

ARCHDIOCESE OF PONDICHERRY - CUDDALORE



NEWSLETTER

VOL. 39 NO. 1

JANUARY 2022



THE STRANGERS' PILGRIMAGE!

MAGI SET OUT ON A PILGRIMAGE TO BETHLEHEM



PILGRIMAGE REALLY MEANS TO STEP OUT OF
OURSELVES IN ORDER TO ENCOUNTER GOD

- POPE BENEDICT XVI

(For private circulation only)

FEAST MASS AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH, VILLUPURAM ON 3RD DECEMBER 2021



BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED ST. ANTONY CHURCH AT KOLAKUDI,
A SUBSTATION OF VADALUR PARISH ON 7TH DECEMBER 2021



BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED O. L. OF FATHIMA CHURCH
AT FATHIMAPALAYAM PARISH ON 8TH DECEMBER 2021

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for January - 2022

For True Human Fraternity – We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.



MESSAGE



The Strangers' Pilgrimage!

The New Year this time begins almost with the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem. Matthew narrates that the Magi from the East, observing "his star," went to pay homage to the newborn Child Jesus in Bethlehem (Mt 2:1-2). The word Magi comes from the Greek word 'magos' which has a Persian root: 'Magupati,' meaning, astrologers; likely, they are wise men. They observed a star which, according to their knowledge, is a special one indicating the birth of the king of Israel. Matthew wants to present to us various significant evangelical messages through these Magi, heralded by the 'star' of Jesus leading them to Bethlehem.

His Star at its Rising

The Magi who proceeded from the eastern neighbourhood countries, probably from the Arabian territories, were astrologers. Only later Christian tradition designates the Magi as kings (Cf. Isa 60:3), three in number, corresponding to the three gifts, and assign them names with personal characteristics. The fact that they, in the rising of a special star, recognized the Jewish messianic expectation, shows that they had some earlier contact with Jewish

thinking. In the rising of a new star, as astrologers, the Magi-astrologers perceived the sign of the fulfilment of the Jewish eschatological expectation concerning the coming king and so would have set off on their journey towards Jerusalem. That was the reason they told Herod that they saw "his star rising in the east."

Magi the Strangers!

Magi from the east are not, as some propose, Jewish settlers who knew of God's messianic promises; they were non-Israelites, strangers and according to the Jewish religious/social traditions, sinners. In their encounter with Herod, they did not mention the birth of the Messiah, but the "king of the Jews." Matthew was keen to present Jesus as the Davidic descendant; however, he wanted to underscore the birth of Jesus with an inclusive messianic role. So, he brings the Magi, the strangers, into the fold of Jesus. At this moment we can note Luke's inclusion in his birth-narrative: Child Jesus is not only the glory to the people of Israel but also the 'revelation' to the Gentiles (Lk 2:32). Magi are the first people, after Mary and Joseph, to whom Jesus appeared. Jesus manifested Himself first to the Gentiles and strangers as the king of the Jews (we must understand the term king here in the context of Jn 18:33-38). Indeed, Jesus took into his fold the Gentiles, like the Canaanite woman, the Roman Centurion, Matthew the sinner and publicans. In him, there is no social, community, language or colour barriers. Through the story of Magi Matthew proposes the mission of Jesus: "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners" (Mt 9:13). What Paul said in fifties that 'in Christ Jesus there is no Jew or Greek...' (Gal 3:28) Jesus manifested the same at his birth. However, the fact, all over the world, is different; human weakness seems to prevail over our Christian commitment.

Magi the Pilgrims!

Having recognized Jesus' star in their country, the Magi set out, not on a journey to Jerusalem, but on a pilgrimage to

