifesting a discerning leadership and about accepting the burdens of lifting up the least. Then the PCF of Madurai Province came online and provided guidance on how to complete POP evaluation through Google Forms. During the meeting, the participants expressed their gratitude to Fr. Patrick, the Superior of Shembag, Fr. Stephen, the PCF, Fr. M. A. Selvam, Fr. Rajasekaran and the entire community for accommodating and guiding them for over a month. With the concluding Eucharist celebrated at noon by Fr. M. A. Selvam, the POP 2021 came to a grace-filled end.

*Lawrence Arockiasamy*

### **Formation Meet 2021**

On May 21 and 22, the Formation Meet was organized online with the theme "பயணி – 2021 கடந்திட தொடர்ந்திட" by the first year theologians under the able guidance of Fr. Stephen Lourdu Pragasam, the PCF. On May 21, Sch. Doni Raja and Sch. Joseph Alexandar delivered talks on Jesuit history based on the book *Passion and Glory* by Ignacio Echaniz, S.J. Sch. John Kamilas shared with us his reflections and insights on St. Ignatius -- a leader with exceptionally high emotional and intelligent quotients. The talks of the scholastics were very much appreciated and a presentation on their achievements was encouraging. The consolations, desolations, initiatives and insights of the scholastics during the pandemic enabled us to learn something new from our companions.

The much-awaited event of the Meet, கூடுவோம் கொண்டாடுவோம், was virtually celebrated. It was an invigorating experience for all of us.

On May 22, Fr. Jerry Rosario talked to us on the journey of the Society from the time of Fr. Pedro Arrupe till date. His sharing was both informative and reflective. The scholastics worked out their stage-wise action plans to be executed in their respective communities. Fr. PCF appreciated the scholastics for their achievements and contributions to their respective communities and encouraged them to grow in a deep love for the Mother Society. Fr. Provincial appreciated the talks of the resource persons, the action plans of the scholastics and the பயணி team, and assured us of his support and accompaniment.

From May 22 to 30, we had our online Annual Retreat preached by Fr. Joe Antony. His reflections helped us renew and refresh ourselves. The sharings by Frs. Kulandaisamy Antony, Arul Sivan, Pavulraj Michael, Leolin Arockiadass, Jesu Nesa Raju, Paul Pragash and Mr. Libori Ignatius challenged us to live an authentic Jesuit life. On May 30th evening, the Summer Meet ended with the Final Colloquy with Fr. PCF, during which, he patiently listened to and addressed the concerns of the scholastics. Hearty thanks to Fr. Provincial, Frs. Stephen, Innaci John and Wilson for their unstinting support and constant accompaniment during this Formation Meet.

*John Richard*

### **MDU Ignatian Year 2021-22 Update**

The IGY 2021-22 team had an extended meeting on April 8 during which the Province/Inter-provincial IGY plans and the Inaugural Day celebration were discussed. Again, on April 21, Fr. Vincent Sekhar, Convener, IGY 2021-22, called for a special meeting of representatives from CEN and MDU provinces to discuss the joint publications. The participants prioritized five books: 1. Contemporary re-reading of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius 2. Revising and publishing the Tamil translation of the Autobiography of St. Ignatius (திருப்பயணி by Fr. James Thamburaj); 3. Tamil translation of Fr. General's new book titled *Walking with Ignatius*; 4. *Daily Ignatian Thought* that Fr. Antony Inigo has been presenting in Tamil translation in WhatsApp. 5. Pictorial book on St. Ignatius, especially for children. Apart from books, there is a plan to bring out short video talks both in Tamil and English by Jesuits and their collaborators to highlight the various Ignatian themes. This will

go on for the whole Ignatian Year. There was yet another proposal to bring out a Souvenir at the end of the Ignatian Year with writings and sharing of experiences by Jesuits, their collaborators, and IGFA members. Members will be identified from both the provinces to get set and go!

On April 30, Fr. Vincent Sekhar participated in the JCSA meeting on the Ignatian Year updates. He shared with the group the finalized plans of Madurai Province, highlighting awareness efforts in all the communities and institutions, novena in Tamil, details on the inaugural day celebrations, common pilgrimage, common retreat, and joint publications with Chennai Province. He also expressed the willingness of Madurai Province to conduct the Ignatian Year Prayer Service in September as part of networking with JCSA.

*Vincent Sekhar, Convener of IGY 2021-'22*

## Ignatian Year Inaugural Celebration

Considering convenience and maximum participation of our collaborators, the inaugural celebration was rescheduled to 9.00 a.m. on 20 May 2021. It was a pre-recorded programme launched online for an hour and a half by Loyola TV Madurai.

The programme started with an introductory speech by Fr. Vincent Sekhar, Convener of IGY 2021-'22. A soul-stirring interfaith prayer on Magis (“இன்னும் அதிகமாக”) was prepared by a team from St. Mary's, Madurai, coordinated by Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam and this prayer started with the salient sayings from six religious traditions and ended with an Ignatian song written and composed by Fr. Anton Robert (SRI) and videographed by the Arul Kadal scholastics.

Nothing could be a greater blessing than to watch our senior fathers sharing from their personal life, and wishing the province a happy start of the Jubilee Year. For this time, Fr. James Thamburaj and Fr. Varaprasadam spoke on how they got their vocation to join the Society.

Thereafter, there were felicitations from one of the long-serving collaborators from SJC, Tiruchirappalli, Prof. Alexander Pravin Durai. He expressed his amazement at the Jesuit style of management, particularly their looking for a “third option” in solving problems. Two major superiors, Sr. A. Mary Stella FSAG and Sr. Cecily Savariar SJL, narrated the ways in which the Jesuits of Madurai Province had journeyed with them. Br. M. Velankanni Ravi SHJ, General of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Palayamkottai, highlighted how their Jesuit Founder Fr. Adrian Caussanel nurtured in them the Ignatian Spirituality.

