

ARCHDIOCESE OF PONDICHERRY & CUDDALORE

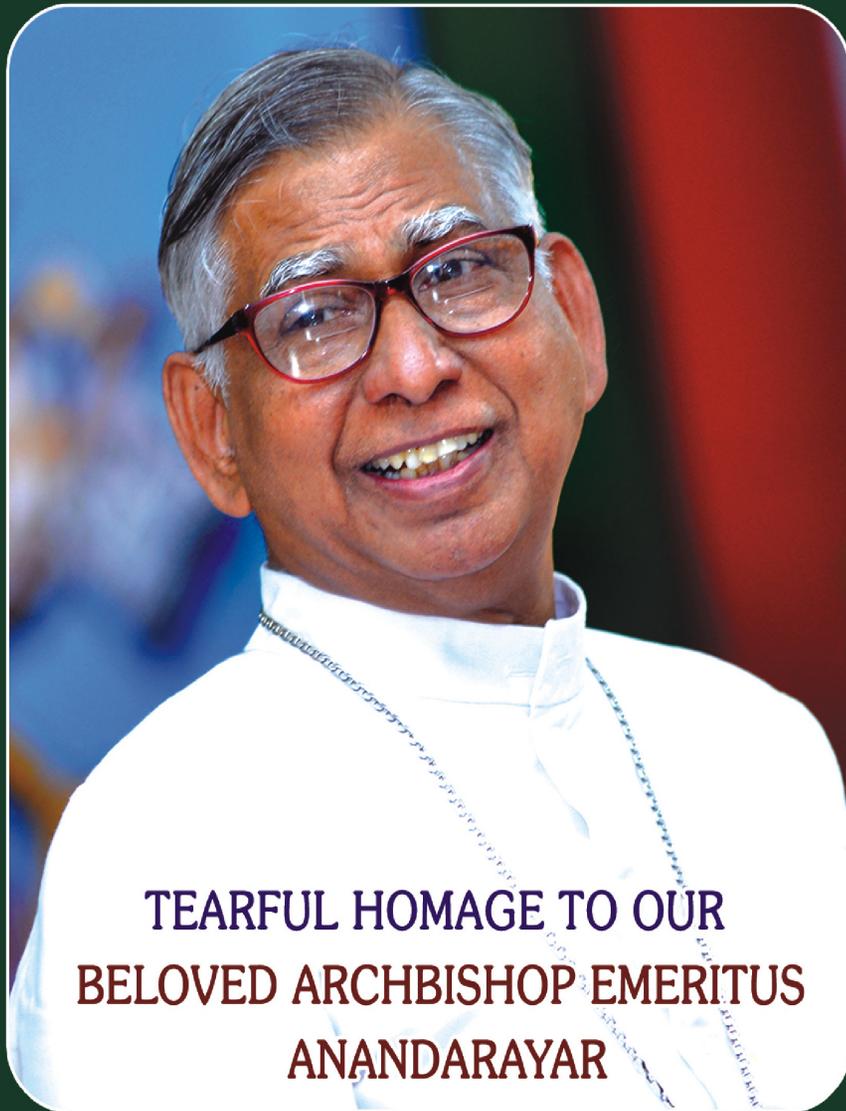


NEWS LETTER



VOL. 38 NO. 6

JUNE 2021



TEARFUL HOMAGE TO OUR  
BELOVED ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS  
ANANDARAYAR

LATE ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS

**MOST REV. DR. ANANDARAYAR**

Parents : Mr. A. Antony & Mrs. S. Colate Mary  
Date & Place of Birth : 18-07-1945, Varadarajanpettai  
Date & Place of Baptism : 29-07-1945, Varadarajanpettai  
Parish : Varadarajanpettai

Places and Years of Studies:

- 1 - 5 Std. (1950 - 56) St. Mary's Elementary School, Varadarajanpettai
- 6 - 8 Std. (1957 - 60) St. Raphael's Middle School, Varadarajanpettai
- 9 - 11 Std. (1960 - 63) St. Joseph's High School, Cuddalore-1

Years and Places of Seminary Formation

- 1961 - 65 St. Agnes' Seminary, Cuddalore
- 1965 - 72 Philosophy & Theology St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore,  
Date of Ordination: 21st December 1971  
Place of Ordination: Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pondicherry

Ministry Places:

- 1972 - 1976 Asst. at St. Joseph's Boarding, Cuddalore - 1
- 1976 - 1981 Doctoral Studies in Canon Law and in Missiology at  
the Pontifical Urban University, Rome.
- 1981 - 1992 Professor at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore

Episcopal Consecration: 29-01-1997

at St. Joseph's Hr. Sec. School, Oottacamund Minister of Consecration  
and Consecrators : His Eminence D.Simon Cardinal Lourdasamy,  
His Grace Aruldas James, His Grace S.Michael Augustine.