Bethlehem. They understood that the child was to be the ‘king of the Jews’ but it was God’s design that they were led to pay homage to the Messiah-child; this is clear from the type of offerings they brought: Gold-His Kingship, Frankincense-His Divinity, and Myrrh-His Suffering. Their journey was, indeed, a spiritual pilgrimage, like that of Abram of Mesopotamia to Canaan, just obeying the direction of the star which symbolizes the angelic companion, Raphael, to Tobiah (*Tobit 5*). Every pilgrimage is with expectation, but full of anxieties and setbacks. Pope Benedict XVI underlines that pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour” (*6.11.2010*). Their journey was not without any setbacks. As they reached Jerusalem, they met a wrong person King Herod and enquired about the birth of another king; this infuriated Herod and hence he sought to kill Child Jesus. However, led by the same star again, they could arrive at their destination. With much humility, uncertainty, insecurity, and vulnerability they accompanied God’s direction (star) and were able to achieve their goal. Life is a pilgrimage to attain the full vision of God (*1 Cor 12:13*). God’s Word, today, is ‘his star’ that leads us even in the darkness of evil, anxieties, contradictions, and confusions.

Pilgrimage Rewarded!

The Magi offered their gifts to Child Jesus and they did not return empty-handed. Indeed, as a result of their pilgrimage they could have the joy of meeting with the Holy Family; but they were also rewarded by Jesus’ manifestation (*Darshan*). The *darshan* they received changed their heart. They were affected and influenced by the divine mercy of Jesus; hence they could avoid the dangers of Herod and the manipulations of the political authority, and so took ‘another path’ (a total transformation and conversion), a gift of God and returned as missionaries of Jesus the Saviour. When we cooperate with Jesus’ way of life (his star),

though it is a narrow path (*Mt 7:14*), God’s providence will accompany us to reach our Commonwealth (*Phil 3:20*).

❖ 1st year Death Anniversary Remembrance Mass:

You know that our Archbishop Emeritus Most Rev. Dr. Antony Anandarayar passed away on 4th May 2021. We are planning to commemorate his first death anniversary on Wednesday **4th May 2022**. We will have the Requiem Mass in our Cathedral, Pondicherry at 11am on that day. I am informing this now itself so that you might block this date in your diary and make yourself available for this Mass.

❖ Annual statistical questionnaire:

The Parish Priests, heads of institutions and congregations are earnestly requested to send back the duly filled-in statistical Questionnaire, List of Baptisms and Marriages before 31st January 2022 to Fr. John Paul, the office Secretary.

❖ Summer Ministry:

Those who wish to have the service of our major seminarians during the summer, are kindly requested to contact Fr. John Paul, the office Secretary before the end of January 2022.

❖ Thank you:

I sincerely appreciate Rev. Fr. David Stanly Kumar, the recollection preacher from St. Peter’s Seminary, Bangalore and all of you fathers for your active participation in the Christmas recollection held on 14th December 2021 at the immaculate conception cathedral.

❖ New Year wishes:

I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Prosperous New Year. That the Good Lord who led the Pilgrimage Magi, may bless you all!

I thank you all who wished me by sending Christmas cards and e-mails on the occasion of Christmas and New Year.

**WISH YOU ALL A JOYFUL AND PEACEFUL
NEW YEAR 2022!**



+ Antonysamy Peter Abir

Apostolic Administrator,

Archdiocese of Pondicherry - Cuddalore.

Surplus Mass Intentions Received in November 2021

Date	Name of the Parish	No. Of Masses
03.11.2021	Nellithope Parish	150 mass intentions
03.11.2021	Nellithope Parish	160 mass intentions
06.11.2021	Sacred Heart Basilica	340 mass intentions
15.11.2021	Thirupapuliyur Parish	10 mass intentions
17.11.2021	Agarakottalam Parish	20 mass intentions
23.11.2021	Vinoba Nagar Parish	52 mass intentions
24.11.2021	Nellithope Parish	160 mass intentions

Rev. Fr. J. M. Gregory Louis Joseph
Financial Administrator

Church Blessings

1. The Newly Renovated Church Dedicated to St. Antony at Kolakudi of Vadalur Parish was blessed and opened by Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, Apostolic Administrator on 7th December 2021. We appreciate and thank Rev. Fr. M. Lourdu Jayaseelan, Parish Priest, and Rev. Fr. A. Jayabalan, Asst parish priest for their hard work and we also thank the donors and the faithful of this substation for their generous contribution and cooperation.

2. The Newly Renovated Parish Church dedicated to Our Lady of Fathima at Fathimapalayam Parish was blessed and opened by Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, Apostolic Administrator on 8th December 2021. We appreciate and thank Rev. Fr. V. S. Dominic Savio, Parish Priest, for his hard work and we also thank the donors and the faithful of this parish for their generous contribution and cooperation.