After these speeches, the scholastics of Clive House, Tiruchirappalli, staged their Shadow Play on the theme “Seeing Everything New in Jesus Christ” which fitted well with the Covid pandemic context. This was followed by a happy gathering of Jesuit novices and scholastics in Beschi quadrangle, singing a song of joy and waving colourful balloons.



Fr. Danis Ponniah, Madurai Provincial, in his address invited the whole province to focus during the Ignatian Year on the individual, community, and institutional conversion, aptly described by Fr. General in his dated September 27, 2019. Fr. Danis thanked everyone participating in the online programme, particularly the IGFA members and Jesuit collaborators. The last and the fitting finale to the event was the Ignatian Year anthem “இனிகோ எங்கள் தந்தையே” (lyric by Fr. S. Mani Valan and music by Fr. Vincent Sekhar) rendered well by the professors of Arul Anandar College. Actually, the refrain “இனிகோ எங்கள் தந்தையே!” was repeatedly sung in between the items on the day's programme capturing the minds and hearts of the participants.

The Ignatian Year 2021-22 Inaugural Day celebration came to an end on a happy note with a vote of thanks by Br. Arockiasamy, IGY team member from Xaveriana, Thoothukudi. AAC's contribution during the celebration was admirable, especially the efforts taken by Fr. Vincent Sekhar and Fr. Godwin Rufus in coordinating and running the whole programme. Fr. Xavier Antony was the brain behind launching the programme on YouTube through Loyola TV, Madurai.

(There were over 2,733 views and 136 likes!) Our heartfelt thanks are due to him and his team; we would also like to acknowledge all those who worked behind the scenes for the success of the IGY inaugural celebration.

Note: You can watch the programme on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yt4vj\\_iwIFg&t=19s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yt4vj_iwIFg&t=19s)

There was an evaluation of the inaugural day celebration held on May 21. All appreciated the programme as something spiritually enriching, emotionally participatory, and technically smooth-running with a variety of items, and with the active participation of Jesuit collaborators and IGFA members. All appreciated the Novena booklet which set the mood to celebrate the inaugural day in a worthy manner. There were suggestions to videograph and share more of the Cannonball experiences of Madurai Jesuits during the Ignatian Year.

*Vincent Sekhar, Convener, IGY 2021-'22*

### **Webinar on Appointments and Deployments in Aided Schools by JCERT and LAAS**

JCERT and LAAS jointly organized a webinar on May 13 on the appointments and deployments of teachers in aided schools. This was based on the judgement of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court dated 31.03.2021.

More than 200 cases have been pending in various courts regarding this issue for the past several years. This judgement has put a full stop to all these by giving clear guidelines and timeline for appointment and deployment of teachers in aided schools. Thus, schools approved and aided prior to 1991 can get additional posts with aid or deploy excess teachers first within the schools of the same management or surrender to the government, depending on the stipulated strength of the students (1:30 for primary; 1:35 for upper primary/middle; 1:40 for high schools). It is a superb and timely judgement bringing to a close a lot of our cases pending in the courts for several years.

More than a thousand, mostly school administrators from Catholic, CSI and Muslim schools, participated and benefitted from this webinar. Mr. Issac Mohanlal, Senior Counsel, Madras High Court, was the resource person. He was the main pleader in these cases on behalf of the school managements and teachers. After explaining the salient features of the judgement, he urged the school administrators

to immediately plunge into action, settle the issues and get appointments approved by the competent authorities following the timeline given. The webinar was interesting and interactive with a lot of questions, clarifications and explanations.

Most. Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy, TNBC President, gave the inaugural address. Besides lauding the services of JCERT, LAAS and Mr. Isaac Mohanlal, he appreciated this effort in which, besides Catholics, our CSI and Muslim brethren also participated and benefitted. He also urged the school administrators to immediately act on this favourable verdict and settle a lot of pending issues and cases in our aided schools.

*John Kennedy*

### **Dindigul: Beschi Illam**

Workers' Day celebration was a low-key event this year. We thanked our co-workers for their selfless service. Our novices felicitated them with songs and served them lunch. During the month of May, joining the prayer marathon proposed by Pope Francis, the novices recited the rosary every day at the grotto, praying particularly for a speedy end to the Corona pandemic. A special novena service in preparation for the Ignatian Year 2021-'22 was organized from May 11 to 19. Many units including the co-workers conducted it and invoked God's blessings "to see all things new in Christ". Novices had their fortnight-long holidays from May 1 to 15. They made good use of those two weeks to share their spiritual experiences with one another, enhance their knowledge by reading books, explain their enlightenment drawn from the lives of saints, find their hobbies, and learn the art of making a paper mosaic. The novices were taught that, for a Jesuit, to be on vacation means to be engaged differently with meaningful activities!

Beschi campus was closed by the government officials as a COVID Containment Zone and remained so from May 12 to 21 as Br. Jeganathan and three scholastics who were in Dindigul for their summer programme had tested COVID-positive. Sr. Smita, our infirmarian, on home leave in Mumbai, tested COVID-positive and had to be home-quarantined there before arriving here and continuing her quarantine in the convent. She resumed her work on May 19. Meanwhile, her companion, Sr. Kiran, too, tested positive and was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital. Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj, and two co-workers (Mr. Thomas and Mr. John Paul) were also in strict home quarantine from May 16 to 22 as they were in close contact with Br. Jeganathan in the Government Hospital, Dindigul.



To mark the beginning of the Ignatian Year 2021-22, a meaningful celebration was organized on May 20, keeping in mind the COVID protocols. The Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m., presided over by Fr. Michael Doss, Superior, was the culmination of the celebration of the day and a spirit-filled start of the Ignatian Year. Fr. Selvaraj preached a soul-stirring homily that helped us to renew our perspectives of Jesuit life and mission.

Beschi Consult and Campus Corona Taskforce members have been coming together often to organize the daily routine with caution so that we might fight against the virus more diligently. Thirteen Scholastics who have been here as part of their summer programme have all become COVID negative and have begun to offer their services to home-quarantined Jesuits and our seniors in Arrupe Bhavan.

