



Kerala Tidings

VOL. LX NO. 10 ■ OCTOBER 2020 ■ CHRIST HALL ■ KOZHIKODE

From the Provincial's Desk

MIND YOUR HEALTH

I was fascinated by a small news clip in Madhyamam, a Malayalam daily. It reported that nearly 35 percent of antibiotics are left unsold in Kerala since the outbreak of Covid-19. Surprising indeed, especially since Kerala tops in the consumption of medicine in the country. Where have our illnesses gone? Some attribute it to the newly acquired habits of wearing a mask and the regular use of sanitizer and soap. They are probably right. The pandemic has taught us that healthy habits are more valuable than costly medicine. Good health is a divine gift, but good habits alone make it real. Good bodily health is inseparable from a healthy spiritual life. St. Ignatius in the Constitutions (#292) clearly asks every Jesuit to take care of one's health for divine service. The Jesuit Conference of South Asia had issued a small booklet in 2007, "Document on Health". Let me quote from it: "Our present system rewards ill health. If we are well we hesitate to spend on life-enhancing picnics, celebrations and fun times. When one is sick we do not hesitate to spend on extremely expensive hospital care, tests and treatment. We need to see that fun and joy are not frivolous wastes but deeply human needs that keep us in peak form for our mission." I encourage all Jesuits to go through this document carefully. Stay healthy, stay safe – for mission.

E. P. Mathew, SJ

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Father General has appointed Fr José de Pablo (Spain) as the World Vice-Ecclesiastical Assistant of the CLC (the Christian Life Community.) [Its Ecclesiastical Assistant is the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.]

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Our first year novices, three in number, are scheduled to make their month-long **Ignatian Spiritual Sadhana** from 19th October to 20th November. And the second years, four in number, will be away for their **Hospital Experiment** during the same period. Please remember these young men in a special way in your prayers.

COMMUNITY PRAYER BOOK

Copies of **Towards Loving Service** (*Prayers on Universal Apostolic Preferences and Conference Apostolic Preferences*) prepared by JDV, Pune, and VJ, Delhi, have been dispatched to our communities. Kindly contact the Socius if any community has not yet received them.



MOVED TO MANIPUR

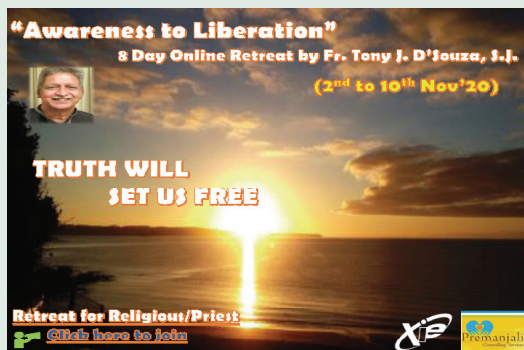
Fr Syriac Panjikaran has moved to Manipur under Kohima Region. He will be the Vice-principal of St Xavier's School, Moirang, and Assistant Pastor, Loyola Parish, Bishnupur.

NEW ADDRESS

Fr E.J. Thomas has a new address: Sacred Heart Seminary, Mayithara P.O. Cherthala - 688539 Alleppey Dt.

ONLINE AWARENESS RETREAT

Tony J. D'Souza, SJ of Bombay Province is offering an online awareness retreat for religious from 02-10 November 2020. Jesuits can register for this retreat online though it is open to all Religious. The schedule for the retreat is:



06:30 am : guided meditation
09:30 am : session 1
11:45 am : Eucharist
03:30 pm : session 2
08:30 pm : open session for clarification and doubts. It is optional

Given below is the link for the brochure which will provide information about the nature of the retreat and the registration process.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o10lPjgFa5wAdsw0TmX68JbGUVscSM93/view?usp=sharing>

STOP PRESS: Fr Joseph Thayil, SJ passed away on 30 September at Nirmala Hospital, Kozhikode, and was laid to rest on 01 October. His obituary will appear in the November issue of Kerala Tidings.

FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

Fr James Thottakath was called to his eternal reward on the 15 September. He breathed his last saying 'Amen' to a prayer of Bl. Devasahayam Pillai! The funeral

was conducted the following day observing the Covid protocol. Fr Provincial presided over the Eucharist and **Fr Mani Manimala** gave a touching homily highlighting the personal qualities and pastoral contributions of Fr James starting with their life together at St Joseph's college, Trichy. **Bishop Varghese Chakkalakal** and priests and religious from the neighborhood were among those who came to pay their homage.

