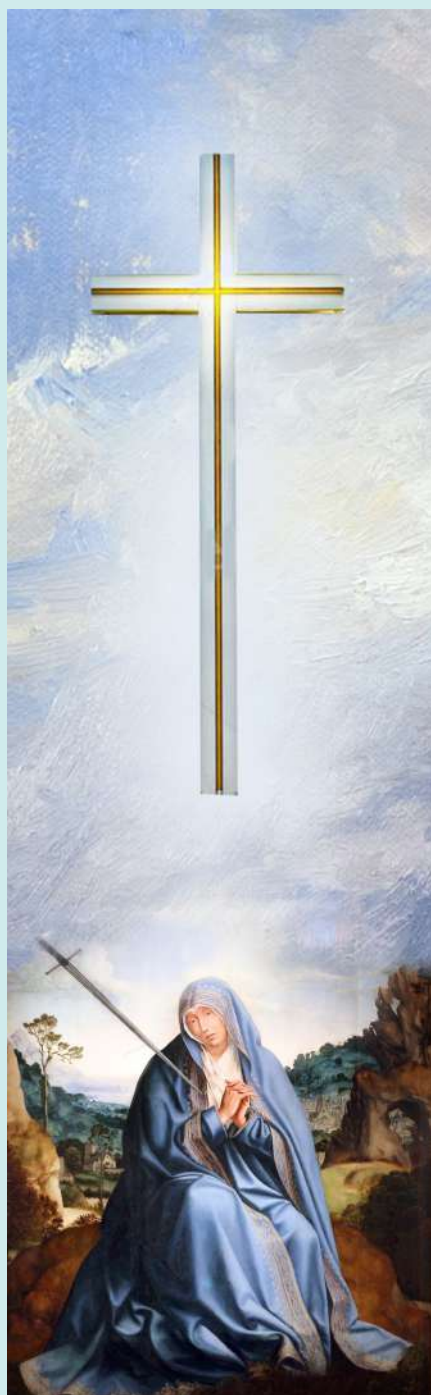




Our Lady of the Way



OUR LADY OF SORROWS

### PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE



#### *Cross: Power of the Powerlessness*

In the month of September, the Church invites us to contemplate on the Exaltation of the Cross (Sep. 14) and observe four special devotional feasts of Mother Mary, namely, the Nativity (Sep. 8), the feast of her Most Holy Name (Sep. 12), the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows (Sep. 15) and the feast of Our Lady of Mercy (Sep. 24). The cross and the Mother are inseparable. That which pierced through the heart of Mother Mary comes to us as a glorious symbol of our faith and victory. The image of her standing under the cross is an invitation to all of us, Jesuits, to realize that She stands as a consolation to all who carry the cross and to all upon whom cross is coercively thrust. Cross is not a positive symbol for the Jews. It is a symbol of condemnation, shame, humiliation and curse. 'God on the Cross and His Mother under the Cross' is not actually a 'NICE' message but it is where we realize the power of God in total powerlessness. St Paul tells us, *'The message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God'*. (1 Cor 1: 18).

To change our human understanding of the cross from 'total absurdity' to 'complete power of God' is the challenge that we will be reflecting on throughout our lives, particularly in this month. For St Ignatius, both the cross and the Mother are pertinently important for the Society of Jesus in its wellbeing. Our Formula of the Institute very well explains our Jesuit identity as follows: *'whoever wishes to serve as a soldier of God beneath the banner of the cross....'*. All the meditations in the Spiritual Exercises end with the colloquy with Our Lady. It was to this Mother that Ignatius fervently prayed to place him with Her Son. Therefore, for us, cross is the symbol of victory and Mother Mary is the personification of hope; Cross is the symbol of power and Mother Mary is the embodiment of courage.

We are passing through a hopeless situation. Coronavirus has come to stay with us. It is projected that one fourth might have been virus infected so far. Some of our own men and our friends are hospitalized due to the virus and the numbers increase day by day. The number of people who succumb to the virus alarms us. Though we reached the peak

of scientific development, digital advancement, and over confidence in our ability to accurately forecast, the world intensely realizes its inability and fragility before the malicious effects of coronavirus. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic is escalating unpredictability, uncertainty, fear, complexity, and ambiguity all over the world. The aftermath of pandemic is going to be terrific. Pain, suffering, struggle, hunger, joblessness and utter frustration mark today's context. In addition to all these human sufferings, we are very much worried about the politics of the pandemic that is openly exhibited.

NEP and EIA, the unwanted notifications come to throttle the poor and the marginalized sections of the society. Natural justice is denied to the nature without which humans cannot exist. We are dumbfounded. We become powerless. We understand that the proclaimed 'NEW NORMAL' is not going to be normal any more. New normal will devour the poor.

It has surrounded significantly the uncertainty of our lives during the lockdown period of COVID-19. Nevertheless, we are learning better to anticipate and to

adapt to the new life situation, increase alertness and flexibility and inevitably shifted to the new forms of coming together and organizing meetings through online digital platforms (webinar, zoom meetings, jitsi, etc.).

We are hopeful that the world will very soon become resilient. We will come back alive and agile to be part of the struggles of our people, particularly the target groups of our missions. That is the beautiful message we receive from the cross. Jesus Christ who is on the cross will never let us down. Mother Mary who stands under the cross will not abandon us. The salvation process never ends until the whole creation travels back to the womb of God. We will continue our good works for our people, never getting tired or worn out. The Holy Cross is the powerhouse from which our hearts derive their strength, for it is there we find meaning for our vocation; it is there we cast off fear and darkness and experience divine salvation.