*Michael Panimaya Raj*

### **Dindigul: St. Mary's**

Aware of the severe outbreak of the second wave of the Corona pandemic in our country, we, the members of the community, unanimously decided to resume all the necessary precautions such as physical distance in chapel, refectory and reading room, placing sanitizer at the main gate and at the entrance of the residence, and testing the temperature of whoever enters the campus. The community used the novena prayer and had a very meaningful preparation for the Ignatian year and participated in the online inauguration of the Ignatius Year.

**COVID Response:** The Alumni of St. Mary's under the guidance of Fr. Gnanaraj, their Director, generously donated 45 cots and beds worth Rs 1,50,000, to Dr. Shivakumar, Joint Director, and Dr. Santhanakumar, RMO, on 11 May 2021. Forty more cots worth Rs.82,000 were sponsored by the 1992 alumni batch. Another illustrious alumnus, Mr. Dilip Babu, has donated Rs. 1 Crore to the CM's Corona relief fund.

On May 19, Dindigul District administration approached us for space in our campus to



accommodate COVID patients, noting that their number was on the increase. We readily agreed and the officials promptly visited our school and hostel campuses, selected the dining hall and dormitory in the hostel and the English Medium Block in the school to accommodate the COVID patients. Right now, the hostel is furnished with 30 beds for patients who do not need Oxygen supply and 80 beds for those who need Oxygen supply. On any given day, there are 80 or more inpatients with the necessary medical and nursing staff in St. Mary's Hostel.

*Amalan*

### **Karumathur: AAC**

Despite difficult times and wrestling with 14 youthful college teams, AAC teaching and non-teaching staff won the coveted PMK memorial cricket trophy, beating RVS Engineering College, Dindigul. A 3-day workshop on "Teaching English through Bridge Course" was organized from April 22 to 24 for 60 AAC lecturers who will be handling Bridge Course in the next academic year. Dr. Love Joy and Dr. Jaya Paul from St. Joseph College, Tiruchirappalli, were the resource persons. The full attendance on all the three days showed the commitment and eagerness of the staff to learn from these ELT experts. Fr. Rufus, AAC Principal, addressing the students and staff of Lady Doak College on 16 April 2021, their College Day, showed them how to create a better future for themselves in their personal and social life.

The Arrupe Centre for Policy Research (ACPR) has launched yet another innovative educational programme called MobiMOOC (Free Mobile-based Massive Open Online Course) for livestock disease management. People, especially farmers, can have access through their mobile phones to instructions on how to treat a disease found in their cattle. The centre has also increased the number of colleges offering a career-oriented course in agriculture. Currently, we have five colleges running this course.

In the second wave of the COVID-19, ARISE was on its feet reaching out to people in the 17 neighbourhood villages. After a brief need analysis, medical camps were organized in these villages in collaboration with the Primary Health Centre at Chellampatti. In each village, a volunteer monitored the situation and reported to ARISE. Needed help was extended as and when required. Arrangements had been made to supply *kabasura kudineer* in these villages. ARISE was supplying gloves and masks to the Panchayat Board sanitary workers. A mobile team went around

convincing the villagers on the need for adhering to the COVID-19 protocols. AAC sports hostel allows Corona patients to be quarantined comfortably. Nearly 80 beds are allocated for the affected persons. Except for food, medicine, and nursing care, all other basic amenities are provided by the hostel.

Fr. Vincent Sekhar was one of the invitees to participate in the Madrid IAJU Conference on Reconciliation and Ignatian Spirituality on 10-12 May 2021. In addition, on May 13, he shared with a much smaller group of Jesuits and others charting the next steps in developing the mission on reconciliation and the possibility of networking.

*Vincent Sekhar*

### **Madurai: IDEAS & LAAS**

Arunthathiyar Unorganised Workers' Unions that are members of Tamil Nadu Labourers' Rights Federation (TLRF) conducted a series of consultations from November 2020 on "Constitutional Rights" in its 238 local units and with 20 other networking partners in view of the TN Assembly Election. The TLRF evolved its TN Assembly Election Manifesto on 20 February 2021 at Vaadipatti. It was presented at press meets in Sivakasi, Madurai and Dindigul in March 2021. Through media coverage, lobbying with candidates and campaigning with the target audience, TLRF used its Election Manifesto to claim its "Constitutional Rights".

TLRF has been conducting a signature campaign from 01 April 2021 demanding the strict implementation of Local Complaints Committee (LCC) and Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at working places as envisaged in "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013". This campaign is expected to culminate in a public event at Chennai in collaboration with other labour and women rights groups.

Fr. Aloysius Irudayam together with Fr. Cyril Antony Samy conducted an online orientation program on 03 and 04 March for 16 Hazaribag Jesuits and lay teachers in order to prepare them to introduce human rights education in three of their schools from the academic year 2021-'22. Then, on an invitation from Kalangarai, Fr. Aloy made a five-day round of visits to Collidam, Poompuhar, Tharangambadi, Vedaranyam and Nagapattinam from 09 to 14 March to train around 250 widows and separated women on the right to adequate housing. This was meant to prepare them to access the TN government's monetary resources for housing as well as the Centre's *Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana* housing scheme.

The Madurai Legal Awareness Coordination Committee headed by Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj organized a State level consultation on the implementation of the "Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013". Various key stakeholders viz., movement cadres, NGOs, college students, advocates and journalists numbering 100 participated in the one-day consultation held at Hotel Tamil Nadu, Madurai, on April 10 and expressed their views and concerns over Manual Scavenging. Earlier, just before the Assembly Election, the same committee organized a day-long District Level Conference highlighting various crucial issues of the scavenging workers in which around 1,200 workers from Madurai and Virudhunagar Districts took part enthusiastically. Film director Mr. Ameer and the founder of Adhi Thamilar Katchi Mr. Jakkaiyan were the key speakers. The resolutions passed by the conference were forwarded to the Government of Tamil Nadu for appropriate action. With a view to preventing the sons and daughters of scavenging workers from taking up the traditional jobs of their parents, the committee conducted on April 11 its fourth job placement programme, in collaboration with 'Vazhikatty', a unit of Salesians – Tiruchi; 105 out of 150 candidates secured job placements in private companies. Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj was involved in election campaigns mobilizing various groups in Palani, Coimbatore and Madurai for the Secular Front.