Fr P. T. Augustine underwent a hemiarthroplasty at Nirmala Hospital after a fall in his room. **Fr Rabin** had a rhinoplasty to remove an unnecessary growth in his nasal cavity. **Fr K.P. Mathew** got his left leg plastered after a minor accident at Pariyaram and he is recuperating at Christ Hall after spending a few days at Nirmala Hospital.

The community was extremely happy to celebrate the birthdays of **Frs O.P Mathew** and **Cyriac Kulirany** on 21 and 28 of Sept. respectively. **Schs Affin, Eby, Jomon** and **Fr Adhul** left for their academic studies at St Aloysius College, Mangalore. We gratefully remember their generous services to the community and wish them God's blessings. **Dn Kamal** left for Pattuvam for diaconate ministry after a short stay at Christ Hall.

George Karuppallyil

S.M. FARM, PARIYARAM

Admission to various courses has started at Nirmala ITI. Online classes are going on for the senior students. **Sch Dileep** with the support of **Fr Joe Mathew** has assembled an electric motorbike which is all for mass production! It is the fruit of his dedicated experimentation during the past few weeks. The community enjoyed watching the process and the product. **Deacon Rephin Kamal** has joined the community and is residing at Samskriti Sahajeevanam while engaged in his diaconate ministry at Pattuvam Parish. **Fr Provincial** had two short visits to our community this month.



Manesh

LOYOLA, ALUVA

The new office-bearers took charge on 2 September under the leadership of **Novice Sebin**. On the same day, **Sch Nikhil George** from Sameeksha began his weekly music lessons for us. On the feast of the birth of Blessed Virgin Mary, a solemn rosary procession was conducted along the 'Loyola pathway' in the evening. **Dn Rephin Kamal**, on his way back from Rome, spent nearly a month in quarantine at Loyola; he also found time to share his experiences with the novices. **Fr Biju Vadakkumchery** was the second person to spend his quarantine period in Loyola. We celebrated the 80th birthday of **Fr Jacob Madukakuzhy** together with the 60th year of his Jesuit life on 19 September. Fr Jacob planted the sapling of a medicinal plant (*Arutha*) in the herbal garden, herbarium. A solemn thanksgiving Mass was celebrated with Fr Jacob as the main celebrant and **Frs Ephrem Manikompel and Devassy Paul** as co-celebrants. **Fr Devassy Paul** delivered a fitting homily. Jesuits from the Ernakulam zone and Fr Jacob's novices from around the world took part in the cultural programme physically or virtually. A Sumptuous dinner followed. The next day the second year novices left for Santigram to attend a six-day PG workshop. The first year novices had an *Intensive Journal* course guided by **Fr Rachans**.

David & Sebin.

SAMEEKSHA /ATMAMITRA, KALADY

The third-year theologians were given inputs on Ignatian Spirituality by **Fr Rachans Lukose**, on Intellectual Apostolate by **Fr Binoy Pichalakatt**, and on Priesthood by **Fr Jose Jacob** as part of their Pre-ordination Programme. Thank you, dear fathers for the well prepared and insightful inputs. **Frs Antu Xavier** and **Jose Kadankavil** were with us for a few days on medical consultation. Fr Shabin CST is staying with us to complete his PhD thesis. On 19th the community participated in the birthday and jubilee celebration of **Fr Jacob Madukakuzhy** at Loyola, Aluva. It was a joyful opportunity to come together on a zonal level to appreciate Jackachan's great contributions and acknowledge the gift that he is to all of us. **Fr Sebastian Painadath** gave a one-week course to the *Jnanasameeksha* students of Trivandrum, Kalady and Kannur on the theology of St Paul on Google-meet. He also addressed the teachers of St Joseph's ICSE School on Google-meet on Harmony of Religions.

Atmamitra online courses were utilized by a large number of students, college professors, trainers and lay people in August and September. Students who benefitted include those from St Michael's, Kannur, St. Joseph's ICSE, Kozhikode and St Xavier's College, Thumba. The summit of the month was the online course on ***The Art of Discernment***, which was made available to people of different faith traditions by **Frs Immanuel Koyan** and **Toby Joseph**. The course consisted of eight sessions of one hour each, ample time for reflection, and provision for guidance. Atmamitra was teeming with life in September with children and families who came and stayed for counseling and therapy sessions.