Rev. Fr. J. John Paul

Office secretary

ANJALI ASHRAM ANUBHAVA JANUARY 2022 to DECEMBER 2022

Anjali Ashram is at the service of genuine seekers by offering different experiences according to the need of the seekers in 2022. The cause of Beatification of Swamiji Amalor is being followed up. The Atma Purna Anubhava (APA) designed by him is followed up till now, which includes the True Self, God, Others and Nature. Every experience begins in the evening around 5 pm and concludes with the lunch on the last day by 1 pm.

January 2022			9	Ashram News
January 2022	10 – 16	NBCLC Bangalore, Tamil Seminar		
	18 – 27	Atma Purna Anubhava (255)		
	30	Heaven of Renewal, Alundur, Trichy (20 th Anniversary)		
February	07 – 16	Atma Purna Anubhava (256)		
March	07 – 16	Atma Purna Anubhava (257)		
April	10 – 17	Holy Week		
May	14 – 18	Bangalore, Tamil Seminar Deepening and Widening		
June	15	90 th Guru Jayanthi at Alundur		
July	04 – 13	Atma Purna Anubhava (258)		
August	08 – 17	BSA (Those who attended APA and Participate it, for deeper exp.)		
September	05 – 14	Atma Purna Anubhava (259) in Tamil		
October	03 – 12	Atma Purna Anubhava (260)		
November	07 – 16	Atma Purna Anubhava (261)		

January 2022			10	Tribunal
December	03	Kallery Satsangh		
		Anjali Ashram focuses on Atman and Paramatman for genuine seekers of all religious.		
		Anjali Ashram		
		08-12-2021 anjaliashram@gmail.com		
		Swami Gnanajyothi		
		Fr. A. Louis		
		<hr/>		
		Voice from Metropolitan Matrimonial Tribunal – 133		
		<i>REPORT OF THE ACTIVITY OF THE METROPOLITAN MATRIMONIAL TRIBUNAL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PONDICHERRY & CUDDALORE IN 2021</i>		
		Reverend and dear Fathers,		
		I here below submit a short report of the activity of our Metropolitan Tribunal in 2021. I am happy to inform you that our Metropolitan Tribunal has concluded 37 cases (by nullity 25 cases and Documentary Process 02 cases) and Petitions rejected and not registered in 2021 were 10. I take this opportunity to thank our Apostolic Administrator for his support, the collaboration of the tribunal personnel and you my dear Fathers for your kind cooperation. I wish you a Happy New Year 2022.		
		Thanking you,		
		I remain, Yours sincerely in Christ, Sd / [Fr. S.Pascal Raj] Judicial Vicar		

I). ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN FIRST INSTANCE – IN 2021

I/ NULLITY CASES

1) Causes pending at the beginning of the year 2021	00
2) Causes introduced and accepted in 2021	27
3) Petitions rejected and not registered in 2021	10
	—
	37
4) Causes closed in 2021	27
Through the Sentences given in favour of Nullity	25
Through Documentary Process	02
5) Causes pending at the end of the year 2021	00
6) The Sentences given in favour of Nullity were on the following Grounds	
1) Lack of Due Discretion of Judgement - (C-1095 2º)	- 18 Cases
2) Inability to Assume Marital Obligations - (C-1095 3º)	- 1 Case
3) Deceit - (C-1098)	- 20 Cases
4) Future Condition - (C.1102 §1)	- 1 Case
5) Partial Simulation- (C-1101 §2) Exclusion of Bonum Prolis	- 14 Cases
Exclusion of Bonum Fidei	- 16 Cases
Exclusion of Bonum Coniugum	- 16 Cases
6) Force and Fear- (C-1103)	- 7 Cases
7) Lack of Canonical Form - (c.1108 § 1, 2)	- 2 Cases

II). ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN SECOND INSTANCE – IN 2021

(The Causes of the Tribunal of the Dioceses of 1) Dharmapuri, 2), Kumbakonam, 3) Salem and 4) Thanjavur).