Mother Mary, bless us all!

*Jebamalai Irudayaraj*



## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### SEPTEMBER

- 06** GBM: Secondary Education Commission (Online)
- 12** Meeting of Superiors/Team Leaders and Coordinators (Online)
- 15** Province Consult
- 25** GBM: Formation Commission (Online)
- 27** Mettupalayam: Blessing of the new Chapel

### OCTOBER

- 02** Meetings of PAP Focal Persons (Online)
- 03** GBM: Communication Commission (Online)
- 05** Meeting of Vocation Facilitators (Online)
- 07** Province Ordination at St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 10** Meeting of Province Researchers' Forum (Online)
- 16-17** GBM: Social Action (+ Ecology+ Migrants+ Tribal Committees) Commission (Online)

- 24** GBM: Dalit Commission (Online)
- 26-28** JCSA Meeting (Online)
- 30** GBM: Pastoral Commission (Online)

### NOVEMBER

- 03** Province Consult
- 10** GBM: TVET Commission (Online)
- 16** Meeting of In charge of Local Resource Mobilization (Online)
- 19** GBM: Youth Commission (Online)
- 24** GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission (Online)
- 26** Meeting of Local Protection Officers – Minors and Vulnerable Adults (Online)
- 28** Meeting of In charge of Local Grievance Cell (Online)
- 30** GBM: Finance Commission (Online)

**NOTE :** I kindly request the Province Officials and Commission Coordinators to note the dates and prepare for the meeting accordingly.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

**Fr Dionysius Gerard Leonard Vaz (Dion)** as Provincial of Karnataka.

**Fr Keith William Abranches** as Rector of Collegio Internazionale del Gesu, Rome (w.e.f. July 2021).

**Fr Sujeewa Pathirana:** Socius to SRI Provincial.

**Fr Peter McIsaac:** Regional Superior of Guyana and Jamaica (Fr. General has made it known that a new Province will be created in two years' time taking in the Jesuits of the Dominican Republic and Cuba as well as Guyana and Jamaica, at which point a new Provincial is likely to be appointed.)

### FR PROVINCIAL HAS APPOINTED

**Fr MS Arockiasamy (CCU)**, Applicatus to Chennai Province, as the Principal of Loyola Academy, Vadamelakkam.

### TRANSFER

**Fr Lourduraj Arokiasamy** from Berchmans Illam, Chennai to JPLI-Pre-novitiate, Kasthambadi, Spiritual Guide and Teacher.

### ORDINATION – Prayer Invitation

**Most Rev. S. Antonysamy, D.D., D.C.L.**, Bishop of Palayamkottai, has consented to ordain our **Deacons Berchmans Kasparaj, Franklin Peter Rex, Maria Then Amirtharaj G., P Pon Ruban C., P Raphael Alexander G. (MDU) and Vijin Antony Raj (MDU)** on 7 October, 2020, on the Feast of Our Lady of Rosary, in the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli. It is planned to have the Ordination with restricted participants.

## HEALTH UPDATE

### ARUL KADAL

**Fr Xavier Rajan**, who had been tested COVID-19 negative on 3 August, later developed symptoms, turned COVID-19 positive and joined the eight other Arul Kadalites on 10 Aug, at St Thomas Hospital, Chennai. As the health of Fr Xavier Rajan was a major concern due to co-morbidities in him, he was moved to Kauvery Hospital on 11 Aug. He was given high flow level supplemental Oxygen. Since fever developed in him intermittently, CRP (*C-Reactive Protein Test*), RFB and LFB tests were undertaken. As there had been deterioration day by day, he was shifted to ARDS (*Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome*) Ward on 21 Aug. With intensive care, there was a gradual and significant improvement in his overall health. High flow of

supplemental Oxygen had been lowered from 10 litres to nil. Fr Xavier Rajan was back to Arul Kadal on 31 Aug and he is under home quarantine for about 14 days.

When **Fr Raj Irudaya** was tested COVID-19 positive on 3 August, he had been admitted to St Thomas hospital for his initial treatments. Due to occurrence of intermittent fever, fluctuation in blood pressure and added to these breathing trouble, Dr Sumitha had recommended that he could be shifted to Kauvery Hospital. With the help of Corona Coordinating Committee (CCC) members Frs Thomas Amirtham and Roch, Fr Raj was admitted in Kauvery Hospital on 15 August. He was kept in Corona Isolation Intensive Care Unit with high flow supplemental Oxygen mask support. Though his health had remained unstable for some days, COVID-19 has been successfully eliminated from him gradually. After stabilizing the Blood Pressure level, he was shifted to normal isolation ward on 02 September. Oxygen saturation level was stable at 96/97. After many rounds of further observation, he was discharged on 04 September. Arul Kadal community welcomed him back with our traditional *Mangala Aarathi*.

**Schs Benitto and Richard** were discharged on 10 August 2020, while **Schs Jayaseelan and Albin Raj** reached on 12 August 2020. Fr Sahayaraj returned to Arul Kadal on 13 August 2020. **Schs Amal Bosco and Udaya Prakash** arrived at Arul Kadal on 17 August 2020. All of them were room-quarantined for 14 days. Service, including serving of food at the doors of those who are home quarantined is being carried out efficiently by Schs **Solomon, Anto and Velankanni** under the guidance of **Fr Arockia Dass**.

Big thanks to **Fr Baskar Antony** for his able liaison work with the hospital doctors' team, Arul Kadal Community and CCC. CCC members, Frs Roch, Thomas Amirtham and Justin, deserve special appreciation for their proactive measures.

### LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

**Fr Selukas** had COVID-19 test done on 04 August as part of his Visa process to go to Rome for his studies and the result was positive. He was admitted at Rangammal Memorial Hospital, Athiyanthal, Thiruvannamalai. He was discharged on 13 Aug as the second test's result was negative, and was home quarantined.

**Fr Gerlin** is admitted in CMC Vellore for his



unrecognized heart attacks that happened on 31 August and 1 September. Having gone through the necessary tests, it was found that there were three blocks and the front chamber of the four parts of the heart had been completely damaged. Even after angioplasty and the removal of the blocks, it could not function. As a result, the connection between the front and back chambers were not linked making things worse. For this, they had to have temporary pacemaker to regulate the heartbeat which was functioning only 25 percent. After two days, he was stable enough and the pacemaker was removed. On 7 Sep, according to Dr Viji Samuel Thomson, Fr Gerlin shows good improvement, his heart is rather weak and its pumping is slow. They are treating it to improve the pumping capacity. His health condition is improving but needs to be in observation for a few more days.

#### MANALUR

**Fr Soosairaj** was admitted in St Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul on 15 August for Covid-19 treatment and was discharged on 27 August and is self-quarantined in Beschi Illam for 14 days.

Brothers, The non-negotiable do's and don'ts that still need to be remembered are: ***Stay Indoors; Don't Touch Your Face; Hand Wash; Avoid Close Contact With Anyone; Cover Your Mouth & Nose: Use a Mask.*** As mentioned by Fr Provincial in an earlier communication, please avoid all but absolutely essential travel. You could pick up and pass on infection to others in which case contact tracing has to be done and a whole lot of people have to under go COVID test.

#### NEWS DIGEST



#### AICUF & YOUTH COMMISSION



On 24 August, the Youth Commission collaborated with Communication and Social Action Commissions in organizing a webinar on "சுற்றுச் சூழல்

பாதுகாப்பில் ஊடகங்களின் பங்களிப்பு - ஓர் இளையோர் பார்வை".

The resource persons Mr M Vetriselvan, Mr CR Jeyaprakash, Mrs Radhika Ramasamy and Mr Rogan Prem Kumar enlightened the youth and others with their thought-provoking ideas on EIA and Conservation of Environment (PAP 2). Thanks to Fr Iruthayaraj for organizing it. On 31 August, the AICUF students actively participated in the Statewide Facebook protest against NEP 2020. Nearly 58 students and children uploaded their videos and posters on facebook.

*Sarathi*

#### CHENNAI: ARUL KADAL

On 31 July, we had a meaningful celebration of our founder's day for ourselves. Unexpectedly, nine of our community members, **Frs Xavier Rajan, Raj Irudaya, Sahayaraj, Schs Jeyaseelan, Richard, Benitto, Uday, Bosco and Albin**, were tested Corona positive. All of them were admitted in St Thomas Hospital, Chennai. By God's grace seven of them recovered soon and returned to Arul Kadal by 17 August. Frs Xavier Rajan and Raj Irudaya were shifted to Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, and although still critical, they are responding to treatment slowly as per the latest update (Aug 28). Arul Kadal community requests your intense and fervent prayers for both of them. Deacon Rex gave his online comprehensive examination on 26 August. He is all set to go for SUPAM at Harur.

*Anto Arputha Raja*

#### CHENNAI: LOYOLA COLLEGE

The community had the discussion on NEP 2020. After having discussed the advantages and road blocks in the effective implementation of NEP 2020, Fr Rector constituted a committee consisting of representatives from the different units and Fr Soosai Sebastian as its convener. And this committee would study the NEP in depth and come up with concrete action plans, such as inclusive approach in policy enshrined in the Constitutional values, people-oriented research with culture specific approach etc. The Committee would submit the report by the end of September 2020.

The Entomology Research Institute (ERI), Loyola College, Chennai has established two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) between Zoological Survey of

India (ZSI)-Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC), and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). These MoUs have been signed and executed from July 2020 onwards. Kudos to Fr S Maria Packiam, Director ERI and the college administration.

First year undergraduate students at LCAS began their academic year with a virtual inaugural session on 26 August.

The academic year 2020-21, dawned with the four-day faculty orientation programme on the theme *“Embracing the new normal”* on 27 July. Rev Dr Francis P Xavier, Rector, shared his insights on *“Jesuit Education and Ignatian Pedagogy”* marking the first day of the programme. A two-day student orientation programme was conducted for the second, third and fourth year students on 3 and 4 August. The Heads of the Departments organized special talks for the students on various themes on those two days.

The sixth Alumni Meet was conducted on the theme *“Celebrating the Distance and Bridging the Memories”* virtually and also live streamed through our LICET YouTube channel on 15 August. Fr Francis P Xavier made the occasion significant with his Keynote Address. The Alumni were felicitated by Fr Maria Wenisch, Director, with the special message and welcomed by Dr L Antony Michael Raj, Principal.

Fr Francis P Xavier gave two webinars on *‘Jesuit Global Contribution’* to the faculty members of Xavier University, Bhubaneswar and *‘Time Management’* to the Priests and the Religious on at the national level.

Fr Soosai Sebastian and his team gave a webinar on *‘National Education Policy 2020’*. It was well presented and a good number of participants benefited from it. Thanks to our scholastics at Loyola who have successfully organised 10 webinars on different themes.

Entomology Research Institute (ERI) and the Institute of Dialogue with Cultures and Religions (IDCR) of Loyola campus have jointly conducted a national webinar on *‘Environmental Concerns in India Today’* on 10 August. Fr A Maria Arul Raja and Fr S Maria Packiam were the organizers.