Episcopal Ministry 1997 to 2021

- Jan. 1997 Bishop of Oottacamund
- 05-07-2004 Installed as Archbishop of Pondicherry & Cuddalore

Retirement & Death

- 27-01-2021 RESIGNATION ACCEPTED & RELIEVED FROM THE OFFICE
- 04-05-2021 PASSED AWAY

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for June 2021

*Intention for evangelization – The beauty of marriage: Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with a support of a Christian Community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.*



## Tearful Homage to Our beloved Archbishop Anandarayar

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay faithful*

Archbishop Antony Anandarayar (75), Emeritus Archbishop of Pondicherry-Cuddalore passed away on Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 9.30pm at St. Thomas Hospital, Chennai. He was admitted in the hospital for Covid treatment on 24 April and his health condition deteriorated day by day as the oxygen saturation level was very low. When he died his was tested negative of Covid. The sisters in St. Thomas hospital ensured that he got the best care in consultation with the experts from Apollo Hospital, Chennai. Requiem Mass and funeral service were held on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 4 pm at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pondicherry. Even in the context of Covid protocol thousands of people, individually, paid loving homage to the Archbishop in the Cathedral.

### Man of the Church!

Archbishop Antony Anandarayar, born in 1945, was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore in 1971; after some initial ministries in the Archdiocese, was sent to Rome for higher studies. He did his double doctorate in Canon Law and Missiology and returned to be the Professor of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, in 1981. Before his appointment as the bishop of Outacamund, Tamilnadu in 1997, he held various positions in St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary: Professor of Canon Law and Missiology, Vice-Rector, President of Pontifical Institute and Rector. He was appointed the Archbishop of Pondicherry-Cuddalore in 2004. He is a priest for 50 years and a bishop for 24 years. A great son of the Church he cherished and guarded the holy traditions and teachings of the Church.

### Man of God!

Archbishop Anandarayar was a pious and prayerful person, very committed to his breviary and daily Rosary, lived as a suffering servant of the God. His personal and pastoral life was rooted in his deep faith in the providence and mercy of God. His strong faith, as he often expressed, 'even if we forget God, He will not forget us' (Isa 49:15). He was a simple, holy and loving Shepherd to his people and priests, putting up with a lot of suffering. He did not cherish anyone praising him and he never even took credit for his achievements; his strong belief was that 'everything is in the hand of God.' His simplicity was manifested in his words, behavior, lifestyle and his dealings with people.

### Man of the Poor!

A poor Archbishop, but, rich in his concern for the deprived, he could enrich many downtrodden. He was a great lover of

the poor. We all know that he helped hundreds of poor youngsters in the diocese of Ooty and in the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. He has no personal monetary savings, but saved the life of thousands of poor students. It was not just a marginal one-time help, but sponsorships that lasted for years, till the youngsters, boys and girls, completed a course that enabled them to find a job and settle down in life.

### **A loving Pastor!**

A sincere and a committed pastor, as Archbishop in our soil, he was a loving and attentive Shepherd to his priests, the religious, the faithful and to all around. Faith-building was close to his heart. His earnest desire was that 'Christ needs to be made visible in the area where Christ is absent, but needed.' He promoted many vocations to priesthood and religious life particularly from among the poorer sections of the society. In the Archdioceses he developed numerous infra-structures, intuitions and parishes in order to strengthen our witness to Faith. He believed that priests are the backbone of the mission of the Church and so, in his tenure as Archbishop, he ordained 100 priests to the Archdiocese and sent many for higher studies, both ecclesiastical and secular, for the growth of the Christian witness.

### **A Fitting Tribute!**

Within three months of handing over his office as the Archbishop, God has called him to his eternal reward. Indeed, it is a great shock to every one of us and to all those who knew him. Nevertheless, he has left to us a life of piety, simplicity, hard work, sincerity and love for suffering humanity. If we try to take up these virtues seriously and live them, then, this would be a fitting tribute to our beloved Archbishop.

I would like to end up this grateful remembrance of our Archbishop Antony Anandarayar with the words of St. Paul: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness"* (2 Tim 4:7-8). If we observe the life and mission of our saintly Archbishop, the above words are truly fitting to him. May his soul rest in peace!



**+ Antony Peter Abir**

*Apostolic Administrator*

Archdiocese of Pondicherry - Cuddalore

### **An Important & Urgent Request from the Bishop!**

The Corona Virus, in its second wave, is fast spreading, even it is airborne. Hence the pandemic has become very severe. Many of our Priests and Sisters are affected and continue to be admitted in the hospital. May I request all our priests to take extra care to keep yourself safe from this deadly virus. As soon as you find any symptom please inform the procurator and without any delay go for testing. Considering the Corona-protocol and lockdown measures, besides stopping all common worship, you shall warn your people not to engage in any public function. Your life is much precious!

**Bishop's Monthly Reflection...****Who is Your God?**

VineethaMokkil penned an open letter on 5 May 2021 to the American Bhakts of Indian leadership, narrating who was their God. Moses warned the Israelites that when they entered the promised land they would serve the gods "made by human hands, objects of wood and stone that neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell" (Deut 4:28). Isaiah spoke elaborately about the absurdity of idol worship (Isa 44:9-20). We have to face facts. We have to sincerely ask who our 'God' is. In this global pandemic calamity, people seek various gods for their salvation. Nevertheless most people are led conveniently by their own gods and it is high time we hold on to the true God.