Lijo Antony

LUMEN-JYOTHIS, KOCHI

A review webinar on **Fr P.T. Mathew's** book titled "Between the Sea and the Sky" was held. Eminent dignitaries such as Prof Gnana Patrick, HOD, Department of Christian Studies, Madras University, Dr Thomas Landy, Holy Cross Worcester, USA, Bishop Thomas Tharayil, the Auxiliary of Changanacherry, and Dr Vincent Kundukulam, president of the Indian Theological Association, spoke on the occasion with great appreciation.

The Newman Association had its monthly meeting online. Dr Babu Joseph, former director, National Institute of Naturopathy, presented a talk on "Yoga-Naturopathy during Covid 19". LIPI Science Forum launched a series of webinars wherein well-known scientists such as Prof K.L. Sebastian (IIT, Palakkad), Dr Joe Jacob of IUCCA, Pune and member of the team that discovered the galaxy named *Saraswathy*, and others delivered lectures. The third batch of Peace Studies programme in collaboration with XLRI Jamshedpur is in progress.

Devassy Paul

LOYOLA, SREEKARIYAM

Fr Abraham Pallivathukal who joined our community was given a warm reception with a prayer service and dinner. September 6th was a special day for the Loyola Community as the Superior celebrated his 60th birthday. The celebration was made a memorable one with a special prayer service followed by a sumptuous dinner. The whole community joined the Jesuits of Mukundara on 21 September to celebrate **Fr Joseph Kallepallil's** birthday.

The online Teachers' Day programme and Onam

celebration conducted by the Loyola School students were excellent. The School also conducted the Open House for each of the divisions of standards from 9 to 12. Students perform admirably during their regular class wise Assemblies. Term examinations were conducted successfully. During this lockdown period some students showed tendency of addiction to online games like PUBG and they were sent for counselling. The urgency of online learning during Covid-19 has transformed teachers, students and parents by making them tech- savvy.



Attempts to get additional courses for the college and expansion of the college are going on and the Principal and the Jesuit Team are meeting the University and Government authorities for this purpose. Online classes are being conducted regularly and the admission procedure for students to the new batches is progressing.



Foundation stone laying ceremony of the Administrative cum Academic Block of Loyola College was held on 27 September, the Foundation Day of the Society of Jesus. The stone was blessed by **Fr Sunny Kunnappallil**, Rector and Manager, and it was laid by **Sri Kadakampally Surendran**, Hon. Minister for Co-operation, Tourism, and Dewaswom, Government of Kerala. After the laying of the stone there was a meeting in the Sutter Hall. The Minister presided over the function.

Dr Shashi Tharoor was the chief Guest who addressed the audience online from Delhi. Dr V.P. Mahadevan Pillai, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kerala, was the Guest of Honour. Mr Alathara Anilkumar, Councillor, Cheruvickal ward of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, felicitated and Dr Saji P. Jacob, Principal, proposed the vote of thanks. Around 100 people including Jesuits of Trivandrum zone participated.

Sunny Kunnappallil

AADI, ATTAPPADI

AADI, in collaboration with its Lok Manch partner at Attappady, organized three webinars in three weeks. These were on 'Child Rights and POSCO' by **Fr Joye James**, 'Women's Rights', and 'The New Education Policy'. A few more webinars in this series are being planned for the coming month. A two-day state level Lok Manch training programmes through Zoom was hosted by AADI and was organized along with Tudi, Wayanad and Sneharam, Anjengo. **Fr P.S. Antony** gave an online orientation talk to the NSS students of Mercy College, Palakkad, and he was one of the panelists for a national webinar organized by the Earth Day Network. He is guiding two MSW students of Kerala University for a virtual placement lasting one month. The Sunday service at Nellipathy Parish was resumed after remaining closed since the area was declared a containment zone.

Mathew Aarthayil

XAVIER TRAINING CENTRE, PACHILAKAD

On 5 September, the Pre-novices performed an English skit named 'Talents' under the guidance of **Fr Adhul**. It was really a self-boosting experience for us as it was introduced as part of our English learning. We celebrated Teachers' Day in a grand manner and we honoured our dear Teachers. We gave a warm welcome to **Fr John Manipadam** who came on 15 Sept. accompanied by the St Michael's Community. He has joined the XTC as a resident staff, and has begun his classes the very next day. He also teaches us English hymns.