1) Causes pending at the beginning of the year 2021	Nil
2) Causes introduced in 2021	0
3) Decrees of ratification in 2021	0
	—
4) Causes pending at the end of the year 2021	Nil
5) Grounds of Nullity considered in the Decrees	Nil

Sd/ Fr. S.Pascal Raj

Judicial Vicar

Kind attention to the Beloved Parish Priests:

I sincerely thank all parish priests for your good cooperation in sorting out the marital issues in our tribunal. As you all know well during the period of the Pandemic Covid-19 the tribunal could not function and tribunal office was completely closed. All the pending cases of registered petitions are cleared during this Corona – Lockdown time. When the normalcy takes place then **after informing me, you may send the petitioner to the tribunal office with your letter as Parish Priest.** Tribunal records are updated. The Annual Report of the Tribunal to Apostolic Signatura is done as usual for the year 2021 by ‘On Line’ and one copy is sent.

I thank you for taking initiative in meeting the parties and trying for reconciliation among themselves before you bringing to the notice to the tribunal for the trial. Those parties’ marriage have taken place within our archdiocese are only admitted for trial in

our tribunal court. Unless you find a reason or canonical ground to nullify the marriage in the church, kindly do not refer or send them to the tribunal. May the families and youth be blessed in your parishes in the 'New Year of 2022'.

For your kind information: Tamil Nadu Canonists Association (TNCA) meets at TNBCLC centre, Tindivanam on 19th & 20th January 2022. Most Rev. Dr. Selvan Rayappan, Bishop of Salem will give the Key note address and speaks on the Penal Sanctions in the Church – revised and effects from 8, December 2021 onwards. There will be Requiem Mass for Archbishop Antony Anandarayar, died on 4 May 2021 and Rev. Fr. A. John Bosco, sdc. died on 27 May 2021. Thanking you.

Fr. S. Pascal Raj,
Judicial Vicar

St. Xavier's Pastoral Centre

Dear Rev. Fathers and Sister,

Greetings from Fr. A. J. Philomindoss, the Co-ordinator of the Commissions and the Director of St. Xavier's Pastoral Centre. I thank very much all of you who were very supportive, helpful, generous and co-operative to carry out and fulfil my responsibility in the year 2021 inspite of Corona constraints and restrictions. I thank also all the Commission Secretaries for their loving co-operation.

And I wish you all very Happy New Year of 2022. One more year is given to us to work to build the Kingdom of God and very specially in the Synodal and ecclesial way. Let us come together in a renewed vigour to work with an unified vision with the various ministries and services that we are confided with. May God bless us all and give us good health throughout this year 2022.

XVIth Synod of the Bishops 2021 – 2023

This month we have given an orientation session to the Youth Commission, Laity Commission and the Trained Catechists. In the month of November before the inauguration of the Synodal preparatory period in Rome on 17th, we have given animation to all the priests of the diocese and gave instructions to all the Parish Priests, Vicars Forane, Commission Secretaries and explained their job descriptions. We have also sent to all the Mother Generals, Provincials and requested them to conduct the consultation process and consolidate it and send their Congregational or institutional reports to the centre.

Meanwhile we have sent a circular of instructions to all the Superiors of the religious communities in our diocese to have a special community session to give their opinions and answer to the questions of the Synod and send it to the respective generals or provincials if they are in our diocese and if not to their Vicars Forane so that their opinions also will be included in the Vicariate level consolidation.

And Synod India desk has extended the dates of the submission of reports. So, accordingly I have sent a circular in the Whatsapp regarding the rescheduling of the dates for the submission of Reports in different levels.

Accordingly

- ❖ Parish level consolidation should get over before the end of January and it should be submitted to the Vicariate centres on 1st of February 2022.
- ❖ Vicariate level consolidations should get over before the end of March and should be submitted to the diocesan centre on 1st of April 2022.

❖ Diocesan level consolidation will be done before 15th May and will be submitted to the Bishop, who in turn will send it along with his considerations to the Regional Deputy Secretary of the TNBC and his team.

So Dear Fathers, Vicars Forane, Generals, Provincials and Superiors, kindly follow the proposals and instructions and with utmost commitment, love and concern for the Universal Church of the people of God. Let us put all our might for the creation of the Synodal Church or transforming the church into the Synodal form of its origin.