**God: Human Fabrication?**

Atheists, like Friedrich Nietzsche did not subscribe to the existence of God. The death of God theology emerged, meaning that the Christian God, who had existed at one point, ceased to exist. We cannot close our eyes to the reason for this view. From antiquity till today most people turn to God when awful tragedies happen, for example, when loved ones die of COVID-19, or are trapped in cities bombarded by hurricanes, or are diagnosed with cancer. For many, belief in God provides strength to endure such misery, provides hope that when our loved ones pass away, we can live with them again for eternity and ensures that no loss is inconsolable, no injustice unrequited, and we can finally have

everlasting peace, no matter the misery gone through to get there. In such cases, for Nietzsche, for PeriyarEV Ramasamy (+ 1973) and for such thinkers, God is a psychological fabrication to soothe distress, ease trauma, and provide companionship in the face of suffering. Is this our God?

**God of Selfishness!**

Karl Marx, in his historical context claimed that "Religion is the opium of the people." He saw religion was the sign of oppression. Nietzsche, EVRPeriyar and other 'atheists' do oppose God, not because God does not exist but because of atrocities done in the name of God by so-called religious people (Jerry Rosario, *Manitham*, 9). Most people in India believe in a God who 'saves' them from all evils. They are ready to accept anyone as God who appears 'more than the normal size' in power and money. We do not hesitate to worship 'mammon,' power and fame. Powerful leadership allures the general masses to one's own ideology and to boost one's own ego. Political and religious gatherings critically affect the health of millions of people. Spending on lower-priority initiatives continue as lakhs of people die due to lack of oxygen and vaccines. People are misled by falsehood, leading to endless suffering. Negligence of following Covid-protocol or lock-down regulations is common, causing havoc to society. In all this, selfishness is the God people worship.

**The God of Israel!**

Much is seen in the Bible about the Judeo-Christian belief/experience of God. God is holy, loving, merciful and fatherly, but will not tolerate evil. The Exodus and the post-exilic events

clearly substantiate Yahweh's protective care and mercy (Isa; 49:15; Eze 36:16-33). In fact, the Psalms are the compendium of the nature of God revealed to the people of Israel. However, we often forget the other side of the coin: Yahweh is revealed also as the God of justice. Prophet Amos expounds mainly God's social justice. In our distress and draconic pandemic, we turn to God's mercy but conveniently forget that the same God requires us to be just in our dealings with others also (cf. Mic 6:8). These OT records are not human fabrication of God but living experience of the people (Deut 6: 4-9).

### Jesus my God!

The Judean experience of God, as noted above, is undoubtedly revealed in Jesus Christ who is "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28). Jesus told his disciples: "The Father and I are one" (Jn 10:30) and "whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). It is evident, therefore, that we come to know of God in Jesus. In his Sermon on the Mount and in many of his parables he revealed that God is loving, merciful and forgiving. So also Jesus is a merciful Saviour.

Jesus' mercy can be summed up in his words: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). In his salvific sacrifice, we are told, God proves his love for us even though we despise him by our sins (Rom 5:8). While he presented the prodigal father (Lk 15) he did not evade warning against wickedness and hypocrisy (Mt 23). While he will vindicate the innocent, he will also punish the guilty. Much of his life and teaching underlined social justice. Very vividly he

showed that religious commitment and social justice go hand in hand (Mt 5; Lk 10). Concern for others is the mandate of Jesus who is my God!

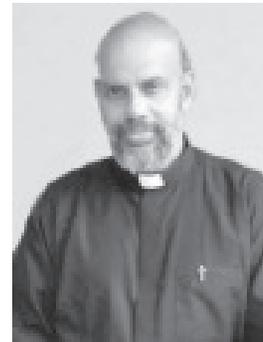


**+ Antony Peter Abir,**

*Bishop of Sultanpet & Apostolic Administrator,  
Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore*

**Rev. Msgr. A. Rayappan**

**New Bishop from our Archdiocese**



I am pleased to inform you that our beloved Holy Father Francis has appointed **Rev. Msgr. Arulselvam Rayappan (60)** as the Bishop of Salem. This announcement was made public this afternoon at 3.30 pm (Indian time) in Vatican. He is a priest of our Archdiocese, presently the Professor and Director of the Centre for

Canon Law Studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. He is the 12<sup>th</sup> bishop from the soil of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore and 10<sup>th</sup> bishop from the clergy of the Archdiocese. On behalf of our clergy, religious, faithful and on my own behalf I congratulate him and wish him all the blessings of the Lord for his Episcopal ministry.



