

May 2021-July 2022



St. Ignatius

Year of

St. Joseph



2020-Dec 8-2021

(For Private Circulation)

MARCH 2021

MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Given below is Fr. Provincial's Programme (February to April 2021) incorporating the changes that had to be made in his February 2021 programme.

FEBRUARY 2021

- 01-02 Province Office
- 03 Farm Managers and Concerned Superiors and Treasurers Meeting, Maduralaya
- 04-05 Visitation: Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
- 06-11 Visitation: SXC, Palayamkottai
- 13 Visitation: Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
- 14-15 Visitation: Carmel, Nagercoil
- 16-27 Province Office
- 19 Consult (Online)
- 21 Consult, Maduralaya
- 22-26 JCSA Meeting (online)
- 28 POSA Consult, Delhi

MARCH 2021

- 01 POSA Consult, Delhi
- 02-04 Patna Jesuit Mission Centenary, XTTI, Patna
- 05-06 Loyola, Chennai
- 08 Satya Nilayam, Chennai
- 09-10 Arul Kadal, Chennai
- 11 AM Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 11 PM Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam
- 12 AM Loyola, Kuppayanallur
- 13 Governing Body: ISI, Bengaluru
- 14 Arulagam, Harur

- 15 Loyola, Mettala
- 16 AM Eraiyur
- 16 PM Vadugarpet
- 17 AM Poondi Matha Basilica, Poondi
- 18-19 Province Office
- 20 LS/TL/Coord. Meeting, Maduralaya
- 21 LS/TL Meeting, Maduralaya
- 22-25 Province Office
- 26-27 Consult, Maduralaya
- 28-31 Province Office

APRIL 2021

- 01-06 Province Office
- 07-08 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
- 09-10 Visitation: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
- 11-13 Province Office
- 14 Final Vows of Fr. Paul Pragash: St. Joseph's, Tiruchi
- 15 Silver Jubilee: LIFE, Loyola College, Chennai
- 16 Berchmans Illam, Chennai
- 17-19 Province Office
- 20-21 Consult, Maduralaya
- 22-25 *Tempo Forte*, Shembaganur
- 26-27 Visitation: SHC, Shembaganur
- 28-29 Visitation: Estates in Kodai Hills
- 30 Province Office

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. General has appointed:

Fr. Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ): Rector, De Nobili College, Pune

Fr. Nirmal Raj (DUM): Rector, Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Fr. Stephen C. Koitharayil: Provincial of Dumka-Raiganj Province

Fr. Provincial (CEN) has transferred Fr. Xavier Rajan, from Arul Kadal, Chennai, to Beschi Illam.

Summer Programme: The theme chosen for the Formees' Summer Meet 2021 is பயணி - 2021 கடந்திட... தொடர்ந்திட... Your prayers are requested for the smooth conduct of the meet.

The Superiors and Team Leaders who require the services of scholastics to organize camps in their respective institutions/works, are requested to inform Fr. PCF on/before 20 March 2021.

Email: pcf@mdusj.org Mobile: 9486948518

FORMEES TRANSFER LIST

NAME	FROM JUNIORATE	TO UG STUDIES
Jones Vimal F.	Beschi Juniorate, Dindigul	Clive House, Tiruchi
Joseph Danial A.	Beschi Juniorate, Dindigul	AAC, Karumathur
Rajaselva Pangaraj	Beschi Juniorate, Dindigul	Clive House, Tiruchi
Rejoy Suresh	Beschi Juniorate, Dindigul	AAC, Karumathur
	FROM UG STUDIES	TO PHILOSOPHY
Jayapradap Dominic Savio	Clive House, Tiruchi	DNC, Pune
Jones Kissore J.	Clive House, Tiruchi	SN, Chennai
Santhoshkumar Selvam	Clive House, Tiruchi	DNC, Pune
	FROM PHILOSOPHY	TO REGENCY
Anthony Praveen Kumar A.	DNC, Pune	DACA, Madurai
Edward Fazil M.	SN, Chennai	PEAK, Kodaikanal
Prasanth Arockiasamy	DNC, Pune	JRS, Beschi, Dindigul
Sujin Wilson	DNC, Pune	Kalangarai, Nagapattinam
	FROM REGENCY	TO PHILOSOPHY
Joshua Kishanth S.	VMI, Vilangudi	DNC, Pune
Michael Lourdu Noyal M.	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur	DNC, Pune
	FROM REGENCY	TO REGENCY
Tony Ajith A.	St. Mary's HSS, Harur	VMI, Vilangudi
	FROM REGENCY	TO PG STUDIES
Ebenezer Amalraj B.	Kohima Region	Clive House, Tiruchi
Jackson Joseph	St. Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur	Clive House, Tiruchi
John Silvester	Kalangarai, Nagapattinam	Berchmans Illam, Chennai
Salamon Joseph Praveen	De Britto HSS, Devakottai	SJC, Tiruchi
Vigash Lawrence	St. Mary's Estate, Manalur	SXC, Palayamkottai
	FROM REGENCY	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR I
Amith Shajan R.	LTI, Madurai	Arul Kadal, Chennai

NAME	FROM REGENCY	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR III
Edward Lenin P.	JRS, Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
	FROM PG STUDIES	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR I
Nelson Michael Raj	SXCE, Palayamkottai	Arul Kadal, Chennai
Sebastian Jerald A.	SJC, Tiruchi	Arul Kadal, Chennai
Susaipragasam Maria Packiam	SJC, Tiruchi	Arul Kadal, Chennai
	FROM THEOLOGY-YEAR II	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR III
Felix Sahayaraj	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
John Kamilas T.	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
Joseph Alexander R.	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
Lawrence Arockiasamy	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
Salomon Antony Samy	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Courses at Satyodayam, Secunderabad

A 3-month course combining Spiritual Direction & Diploma in Counselling Psychology from June 30 to September 25, 2021 (90 full days): Arrival on June 29 by 8.00 p.m. The total fee for 3 months is Rs 48,000/- including the registration fee.