Fr Kabamba K Joseph (ACE) from Congo had been at Loyola Chennai from Jan’20 for kidney transplant operation. It was delayed due to document problem and then due to lockdown. Finally the surgery was successfully done in Apollo and he was getting on well. After a few days, he complained of difficulty in breathing and was rushed to Apollo on 02 Sep 2020.

Despite the strenuous efforts made by a team of doctors at the CCU at Apollo, he breathed his last on the following day.

Fr Sahayaraj Vijayan who was with him in the hospital, at the time of his death, reports of how the end came as follows: *“Fr Kabamba suffered three, very severe, heart attacks in the evening within very short duration on 03 Sep’20. According to the doctors, the heart literally stopped all the three times and CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) was administered to revive the heart-beat. Added to this, the bacterial and fungal infection of lungs had been alarmingly on the rise and the new kidney was rejecting. Having been exposed to these multi-layered complications, his body failed to respond even to the highest level of medication provided and he eventually passed away at 10 pm on the same evening.”*

On 4 Sep evening, we had the Requiem Mass for Fr Kabamba, with Fr Jebamalai, the Provincial, as the Celebrant. During the Mass, the brother of Fr Kabamba spoke about Fr Kabamba (*which was translated in English to the community members by Fr Sahayaraj*). At the end of the Mass, Provincial, shared with the community members the messages from Fr Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, the President of the Conference of Africa and Madagascar.

The funeral service of Fr Kabamba went off well on 5 Sep. There was a prayer service in French led by Frs Sahayaraj and Vasanthakumar with the sharing of his brother Mr Jean and his nephew, Mr Félix. The African scholastics from Satya Nilayam and Berchmans Illam represented the African Conference. They sang and prayed in Swahili. They also served as pall-bearers along with the brother and the nephew of Fr Kabamba.





The Rector performed the commendation in the Church after the Service, and Fr Minister said the prayers of the final committal at the cemetery. The mortal remains of Fr Kabamba were laid to rest in the Jesuit cemetery adjacent to the College Church in Loyola Campus, Chennai. At this unexpected tragic turn of events, the entire Jesuit Community at Loyola stood closely beside in support of Mr Jean and Mr Félix, the brother and the nephew of Fr Joseph Kabamba. It's Mr Félix who had donated his kidney to Fr Kabamba. May the soul of Fr Kabamba rest in peace.

*Zenith*

### HARUR: ARULAGAM

In view of the feast day of St Ignatius of Loyola, we had a recollection on 29 July, guided by Fr Arul Sivan (MDU), focusing on St Ignatius - the optimist, at four levels of awareness i.e. awareness of the self, awareness of God, awareness of the other, awareness of common mission. We had prayer service, fun games, quiz and a sumptuous dinner on 30 July, with our co-workers. We celebrated our founder's feast with the parishioners and the clergy, strictly adhering to the Govt. guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. On 05 August, we went to Sohathur, Dharmapuri, for our faith-sharing. Fr Pavul raj Michael from Rome, gave us points for the recollection online on the theme '*Contemplatives in Action*', on 14 August.

On 10 August, Fr John Paul, the Parish Priest, organized '*the Dalit Black Day*' for which Fr Philomin Raj (MDU) came as a resource person. On 15 August, Mr Sarath Kumar, alumnus and a special security officer from Harur Police Station and Mrs Sasi Kala, a senior staff nurse from Harur Government Hospital were invited as guests of honour by Fr John Paul, as a mark of respect and appreciation for their tireless services during the pandemic situation. Our Catechism students were kept busy preparing the videos on the Bible parables as directed by Fr John Paul and edited by Fr Gladwin. The videos are posted on YouTube Channel namely '*Jesuit Harur Mission*'.

On 13 August, Fr Paul Benedict organized a seminar on NEP & EIA at which Fr John Kennedy (MDU) spoke to more than 230 participants. Fr Paul Benedict, the Head Master, had discussions on the implications and challenges of the NEP and EIP at various forums like Anbiyams (BCCs), youth meetings, staff meetings both in the school and in the evening study centers.

They were motivated to upload their responses through social media. On 25 August, the school staff had a discussion on NEP.

On India's Independence Day, Mr Velan, father of one of our students and a volunteer who reached out to deserving people with relief services, was invited as the Chief Guest for the celebration. Mrs Amalorpava Mary who retired from the service of '*Noon Meal Scheme*' this academic year, hoisted the national flag. The students had virtual competitions in drawing, elocution and essay writing.



Fr Mag Bay and John Paul organized an orientation for the staff of study centres at Puthu Vazhvu Siruvar Illam, on 28 August, and presented various tips to them in organizing evening study centres successfully in the villages. Fr Gladwin interactively guided the staff to be creative in their approach to educating the young minds.

The Social Action Centre at Harur, with the approval of Fr Provincial, was renamed as LIFT (Loyola Integral Formation and Training) Centre. With the onset of good showers, the Loyola farm in Allalapatty seems to yield more. Fr Mag Bay, with the help of the community members, planted 800 tomato plants and 275 papaya saplings.

*Tony Ajith*

### KASTHAMBADI, J.P. LEONARD ILLAM (JPLI)

#### PRE-NOVITIATE

The pre-novitiate at Kasthambadi is bubbling with great energy. Fr Philip helped the pre-novices to have a new look at the mass media through a three-day course on Media Analysis and he concluded it with a creative Media Mass. We were blessed when Fr Ignaci, the Province Treasurer and Fr Robinson, the PCF visited us on 14 August. Fr Robinson motivated the pre-novices to sail through difficulties in life. Fr Santosh shared his experience on his way to Tertianship, Bangalore with the pre-novices that his love for the mission makes it possible to learn even the

most difficult language, Mandarin. Sch Sachin shared his insights of his vocation story with the pre-novices on the same day on his way to Vettavalam.