*Joseph Vedanayagam*

### **Madurai: St. Mary's**

In response to COVID-19, we have availed St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School playground to Madurai Corporation for use as a vegetable market. The Corporation has also provisionally identified Britto Hostel as a Post-COVID Ward for recovering patients. We have yet to start any COVID relief work.

To strengthen the safety and enhance the health of the community members we have formed a Community Health Committee (with Frs. Stephen L. Pragasam and S. Theresunathan and Br. Minister as members).

- Periodically we are given health instructions. We follow the required safety measures like wearing a mask, frequent washing/sanitizing of hands and keeping social distance.
- A steam inhaler (vaporizer) has been provided to each of us. *Kashayam* and *kabasura kudineer* are served regularly.
- The Health Committee held a meeting with the co-workers and directed them to strictly follow the COVID protocols. They are provided with sanitizers and masks.

• Guests and visitors are not encouraged. We insist on quarantining those who arrive and instructing them to follow the protocols.

*Manuel Savariar*

### **Nagercoil: Carmel**

Our community members went on a Lenten pilgrimage to different churches in the coastal area including St. Francis Xavier's cave at Manapad. We ended our pilgrimage with a Mass in the Church of Our Lady of the Way at Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari. Our domestic staff, too, accompanied by their Animator Fr. Maria Singarayar, went on a Lenten pilgrimage to different churches. Both the communities of Thozhamai Illam and Carmel had a joint meeting to plan for the Ignatian Year at Carmel and Easter celebration at Thozhamai Illam.

All our community members and many of our domestic staff and school staff have taken the first dose of vaccination and others are waiting for vaccine availability. Like last year, this year, too, we strictly follow the protocols of wearing masks, washing of hands and keeping social distance in our community as well as on the campus. We are given nutritious food including soup, a variety of fruits and food items to increase immune power, along with *kasayam*. Regular physical exercises and use of inhalers are encouraged. Following the directions of Fr. Provincial, no visitor is allowed on the campus and none of us goes out of the campus for anything.

Using our influence, we help COVID affected neighbours and the family members of our staff to get admission in the hospitals and arrange for any other assistance (including counselling). Our campus was used by the local Government Hospital as a vaccination center for a few days for the 18 - 44 age group. We are planning to help deserving people with both medicines and food materials through CRI and JRS. We also intend to help the families of our poor students in whatever way possible.

*Maria Singarayar*

### **Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's**

XIBA feels proud of its 100% placement this year with the highest pay range between 3.5 and 7.5 lakhs CTC (Cost to Company). This is the first time in the history of XIBA that all the second-year students are placed. Congratulations to Fr. Michael John, the Director, and the placement team for their meticulous planning and tireless efforts to bring leading companies for placements. The first-year students are back home for an online SIP (Student

Internship Programme) after having had a month of offline SIP in companies. XIBA celebrates the Ignatian Year with a series of events and competitions both online and offline.

In St. Xavier's College of Education, the second-year students have come back from their school internships and are now busy preparing for their external practical examination. The first-year students are busy with online first semester exams. Fr. Utarid Library in collaboration with SALIS - Tirunelveli Chapter organized 8th NET preparatory programme for those who plan to write NET/SET exams, to be conducted by the National Testing Agency in June 2021. There were around 80 young people who actively participated in it. Congratulations to Dr. Raja, Librarian and Prof. Sherlin, the coordinators who toiled to make the programme a success. The faculty are in full swing in preparing the SSR (Self Study Report) for NAAC to be submitted in May 2021.

Under the initiative of Frs. Augustine, Kennedy and Henry Jerome, a forum for minority institutions was started on April 9 in Tirunelveli. Totally 52 members, all school administrators from the Catholic, CSI and Muslim communities participated in this first consultation meeting. The objectives of this forum are: Taking a collective and informed stand on educational issues; campaigning for education for equality, equity, inclusion and social justice; promoting secularism, communal harmony and constitutional values; and exploring alternatives in the field of education.

Fr. Kennedy in his opening remarks explained how this venture was initiated and expressed a few expectations. The undue pressures from the present government and the force with which it introduces the new policies impel the educators to give an adequate and sensible response which is possible only when the minorities remain united. Keeping this in mind, Fr. Henry Jerome introduced the forum and explained the relevance, context and need for this forum.

All participants expressed happiness and full satisfaction about initiating this venture. A core group was formed with representatives from all groups to carry forward the action plans.

After receiving the letter of Fr. Provincial on COVID-19, Fr. Rector convened a community meeting to deliberate on it. We decided to follow certain stringent action plans such as closing the office, not allowing outsiders to enter the house, personal hygiene and so on.

From May 3 to 11, the whole community had its annual retreat. Fr. Paul C. Jesu Raja organized it. To mark the 500th year of the conversion of St. Ignatius,

Ignatian themes were chosen and every day, one of us shared the retreat points for prayer and meditation. It was well organized and all the community members were happy about their IGY 500 retreat.

*Y.Baskar*

### **Shembaganur: SHC**

A retreat on the theme “Eco-Spirituality” was preached by Fr. George Chinappan, SDB, from March 29 to April 04 for 25 sisters of different congregations. Fifteen Jesuits from the South Asian Conference actively took part in the ‘Roots and Wings’ programme and were rejuvenated by the spirit of St. Ignatius. It commenced on April 6 and ended with an eight-day retreat on May 8. Everything went on well despite our COVID-related fears and uncertainties. We had a simple and grace-filled Final Vows celebration of Fr. Arockiasamy Antony on April 17. Fr. Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial of Chennai Province, presided over the Mass and Fr. Samy himself preached a heart-warming homily on the theme “To Serve beyond Boundaries” which was also the motto of his final vows. In the felicitation for Fr. Samy that followed, community members shared their golden moments with him and singled out for praise his tireless ministerial zeal for the people of God. The spontaneous thanksgiving song by Fr. Samy’s mother was the icing on the cake of the whole programme.