There are different short courses in this 3-month course, each lasting for around 5 days. You could choose one or more of them if the long course is not suitable for you. The fees for the short courses will be Rs. 600/- per day. For further details, please contact Fr. Joachim (rajasj14@gmail.com). His mobile & WhatsApp Number is 97048 10135.

Pope's Worldwide Prayer

Network (PWPN)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

In March 2021, we pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

NEWS DIGEST

From Fr. Provincial's Letter of 5 March 2021 on COVID-19

The pandemic has claimed the lives of four MDU Jesuits:

Frs. Joseph L. Pragasam, Wilson Arockiasamy, A. Antony Pappuraj and Br. Jeyaraj Annaviar.

Fr. Xavier Rajan (CEN) has had health problems after his recovery from COVID-19. From February 14 to 17, he was in Thomas Hospital, Chennai, and as he needs special nursing care, he has moved to Beschi Infirmary on February 21.

Fr. Albert Muthumalai (MDU) started feeling a loss of appetite from February 11th; fever started on 14th and from Oriyur he was brought to Dindigul on February 20th and, after a CT scan, was admitted in the COVID Ward of St. Joseph Hospital. He was discharged on March 1st, and is having his 14-day quarantine in the Beschi Infirmary.

On February 24th, **Deacon S. Jayaraj** (CEN) had a mild fever and loss of taste and smell. So he was admitted in St. Thomas Hospital, Chennai. The following day, he was diagnosed with a mild Corona lung infection. He was under medication in the hospital for five days and returned to Berchmans Illam on March 2nd where he is having a 10-day quarantine. On March 1st, **Deacon Doni Raja** (MDU) began to have a mild headache, loss of taste and smell and **Deacon Paul Raj** (MDU) developed headache and began to lose taste and smell. Immediately both were admitted in St. Thomas Hospital. Both were diagnosed with a mild Corona lung infection. They were treated with antibiotics and they returned to Berchmans Illam on March 4th and are quarantined for 10 days. On March 4th, **Deacon P. Manickam** (CEN) had severe fever and body ache. He was admitted in St. Thomas Hospital. After he tested negative for Corona, Typhoid, Dengue and Malaria, he, too, is back in Berchmans Illam and well on his way to recovery.

On the basis of what has been reported above, we are unable to say with respect to COVID-19 that it is: "Going, going, gone!"

The New Year 2021 brought a new ray of hope in the form of vaccines against COVID-19. Healthcare

workers at the frontline of India's COVID-19 battle got their first jabs. The vaccines have been made available since March 1st to those above 60 years of age and those over 45 years and having comorbidities. On that very day, Fr. S. Arockiam from Sirumalai, went to St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, and waited for half a day and made sure that he got vaccinated. He was told that he could have a mild headache and all that he would need to take would be a Paracetamol tablet. He did have a mild headache 24 hours after the jab and he took a tablet, and with that, the headache was gone and he has been feeling perfectly OK.

To increase the pace of immunization senior citizens can now get vaccinated round-the-clock according to their convenience. Yesterday (4 March 2021), Tamil Nadu State's vaccination tally crossed 6,70,000.

This being the case, let our local superiors and team leaders arrange to get their seniors vaccinated. The mobile caller tune correctly claims that the vaccines developed in India are safe, effective and have a good immunogenic response. The caller tune also urges us to have trust in the vaccines made in India and not believe in rumours. Also, we are advised to continue to follow COVID-19-appropriate behaviours such as wearing a mask, maintaining social distance and washing hands, even after taking the vaccine.

On receipt of this letter, our communities swung into action and our seniors went in small groups to get their first dose of the Covishield vaccine. Also,



many of them, downloaded in their mobile phones/computers, their certificate of vaccination. With or without these certificates, Superiors/Ministers/Prefects of Health are requested to keep track of when the second dose is due and make sure that our seniors get their stipulated second dose of the vaccine.

Socius

Province Properties Management Meeting

On 3 February 2021, a meeting on the management of landed properties and rentals was convened at Maduralaya, Dindigul, by Fr. A. Maria Joseph, Province Treasurer, for the Farm Managers and concerned Superiors and Treasurers to discuss and deliberate on various possibilities of generating more income and optimizing the use of our properties. The day began with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Patrick Ravichandran. Fr. M. Devadoss, Superior of Maduralaya, welcomed the gathering. Fr. Provincial introduced the dynamics of the day. Introducing the resource persons, Fr. Alex G. and Auditor Mr. Karthikeyan, Fr. Provincial invited the Superiors and Treasurers to enter into the planning phase, consolidation phase and to eventually arrive at concrete plans and recommendations for the future of the Province. Fr. Santhanam, as the moderator of the session, invited the participants to share their challenges, issues and concerns followed by concrete action plans. The communities represented at the meeting shared elaborately on the present state of their landed properties and rentals. They also proposed a few concrete plans for the better utilization of their lands. The sharing by Auditor Mr. Karthikeyan was very enriching and he shared a lot of practical and productive ideas on how well we can utilize our properties. Following his sharing, Fr. Alex G. enlightened the participants with his efficient sharing on how creatively and concretely we could make use of our properties. He also clarified the doubts and invited the participants to stay focused on being productive in our life and mission by making the maximum possible use of the available resources. Fr. Henry Jerome, as the moderator of the final session, invited the participants to propose ideas and recommendations to the province for the productive use of our landed properties. The group came up with many valuable suggestions that were noted down carefully and handed over to Fr. A. Maria Joseph and the respective communities for follow-up. In his final sharing, Fr. Provincial encouraged the communities and the members of the province to put their heart and soul into the preparation and execution of the plan. Fr. Thayriam, PDD, proposed the vote of thanks and the meeting came to a close with a short prayer.

George Raja and Joseph Arockiasamy

Ignatian Year 2021-22 Update

On February 5th, the IGY team of our province met online from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. and finalized the Province's overall plans for the Ignatian Year celebrations. These were presented on February 19th to the Province Consult by Fr. Vincent Sekhar, Convener of IGY 2021-22. The consultants found all of them good and endorsed them. Some proposals came up for consideration: 1. Online celebration on the Inaugural Day (May 20, 2021) 2. Publications to be done jointly with Chennai Province as Tamil is the common language of both the Provinces 3. Two IGFA meetings in two different places for the sake of proximity and convenience of the participants, and 4. Nenmeni shrine as the Province pilgrimage venue.