Fr Adhul was given a grand send-off as he was leaving for Mangalore for PG studies. We, the Pre-novices, remember him as a friendly, creative, systematic, prayerful and hardworking person. We thank you for the three months you spent with us. **Fr Emmanuel Puthuvalveetil** came to take a five-day course on 'Aesthetics and Dance'. He introduced us to the world of movements and beauty. As part of the Course, we were

taught two dances and had the chance of presenting them in front of a small gathering. The dances were based on the themes 'Holy Spirit' and 'Mother Nature'. The dance 'Holy Spirit' was a prayerful dance which portrayed the role of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. The dance on 'Mother Nature' portrayed the influence of humans on Mother Nature. Thank you, Fr Emma for transforming us as real dancers.

Allen Joseph George

PIUS X ITI, EDATHUA

The long awaited restructuring work of Pius X ITI, Edathua is nearing completion. Now we have all the facilities as per the directives of the National Council



for Vocational Training (N.C.V.T). Due to the pandemic, there is uncertainty about the examination of the outgoing students and the admission of the 1st years. We have given wide publicity to the ITI and its improved facilities.

The online classes are progressing smoothly under the guidance of **Fr Rubil Martin**. The Alumni group is active and we had Online Onam Celebrations. Recently we formed a **Rapid Action Team** with the name **Pius Xth Army** for disaster management because Kuttanadu is prone to disasters of various kinds. It was inaugurated by Mr C Dwjesh, Circle Inspector of Edathua, on 27 September. He gave an orientation talk about the functioning of a disaster management team. There are 25 members with specially designed uniforms and badges. They have already undertaken some activities in and around Edathua.

Jose Mathew

LOYOLA, MUKUNDARA

The school has begun admitting new students for the academic year 2020-2021. As part of Fire and Safety Protection for the school, we are constructing a new water tank on the top of the office building. We are also setting up solar-powered photovoltaic panels on the roof of the school. Our teachers are fully involved



in preparing online classes for our students. Though it is a new venture, our teachers are beginning to enjoy the work. The School has installed a new application, "Microsoft Teams", to enhance the online teaching.

Loyola School successfully conducted the online Onam competition. The active participation of the students and teachers added further colour to the entire programme. Congratulations to **Fr Gracious** and the members of the staff who worked behind the curtain for its success. The community had a combined birthday celebration of **Fr Joseph Kallepallil** and **Br Mathew Puthiedom**. The Jesuits of Loyola Sreekariyam and Loyola Poovar joined us for the celebration. The school had an online celebration of the birthday. **Sch Dijin** made his 8-days retreat at Loyola Sadan under the direction of Fr Gracious.

Libin Mathew

LOYOLA, POOVAR

Loyola community extended a warm welcome to **Fr Binu Kaduthalakunnel** who joined us on 30 August after his two years of service at Attapady. He has already started teaching the B.Com students. The on-line classes have been going on well for about two months. Their first quarterly exams are to be held from 5 October.

As regards the situation of Covid 19 Poovar, along with the other coastal villages, are limping back to normalcy after the Covid-19 restrictions were imposed. On two occasions during the peak time of Covid 19, we distributed food kits to the needy people. More than 1700 families benefited from it. This was made possible because of the generous help of the Province and the Sreekaryam Jesuit community. Our Deepthi quarters were used as Covid First Line Treatment Center for two months. Binu has written a research paper titled 'Rural entrepreneurship - a means for transforming rural India'. It was reviewed by the Department of Commerce of the Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Trichy, and has been submitted for publication.

Sony Thazhathel

JEEVIKA MIGRANT WORKERS' MOVEMENT

Many interstate workers are jobless and are struggling for livelihood during this pandemic. Jeevika extended helping hands to alleviate their suffering to some extent by our Life Mission Support, by distributing 200 dry ration and provision kits to 200 migrant families of Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu residing at Kalady, Perumbavoor, Angamali, and Pallissery areas. We could cover nearly 650 beneficiaries. A kit was worth nearly Rs 1150 containing 22 items including mask, sanitizer and hand wash. The project was supported by the Jesuit Resource and Response Hub (JRH). Jeevika is grateful to JRH- ISI Delhi for the financial support and the Provincial and the PDD team for facilitating it. We also acknowledge the valuable support of Sameeksha, Atmamitra, SRC and the theology students.

Shin Kallungal

TRIPURA MISSION

Fr Syriac Panjikaran has moved to St Xavier's School community, Moirang, Manipur, and he reached the new place on 25 September. The teachers, parents and the students bade farewell to him with much sorrow. His absence is deeply felt in St Mary's School as well as in our community.