**+ Antony Peter Abir,**

*Bishop of Sultanpet & Apostolic Administrator,  
Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore.*



## BLESSINGS

### 1. Blessing of the Renovated school Building, at Arulambadi

The renovated school building at Arulambadi Parish was blessed and opened by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, our Apostolic Administrator on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. We appreciate Rev. Fr. S. Richard, DOS Manager and Rev. Fr. A. Lourdasamy, Parish Priest for their hard work and cooperation. We also thank the Donors and the Parishioners for their generous contributions.

### 2. Blessing of the New Church at Salemedu in St. Francis Xavier Parish, Villupuram.

The newly built Church dedicated to St. Alphonsa at Salemedu in St. Francis Xavier Parish Villupuram was blessed and consecrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, our Apostolic Administrator on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021. We appreciate Rev. Fr. A. Albert Felix Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. S. Jeeva Edward Edison, Asst. Parish Priest for their hard work and cooperation. We also thank the Donors and the Parishioners for their generous contributions.

### From the Archdiocesan Board of Education

Please find here below a letter sent by TNBC Legal Cell regarding the virtual meeting held on 24.4.2021 which explained about the Judgment on Surplus Teachers. The Priest-HMs and Correspondents of Government aided schools in our archdiocese were notified on this. For information to others that letter is published in our News Letter.

**Fr. R. Joseph Raj**

Secretary, Archdiocesan Board of Education

28.04.2021

Dear Father/ Sister/ Brother,  
Greetings from Legal Cell-TNBC.

The virtual meeting organised by Legal Cell -TNBC on 24.04.2021, was well attended, by more than 1000 participants. There were a lot of cluster participants as well. His Grace Most Rev. George Antonysamy delivered the presidential address. That apart, many Bishops and Major Superiors, Educational coordinators, Diocesan Superintendents and Heads of Institutions attended the session. We are grateful for the overwhelming participation and collaboration of one and all. In this regard we would like to share with you the following:

- a) As per the judgment dated 31.03.2021, the Government is directed to consider the “*additional strength*” for staff-fixation up to VIII Std, based on RTE Act, 2009, involving children from 6 to 14 years, in all the schools that were receiving Grant prior to 1991 – 1992.
- b) Secondly, many of our schools having parallel English Medium, were not supported by Grant-in-aid. The recent judgment has categorically held that the parallel English Medium Sections have to be considered for staff-fixation up to VIII Std.
- c) We have been pleading with different Governments to reconsider the ban on Grant in Aid for new Tamil schools. As of now, it is a partial success, in respect of old schools, as the ban is diluted.
- d) On our part, we have resisted the high-handed imposition of surplus teachers from other managements, on our minority schools, as it would change the character of the school. The court has also accepted our stand.
- e) But it has directed us to absorb the surplus teachers from one school to another within our Corporate Managements.

- f) The revised staff-fixation, taking into account the additional strength and English Medium, will be of great help in absorbing the surplus teachers in our managements. But we have to do our spade work. We cannot be blind to data and ground reality.
- g) In case, if we fail to absorb our surplus teachers within our management, the authorities will deploy them to other schools outside of our management.
- h) If needed Catholic managements with surplus, can work out a solution by inter-acting with needy Catholic Managements.
- i) The said deployment by Government will be based on the seniority list of the corporate management. Preferably the junior most teachers have to be deployed, considering also the subject needs of the particular school.
- j) That apart, the position of the religious personnel also has to be considered. **Otherwise, there is a danger of the religious being deployed to other non-Catholic schools, and tofaraway places, where there is no religious presence.**
- k) For this reason, it is quite urgent to prepare a **“cadre-wise seniority list of the Corporate management.”** Otherwise, it will lead to unnecessary complaints from senior teachers. Our work is two-fold. It is to assess the additional need of the schools and to identify the surplus to be absorbed in our managements or deployed to other managements.

- l) We have directed all the congregations and the dioceses, to get ready with sufficient data, prepare a seniority list, communicate with our staff and identify the surplus, in each Corporate Management taking into account also the subject needs of the school. Most of the managements have taken the issue seriously.
- m) We are duty bound to inform these positions to the staff, who are our stake-holders.
- n) A time-schedule has been given by the Hon'ble High Court for completing the process. The time-line is essential, otherwise, we will miss the bus. We cannot object or complain later.

In order to help our managements, we have prepared some **Tables and Guidelines**, to collate data, regarding surplus and proper staff-fixation. We request you to look into the same and do the needful. Kindly do it within the time-schedule.

Thanks a lot for your solidarity in this common challenge and collective response.

Yours in Christ

Sr.A.Arul Mary@ Vaideki, Advocate

Encl: *Guidelines and the Tables*

CC: *To all the Archbishops, Bishops and Major Superiors*

For Clarifications: *Fr. John Kennedy: 9443179246 &*

*Fr. Savarimuthu: 9443507831*

## ST. ANN'S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE, TINDIVANAM-QUARANTINE CENTRE FOR COVID-19

Dear Rev. Fathers/ Brothers/ Sisters and the faithful,



I am happy to inform you that our ST. ANN'S COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE is playing a vital role in the fight against COVID -19. As per the order of the District Collector, Villupuram, following the Guidelines for Quarantine facilities COVID -19, our college acted as a Quarantine centre for the COVID patients in and around Tindivanam. With 150 beds, the entire college building and campus were handed over to the District Collector from 15.05.2020 to 30.09.2020. For this charitable act, Rev. Fr. Secretary of the college was awarded memento with certificate during the Independence Day celebration at Villupuram.