We celebrated the Independence Day remembering with gratitude our ancestors who sacrificed their lives, and cherishing the hope of an equitable and united India. Prince, one of the pre-novices gave a message on that day. By the grace of God, the generosity of the province and the hard work of many, new class room, reading room and kitchen have been put up and Fr Prabu, the Administrator, blessed them. An avid interest on the Word of God was created among the pre-novices by Mrs Prema through the Bible classes.

On 30 August, Fr Britto Vincent gave a monthly recollection which helped the pre-novices to calm down and accept the reality of life. On the last day of the month, we had “Pre-novices in the Kitchen,” when some pre-novices experimented on their cooking talents and others developed a new taste for cooking.

#### JMMEx

The staff and team of AHAL had their exposure visit to JMMEx on 11 August 2020. We thank Fr Jose, advocate from the Diocese of Vellore for his energetic experiential sharing of his service to the marginalized in the past, through ‘NARD’ (North Arcot Rural Development). The corpse of MrPeriyasamy, migrant labourer from Kottumulai, Cuddalore was received from Dubai on 25 August 2020 and was handed over to the family with the constant accompaniment and guidance of JMMEx staff.



The Repatriation Survey of 62 migrant labourers returned from the Gulf during and post lockdown of COVID-19 was methodically carried out with the guidance of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Philippines, in the rural villages of Thiruvannamalai, Vilupuram, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore and Vellore districts. JMMEx staff met the migrants in villages even during the lockdown and surveyed the plight of poor migrant labourers in the Gulf. It helps us to know and represent the matter to the govt. officials.

*Hansel & Velz*

#### KILPENNATHUR, AHAL CENTRE



On 31 July, the community leaders, the Sangam leaders and the animators of social education participated in the feast day celebration of St Ignatius. The theme was ‘Ignatian leadership for Dalit leaders’. On the same day, they planted saplings in our campus. The AHAL staff had online cadre building training on ‘Introduction of the Panchayat Raj’ from 3 to 7 August, which was so informative and gave a wide knowledge on how to form the people to become leaders. On 11 August, the AHAL staff and Jesuits went to the centre of Jesuit Ministry to Migrants - External (JMMEx), Kasthambadi and to Village Integral Animation (VIA) center run by the Salesians in Polur for one day staff exposure. In both the places, the Fathers and the staff explained the objective, vision, mission and the challenges faced in the field. It was an interactive session wherein Fr Jose Injakal, a diocesan priest of Vellore Diocese, from NARD joined and shared his contribution to society.

AHAL centre has initiated Sangams at various places. இந்து அருந்ததியர் நலச்சங்கம் (Hindu Arunthathiar Welfare Sangam - HAWL) together with the people of Velungananthai hoisted Sangam flag and erected Sangam board on 5 August. This encouraged the people of Reddiyappalaiyam to do the same on 25 August. Now, they are involved in bringing about social changes in their villages. The Dalit movements, Political Parties and அருந்ததியர் நலச்சங்கம் (AWS); of AHAL have been demanding to safe guard the cemetery from encroachments. Finally the District commission for SC/ST assured that they would remove the encroachment of land in and around Arunthathiyars’ cemetery and provide all the basic needs in the cemetery (Daily Thanthi newspaper, 16 Aug 2020).

*Raja Jesu Raj*



## PALAVAI (JESIM)

**PALAVAI** - Pedagogy and Action for Livelihood Availing entitlements, Village leadership and Advocacy of Irulars. Palavai is a musical instrument used by the Irula Tribe during their prayer and festivals seeking goodness in their future. And the mission identifies itself with the people using a name related to our people. As Palavai is used to seek goodness, the mission of PALAVAI team would be working for the goodness of our people.



On 4 August, Fr Philip Kumar guided the PALAVAI team to make its strategic Annual Planning for 2020 – 2021 and to start a new Sangam for our target people in order to unite them as one body for achieving their rights and needs. On 6 August, the renovated old hostel building was inaugurated by Fr Maria Felix Kennedy preceded by the prayer service, and Fr Antony Anand blessed the implements. Three huts of our people were burnt down in a fire accident on 17 August. The PALAVAI team reached out to them immediately, giving them food materials and clothing and walked with them to get their lost documents from the Government offices. On 23 August, a public discussion on *New National Educational Policy (NEP)* was held at Fr Ceyrac Children's Home. Fr Maria Felix Kennedy explained the contents of NEP to the public and led the discussion. In the month of August, three new women self-help groups have been initiated in our newly added villages.

*Sudherson*

## KUPPAYANALLUR: LOYOLA H.S. SCHOOL

The staff of our school are collecting the data of widows, old age people and unorganized workers to

avail government schemes that are due to them like widows' pension, old age pension and welfare assistance. So far they have collected data of 320 widows from 10 villages. Teachers also go to villages for admission campaigns. Online WhatsApp classes are being conducted for classes from 7 to 12.

Frs Devasagayam and Dominic visited the collectorate to get scholarships for the SC/ST students. As a result, we will get scholarships for 9,10,11 and 12 standard students for 2019-20. Fr Jerome (MDU), the Head Master, is making arrangements for online applications for admission. From this year onwards, we will get scholarships for all the SC/ST students which will benefit 56% of our students. Fr Devasagayam hoisted the flag on Independence Day and gave a thought-provoking speech.