On February 24th, Fr. Sekhar convened a meeting of an extended team of Jesuits of our province from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. to brainstorm and come to an understanding about the way the inaugural day of the Ignatian Year, 20 May 2021, could be celebrated. After considerable deliberation, the extended team felt that two hours in the morning could be spent online by MDU Jesuits together with their collaborators, including IGFA. The programme will include morning prayer, Inaugural Mass, and Fr. Provincial's wishes. This will be followed by two hours in the fore/afternoon to be spent at the local level by Jesuits together with their collaborators. The programme could be put together by individual institutions/centres. Finally, two hours in the late evening could be spent at the Jesuit community level and let each community/team plan its own programme. The extended team will come up with concrete suggestions for the communities/institutions at a later stage.

Vincent Sekhar

Dindigul: Beschi Illam

On February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated with a candlelight procession from St. Mary's Press followed by a sung Mass at the grotto celebrated by Fr. Yagoo. The Novices had prepared the car procession and organized it meticulously. On February 13, the Novitiate community organized a family gathering for the parents and siblings of the nine first-year Novices. The theme was 'United in Love and Prayer'. The family members were all excited to be on our campus and witness the talents and growth of our Novices.

On February 18, we organized a Games Meet at Beschi campus for the Salesian Pre-novices from Marianathapuram and our Novices. The theme of this half-day programme was இணைந்த கிளைகள் (Branches of the Same Vine). Fr. Inigo, our Novice Master, welcomed the gathering. Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj gave a pep talk on Apostolic Ingenuity. Having shuffled the Salesian and Jesuit formees in two balanced teams, a basketball match was conducted which was the culmination of the day. This gathering reinforced our bond of fellowship with our Salesian brothers.

Fr. Michael Doss directed an Ignatian month-long retreat for three Novices of the Franciscan Sisters of Aloysius Gonzaga at Beschi Illam from January 10 to February 10. In order to have a deeper understanding of the Lord, the great Creator and Labourer, and of the day-to-day challenges and difficulties faced by workers, our nine first-year Novices have started their month-long work experiment on February 23 at Palamalai. Kindly remember them in your prayers.

Michael Panimaya Raj

Dindigul: St. Mary's

On the feast of St. John de Britto, we had a solemn Eucharist for the staff and students presided over by Fr. Aruldoss. On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Campus Minister and his team organized a candlelight procession followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament for staff and students. On the same occasion, a new statue of Our Lady of Assumption was blessed and installed by Fr. Stephen Martin, our Superior.



On February 20, our Alumni Association distributed educational scholarships to 65 students. *Vision Ignatius* is a unique venture initiated by the alumni of St. Mary's which started adopting poor students. We honoured our old student, Nithish Kumar who has cleared NEET and joined MBBS. We also honoured Mr. Jerome Nicolas, a PG staff of our school, for his adventurous trekking to the Himalayas. After intensive coaching, 113 students from 8th Std appeared for the NMMS (National Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship) exam on February 21st. The annual Chennai Book Fair 2021 that began on February 24th lasted for 15 days. Fr. Stephen Martin, Director, Vaigarai Pathippagam, and his team took part in this grand book fair.

Amalan

Dindigul: AMUTHU

Amuthu celebrated the International Women's Day on 7 March 2021. The central theme of the celebration was "பெண்மை நம் பெருமை" (Femininity is our pride). There were around 250 participants from our villages who actively took part in the celebration. It was a day-long programme with fun and frolic, competitions and cultural programmes. Two ladies who are Panchayat leaders belonging to the Arunthathiyar community – **Mrs. Jeyarani Baskar** and **Mrs. Parameshwari Sakhivel** – were the key speakers at the inaugural



session in the morning and Mrs Hemawathi Lawrence, Teacher, St. Joseph's Girls Higher Secondary School, Dindigul, was the special invitee to address the women and distribute the prizes at the concluding session. The presence of our Jesuit companions added colour to the celebration.

Fr. Jeya Baskaran, Director of AMUTHU, distributed the certificates to 12 students who had appeared for the government exam and passed the higher and lower levels in typing. AMUTHU staff are tirelessly involved in forming SHGs (Self Help Groups) for widows and deserted women and opening bank accounts for them. Moreover, efforts have been initiated to help widows to avail themselves of the Widow Pension Scheme in our target villages.

Jeya Baskaran

Karumathur: AAC

On 3 February 2021, AAC celebrated the feast of its Patron, St. John de Britto. Fr. K. A. Augustine from St. Mary's, Madurai, presided over the festive Mass. Simultaneously, Dr. Kannan, Managing Trustee of MVKM, Usilampatti, gave a session for the non-Christian students and faculty on *Religions and World Peace*. On the following evening, the clergy and religious were invited to AAC for a Prayer Service which was meaningfully conducted by Fr. Godwin Rufus and the scholastics of Arrupe Illam, followed by dinner. On February 6, AICUF organized a seminar on the *Involvement and Response of Today's Youth in Politics*. Mr. K. Vasanthan, an activist from Madurai, delivered an informative speech that inspired the gathering. From February 8, the I and II UG and I PG students were thrilled to be back in the college after a gap of almost a year. On February 9, a one-day seminar was organized on the theme of "Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults from Sexual Abuse and Maltreatment". Fr. Sahaya Philominraj, Protection Officer of the Jesuit Madurai Province, dealt with this crucial issue with lively interaction from the floor.

AAC became a little Lourdes on February 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, with the Holy Mass, candlelight procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Rev. Fr. Arul Raj, Rector of Christ Hall Seminary, gave a moving, charismatic homily. On February 17, Ash Wednesday, the Christian students and staff took part in the Holy Mass the Main Celebrant of which was Fr. Selvakumar, CMF, Superior of Claret Bhavan. During this time, Prof. P. Ramachandran and Dr. Kannan conducted a session on "Self-awareness and Peace-Building" for the non-Christian students and faculty. On February 19 and 20, the Food Science Department along with the Department of Business Administration and Physical Education organized a webinar on *Sports Management and Sports Nutrition*. Dr. Mariappan,

Deputy Director of Indian Council Medical Research (ICMR), was the key speaker on the theme “People’s Health in the context of Covid-19.”