We continued the academic activities up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Having known the importance of preventing COVID -19, the District Collector again requested the Secretary to extend our hand to help the patients from pandemic COVID -19. So, from 10.05.2021 with 120 beds, our college is functioning as Quarantine centre for the neediest. Uninterrupted electrical and water facilities are being provided



to them with much care. The patients with more suffocation and at high risk are referred to Government Hospitals Tindivanam and Mundiampakkam. I am happy that our college goes in hand with Government to mark an end to this pandemic situation.

Thank you.

**Fr. L. Peter Paul Raj**  
Secretary

### Voice from Metropolitan Matrimonial Tribunal – 126

#### Death –dealing forces and Today's Media

Dear beloved brother priests,

Let us look at *Nature*, not as an object to be dominated, exploited and abused; but as sharer with human beings in the common heritage of life. Life is not limited only to human beings. It encompasses the entire Cosmos. Nature gets continually polluted and contaminated due to the high concentration of industries and factories that are setup close to water-bodies and in urban areas. These persistently release poisonous chemical gases into the atmosphere and dump pollutants in water bodies. Garbage and solid waste are disposed of mindlessly anywhere and everywhere and at one's convenience. Noise pollution causes immense harm to the nervous system and the mental health of humans and animals. These irreversible impairments have enormously damaged and destroyed the environment. These

impairments have been the major cause of several morbidities, including the present Corona virus that threatens life. The damages to nature have intensified and hastened the impoverishment of the forest dwellers. They are forced to live lives of the destitute in their own dwellings. Due to deforestation there is acute shortage of food, natural fuel, fertile soil and the disappearance of medicinal herbs. In support of the farmers, the year 2014 was declared as the International Year of Family Farming by the United Nations, with the aim of ensuring food security through eradication of global poverty.

The above- mentioned death-dealing forces are today supported and strengthened by the invasion of the Mass Media, though Pope Francis has observed recently that the Internet and local media are making people across the world increasingly interdependent, especially in the context of Covid-19. The Internet is a gift of God and offers immense possibilities especially to interact freely and to promote solidarity among all people without any distinction. This is something truly good, beneficial and commendable. At the same time, all those tweets, texts and comments can cause us to “lose our bearings”, said the Pope.

The speed with which information is communicated far exceeds our capacity for reflection and judgment, and does not allow us to make more balanced and proper decisions. “The speed of communication hampers reflection,” warns the Pope. The Media with the use of the latest technological developments, such as satellite television and sophisticated networking across nations is definitely breaking geographical boundaries. But at the same time, it facilitates the smooth

entry of the dominant culture into the homes of developing nations. This uninvited invasion of the media into our homes, not only destabilizes the age-old sound social structures, such as family, community, traditions and cultures, but promotes sexual permissiveness, violence, consumerism and superficial entertainment. And in the garb of promoting the one –world through globalization, it hastens the disappearance of the local rich cultural values. How are we going to protect our indigenous cultures from extinction?

The Mass Media have a tremendous potential to uplift the poor. Efforts should be made to make them participate in the communication process. The folktales of the people should be serialized in the official Media. The heroic deeds of leaders should be filmed and catalogued. Womenfolk should be given enough opportunity to give expression to their struggles and cultural riches.

We should listen to the call of our late Holy Father, St. John Paul II, “The right to life is the first of all rights. It is the foundation of democratic liberties and the keystone of the edifice of society. We must be committed to the defence of life in all its stages and in every condition.”

The dehumanized and marginalized people aspire for a humanizing and humanized world, where no one will be used, abuse and humiliated; where no one will be treated as less than human; where no one will go hungry or be left out on the fringes of society. Abundance of life involves treating all as human persons and allowing them to live with dignity, respect and equality. Therefore, we say NO to all anti-human, anti-community, anti-life forces and ideologies.

Speaking of the 'fullness of life' Jesus says in John's gospel: "I am the gate. Whoever comes in by me will be saved and he will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (Jn. 10:9-10). Jesus and the thief stand at opposite extremes from one another. The thief comes only to plunder the poor, so that they will die. Jesus came to bring fullness of life. Either we participate in Christ's mission or in the thief's plundering of the world; the choice is ours.

Sometimes we make ourselves inaccessible and unreachable to others in the name of busy schedules; we choose to remain behind walls and make them totally sound proof, so that we can avoid hearing the cries of the needy and the disadvantaged. Apartheid is not just a political system. It is also a certain way of thinking, feeling and living, without being conscious of what is happening around us. We need a radical change of heart and a paradigm shift in our thinking and functioning.