The parish activities are subdued due to COVID-19 pandemic. Marriages, baptisms, burials and anniversary Masses are held as per the norms specified. Individual consultation on entrepreneurship development of the youth is going on.

*Noyal*

## METTALA: LOYOLA COLLEGE

Due to the lockdown this year, the feast of St Ignatius was celebrated in a simple but meaningful way along with all our domestic employees. On 15 August, Mr Peter, a non-teaching staff hoisted the tricolour and we recalled the sacrifice of millions of Indians to attain freedom for our Mother land.

Fr B Jeyaraj, Secretary, conducted interviews for recruiting staff on virtual mode on 17 and 18 August. We are happy to say that among the appointed staff, 50% are catholics.

On 20 August, a three hour online awareness session on the new '*National Education Policy*' (NEP 2020) was organized exclusively for the academic staff and a similar session was conducted on 27 August for the non-teaching staff, students, parents and alumni. Serving as the resource person, Mr G Karunanidhi, Coimbatore, enlightened the participants on the negative impact of NEP 2020. Filled with burning zeal and courage, the staff and students came out with lots of constructive methods of opposing the implementation of NEP 2020. These suggestions, along with those of two other Jesuit educational institutions, were presented by Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam, Province Coordinator for Higher Education in the First General Body Meeting of the



Higher Education Commission of the new Province held online on 29 August. On 25 August, Fr Poondy Rajan, Campus Minister, organized an online prayer service for the second and third year students at the start of the new academic year.

In addition to the one acre of groundnut cultivation, Fr B Jeyaraj, in-charge of house farm, took initiative to clear the thorny bushes in another acre of land and has cultivated தட்டைப்பயிற்று (cowpeas) and மொச்சை (hyacinth bean). A couple of good showers that we received in the month of August has helped these crops to grow faster.

*Maria Joseph Mahalingam*

#### METTUPALAYAM: ARRUPPE ILLAM

##### PARAN, MAKKAMPALAYM

PARAN helped 220 Urali Tribals to apply for welfare cards provided by the Government of Tamil Nadu for health care, renewal of registration of 'Urali Makkal Sangam' and auditing its account. We had awareness programs in villages to the community leaders on the importance of mask-wearing and social distancing as safety measures from catching up corona virus.

PARAN staff are helping students to get admissions in various schools and colleges in the plains. They also motivate students to make use of this lockdown time to equip themselves for their new academic ventures.

PARAN began the process of providing nutrition supplements to 115 students of evening study centres in Sathyamangalam zone. In collaboration with Dr R Sivakumar IPS, SP of Police Enforcement, Salem Zone, and Selva Charitable Trust, PARAN distributed rice and grocery items to 120 families of Kuttayur village which is close to the Tamil Nadu– Karnataka border.

We initiated IAS (Inigo Altar Servants) at Makkampalayam parish, and is very active now. About 10 youth and children from our parish participated in competitions conducted by Claretian Communications and Catechism Commission of Tamil Nadu in the month of August. As an effort to enrich the Urali literature, some Christian devotional songs were transliterated in Urali language by our youth in the parish. 250 copies of the transliterated songs were printed and distributed to nearby parishes too.

*Naveen Kumar*

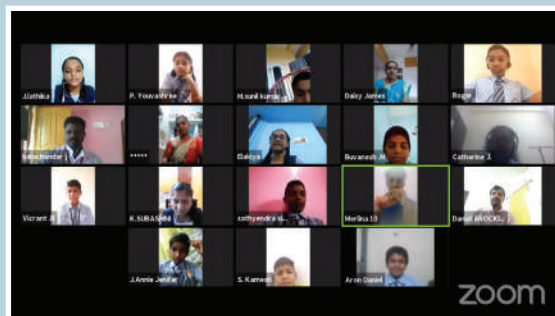
#### RANIPET, LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

We celebrated the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola with the Sisters of St Charles Borromeo at Little Flower Convent, Ranipet. We had a Solemn Mass there because it was also the feast of Sr Ignatius, the Superior of the convent. Fr Guna was the Main Celebrant and Fr Richard preached an insightful sermon and exhorted us to choose our path with discerning love. We had a staff meeting on 10 August and discussed the admission process for this academic year. Due to lockdown, the admissions are slightly affected and we are using WhatsApp to contact students for the admission. The staff and the old students are a great help in this new venture. We have sent the admission prospectus to different parishes and schools.

*Prithivi Kumar*

#### VEDAMELAPAKKAM: LOYOLA ACADEMY

Fr M S Arokiasamy (CCU) joined Loyola Academy Jesuit community on 2 August as our new Principal. After a week of self-quarantine, he joined the community. He comes with rich and varied experiences from the land of Rabindranath Tagore.



We had one-day community orientation on the theme proposed by the Provincial. Fr Deva A Stephen gave initial reflections on the theme and set the tone, while Fr Tagore put us in the right mood with his thought-provoking and spiritual observations. We had some useful discussions on the points raised in the Memoriale of Fr Provincial, and on Fr General's letter to all Jesuits in view of celebrating the Ignatian year 2021-22 and arrived at some practical action plans. We also revisited the CAPs and modified the action plans in the context of the pandemic. We devised some concrete ways to ensure that safety protocols will be put in place when the school reopens. The deliberations were done in an atmosphere of prayer

with the Holy Mass spiritually empowering us.

With the adoption of social media platforms like WhatsApp, YouTube, Google Classroom, Google Forms and Sheets and Zoom for our online classes from Kindergarten to senior secondary students, teaching-learning has become reciprocal, enriching and engaging, and the benefits are mutual for the staff and students.