*Karthickraj*

### **Thoothukudi: Xaveriana**

On April 22, we celebrated the feast of Mary, Mother of the Society of Jesus, with a Eucharist during which we prayed for the departed souls of Mr. Michael Barathi and Mr. Jayapaul P. Rayer and both their families attended the Mass. After the Mass, our staff shared their golden memories of both the teachers. Saplings were planted in their honor near the school entrance.

A Zoom meeting for the newly admitted VI Standard boys and their parents was conducted on April 30. During this well-attended meeting the school’s motto was explained and health tips as well as study tips were given. This programme was well appreciated by the parents.

On May 5, we had a preparatory meeting for the Ignatian Year celebrations with the AHMs and selected teachers. Teachers were divided into different committees and we decided to disseminate the ideals of St. Ignatius through songs, *villupattu*, skits, shadow plays and competitions to be conducted for our school students online. Teachers are very much interested in all this and songs have been composed already and one song released on May 20, the first day of the Ignatian Year.

Noting the dangers posed by the pandemic, we have decided not to attend any function or participate in any gathering outside. We take herbal medicines daily. We do not welcome guests or entertain visitors and we also instruct our co-workers to take all precautionary measures.

We had a Zoom meeting on May 22 for our teachers and alumni. They decided unanimously to donate generously to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister’s COVID fund.

*Francis Sales*

### **Tiruchi: Clive House**

On April 12, we had a farewell Eucharist for the outgoing community members on the theme “Count the Blessings” and the main celebrant was Fr. Lepcha Alphonse (DAR). The sharings of the outgoing and the present community members have enriched us and made us cherish the golden memories of our stay together at Clive House. Adding to our academic studies, the scholastics in year-wise groups conducted a four-day special prayer service on different Ignatian themes such as *Rising in the Fall*, *Living for Dying*, *Passion to Glory*, and *The Way to Freedom in Religious Life*.

We had our online internal examinations from April 22 to 29 before we started our semester exams from May 6-19. As part of the Easter celebration, we put up shadow plays on the themes “The Risen Christ Today”, and “Caring for Mother Earth”, which are uploaded on the Clive website. During these days of the pandemic, besides doing all our academic exercises, we have put up a herbal garden in which for each herb there is a tag on which its scientific name and uses are clearly written.

The entire Clive community bid farewell to Fr. Antony Inico, the outgoing Minister and Treasurer, on May 4. *Au Revoir* was the theme of the farewell Mass in which he shared the golden memories of his short 1-year stay at Clive House. Fr. R. Wenishraj (CEN) joined the Clive community on May 27 to commence his PhD studies besides taking charge as the Minister and Treasurer of the house.

*Alex George Jeffry*

### **Tiruchi: St. Joseph’s**

SJC celebrated its 177th College Day on April 10 in the historic Lawley Hall on a blended mode (both online and offline) which was well coordinated by the ICT Centre of the college. Our illustrious alumnus, Mr. P. Hariseharan IPS, IGP, Bengaluru, was the chief guest. On account of new COVID norms issued by the Government, the number of participants was restricted. Just the officials, HoDs and prize winners were invited to the venue, while all others participated



in it online. Fr. Leonard Fernando and Fr. M.A. Joe Antony received SJC's Cash Awards for the Book Writer. All the retirees, both teaching and non-teaching, were honoured at the function.

On April 14, Fr. S. Paul Pragash made his final vows in a concelebrated Mass, presided over by Fr. Provincial at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Mass was followed by a felicitation function in which Fr. Provincial, Fr. Rector and Fr. Stephen Lourdu Pragasam expressed their congratulations and good wishes. The function ended with a fellowship meal.

Fr. K. Arockiam successfully completed a research project ("Durable Solution for Refugees: A Post-Conflict Perspective") and received the final instalment of the project grant from ICSSR. His book *Camp Life of Sri Lankan Refugees in India* is in the copy-editing stage followed by proof-reading by the publisher (Routledge Taylor and Francis, UK).

**GRACE 2021:** The 26th State Youth Prayer Convention was held on 18 April 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a one-day fast and prayer were held online. The event attracted about 1,200 youth from countries across the globe. The whole programme was ably organized by the Campus Ministry Team in coordination with SJC Alumni Association.

**COVID Response:** As soon as the first instance of COVID'19 infection surfaced in St. Joseph's community around the third week of April, two of the affected Jesuits were promptly admitted in the hospital for treatment. The very next day, all of us along with our co-workers took the swab test. Upon receiving the test results, five of our community members who tested positive were hospitalized immediately and a co-worker who also tested positive requested to be sent home to be quarantined there. In the meantime, Fr. Rector and Br. S. Britto our Prefect of Health initiated the required social distancing measures in the refectory and chapel. A five-day course of preventive Siddha medicines was administered to all the members.

In the subsequent days, four more Jesuits and one co-worker manifesting mild COVID symptoms were given needful medical treatment and home quarantined. During their home quarantine, the kitchen team took care to serve them at their doorsteps nutritious food packets.

Regular consumption of *kabasura kudineer* and other conducive dietary changes were introduced for all the community members. As a result of all these proactive measures, the community has touched zero infection mark as of May 24.

SJC has handed over the New Hostel premises to be used as COVID CARE CENTRE at the request of the civic authorities.

Mr. S. Kennedy, Assistant Professor of the Department of Tamil succumbed to COVID'19 and died on May 6. SJC management reached out to his deserving family with the financial assistance of Rupees 1 lakh. It also appealed to the staff members to contribute towards the relief funds for the bereaved family and contribution pledges have already been made to the tune of Rupees 5 lakh.

SJC has planned Reach Out programme of distributing cash relief to the poorest of the poor who live in the SHEPHERD extension villages and slums. Rupees 20 lakh has been earmarked for this activity and cash relief will be transferred to 2,000 beneficiaries through their bank accounts.