Following the recent female infanticide of a 7-day-old baby, ARISE and BIRD (Babu Integrated Rural Development) organized an awareness and prevention campaign of this social evil on February



23 in the area that is notorious for it. Mrs. S. Vanitha, Women Police Superintendent, Mr. K.V. Rajkumar, Revenue Divisional Officer of Gudalur Taluk, and a few other dignitaries spoke to our students. Members from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and officials from the Revenue Divisional Office and District Maternal and Child Health Centre shared additional information related to laws, policies, and schemes. AAC, along with Government officials, will start the awareness campaign on Female Infanticide from March 6 in 18 villages around Karumathur.

On February 26, the Department of Human Excellence under the leadership of Fr. Vincent Sekhar, organized the fourth and final Intercollegiate Webinar on *Life Skills* with the help of his able team headed by Prof. Anthony Raj of the RDS Department. Fr. Henry Jerome, Rector of St. Xavier’s, Palayamkottai, and Dr. Shobana Nelasco, Head of Research Centre of Economics, Fatima College, Madurai, were the key speakers on “Healthy Personality, Life-coping and Social Skills”. Participatory presentations from the Jesuit colleges of Tamil Nadu and colleges from Madurai and Tiruchirappalli helped AAC imbibe inspiring content and innovative methods of teaching and evaluation. The wholehearted participation of PG students in the webinar was indeed great!

ACPR (Arrupe Centre for Policy Research) conducted two capacity building training programmes followed by exposure visits to related industrial units in Periyakulam and Sholavandan. The farmers found these programmes very useful to enhance their own businesses.

Fr. Vincent Sekhar presented two papers at two international web-conferences: The first was held on February 17 and organized by the Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the second was held on February 19 and organized by FATER Academy of India, jointly with AAC, Karumathur, and Unifacvest, Centro Universitário Facvest, Brazil. Fr. Sekhar’s papers were related to “Religious Education and Exposure and Teaching of Value to Students,” appropriate in today’s college and school contexts.

Vincent Sekhar

Madurai: Loyola Technical Institute

Loyola Industrial Training Institute (LITI) was approved as a CBT (Computer Based Test) centre. The senior trainees of all the four trades attended their online theory exam conducted in multiple slots. Two new trades (Welder and Electrician Additional Section) were approved and we could admit trainees for these trades from the next academic year onwards. All the trades (existing and new) in LITI are affiliated



to NSQF LEVEL - 5. Senior MMV and Fitter trade trainees attended the campus placement drive conducted by Modine Thermal Systems Pvt Ltd. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated as the Grotto feast in the campus. The students, staff and Jesuits took part in the candlelight procession which was concluded with the Benediction.

LENS

LENS uploaded the following videos:

07.02.2021 - New series “இளையோர் சிறகினிலே” -வாசிப்பும் நேசிப்பும் - Surya Doss.

12.02.2021 - Media Education-06 – நிறு வெறியும் நீதியும் - அ. ஸ்டீபன்

25.02.2021 - Social issues - 03 – தந்தை ஸ்டீபன் சுவாமி, சே.ச. அவர்களின் சிறைச்சாலைச் சிந்தனைகள்- சேவியர் அந்தோனி, சே.ச.

Amith Shajan

Madurai: St. Mary's

On February 11, the parishioners meaningfully celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with a candlelight and car procession in our campus ending with the Benediction and a special healing prayer for the sick.

The Mass on Ash Wednesday was celebrated by our Archbishop Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy in the



Cathedral on February 17. Two hundred parishioners went on a Lenten pilgrimage on February 21 to Maha Acharya Annai Shrine, Suryanagar. The pilgrims prayed as they walked along the Madurai city streets and were cordially received by Fr. Stephen, the Rector and Schoenstatt community. The GBM of St. Mary's Parish Council was held on 28th February.

Manuel Savariar

Nagercoil: Carmel

Our community organized a special memorial Mass for its deceased member, Fr. Wilson Arockiasamy, on 12 January 2021 with the staff, local CRI and priests. The elder brother of Fr. Wilson, Fr. Antonysamy of the Sivagangai Diocese, was the main celebrant and Fr. Maria Singarayar was the homilist. Mr. Arulrajan, Master Augustine and Sr. Josephine Thembavani, Headmistress of Little Flower Hr. Sec. School, representing the staff, students, and CRI, respectively, and Fr. Henry Jerome, Rector, St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai, shared their memories of Fr. Wilson and paid homage. On the same day, we declared open a herbal garden which we had created in memory of the former headmasters, Fr. Stanislaus and Fr. Wilson who were committed to safeguarding the environment. On the feast of St. John De Britto, a temporary shed, Britto Hall, was opened by Fr. L. V. Kumar and blessed by Fr. A. Simonraj. This shed will be used instead of the century-old Loyola Hall, until we build a new centenary memorial auditorium which is on the anvil.

As always, we celebrated the feast of our Lady of Lourdes on February 11 with a car procession followed by a concelebrated Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Maria

Singarayar was the main celebrant and Fr. Jesu Nesam preached the homily in which both our hostel students and Little Flower girls' hostel students actively participated. Mr. Martin, a retired civil supply officer, and his family completely sponsored the entire celebration including supper for all the students and the religious who participated in the celebration. Fr. Xavier Raj, our Superior, honoured the sponsor's family and the members of JMAAD who, with great interest, had painted beautifully both the grotto and the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes.

We have started a new good practice of delivering the "Thought for the Day" dealing with relevant and current issues by the teachers after the daily Morning Prayer. To motivate and accompany the students of VI, VII and VIII Standards, the Headmaster, Fr. Simonraj, organized parents – students – staff meetings. Since it is almost a year of lockdown and no classes are held for the students, the Headmaster conducted the special sessions to guide the students to make use of the time fruitfully and study well through online classes and other ways of acquiring knowledge.