We celebrated our Nation's 74 Independence Day virtually with our students and parents. Various competitions were held during the run up to the I-Day and the best items were displayed during the function that lasted nearly two and a half hours. The unique feature of this celebration was a live quiz competition held between four teams with several rounds over zoom. The entire program with the flag-hoisting ceremony and presentation of certificates to winners, all virtual, was live-streamed on YouTube for the students, parents, teachers and well-wishers.

We had a meaningful discussion on NEP with our staff members over Zoom on 27 August. Some of the staff members shared highlighting both positive and negative features of NEP. This was followed by group discussions and presentation of the reports. We also held the annual elections to the posts of Secretary and Joint Secretary of the Staff Association based on the Rules and Guidelines for the Elections drafted by Fr Leo Tagore and approved by the Management. The online polling was conducted efficiently by Fr Deva A Stephen.

*Frankly*

#### VALLAM: PAATHAI CENTRE



DCRM, DHRC and Paathai jointly organized an online protest through Zoom to include Dalit Christians in SC category. Jesuits, religious, nuns and lay collaborators expressed their support by actively participating in the protest. Fr Robinson helped Montfort Brothers during their retreat from 17 to 22 August by celebrating the Eucharist and enlightening

them with his preaching. We continue to concentrate on organic farming to promote the care and concern for nature.

Regents' monthly recollection was held through Google Meet on 28 August. Fr Prabu Francis preached the points. It motivated us to equip ourselves better to serve our target people.

*David Francis*

#### VETTAVALAM: LOYOLA COLLEGE

Loyola College, Vettavalam kick-started the academic activities of the year 2020-2021 by organizing an orientation programme for the II, III UG & II PG students on 3 & 4 August. Dr Jebamalai Vinanchi Arachi, Principal Adviser, Knowledge Management Associates, Austria oriented them on the themes '*You Can*' and '*Emerging Challenges and Opportunities*' very effectively. The orientation for the teaching staff took place on 17 August, 2020 with Dr Bernard D'Sami, Accreditation Ambassador for LCV under Paramarsh Scheme and Mr Stephen Chinnasamy, an expert in human excellence and trainer in counselling, as resource persons.

Dr Bernard D'Sami oriented the Staff on, '*New Ways of Teaching and Learning*' and '*Preparing the College for Accreditation*'. Mr Stephen Chinnasamy spoke on the topic, '*Student Accompaniment: Our Primary Role?*', reiterating the need for taking extra steps to accompany the students. During this Orientation Program, Rev Dr Selvaraj Arulnathan, the Superior, launched the new webpage of LCV.

The feast of St Ignatius was a low-key celebration, this year. After a meaningful celebration of the Eucharist followed by the table fellowship with the teaching and non-teaching staff, there was a three hour marathon spree of planting 150 teak wood saplings in our campus. The saplings are taking quick roots, thanks to Fr Albert William's personal attention.

We bid farewell to Fr Tony Markus on 23 August, as he left for Bangalore for his Tertianship. He rendered yeoman service for three years, as a professor of the BBA department, as the Minister of the house, as the Campus Minister and as the interim Hostel Director during the turbulent times. The arrival of Sch Sachin for his studies has infused youth into our community.

Fr Selva, our Superior, preached a one day recollection to the priests of Chetpet vicariate in which 18 priests were present. '*God works through COVID-19*' was the theme of the recollection. All the



priests felt inspired and invigorated to continue their spiritual and missionary journey.



*Vincent Britto & Justine Emma*

#### **DINDIGUL: BESCHI ILLAM**

##### **NOVITIATE**

After the quarantine and the first probation, 11 first-year novices (6 MDU, 4 CEN, 1 CCU) entered the second probation on 27 July which was marked by Cassock Day celebrations. All through the first probation and this academic year 2020-2021 too, the Novitiate has planned to welcome the first-year novices into the Society and accompany them with the theme '*Friends in Christ*'.

From 24 to 27 July, as Fr Inigo preached the annual Triduum for the second-year novices, the first-years were guided in a Triduum by Fr Michael Panimaya Raj. From 28 to 30 July, an orientation programme was organized by Frs Novice Master and Socius. Special sessions by Fr Jesu Raja Raju and Sch Lenin helped the novices to understand the spirit of the Society of Jesus, especially our way of proceeding and the idea of the community as mission.

On the eve of our founder's feast, Fr Dhanaraj gave an exhortation based upon the *Principle and Foundation*. He emphasized inner freedom as the salient quality to imbibe the spirit of Spiritual Exercises. Respecting Corona protocols, the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated at a low key. Fr Michael Doss was the Main Celebrant and Fr Michael Panimaya Raj preached the homily on Jesuit commitment and apostolic zeal in the perspective of *Sumeet Suscipe* (Take and Receive). The choir trained

by Fr Bastian M S was enthralling with a few semi-classical songs composed by Jesuits.

On 15 August, the Feast of Assumption of our Lady and 74<sup>th</sup> Independence Day were celebrated. On the same evening, the Juniors and the Novices exhibited their talents during a short cultural fiesta.

On 16 August, there was a quiz program conducted by the Juniorate team for novices on the theme '*Indian Freedom Fighters*'. From 24 to 29 August, Fr I M Joseph conducted a course on *Emotional Maturity* for our novices.