SJC is also making efforts to help the poor and orphaned students by providing cash relief to them. An appeal for donations has been made to SJC alumni in the USA and Singapore towards this cause.

JESCCO and the Department of counselling Psychology have started responding to the COVID crisis. A brochure for online counselling services has been displayed on our college website through which our students and staff can register for either individual or group counselling during the pandemic. Help will be first given through individual counselling. However, if a few people suffer from similar problems and have similar needs, group counselling will be organized after getting their consent. Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam, offers counselling also to the Scholastics at Clive House.

*Leolin Arockiadass*

### **Vilangudi: VMI**

On 5 May 2021, a group of workers from Dindigul started painting the whole Veeramamunivar Illam and the work is progressing well. The new regent, for this academic year, Sch. Tony Ajith, reached VMI on May 6.

Online classes for 10 MDU and 14 CEN pre-novices selected for the novitiate were held from May 3 to 14. Their active participation and full attendance enthused the mentors Frs. Viji Bose and Annaraj and Schs. Tony Ajith and Praveen Kumar and inspired them to be more creative in their classes. Spoken English exercises were presented in video format and are now available on social media.

*Tony Ajith*

## ABIDE WITH THE LORD

### JESUITS WHO PASSED AWAY



- Fr. Jesuraj Arputham (60/39 GUJ) on 16.04. 2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Erwin Lazarado (58/37 GUJ) on 17.04.2021 at Vadodara. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Jerry Sequeira (73 /54 GUJ) on 18.04.2021 in Ahmedabad. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Sylvester Kerketta (62/42 DUM) on 18.04.2021, Dakaita, Jharkhand. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Francis Guntipilly (72/54 KAR) on 18.04.2021, Bengaluru. (COVID-related)  
Fr. George Karamayil (75/53 PAT) on 21.04.2021 at Patna. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Severius Ekka, (82/60RAN) on 22.04.2021 at Mandarnear Ranchi.  
Fr. Srinivasan T. Joseph (89/69 MDU) on 22.04.2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Panoor C. Joseph (85/66MDU) on 22.04.2021 at Dindigul.  
Fr. Praveen Hrudayaraj (41/22 KAR) on 22.04.2021 in Bengaluru.  
Fr Diago D'Souza (72/52 BOM) on 23.04.2021 in Bombay. (COVID-related)  
Br. Clestus Baxla (53/30 MAP) on 24.04.2021 at Mandar. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Samuel Marandi (56/32 DUM) on 24.04.2021 at Dakaita, Jharkhand. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Augustine Peedikamala (82/60 DEL) on 24.04.2021 in Delhi.  
Fr. Sushil Kujur (58/35 DUM) on 24.04.2021 at Dakaita, Jharkhand. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Sushil Sah (67/47 PAT) on 24.04.2021 in Patna. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Peter Terrence Jones (90/66 HAZ) on 25.04.2021 at Sitagarha, Hazaribag.  
Fr. Royce Wenceslaus Macedo (89/71 AND) on 25.04.2021 in Secunderabad.  
Fr. Mangal Kerketta (46/23 DAR) on 25.04.2021 at Siliguri. (COVID-related)  
Br. Modestus Tirkey (72/53 RAN) on 25.04.2021 at Namkum. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Hilary Lobo (80/59 JAM) on 26.04.2021 in Jamshedpur. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Joy Karayampuram (65/41 PAT) on 29.04.2021 at Patna. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Thomas Thekkethala Joseph (74/56 HAZ) on 29.04.2021 at Ranchi. (COVID-related)  
Fr. John Tirkey (59/35 RAN) on 29.04.2021 at Ranchi. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Christopher Kerketta (68/45 HAZ) on 29.04.2021 at Ranchi. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Gyan Prakash Minj (46/25 RAN) on 30.04.2021 at Ranchi.  
Fr. Saju Bastian (59/37 HAZ) on 03.05.2021 at Ranchi. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Cyril Rajesh Tigga (84/62 MAP) on 05.05.2021 at Ambikapur, C.G. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Ramesh Tribhuvan (49/25 PUN) on 06.05.2021 at Ahmednagar. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Isaac Tete (66/46 RAN) on 06.05.2021 at Ulhatu.  
Fr. Jerome Gonsalves (71/51 PUN) on 07.05.2021 in Pune. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Anil Dayal Kujur (60/35 HAZ) on 10.05.2021 at Ambikapur. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Antony Raj Perinbam (76/57 MDU) on 10.05.2021 at Madurai.(COVID-related)  
Fr. Ambrose D'Souza (66/39 KAR) on 12.05.2021 in Mangalore.  
Fr. Francis Kurien (68/51 HAZ) on 13.05.2021 at Koderma.  
Br. Jeganathan Ambrose S. (72/53 MDU) on 17.05. 2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Anthony Cruze Arul (57/35 GUJ) on 19.05.2021 in Ahmedabad.  
Fr. Rajarathinam Rathinam (62/41 CEN) on 24.05.2021 at Tiruchirappalli. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Jeyaraj Maria (86/67 MDU) on 29.05.2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Lawrence Maria Gabriel (81/56 MDU) on 29.05.2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)  
Fr. Ignatius Gyan Hembrom (51/28 HAZ) on 01.06.2021 at Ranchi. (COVID-related)

