

Satya Nilayam, Chennai

Fr Sathya Balan, SJ



The ambiance at Satya Nilayam on the morning of 20th May was indeed great as we celebrated the Inaugural Mass of the Ignatian Year. In fact, the preparations for the momentous occasion were in full swing on the preceding couple of days. It was decided to have the Mass near the garden adjacent to the academic building, where Fr Robin had put up a creative arch made up of scrap metal – that carries the official logo of the Ignatian Year. Br Christuraj, the Minister, made all the necessary arrangements to beautify the place for the celebration.

Fr Boniface, the Rector, gave a fitting introduction to the Mass, initiating us into the Ignatian year – 500 years since the conversion of St Ignatius and 400 years since the canonization of St Ignatius and St Francis Xavier. Fr Rector then blessed the newly-made scrap metal design. Fr Michael Alosanaya presided over the solemn Eucharist and made sure that all of us – the staff and a handful of scholastics from Africa and East Timor – took up some role during the celebration. Fr Michael preached a touching and spiritually igniting homily stressing that

the conversion of St Ignatius must permeate every level of our Jesuit life! He delved deep into the enigmatic verse of the blind beggar, Bartimaeus, Lord, I want to see again, from the Gospel text aptly chosen for the day, to expound on the theme of the grace-filled year: To see all things new in Christ!



singing their national anthem. The Mass was celebrated in the morning so that the staff and scholastics were free to attend the online celebrations of their respective provinces during the day. Indeed, it was the most wonderful day of the summer vacation.

The animated choir sang hymns chosen from different languages, including those from Africa and East Timor. We also remembered in a special way all the Jesuits of East Timor as 20th May marked their National Day and they delighted us, at the end of the Mass, by