Regular online classes are taking place in our school. It is mostly through WhatsApp. Exams are conducted every month to check the students' level of understanding. Teachers' meetings are conducted once a week to make sure that the students benefit from the classes and to make appropriate changes for improvement. Despite the restrictions, we are trying our best to give quality education to our students.

Dijin Jose George

ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, MOIRANG, MANIPUR

Early September was packed with various events. The teacher's day was celebrated with great festivity. All our teachers joined together to prepare a sumptuous meal and we had a very homely celebration. On 6 September our parish community organized a farewell function for Fr Cyprian Lobo and welcomed the new parish priest Fr Hector D'Souza. On 8 September Fr Felix Monteiro pronounced his final vows during a solemn High Mass and later he took charge as the new Superior of Manipur Mission. Adding joy to our community, **Fr Syriac Panjikaran** from Tripura joined us on 25 September. He will take charge as the Vice-Principal of the School and in-charge of the higher secondary section. He will

also serve as assistant parish priest. He is already busy learning Manipuri language. The birthday of **Sch Vysakh Titus** was celebrated in the presence of all the Jesuits of the Manipur mission. He completed his MA philosophy exams with great satisfaction conducted from September 24 -26.

Vysakh Titus

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION (XIDE), KAILASHAHAR, TRIPURA

Some Covid-19 cases were reported from our village. Considering the alarming situation, we have suspended public celebration of the Mass in our parish church. We have opened a dispensary in the village with



Sr Annie Joseph, SJA as the in-charge. We have started admitting students to the GDA (General Duty Assistant in hospitals) Course in the Institute. Sr Annie is the trainer and the in-charge of the three-month course. Construction of the new house has begun, and we expect to complete it by next month. **Sch Frangle** wrote his Final Semester Philosophy exam, which was postponed due to Covid-10. The tuition centre that was closed for a week has started functioning. After a long gap, we have begun saying Mass in the substation churches. A new livelihood project was initiated for the women in Sere Chandrapara Rieng tribal village. As part of this project, about 60 displaced women have started weaving works with financial assistance.

Frangle Xavier

OURS IN MEDIA

Book by Fr Thomas Karimundackal (ed), *God's Word: Nourishing Life and Inspiring Mission - Biblical Essays in Honour of Prof. Dr. Thomas Malipurathu, SVD*, Christian World Imprints, New Delhi, 2020.

This book has one article by **Fr Thomas Karimundackal**: "Lk 13:10-17: A Liberative Paradigm for the Church's Mission in India," pages 145-166.

Articles by Fr Thomas Karimundackal

1. "Women Who Made a Difference in the Hebrew Bible," in: *Asian Journal of Religious Studies* 65/5 Sept-Oct 2020, 7-14.
2. "Finding Solace amidst Pandemic," in: *Asian Journal of Religious Studies* 65/5 Sept-Oct 2020, 30-37.

GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

Fr Kabamba Kalimbiro Joseph, SJ (ACE), 53/33
on 03.09.2020 at Chennai.

Fr Jayant Kumar Padival, SJ (KAR), 71/54
on 8.9.2020 at Mangaluru.

Fr John Berchman Nag, SJ (JAM), 72/36
on 10.09.2020 at Jamshedpur.

Fr Jacob Carvalho, SJ (GOA), 75/57
on 12.09.2020 at Belagavi.

Fr Vijay Kumar Prabhu, SJ (KAR), 80/61
on 15.09.2020 at Mangaluru.

Fr James Thottakath, SJ (KER), 93/63
on 15.09.2020 at Kozhikode.

Fr Erik Breye, SJ (RAN), 80/61
on 18.09.2020 at Ranchi.

Br Nicolas Hernandez Blanco, SJ (ESP), 92/75
in Spain. He was a missionary to Gujarat from 1949 to 1988.

Fr Dionysius Rasquinha, SJ (PAT), 65/44
on 24.09.2020 in Patna.