## ABIDE WITH THE LORD



### NEAR AND DEAR ONES & RELATIVES WHO PASSED AWAY

- Mrs. Celine Victor (80), elder sister of Fr. Lourduraj Arokiasamy, on 14.04.2021 in Chennai.
- Mr. Amalraj (77), eldest brother of Br. S. John Britto and Fr. Peter Arockiasamy (PAT), on 15.4.2021 at Kalladithidal near Sivagangai.
- Mr. S. Antony Denis Raj (49), nephew of Fr. Stanislaus Rathinam, passed away on 22.04. 2021 in Chennai. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Michael Amaladass (40), brother-in-law of Fr. Clement Jesudoss, on 24.04.2021 in Madurai. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. S. Josephine (70), sister of Fr. S. Marianathan, on 27.04.2021 at Alavanthankulam. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Jockim Jacob (32), nephew of Fr. Albert Muthumalai, on 30.04 2021 at Tuticorin. (COVID-related)
- Ms. Sundari Xavier (72), eldest sister of Fr. Dominic Royce (MDU), on 01.05.2021 at CMCH, Vellore. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Paul (63), elder brother of Fr. Dominic Jayakumar, on 04.05.2021 at Viluppuram. (COVID-related)
- Sr. Jeyaseeli (62), niece of Fr. A. Lourdusamy, on 05.05.2021 at Batlagundu. (COVID-related)
- Mr. S. Ilango (61), related to Fr. Stanislaus Rathinam, on 07. 05. 2021 at Cannanore. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Thiruthuva Doss (81), younger brother of Fr. Michael Amaladoss, on 08.05.2021 in Chennai.
- Mrs. Sulochana (74), related to Fr. R. Stanislaus, on 09.05 2021 in Chennai.
- Mr. Arockiaraj (63), maternal uncle of Fr. Clement Jesudoss, on 10.05.2021 in Tiruchi. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Joseph Sahayaraj (46), elder brother of Fr. Clement Jesudoss, on 12.05.2021 in Madurai. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Sebastian (54), elder brother of Fr. Arockiam Kulandai, on 12.05.2021 at Madurai. (COVID-related)
- Sr. Elizabeth OSM (68), niece of Fr. M.S. Irudayaraj, on 14.05.2021 at Tiruchi. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. Tharba Mary (78), niece of Fr. M.S. Irudayaraj, on 16.05.2021 at Tiruchi. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. Anthoniyammal (67), Grandmother of Sch. Arockia Pradeep, on 16.05.2021 at Sanavoorani, Kalayarkovil.
- Mr. A. Peter (56), nephew of Fr. Bastian Maria Susai, on 18.05.2021 at Chennai. (COVID-related)
- Sr. Mary Reinold FSPM (78), related to Brs. S. Rayappan and A. Irudayam, on 19.05.2021 at Podanur. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. Jesammal (82), elder sister of Br. Arulanandam, on 19.05.2021 at Kuttathu Avarampatty near Dindigul.
- Mr. Jesuraja (84), Ex-Jesuit known as Bagavathar and related to Fr. A. Lourdusamy, on 20.05.2021 at Coimbatore. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. Thayabari (90), mother of Br. A. Kulandairaj, on 20.05.2021 at Velur, near Oddanchatram.
- Mr. M. Francis Xavier (64), younger brother of Fr. M. Devasagayam, on 22.05 2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)
- Sr. Philo Demel ICM, paternal aunt of Fr. Pugazhendi, on 23.05.2021 at Dindigul. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. Maria Pushpam (101), paternal aunt of Fr. Amal Kulandaisamy, on 24.05.2021 at Thachankurichi, Tiruchi Dt.
- Mrs. Maria Antony Ignatius Rita (85), mother of Fr. D. Inigo, on 25.05.2021 at Tirunelveli. (COVID-related)
- Mrs. Jebamalai (75), younger sister of Fr. M.S. Irudayaraj, on 28.05.2021 at Vellore.
- Mr. Ligori (63), nephew of Fr. Michael Alosanaya, on 29.05.2021 at Theni. (COVID-related)
- Mr. Stanislaus (80), father of Sch. S. Velanganni, on 31.05.2021 at Manaparai.
- Mr. Junit Ronald (47), brother of Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan, on 03.06.2021 in Chennai.

## FR. SRINIVASAN T. JOSEPH, S.J. (1931-2021)



Fr. Joe Srinivasan (90/70) was born on 19.09.1931 in Tiruchirappalli as the second child (first son) in a family of five. His father was Prof. Thomas Srinivasan of the Economics Department of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, who served as MP (Rajya Sabha) for one term when Mr. K. Kamaraj was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. His mother was Mrs. Martha Srinivasan. Coming from a family of educators, Fr. Joe and all his siblings were teachers and professors in schools and colleges. He himself was an alumnus of St. Joseph's, Tiruchi (secondary and Bachelor's level), Loyola, Chennai (PG studies), St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai (B.Ed.), Boston, Massachusetts (Masters and Ph.D.).

Fr. Joe entered the novitiate on 11.06.1951 and was ordained a priest on 24.03.1965 in Pune. His first assignment, after ordination was to teach in St. Xavier's College of Education (SXCE), Palayamkottai from 1971 to 1973. He then became the Principal of the college and served there from 1973 to 1985. As Principal, he was the first one to introduce social work for the B.Ed. students and he, himself, used to accompany the students to work with them in the villages. He was the one who built up SXCE into a premier institution for teachers' education in Tamil Nadu, much sought after by the youth who opted for teaching as a profession or a vocation and by the schools which were looking for competent and committed teachers. He was always ready to help the poor students. He would personally identify them and find the means to help them. He would arrange for jobs in schools for the deserving students after they got their B.Ed. degree. He was a strict disciplinarian, imparted good qualities and moulded thousands of excellent teachers with a high sense of social responsibility.

Fr. Joe was also the Rector of St. Xavier's Institutions, Palayamkottai, from 1973 to 1978. As the Rector, he never hesitated to get help from others to manage problems that the campus had to face in the 1970s.

He was the pioneer and founder of Pope John Paul II College of Education (a diocesan

institution) in Pondicherry and served there as Principal from 1987 to 1992. He served also as Principal of Loyola College of Education, Namachi, Sikkim (1994-1995). He worked as well in Kohima Region (1996-1998) first at St. Paul's Teachers' Training Institute, Phesama, and then at St. Joseph's College, Jakhama, both in Nagaland. In the Northeast, besides his college work, he was available for any ministry in the parishes or religious houses. Everyone there was impressed and edified by his desire to serve at that age and adjust to the new situation which he found pretty difficult.