**How to concretely promote life today?** Due to globalization and secularization, and also due to the onslaught of the Corona virus, new problems and new needs are emerging each day. So, we need to discover new ministries and newer ways in order to respond to these fresh demands appropriately and adequately. Taking the present realities into consideration, a good percentage of our religious should be allowed to involve themselves in non-institutional ministries. Suitable training and re-orientation should be provided to them to take up such ministries. We need to accord top priority to promote deeper involvement in eco-friendly spirituality. And, if need be, we should not hesitate

to revise our regulations, laws and constitutions towards this end.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. When we dispassionately look into our way of life, can we honestly say that the poor feel at home in our presence and are comfortable with our life-style?
2. How can we redefine all our ministries, keeping in mind, the life-giving and sustaining forces?
3. We still need to travel a long way in achieving total literacy and providing health services to all. Are we clear about our target people in today's context? Let us ponder for a moment for whom, where and how we are serving? (Ref. Sr. Inigo, ssa, "The Ever-Evolving Consecrated Life", published by the Pauline Sisters Bombay Society, 2021, pp.169-175).

### Points to Ponder:

- Aspire to inspire before we expire. It's everyone's responsibility to create one's own 'heaven on earth.' Putting days into life is aging and putting life into days is growing.
- Life and time are world's two teachers. Life teaches us to make good use of time, while time teaches us the value of life.
- Prayer: Almighty, As the pandemic has forced many into lockdown again, we look to you for comfort, strength and protection. Calm our hearts amidst the turmoil. Help us wait patiently for this to pass, trusting with firm faith. Help us look out for each other and keep us all in your care. Amen.

Thanking you.

**Rev. Fr. S. Pascal Raj**  
Judicial Vicar

### St. Xavier's Pastoral centre

St. Francis Xavier's Pastoral center along with all the commissions co-coordinated by the center's Director expressed our deepest regrets and offer our deep condolences over the sudden and unexpected demise of our beloved Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. Anandarayar on 04<sup>th</sup> May 2021. From the perspective of the pastoral dimension of his Episcopal ministry, I am very truly asserting that he never responded negatively to all the proposals and plans of action which the commissions took for the spiritual and also material welfare of the people of God of our Archdiocese. He always allowed the participation of the secretaries in the Regional and National level meetings of the commissions. He always spent generously for the execution of the proposals of the national commissions. He was always kind, generous, considerate and embracing towards the members of all the commissions. So, as the co-ordinator of the commissions and the Director of the Pastoral Center, on all their behalf I profoundly pay our deepest homage and tribute to our Dear Archbishop. MAY HE REST IN PEACE!

#### Commission for Evangelization

Dear fathers, for the past one year, from April 2020, we are unable to conduct the third Saturday Charismatic Healing Prayer meeting in the center. The St. Xavier prayer preparatory group was almost ready to restart the meeting with the three days Summer Charismatic Convention in our center in this month. But to our shock, the second wave of corona has attacked Our Country very specially, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Now we are in the lockdown period from 7<sup>th</sup> May and it is extend up to 31<sup>st</sup> of May, and we do not

know about the further extension, because they say that the second wave will come to an end by the end of June or in the beginning of July and the third wave is supposed to come in October this year. So there is a continuous threat for us to have any religious community gatherings, because, our liturgy is always communitarian and it is always for a long period of time. So let us pray that God may send His Holy Spirit and destroy the Corona Virus and it's mutants in any form in every part of the world. During our communication in the digital media, let us sow the seeds of hope and encouragement in the minds of our people and extend our prayerful condolences and consolation to the people who have lost their dear family members, friends and relatives.

#### Christuvar Vazhvirimai Iyakkam

We were extremely saddened by the sudden demise of Rev. Fr. John Suresh, a priest from the diocese of Chengalpet, who is the state level co-ordinator of Christuvar Vazhvirimai Iyakkam who passed away due to corona on 12.05.2021. He took charge of this responsibility on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 only. As soon as he took charge of it, because of his knowledge, enthusiasm, commitment and experience in the political field, he was able to organise the state level meetings and prepared the church of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry to face the state assembly elections that was conducted on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021. He organised systematically all the political activities of Christuvar Vazhvirimai Iyakkam. We thank him, pay our homage to him and pray for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bishop, clergy, religious and laity of the diocese of

Chengalpet. it is really a great loss for the diocese and for the church of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry at large.

### **Commission for Mass Media and Communication**

Form 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, we had the “SIGNIS ASIA T.V Conference with the main or central theme “Bridging over the pandemic – Invitation to a new Catholic Communication”. “SIGNIS”- is the World Catholic Association for communication which emerged as the result of merging of “International Catholic Organization for cinema and audio-visual (OCIC) and International Catholic Association for Radio and Television (UNDA)” and that was created in November 2001. From 6 continents, around 100 countries are the members of this organization which works under the Dicastery of the Roman Curia with authority over all communication offices of the Holy See and Vatican City State.

And our Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Regional online meeting is going to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May from 3.30 to 5.30 P.m. We will be discussing about the celebration of the World Communication day and other activities of the diocesan commissions for Mass Media and Communication. These are all for your information. When we celebrate the World Communication Sunday, the preparations made by these meetings will be communicated to you.