Mrs Aleyamma (87), mother of **Fr Reji Kunnathethu, SJ**,
on 07.09.2020.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

- 01 Babu Paul Kurisinkal
- 01 Mathew Puthiedom
- 02 Rosan Roy Periakottil
- 04 Varghese Malpan
- 08 Joseph Chittooparambil
- 08 Praveen Babu
- 09 Sony Thomas Thazhathel
- 10 Anto Muringathery
- 12 Tomson Tom Thattaparambil
- 13 Christy Sebastian Chalil



- 15 Adolf Johnson
- 15 Wilson Mulackal
- 17 Sheise Porunnakottu
- 17 Joseph Podimattam
- 19 Jose Mathew Vayalikalapura
- 20 Anto Dioneceus
- 27 Jose Pulinthanath
- 27 Prince Panachithara
- 30 Jacob Pazhanilam
- 31 Sooraj Kochuparambil

IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

OCTOBER

- 03 (2002) Michael Vendramin
- 05 (1979) Sebastian Aricatt
- 05 (2015) Chacko Vandakam
- 06 (1965) Antony Zearo
- 07 (1988) Victor de Rozario
- 08 (1998) Dominic Valiatharayil
- 11 (1954) Kuruvilla Kathayanatt
- 18 (2007) Mathew Pothalil
- 23 (2018) Kurien Kunnupuram
- 25 (1982) Mathew Kallarackal
- 29 (2008) Myladoor Chandu.



Pope's Intentions Oct 2020



Laity mission in the Church
We Pray that by the virtue of
baptism, the lay faithful, especially
women, may participate more in
areas of responsibility in the Church

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA

Obituary

FR JAMES THOTTAKATH, SJ

(13.02.1937 – 15.09.2020)

Fr James Thottakath passed away quietly on 15 September 2020 after fighting cancer for a while. After a long period of active life as a pastor, he spent his final days in Christ Hall cheerfully accepting his suffering as a reward from the Master. Only his family members and a few Jesuits could be present for his funeral due to the Covid restrictions.

Fr James was born on 13 February 1937 at Kothad in Ernakulam Dt, in the Archdiocese of Verapoly. After his Pre-degree at St. Joseph's College, Trichy, he joined the Jesuit Novitiate at Beschi College, Dindigul in 1957. After completing his Juniorate and Philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, he taught briefly in Loyola School, Trivandrum and St. Michael's School, Kannur. In 1965 he went back to St Joseph's College, Trichy to do his degree studies. I had the opportunity to live with him in Trichy for a period of four years. I recall that during the games time, he would be more interested in working in the field than joining any game. He was quiet and gentle, never got angry with people, gave a smile to those who behaved rudely, and never joined in gossiping. After his theology at St. Mary's College, Kurseong, Fr James was ordained a priest on 27 March 1971 at Kothad, his home parish. He took his final vows in the Society in 1977 at Mattul, Kannur.

Fr James spent the early years of his priesthood in the Chirakkal Mission in Kannur. He began his ministry as Assistant Vicar at Pattuvam. Later he was appointed Vicar of Thavam Parish. The People were accustomed to receiving financial help from the missionaries, gratis. Since Fr James did not have the financial resources, he decided to take a different path in order to make the people self-reliant. He started a cooperative society for them to raise buffaloes and to help them make a living. The project was not very successful. He also experimented with brackish water prawn cultivation for the same purpose. Eventually

both the projects were closed down and he moved to S.M. Farm, Pariyaram, as Superior in 1990. After his three-year term, he bid goodbye to Chirakkal Mission and shifted his field of activity to the diocese of Neyyattinkara in South Kerala. He took charge as the parish priest of St. Mary's Church, Balaramapuram which was not an easy place in any way. But he continued there for 12 long years patiently serving the parish and dealing with problems and conflicts with his characteristic coolness. Nothing could make him angry or lose his temper. In 2008 he was sent as Parish Priest to Anugraha Matha church at Nemom, with the additional charge of the churches at Ayanimood and Pallichal. The history of Nemom Mission, a forgotten chapter in the history of the Pre-suppression Society, caught his attention and became his passion. He began to collect data and prepare pamphlets on Nemom Mission and the life of Devasahayam Pillai, the lay martyr of the Mission. He set up Devasahayam Centre at Ayanimood to promote the cause of his sainthood. Recently Vatican had declared Devasahayam Pillai as Blessed, and he is expected to be canonized soon.

Fr James wouldn't be there to witness that ceremony, though it was his long cherished desire. It was a cause dear to him till his death. Early morning on 15 September, he was prayerfully listening to the recorded prayer to Blessed Devasahayam Pillai when he breathed his last.

There is a belief that we should say nothing but good about a person who is no more. In the case of Fr James we need not struggle to do that because the good he did far outweighed his faults. He was simple, patient, and compassionate but firm in his decisions and commitment. In this life he ran the race competing with himself, and not with others. So he could remain happy and peaceful in earthly life and beyond.

Fr Mani Manimala, SJ



Please send your news before the end of every month.

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