*Michael Panimaya Raj*

##### **JUNIORATE**

On 31 st July, 2020 the Juniorate celebrated the feast of St Ignatius with a special cultural evening. The Juniors together sang *Alma de Cristo*. Sch Milton's recitation of his Ignatian poem and Sch Franklin's speech on Maturing Spirituality captivated the gathering. The mime on '*the impact of COVID-19 in our daily life*' was quite interesting. In his message, Fr Inigo encouraged the Juniors to follow St Ignatius in going against the odds of life.

We attended a webinar on '*My Call for Fidelity, Audacity & Consistency: Pedagogy for Formation*', by Fr Antony Robinson, PCF of Chennai Province, which challenged us to repudiate the comfort zones and to incarnate in the frontiers with audacity.

On 15 August, Fr Williams, Dean of Studies, hoisted the tri-colour, and Sch Jones delivered the Independence Day speech, which, although his debut turned out to be the *pièce de résistance*. Later, the Juniors and the Novices showcased their talents in the cultural evening. Fr G Arockiaraj, the Chief Guest, in his speech, touched upon three vital factors that make the idea of India: sacrifice, unity and service.

On 16 August, the Juniors conducted a quiz competition, based on Indian freedom fighters, for the Novices. Sch Rejoy, the quizmaster, handled the program with ease.

*Infant Valan*

##### **JRS**

The volunteering spirit of the youth club members of JRS-TN to come forward to fix five streetlights in the camp on 2 August in Pavalathanur was much appreciated. In the first week of August, Jesuit Madurai Province supported the Sri Lankan refugees by giving dry ration to 170 vulnerable families in Arani and Vellapadi camps. Eight students from

Pavalathanur and Kurukupatti camps in Salem district have received income certificates from the VAO to pursue their tertiary education, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the field staff. 43 refugee women are undergoing a three-month-long tailoring course conducted by JRS-TN in Okkur and Thumbalahali camps from July 2020. On 12 August, the International Youth Day was celebrated by the members of the youth club across 106 refugee camps on the theme '*Youth Engagement for Global Action*'. On that day, environmental awareness was generated among the refugee communities in Okkur, Anaikuttam and Thapathi camps.

*Michael Panimaya Raj*

### DHAANAM MOVEMENT

During these COVID - months, after organizing 8 special blood donation camps for emergency - pregnant women and cancer and thalassemia patients, the Dhaanam has now launched on 29 August '*the convalescent plasma donation*', networking with the newly established '*plasma bank*' at the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital at Chennai and Red Cross Society.

Some inviting info: In the absence of vaccines for covid-19, Indian Medical Fraternity had approved and accordingly, the govt. of Tamil Nadu had authorized very select hospitals to go for '*plasma therapy*'. The COVID-19 survivors are thereby invited after 14 days of recovery to donate the plasma (500 ml) that contains the antibodies which can save at least 2 lives, particularly at their initial week of infection.

The procurement of plasma is done through a safe '*apheresis method*' after a thorough check-up of the donor. The results of this special check-up itself takes a day. After the plasma segregation, the blood is infused back at once and that means, the donor is eligible for another 3 donations with an interval of 14 days in between.

In the present pandemic context, this is indeed a '*Eucharistic response*' to the COVID-19 crisis. I am at your service for any further details on this proactive response to the neo-viral phenomenon.

*Jerry*

Six pairs of verbs proposed  
by **Pope Francis** for the 106<sup>th</sup> World Day  
of Migrants and Refugees (27 Sep 2020)

- You have to know in order to understand.
- It is necessary to be close in order to serve.
- In order to be reconciled, we need to listen.
- In order to grow, it is necessary to share.
- We need to be involved in order to promote.
- It is necessary to cooperate in order to build.

### ABIDE WITH THE LORD

**Fr Gaudentius Kongari** (HAZ, 86/66), passed away on 12 August 2020, at Ulahatu in Ranchi.

**Fr Elias Arockiasamy** (AND, 80/58), passed away on 12 August 2020 in Visakhapatnam.

**Fr Patrick de Melo** (GOA, 78/61), passed away on 14 August 2020 in Goa.

**Fr Augustine Tigga** (HAZ, 72/51), passed away on 14 August 2020 at Sitagarha, Hazaribag.

**Fr Gatton Roberge** (CCU, 85/64), passed away on 26 August 2020 at SXC, Kolkata.

**Fr Walter Stephen Andrade** (KAR, 78/53), passed away on 26 August 2020 in Mangaluru.

**Fr Kabamba K Joseph** (ACE, 53/33), passed away on 03 September 2020 in Chennai.

**Fr Jayant Kumar Padival** (KAR, 71/54), passed away on 08 September 2020 in Mangaluru.

**Mr Arulsamy** (77), younger brother of Br S Irudayasamy (MDU), passed away on 25 July 2020 in Madurai.

**Mr P Sirumani** (78), paternal uncle of Fr Maria Packiam, passed away on 15 August 2020, at Pugaiyilaipatti, Dindigul.

**Mrs Pushpa Theresa Mary** (74), mother of Fr Antony Inico (MDU), passed away on 20 August 2020, at Karayanchavadi, Chennai.

**Mrs Dhavamani** (66), mother of Fr Francis Xavier Arockiadass (MDU), passed away on 24 August 2020, at Marambadi, Dindigul.

**Mrs Christina** (78), mother of Fr Philomin Raj (MDU), passed away on 24 August 2020, at Iravathanallur, Madurai.

**Mr S Francis Xavier** (62), younger brother of Fr Yagoo Sandanam (MDU), passed away on 25 August 2020 in Chennai.

**Fr Venofern** (72), elder brother of Fr Wellington Fernando, passed away on 31 August 2020 in Tuticorin.