### **Commission for Anbiyam**

During this severe pandemic period, kindly do not conduct Anbiyam meetings in the physical way. Now and then, the Regional Secretary for the commission for Anbiyam sends some enriching orientation programmes through whatsapp

which, if needed I am forwarding to you. Kindly make use of it for your personal enrichment and forward it to your Anbiyam animators, who in turn, can communicate it to the families of their Anbiyams if they have Anbiyam whatsapp groups. These can be easily created through your encouragement and guidance.

### **Conference of Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI)**

I have forwarded a three pages message containing some guidelines for the precautionary behaviour of the priests and religious in this context of corona. Kindly go through it. It is a very useful instruction. This is the advice of the leading Catholic Doctors of India who have a real concern for the clergy of India and the Indian society and also who have great respect and love for the Catholic Priests and Religious of our country.

**Rev. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss**

Director

St. Xavier's Pastoral center

### **Death and Funeral of**

### **Most Rev. Dr. Antony Anandarayar**

Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar, Archbishop Emeritus suffered from heavy fever from 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021. Dr. Irudayaraj, his personal medical consultant gave him the tablets. Since the fever continued, on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. Fr. R. Pascalraj, Principal Petit Seminaire and Dr. Irudayaraj took him for CT Scan and Covid 19 Test in Puducherry. The Result was that he was highly positive of Covid 19. So, Fr. J. M. Gregory Louis Joseph, the Procurator admitted the Archbishop

Emeritus at St. Thomas Hospital on 24<sup>th</sup> April at 06.15 p.m. The next day around 10.30 p.m. he was shifted to the ICU for oxygen supply. Since the oxygen level was low, he was given Non-invasive ventilation support on the 26<sup>th</sup> around 03.30 p.m. The Apostolic Administrator Most Rev. Dr. Peter Abir visited him on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. From 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May, the oxygen level slowly came down. The doctors from the Appollo Hospital visited him regularly. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> May his health condition became very critical. Dr. Sr. Jenova and her Team tried their level best. Although the oxygen level was very low, he was very conscious. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Morning Rt. Rev. Neethinathan, Bishop of Chengalpeta anointed him.

Finally on 4<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 2021, at 09.35 p.m., the Archbishop Emeritus went for his eternal rewards. On the 5<sup>th</sup> May at 08.00 a.m. the body was brought to the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pondicherry. Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator blessed the body. Throughout the day the Fathers, Sisters, the faithful and the Principals and Staff of the Institutions came and paid their homage to the late Archbishop and prayed for his eternal rest. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss, the Director of the Pastoral Centre coordinated all these. A live coverage was given by Lourdes T.V. and Madha T.V.

On 05-05-2021 at 04.00 p.m. Most Rev. Dr. A. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator of Pondicherry and Cuddalore began the Funeral Mass for the Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar, at the Cathedral, Pondicherry. Rt. Rev. Singaroyan, Bishop Emeritus of Salem, Most Rev. Dr. A. M. Chinnappa, Archbishop Emeritus – Madras-Mylapore

and 43 Priests concelebrated and about 200 relatives, Sisters and the faithful attended the funeral mass.

In his inaugural speech Most Rev. Peter Abir said: “The death of Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar is a shock to all of us. He has been a Priest for 50 years, a Bishop for 24 years, He has served in Pondy for 17 years. For more than 40 years, I know him. We have received Condolence Messages from CCBI, CBCI, TNBC, many Archbishops and Bishops. They were unable to attend due to Covid 19. He has formed more than 1000 Priests (உருவாக்கும் பணி). Till the end, he taught Canon Law and visited people and served them (சேவிய்ப்பணி). His piety and simplicity was great. He was much devoted to Christ and to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through educational help he educated many needy, poor students. My special thanks to the FIHM Sisters of Nirmala Novitiate for taking care of him after his retirement. Thanks to the St. Thomas Hospital, Chennai and to Srs. Fathima and Sagayam who took care of him. Our special thanks to Bishop Neethinathan for anointing him. Just 3 months after his retirement he has died. St. Paul’s last words can be compared to Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar and make it as our Anjali to him.

“I have fought the good fight.

I have finished the race.

I have kept the faith

From now on there is reserved for me

the Crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord, righteous judge  
will give to me . . .”

We pray that he may receive the crown of eternal life. Rt. Rev. Singaroyan, Bishop Emeritus of Salem in his homily said: "Today is a sad day for Pondy and its 5 suffragant Dioceses. We have lost, a fine shepherd, a Holy Man and a gentleman. For 24 years he has served in Ooty and Pondy. He was loved and praised by all as a "Good Bishop" Let us pray for his eternal rest. Like St. Joseph, he was a JUST Man. He did not do any harm to others. Let us learn this lesson from him. In the Provincial Meeting of Bishops and in all consultations he behaved like St. Joseph. He would say: "without putting down anybody, let us find a solution". He was patient and talented. He did such a great job in the preparation of the Tamil Missal from Latin. In the Name of the Bishops of Tamil Nadu and St. Peter's Seminary and the Good Shepherd Seminary, I offer my Condolence. I offer my prayer for his eternal life. Let us be JUST like him".