The new Director of Xavier Illam, Fr. Jesu Nesam, conducted the parents meeting on February 21, explaining to the parents their roles and responsibilities



and the way of proceeding in the hostel. In order to commemorate the National Science Day, there was a special programme organized for the IX Standard students to create awareness and interest in the field of science. Mr. Paul Vannan, a Retired Scientist of ISRO, presided over the function and encouraged the students to become scientists.

Maria Singarayar

Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's

Fr. Ignacimuthu was felicitated by the college on 1 February 2021 for being among the top 1% scientists in the world in the field of Biology based on citations. His new book *Moths of Tamil Nadu* was also released during that function at which the Vice-Chancellor of M.S.Universtiy, Dr. Pitchumani, an alumnus of

SXC was the chief guest. Fr. Ignacimuthu was also felicitated by Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, on February 5.

SXCE has joined the elite club of IRINS (Indian Research Information Networking System) of INFLIBNET, which offers a platform for sharing the research papers of the faculty. So far only 60 colleges have joined this club of researchers. This also enhances the visibility for SXCE as it has already produced 122 Doctors in Education. Kudos to Dr. T. Raja, our Librarian who made this effort to get recognized by INFLIBNET. SXCE faculty underwent the FDP on soft skills, organized by SJC, Tiruchi, from February 22 to 26. It was an added strength for them to become well-versed in classroom guidance and ounselling. The management supported them with registration fees. Currently, they are busy preparing the Self Study Report for the NAAC visit.

On February 4, the feast of St. John de Britto was celebrated with a solemn Mass celebrated by Fr. Rector. To mark this day, a relic of the saint was blessed and installed in our college church for veneration. On 13 February, the feast of our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass and car procession followed by Benediction. On February 18, Fr. Alphonse Manickam delivered two lectures to the staff of SN College, Perungudi, Madurai, on “The Revised NAAC Framework and Outcome-Based Education (OBE)-A Paradigm Shift From Teacher-Centred Approach To Learner-Centred Approach” to motivate the college to prepare for its 3rd Cycle NAAC Accreditation.

Y. Baskar

Tiruchi: Clive House

On February 10, we had the novena Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes’ Church in order to have a meaningful celebration of the feast on the following day. On February 20, we had a recollection talk on the aptly chosen theme “Meaningful Lent with St. Joseph” given by Sr. Savari, Headmistress of Holy Cross HS School, Tiruchi. On February 23, after being quarantined for a few days, four Scholastics, Soren Samuel of Dumka Province (PG) and Adolf Johnson, Poly Martin and Tomson Tom of Kerala Province (UG), joined the community.

On February 25, we visited the home for the aged in Kattur in order to make the elderly people feel happy, after a yearlong pandemic. Our visit to the home and the short entertainment along with a few school children of Holy Redeemers’ School, Palakarai, made the elderly people feel happy.



Fr. Arul Oli organized in the college two sessions on research for about 110 PhD research scholars on the topic “Innovation and Excellence in Research” on February 26. On February 27, we had our monthly Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Richard Hiruthayaraj from St. Joseph’s on the Lenten theme “LOOK AT ME” followed by the community mini-dinner.

Fr. Arul Oli, the President of CRI, organized the CRI meeting for Puthur Zone of Tiruchi Diocese on February 28. Around 140 religious from various communities participated in the meeting. There were two sessions. The first session was handled by Fr. Paul Michael Raj on the theme அழிவின் விளிம்பில் சனநாயகம் (Democracy on the brink of destruction). The session exposed the present political scenario of our country in general, and that of that of Tamil Nadu in particular, as we approach the assembly elections in April. The second session was taken by Sr. Ruby OSM on the theme, புனித யோசேப்புவின் வழியில் அருளின் காலம் (Time of grace in the footsteps of St. Joseph) as we are in the year of St. Joseph.

Alex George Jefry

Tiruchi: SJC

The parish priests, the parishioners and the Jesuit community celebrated the annual feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with joy as the year 2021 marks the 125th year of the parish church. The novena started with the flag hoisting on February 2 by Fr. Andrew De Rose, Rector of St. Paul’s Seminary, Tiruchi. All the novena days had fitting themes related to the Year of St. Joseph and the Year of Family which drew the active participation of the inmates of the college and school hostels and the faithful from four sub-stations, 18 *anbiyams* (BCC), pious organizations and institutions run by religious sisters (Holy Cross College and RC Middle School run by Holy Cross Sisters and Vidivelli School run by St. Anne’s Sisters). The feast ended with a solemn Eucharist celebrated by Rt. Rev. Stephen, Bishop



of Thoothukudi, and concelebrated by Fr. Rector and other priests of the Jesuit community. It was followed by the traditional Car Procession along the main streets of Teppakulam zone. A congregation of about 500 faithful as permitted by the District administration accompanied the three festive cars, bearing the statues of St. Michael, St. Joseph and Our Lady of Lourdes and people of different religious traditions invoked the blessings of Mother Mary all along the route. The prayerful car procession ended with the homily and Benediction by Bishop Stephen. The entire festival was meticulously organized by Fr. Marivalan.

The Alumni Meet of Inigo Illam, the hostel for SJC HS School boys, was held on February 7. About



125 alumni from different walks of life participated enthusiastically in the first alumni meet since its foundation in the year 1991. Fr. Rector and school officials joined the Meet and encouraged the alumni to establish close bonds with their school.

The Tamil Nadu State Mental Health Authority, Chennai, has granted provisional Registration Certificate to Arrupe Health Enclave for Alcohol/ Drugs De-Addiction (AHEAD). Henceforth, the centre located at St. Joseph's College Farm, Mullaikudi, is

authorized to treat 20 addiction patients per session.

Two new movable basketball poles were blessed and inaugurated by Frs. Rector, Secretary and Principal. These were sponsored as part of the UGC 12th plan and have proved to be a valuable addition to the training facilities of our basketball team.