Coming back from the northeast, his main ministries included being the Secretary and later Controller of Examinations in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, teacher in Vidyaniketan, South Indian Common Juniorate, and teacher of English in the pre-novitiate at Vilangudi. He also had short stints in DACA and St. Mary's, Madurai. Finally, he was sent to Beschi Illam in 2016 to begin his real retirement from service.

Fr. Joe Srinivasan suffered from a severe fever on 7 April 2021. When diagnosed with COVID symptoms, he was admitted to COVID ward in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, for further treatment and had intensive care from 8th to 15th of April. Though discharged, he was quarantined and under treatment. His condition was in constant fluctuation as the days progressed. Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj administered to him the Sacrament of the Sick on April 20. In the early hours of April 22, Sr. Kiran, attended to him as he suffered from an acute difficulty in breathing and put him on Oxygen support. It was to no avail and he passed away peacefully at 8.25 a.m. Since he was in his post-COVID recuperation, it was decided to organize a funeral following COVID burial protocols on the same day. His mortal remains were laid to rest in Beschi cemetery, after the prayer of committal by Fr. Provincial. R.I.P.

*S.M. John Kennedy*



## FR. PANOOR C. JOSEPH, S.J. (1935 - 2021)



Fr. Panoor C. Joseph was born the eldest in a family of four children to Mr. P.F. Chacko and Mrs. Mariamma on 14 August 1935 at Karikkattoor in the Diocese of Changanassery, Kerala. He grew up in a very pious Siro-Malabar Rite family. After completing schooling in Kerala, his father wanted him to become a Diocesan priest, but he decided to become a Jesuit and joined the Pre-novitiate in 1953 at Alleppey, followed by the first year Novitiate at Shembaganur in 1954. He continued his second-year Novitiate at Beschi, Dindigul. He belonged to the first batch to inaugurate the Novitiate at Beschi in 1955.

After his Ordination in 1969, he had spent most of his life in the parishes engaging in the integral Socio-Pastoral and Spiritual ministries. When he took up the office of Parish Priest at Alavanthankulam in 1973, the people in and around the village were worst affected by a severe drought. He, with the support of the Tirunelveli Social Service Society, distributed wheat and oil for work to the people of different religions and castes and protected them from hunger and malnutrition. Fr. Francis P. Xavier, as Provincial, in his letter to Fr. Panoor dated 24 July 2000 wrote: "You built up the unifying spirit among the people and were able to get things done with the support and cooperation of the people." He helped them all to become economically independent through his innovative ideas. One such idea was to introduce Jasmine flower cultivation in and around the village.

In Alavanthankulam, he built a big church with the generous contribution of parishioners from 1983 to 1984. Even today, the church stands as the second biggest church in Palayamkottai Diocese. He also built another beautiful church in Viragalur during his stint there as Parish Priest (1984-1991). Practically every day before Mass, he used to sit in the confessional and help people experience the love and mercy of God. Through his simplicity and holiness of life, he promoted nearly 50 vocations from Alavanthankulam to different religious orders (including eight Jesuit vocations).

He also established a dispensary with the support of CIC Sisters to provide health care services to the neighbouring villages and named it after Fr. Leveil, the servant of God who was his role model in pastoral ministry. He strived hard to empower the poor, particularly, the Dalits in and through education. As Parish Priest, he upgraded the Middle School in Alavanthankulam to High School in 1996 and to Higher Secondary in 1999, getting the necessary government recognition.

Today, the people of Alavanthankulam and Viragalur look up to him as a great prophet, missionary and visionary who promoted self-sufficiency, self-respect and self-governance. Fr. M. Devadoss, as Provincial, in his letter to Fr. Panoor dated 29 April 2010 wrote: "You truly upheld the dignity of your parishioners by promoting self-dependence and Yes, we can attitude."

After completing 40 successful years of pastoral ministry, he was assigned for spiritual ministries in Palamalai, Manalur and Sirumalai estates before being transferred to Beschi in 2018. From February 2021 onwards, on and off he was taken to St. Joseph Hospital for treatment before his health began to deteriorate rapidly and he breathed his last on 22 April 2021 at 10.20 a.m., barely two hours after Fr. Joseph Srinivasan had passed away at Beschi Illam.

On the same day in the afternoon, after the funeral Mass presided over by Fr. Danis Ponniah, our Provincial, the mortal remains of Fr. Panoor were taken to Alavanthankulam where they were received and taken to the church led by 60 motorcyclists in two rows with the church bells announcing his return to his final resting place. On the following day, after his body was taken in procession through the streets and a solemn funeral Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy, Bishop of Palayamkottai, with all the parishioners and Fr. Panoor's family members in attendance, the mortal remains of Fr. Panoor were laid to rest in front of the church built by him.

*John Michael & Vargheesh Antony*

## FR. ANTONY RAJ PERINBAM, S.J. (1945-2021)



Fr. Antony Raj (76/57) was born in Meenthully (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 Jesuit Madurai 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 an 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 May 03, he was admitted in Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai, with mild COVID symptoms. The Lord called him to his eternal home at 2:30 p.m. on May 10. 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, S.J. (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 04.02.1983 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 May 7, Br. Jeganathan complained of cough and throat congestion. Suspecting COVID infection, he arrived at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, on May 9. On the following day, test results confirmed that he was indeed COVID positive and so he was admitted in the hospital. Though the treatment was intense, his Oxygen saturation level kept going down. On May 16, 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, S.J. 1958-2021

The Jesuits of Tamil Nadu were shocked and saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Fr. Rajarathinam at 10.30 a.m. on 24 May 2021. He was born on 4 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. Wensch 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 honoured 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 May 19, 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 May 24, 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 cremains were handed over to the Jesuit community of St. Joseph's College. The immediate family members of Fr. Rajarathinam reached St. Joseph's at 5:30 p.m. and Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector, performed the last rites. Then, his cremains were interred in the crypt of the college church at 6:00 p.m. May God grant unto him eternal rest.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*