At the end of the Mass, Most Rev. Dr. A. M. Chinnappa, Archbishop Emeritus, Madras-Mylapore said: "The death of Most Rev. Dr. Anandarayar cannot be accepted. Nobody even dreamed of it. It was God's plan. We have to console ourselves. Like Jesus, he did both spiritual Ministry and the developmental works. He is a model for all of us. He worked, worked and worked. He got it from his parents, whom I know very well. They were hard working. My condolence to Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Clergy, Religious and to his Relatives". On behalf of the Clergy, Very Rev. Fr. A. Arulanandam, the Former Vicar General said: "The life of Most Rev. Anandarayar was a source of inspiration and strength for many people. He knew the historical details about this Archdiocese and the other dioceses very well. He was pious

and devoted, to the Mother of God. He often prayed the rosary. He had great love and confidence in the Blessed Virgin Mar. We need to imitate him in his piety. He was known for simplicity. He taught us to be loving towards the poor and how to live in the midst of suffering. Suffering taught him to walk with the Blessed Virgin Mary. He convened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Synod of Pondicherry and planned for the progress of this Archdiocese.

“செல்வம் எனக்கு வேண்டாம்

ஏழைச்செல்வங்கள் எனக்குப்போதும்” என்று வாழ்ந்தவர்.

May his Soul Rest in Peace. At the end Mr. Arul Joseph, the nephew of the late Archbishop said: "of the 8 children born of Mr. Anthony and Mrs. Colette, his grandparents, the late Archbishop was the 6<sup>th</sup> child. He is one of the illustrious 83 Priests of Varadarajanpet, evangelized by the Martyr Saint John de Britto. God had said

“நீர் நல்லதொரு வீணை

நல்ல இசை மீட்டது போதும்

விண்ணகத்தில் வந்து புகழ்ந்து பாடு”

and taken him to himself. Whatever he received, he gave to the poor. He had much love for the Mother of God. God has called him to heaven to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood and the Silver Jubilee of his Bishopric. He was very human and never wounded anybody. He loved the Priests, the Sisters and the poor. He offered his sufferings to the creator God. He was a suffering Christ. May his Soul Rest in Peace. Our thanks to the Apostolic Administrator and the Bishops, the Priests and the Sisters”.

After the funeral Mass, Most Rev. A. M. Chinnappa, sang the Libera me and blessed the body. Then the volunteers carried the body with the freezer box to the graveyard, adjacent to the Cathedral. There, the body was transferred to the coffin. Most Rev. A. Peter Abir did the ultimate prayer of commendation and then the Body of the Saintly Archbishop Most Rev. A. Anandarayar was laid to rest in the Bishops' and Priests' graveyard at 06.00 p.m.

**May the Soul of His Grace,  
Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar Rest in Peace.**

**Rev. Fr. A. Melchizedech**  
Chancellor

### Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination

Fr. I. Joseph Albert  
15-06-1983



### YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

**St. Joseph Pray for our Archdiocese**



### Birthdays of our Archdiocesan Clergy

Fr.N.Jonas	03-06-62
Fr.I.SagayaArulselvam	03-06-65
Fr.R.LourduJerard	03-06-78
Fr.L.Jacob	07-06-56
Fr.M.GermanusIrudayaraj	10-06-61
Fr.S.Clitus Rex	13-06-69
Fr.P.Simon Antony Raj	13-06-82
Fr.C.DonBosco	15-06-47
Fr.R.Ratchager	16-06-38
Fr.S.P.Jegaraj	20-06-71
Fr.A.Cyril	20-06-80
Fr.T.PravinKimar	23-06-82
Fr. D. Alexander	25-06-86
Fr.M.Peter	26-06-24
Fr.A.Edward Francis	27-06-79
Fr.A.Albert Felix	28-06-67
Fr.T.Michael Durai Raj	30-06-82



**NECROLOGY****Please pray for the repose of the souls of:**

- 02-06-2014 His Eminence Simon Cardinal  
Lourdusamy
- 03-06-1951 Amaladassou. J.M
- 05-06-1999 Anthonisamy . V.S
- 05-06-2017 Bhagyanathan. T
- 07-06-1973 Divianader. S
- 10-06-1998 AugusteMahe, MEP
- 14-06-1984 James Periyamayagam
- 15-06-1948 Msgr. Morel Elie Jean Joseph
- 25-06-2018 Arokiadoss. Roy
- 27-06-1970 Savarinather. R
- 27-06-2018 Susaikannu. C
- 30-06-2009 John Bosco. A



**BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED PRIMARY SCHOOL AT ARULAMBADI ON 23rd April 2021.**



**BLESSING OF THE NEW CHURCH AT (SALEMEDU), ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH, VILLUPURAM ON 24th April 2021**



**FUNERAL SERVICE TO ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS MOST REV. DR. ANANDARAYAR**



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