Leolin Arockiadass

Vilangudi: VMI

On February 3, we joined the parishioners of Thirumanur in celebrating the feast of St. John de Britto. The Pre-novices helped out in the choir and distribution of food. Fr. Philip (CEN) conducted a four-day course on Social Analysis for the Pre-novices. Thanks to the course, they were strengthened in their commitment to the poor and the marginalized. They were inspired not just by the words of Fr. Philip but more by his life and work.

We celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes by having a candlelight procession with the recitation of the Rosary, followed by a cultural programme and a sumptuous dinner. Fr. Abraham (DEL) who is in Thirumanur parish for his pastoral experience as part of his Tertianship programme, preached a recollection on February 19 and 20 on the theme "The Kingdom of God and the Call to Conversion". On February 26, the Pre-novices went on a picnic to Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary. The visit led them to a better understanding of our common home and the pressing need to care for her.

S. Joshua

Chennai: Arul Kadal

On February 20, the CEN Spirituality and Dialogue Commission, IDCR, and Aikiya Alayam jointly organized a webinar on *Palsamaya Paarvayil Iyarkai Aanmeegam (Eco-spirituality in an Interreligious perspective)*. Fr. J. Arokia Dass made a presentation with deep reflections on eco-spirituality from the perspective of Christianity. Congratulations to him and the organizers, Fr. Maria Arul Raja and Fr. Raj Irudaya. On the same day, the community celebrated a farewell Mass for Fr. Xavier Rajan who was transferred to Beschi Illam, Dindigul, due to health reasons. On the following day, he left for Dindigul accompanied by Sr. Smita D'Souza, Beschi infirmarian. On February 24, the community had a theologizing session on வேளாண்மை: உண்மைகளும் உரசல்களும் (Agriculture: Facts and Frictions). It was very fruitful and meaningful to enter into the world of farmers and share our solidarity with them.

Salomon

PCPM Organizes Educators' Meet with Mr. Rahul Gandhi

'Educate, Enlighten, Empower' was the theme of the Educators' Meet, organized by Peoples' Citizenship Protection Movement (PCPM) on 28 February 2021 at St. Xavier's College with an enlightening interaction with Mr. Rahul Gandhi, MP and former President of the Indian National Congress. About 1,200 professors and teachers attended the meet.

Fr. John Kennedy, convener of PCPM and the main organizer of this event introduced the meet with his short presentation on the Indian Government's proactive interventions in education down the decades by way of Education Policy of 1968 which stressed the Common School System through Neighbourhood Schools, 1989 policy which gave importance to SC, ST and women's education through scholarships and incentives and 2009 RTE which made education up to 14 years, a fundamental right.

Fr. Henry welcomed the young, energetic, agile, amiable and lively national leader, Mr. Rahul Gandhi and the educators by stressing how Jesuit education makes a difference by making integral education and character formation with social consciousness as part of education. He also invited Rahul to present his views, dreams, and vision for the young India and its system of education.

Then interaction started and went on for almost one hour during which Mr. Rahul Gandhi responded



spontaneously and convincingly to all the questions raised by the participants.

On the NEP-2020, he said that it should have emerged from the conversation with students,



teachers and all the stakeholders. Since it has not been done, the NEP is an incomplete product. This policy aims to make education a weapon to communalize and push a particular ideology into the Indian system. He further emphasized that education should never be made an ideological weapon as the BJP is doing now. Rather it should be a tool for empowerment.

On education, being commercialized, he said that education is not a financial commodity. It should be freely available to everybody. It is the duty of any government to give quality education and ensure health care to its people. But today everything is seen as a financial commodity including agriculture, education, health care etc., and he is fundamentally against this. Answering questions on Women's education, he said that there is no society in the world that can be successful without respecting and empowering its own women and that they have to be given due respect in society. Education should be universal and giving more scholarships to the poor and women will empower them.

On teachers, he expressed the view that modern technology should be incorporated into the education system but the teacher has to be the central pillar of this system. There are three components to education: *Information* – one can get it from Google or computer; *Knowledge* – it requires a teacher and the final goal is *Wisdom*. It can only be given by another human being – that is the teacher. Teachers have a central role in building the nation. All good teachers are creative and they should have the flexibility and freedom to utilize that creativity. The government needs to empower and strengthen the teachers so that they can effectively and efficiently impart knowledge and wisdom to the students.

Mr. Gandhi said that the members of the present

Central Government say that they represent Hinduism but a lot of ideas they espouse have nothing to do with Hinduism. Nowhere in Hinduism does it say, “insult people, kill people, beat people” but they do it. The true principle of any religion should be to “treat the other with respect, love and affection”. “Hate and kill other persons” is not at all what religions say.

At the close of this instructive interaction, Fr. John Kennedy presented his recent book on NEP, EIA and AA – 2020 to Mr. Rahul Gandhi and requested him to take up these issues in the parliament with the arguments presented.

The Educators’ Meet ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Lissie Williams, HOD of the English Department.

S.M. John Kennedy

Myanmar’s Unending Way of the Cross

At the dawn of a new day on 1 February 2021, the people of Myanmar awoke to a nightmare. The beleaguered democratic process was dealt a lethal blow by an army coup. The democratic icon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party members were arrested in the wee hours of the morning, spirited away and incarcerated in unknown places. Trumped-up charges of election fraud (à la Trump) were brought against a party that won 83 percent of votes monitored by neutral observers. The coup virtually ended all the hard-earned freedoms after six decades of despotic rule by an inhuman military junta.

Popular anger exploded and thousands of young people took to the streets. A tech-savvy and knowledgeable Generation Z started a struggle. Known for their orderliness, creativeness in messaging and an exemplary behaviour in the streets, the movement named Civil Disobedience won the praise and solidarity of a nation. Millions protested all over the country.

The military responded with ferocity and soaked the streets in blood, bludgeoning the heads of young minds with dreams with plain inhuman brutality. Youth responded with poignant generosity. Most of those who died, left a message written on their arms, indicating their blood groups and body organs to be donated. This is a long Lent for Myanmar. A Good Friday people struggle for their Easter. As of now, it is the anguished silence of the Holy Saturday.

An orgy of pure and undiluted violence has

been unleashed on the civilians in the streets. Red cross workers, medical staff who rushed to help the protestors were tortured, some killed. Midnight knocks, disappearances and a lack of due process of law have led to more than a thousand being arrested.

The country’s history is soaked in tears and blood. Made of 8 major tribes and 135 sub-tribes, it is a colourful, resource-rich country. Nation-building predicated on majoritarian discourse pushed the nation into a precipice of chronic wars. For decades, a military junta has subjugated the ethnic population whose lands hold great treasures. Christians come from the ethnic groups and there are 16 dioceses in the country.

The church is sucked into the chaos. The Cardinal here is a leader of repute, who nurtured good relationship in the past both with the army top brass and the civilian leader. His statement released after the coup raised hopes among the people. As the demonstrations exploded in the streets, young priests and religious were among the active participants. Some took to dangerous



pastoral presence among the protestors. In one of the most iconic moments, dubbed “**The Tinnamann Moment of Myanmar**” by the international press, Sr. Ann Rose Nu Tawng saved hundreds of lives by facing the soldiers with guns and kneeling and praying to spare the youth. Priests appear amidst a tense standoff in an increasingly volatile situation. The Church is mandated to be a peace maker. Pope Francis, who visited Myanmar in 2017, has shown his strong compassion through his three appeals already.



Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng
Catholic nun



Myanmar is a wounded nation. Its youth waged a war for human dignity. The unfinished mission is met with vicious violence. Yet the struggle continues. Thrice in their tear-filled history, the graceful people of Myanmar tried to regain their basic freedom. Evil strangled them and seemed to have a partial win.

But hope springs eternal in the hearts of the youth of this nation, who keep coming back to the streets despite police/army brutality. The international community is forceful this time but China stands in the way, vetoing every proposal in the UN. The geostrategic calculus of India has resulted in a “measured response.” Illiberal democracies and authoritarianism put down people’s movements everywhere. The youth of Myanmar wish to turn the tide, often with their blood in the streets, as one of them wrote before death: “Let the next generation live in total freedom.”

Our special correspondent

Latin America - Inocente Montano's 133-year sentence for the murder of the Martyrs of El Salvador upheld

“This was truly an assassination, carried out by means that had the backing of ‘State terrorism’,” says the sentence. The ruling considers it a proven fact that the murders were plotted, planned, agreed and ordered by the members of the High Command of the Salvadoran Armed Forces: A true state crime.

The Supreme Court emphasizes that the crime “went beyond the grave consequences of the attack” for the victims’ lives, “because it intended to annihilate the hopes of peace of an entire society, plagued by ten years of civil war”. Meanwhile, in El Salvador, the Supreme Court has recently closed the criminal case against the rest of the architects of the atrocity, who were mentioned in the Spanish judgment, issued under the principle of universal justice.

The Supreme Court has upheld the sentence to 133 years and four months in prison for Inocente Montano, the former colonel and former Vice Minister of Public Security of El Salvador, for the murders of five Spanish Jesuits in 1989, including Ignacio Ellacuría.



Just five months after the National High Court condemned the only military leader to be tried in Spain for these events, the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court has upheld the ruling on what it calls “a true story of terror and horror visited on the victims of this state crime”.

*Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat,
Society of Jesus*

ARRUPE, AN EMBODIMENT OF IGNATIAN VALUES

St. Ignatius of Loyola always sought and taught others to work, like him, for the greater glory of God and the greater service to God. After the first companions, it was Fr. Pedro Arrupe who was greatly inspired and influenced by the values of St. Ignatius, especially his devotion to the Eucharist, loyalty to the Vicar of Christ, finding God actively present in the whole universe, 'helping souls', the spirit of the magis, etc. So much so that he was often referred to as the second Ignatius and re-founder of the Society of Jesus for he became an embodiment of Ignatian values in word and deed.

From the very first year of novitiate, Jesus was his ideal and he had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart. His deep-rooted faith in and intimate relationship with the Eucharistic Lord gave him strength especially during trying times. Later, he became so possessed by Jesus that when a man posed a question to him: "Who is Jesus Christ for you?", he could spontaneously answer: "For me Jesus Christ is everything". The experience of Jesus as his way of life rendered him totally committed to him. This commitment to and passionate love for Jesus Christ led him to foster a great bond of love and profound respect for the Church and to be humbly obedient to the Vicar of Christ. With the explicit intention of instilling in his Jesuit brothers the same spirit and attitude towards the successors of St. Peter, he arranged to distribute widely in the Society the photograph of his kneeling and receiving the blessing of Holy Father St. John Paul II.

Arrupe was so rooted in the core Spirituality of Ignatius that he encountered God actively present in every person, everything, every event and every culture. He learnt to notice God's guiding hand in all the events through his personal discernment. As General, he encouraged the Jesuits to be more attentive to God's activity in



everyday events of the world and to respond appropriately to what God is calling them to do. In their response, he advised them not to be content with the already known or the tried ways but to be constantly driven and to be on the move, going beyond the boundaries, to discover newer ways and reach out for the magis, with holy boldness and apostolic audacity.

The sole desire of Ignatius was to help souls. Inheriting it from Ignatius, Arrupe realized the need for presenting Christ to all people of the world. Yet, Arrupe translated it, in today's context, as 'helping people to be fully human'. With a missionary heart he embraced the entire universe and he greatly valued every individual culture with respect. He envisioned a holistic and integral formation of every human being and visualized the purpose of Jesuit education to create 'men and women for others'.

Britto Peter

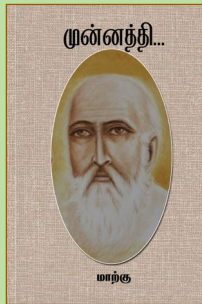
S.M. John Kennedy, S.J.
Thesiya Kalvi Kolhai,
Chutru Choolal Thakka
Madhipeetu Arikkai, Velan
Chattangal - 2020
 TNCRI
 Palayamkottai
 2020



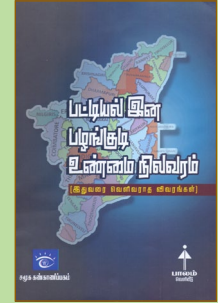
S Paul Pragash, S.J.
Pandemic Art & Literature
 Critical Readings in the
 Context of Covid-19
 TLS
 Tiruchirappalli
 2020



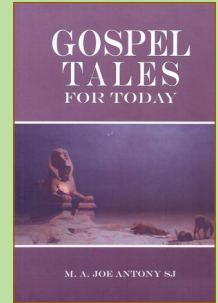
S.M. Mark Stephen, S.J.
Munnatthi
 Tamilini Publications
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K. John Kumar, S.J. & R.C. Gandhi
Pattial Ina Pazhangudi Unmai Nilavaram
 Social Watch-Palam Publications
 Chennai
 2020



M.A. Joe Antony, S.J.
Gospel Tales for Today
 Claretian Publications
 Bangalore 2020



A. Michael Pugazhendhi, S.J.
Eduthu Vaasi
 Nanjil Publications
 Nagercoil
 2021



Abide with the Lord

Fr. Vasco de Rego (96/75 GOA) passed away on 17.02.2021 in Pune.
 Fr. Anthony Doongdung (87/63 RAN) passed away on 20.02.2021 at Namkum.
 Fr. John Vattanky (89/70 KER) passed away on 22.02.2021 at Kozhikode.
 Bishop Linus Nirmal Gomes (99/78 CCU) passed away on 27.02.2021 in Kolkata.
 Fr. Oscar Rozario (78/63 BOM) passed away on 28.02.2021 in Mumbai.
 Fr. Edward Kerketta (69/46 RAN) passed away on 08.03.2021 at Ranchi.
 Br. Victor Campos (87/20 GOA) passed away on 10.03.2021 in Goa.
 Mrs. Siluvaïammal (87), sister of Br. Jeganathan Ambrose, passed away on 03.02.2021 at Veeravanallur, Tirunelveli Dt.
 Mr. Manickam (67), younger brother of Fr. R. Dhanaraj, passed away on 18.02.2021 at Kayathar.
 Mr. A. John (55), younger brother of Fr. Xavier Antony, passed away on 24.02.2021 in a road accident near Oddanchatram.
 Mrs. Jeyapooranam (73), sister-in-law of Fr. S. Marianathan, passed away on 05.03.2021 at Palayamkottai.
 Mrs. Rani (63), elder sister of Fr. Packiaraj Soosai (CEN), passed away on 05.03.2021 at Perumalmalai.



FR. SAVARIMUTHU XAVIER, S.J.

1937 - 2021

The announcement of the sad news that at 5.15 p.m. on 03.03.2021, Fr. X. Savarimuthu died at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, came as a shock to the Jesuits of Tamil Nadu and the Catholic faithful he had been ministering to as a pastor, retreat preacher and spiritual guide. A liberated Jesuit, he lived his life in constant union with God who was his EVERYTHING. Born on 28.05.1937 at Rammathapuram in Tirunelveli District to Mr. Xavier Madurendiram and Mrs. Annamariyal, he grew up with his siblings—two brothers and two sisters—in a well-to-do and devout Catholic family. After his schooling in his hometown, he did his B.Sc. in Mathematics at St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, at the end of which he felt called by God to become a Jesuit priest. Responding to God promptly and positively, he left home against his father's wish and entered the Novitiate at Beschi, Dindigul, on 14 June 1961.

After the Novitiate and Juniorate, he did his Philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, and then moved to Jnana Deepa, Pune, for Theology. He was ordained a Priest in Madurai on 28.03.1971 and his father who had severed all ties with his son finally got reconciled and wept in joy on the day of his Ordination.

Fr. Savarimuthu had the "fire" to bring souls to God and so, after a two-year stint as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Mary's, Madurai, he continued to serve as a Parish Priest in Tiruchi and Thirumanur, and as a much sought-after retreat preacher and spiritual guide at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, VMI, Vilangudi, and Clive House, Tiruchi. Spiritual ministry gave him a lot of energy. He found fulfilment in preaching Charismatic retreats. He exercised his ministry as a mobile pastor and went everywhere using public transport and walked miles to reach his faithful to celebrate Mass and administer the sacraments. He was generous to a fault. As he went with his *jolna* bag slung across his shoulder, he used to give the money he had to the poor and make do with the absolute minimum. His famous and much-liked song கனவு கண்டேன் நான்



கனவு கண்டேன் (*I had a dream*), used as the Communion Hymn at his Funeral Mass, manifests that profound desire to become a Jesuit Priest. That dream came true and he became and remained a holy Priest all his life. Frequently, people used to come to him and ask him to pray over them and bless them. Usually, a soft-spoken person with a smiling face, he used to speak with authority while praying over physically and mentally ill people

and possessed persons and, if necessary, pull out the crucifix from his cassock pocket and sternly rebuke the evil spirit.

Celebration of the Eucharist moved him to tears and filled his heart with great consolation. Spending long hours in prayer enabled him to imitate Christ and kept him away from worldly attractions – money, power and position. He had a filial devotion to Mary and he used to visit her shrine at Elakurichi every month during his tenure as Parish Priest at Thirumanur. It is his passionate love for Jesus and Mary that made him committed, compassionate, simple, unassuming and spiritual.

When he opted to join the Chennai Province, he was sent again to Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, to continue with his spiritual ministry. However, his health deteriorated and, in July 2020, he was transferred to Beschi Illam, Dindigul, where he joyfully continued rendering his services. Actually, it was while celebrating Mass for a group of his Jesuit companions in the domestic chapel on 21.02.2021, he fainted. He was made to sit and he continued and completed the Mass. The medical tests done at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, revealed that he had intestinal perforation and, therefore, he underwent surgery. However, his health continued to deteriorate and he passed away peacefully on 03.03.2021. On the following day, at 3:00 p.m., a well-attended Funeral Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jebamalai Raja, Provincial (CEN) and Fr. Savarimuthu's mortal remains were laid to rest in the Beschi cemetery.

*Michael Panimaya Raj &
Xavier Antony Selvam*