Commission for Communication

Madha T.V.: The Madha T.V. has telecasted our diocesan programmes of carols on the 24th morning by 10.30 a.m. which was also retelecasted on 29th December at 09.00 p.m. and the Holy Rosary on the Christmas day at 10.00 a.m. which was also retecast in the sameday evening by 08.00 p.m. Both the programmes came out very well because of the active involvement of the choirs of Immaculate Hr. Sec. School, Pondy, Villianur Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Periakurichy parish and the choirs formed by Gonzaga Congregation and the Young Assistant Priests in Pondicherry. The Young Priests' carol song was composed by our Curia Secretary and co-ordinated by the Bishop's Secretary. So this song being a new one was appreciated very much. So the Commission Thanks all the mentioned choirs and the Parish Priests and the Heads of the Institutions who encouraged them all.

I also thank very much Very Rev. Mother Asir, the Provincial of Immaculate Congregation who gave permission and instructed her Sisters in Idhaya College and the Convent to give full co-operation of decorating the crib in the auditorium, and serving snacks and coffee to the participants

and meals for the Priests and the technicians of the shooting. And the Sisters were so hospitable not only this year but for the past years as well whenever we proposed to shoot Madha T.V. Programmes.

My special thanks goes to Very Respected Mr. S. Lourdusamy, the Founder of the Lourdes Academy and Lourdes T.V. and the Senior Principal of Amalorpavam Hr. Sec. School and Respected Mr. Britto the Principal of Amalorpavam Hr. Sec. School and their Lourdes T.V. personnel and the sound and light technicians for shooting and editing of the carols and the Holy Rosary. I also thank very much and appreciate Rev. Fr. S. Selvanathan, the Parochial Administrator of St. Assisi Parish of Kurusukuppam who arranged the shooting of Holy Rosary in his parish along with his parish community and I thank all the parishioners also.

Above all, I do appreciate Rev. Fr. L. Arokiadoss, the Curia Secretary and the Joint Secretary of the Commission for Media and Communication who was fully involved for everything to bring these programmes as end Products to be telecasted inspite of his ill health by Corona. May God bless them all.

Commission for Anbiyam

Dear Rev. Fathers and the Superiors of the Religious Congregations and institutes, I have already informed you that the Month of January every year is celebrated by TNBC as Anbiyam month. So every Sunday in January is dedicated to Anbiyam. I have sent the PDF form of the Liturgical materials to the Parish Priests who have the Whatsapp. You can download it and go through for your personal information and preparation for the celebration of the Anbiyam month and also I have sent the link in the Whatsapp to you all.

This celebration is for one month. There are 5 Sundays in January. Every Sunday's Liturgy along with some notes

for sermon is prepared and we have printed them and I have sent to all the Parish Priests, Priests working in our diocese and to all the Superiors of the communities of all the congregations working in our diocese.

The Main Theme for this year is

“கூட்டுரூங்கியக்கத் திருஅவை அன்பியம்”

First Sunday we meditate upon “BECS which Journey Together”

Second Sunday we meditate upon “BECS which live in Communion”

Third Sunday we meditate upon “BECS which are Participatory”

Fourth Sunday we meditate upon “BECS which live for Evangelization”

Fifth Sunday we meditate upon “Life in the BECS after the Pandemic”

Kindly take some time to read these liturgical inputs and meditate upon them and preach so that our BECS can be strengthened.

Commission for Evangelization

Still the Corona 2019 is threatening in various forms, now in the form of OMICRON. Though at present the governments in the Centre and the State have not come out with new restrictions, yet they are closely studying the spread of the Pandemic. So we do expect that there will be some strong order forbidding us to gather together for any reason for a long time continuously. So we are very reluctant and hesitate to restart our Third Sunday Charismatic Healing Prayer Meetings in the Centre. We do get a lot of requests that we start to organise this prayer meeting. But St. Xavier's Prayer

Preparatory Group do not want to take any risks. So kindly understand our inability,

Rev. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss

Director

Youth Commission Report

Archdiocesan youth commission's General Body meeting:

Our Archdiocesan youth commission had General Body meeting, election for the diocesan executive committee (DEXCO) and diocesan level year of youth valedictory celebration on 12th December 2021 at Sacred Heart convent higher secondary school, villupuram. Totally 105 delegates from different parishes participated. The meeting was headed by Fr.Arputharaj, the Diocesan youth director. In the first session Fr.Nithya, a motivational speaker presented a leadership training programme followed by the Diocesan Youth Movement's executive committee election conducted by Master Ashwin, the MIJARC movement's regional representative. Then we had Year of youth valedictory celebration with Holy Mass.Fr. Philomindos, Pastoral centre director celebrated the Holy Mass and introduced the purpose of the International Synod of Bishops.

The newly elected Diocesan Executive Committee for 2022-2023

1. President :S. Milton Issac,BA,B.Ed, Vikravandi (Villupuram)
2. Vice President :S. Salomin Nivedha, MSc. B.Ed., Tindivanam (Tindivanam)

3. Secretary : J. Mahvash Josuva, Manalurpet (Thirukovilur)
4. Joint Secretary : M.Princy Dayana, M.A.B Ed., Alagapasamuthiram (Cuddalore)
5. Treasurer : Antonyraj, ITI, Nelitope (Pondicherry)
6. Male Representative :Prasath George Bennit, MSW, (Tindivanam)
7. Female Representative : Parthalomiya, M.A., Konankuppam (Kallakurichi)
8. Media Secretary : Joseph Vijay, Nelithope, (Pondicherry)
9. 'Matram' Magazine Incharge: Praveen Kumar, M.A, B. Ed., Uluthur (Neyveli)
10. Political Awareness Incharge : S. Bearndos, Kurumbagaram (Karaikal)
11. Prayer & Liturgy Secretary : Immaculate Priyanka, B.Sc., Vikravandi,(Villupuram)
12. Cultural Secretary : Nambikai Nathan, MBBS, Christ the King Church (Villupuram)
13. Sports Secretary : B. Ayakkannu, B.A., Gingee(Gingee)
14. Health Secretary: F. Sagaya Shalini B.Sc., Irudayampet (Viriyur)
15. Asian level Mijarc Coordinator : Selvi Rufina, MA.M.Ed., Marakanam
16. Youth Coordinator : Mr. Ruban Babu, Phd.,
17. Youth Director : Fr Arputhara, M.Sc, BEd, M Phil.,



We wish all the newly elected youth leaders to be successful in the new assignment. We also thank former DEXCO team for their valuable contribution to our commission. Special thanks to Sr. Mangalam CSST, Fr. Joseph Agarval, Fr. Albert Felix for the great support and arrangements. I also thank all the parish priests and college principals for sending their youth for the program.

Upcoming Events:

1. Tamilnadu regional level Year of youth valedictory celebration will be held on 5th January 2022 in Charismatic renewal centre, Trichy.
2. Tamilnadu regional level General body meeting will be held on 6th January 2022 in Poondi.

Rev. Fr. A. Arputhara,
Secretary.

**Biodata and Eulogy on
REV. FR. S. P. JEGARAJ**



Name : S.P.Jegaraj
 Parents : Mr.I.S.Pitchaimuthu
 Mrs.J.Philomenal
 Date and Place of Birth : 20-06-1971, Villupuram
 Date and Place of Baptism : 28-06-1971, Villupuram
 Parish : Kallakurichy
 Diocese of Origin : Pondicherry & Cuddalore
 Places and Years of Studies : Preliminary Studies at
 Villupuram

High School Studies at
Katpadi
Higher Secondary School
Studies at Cuddalore

Years and Places of Seminary Formation	:	St .Agnes' Seminary, Cuddalore 1992 – 1994 Philosophy, St. Peter's Seminary, Bangalore 1994 – 1995 Regency 1995 – 1999 Theology, Good Shepherd Seminary, Coimbatore
Date of Ordination	:	22 nd April 1999
Place of Ordination	:	Immaculate Conception
Cathedral, Pondicherry		
Minister of Ordination	:	Most Rev. Dr. S. Michael
Augustine		
Ministry Places	:	
28-06-1999 – 07-07-2001	:	Asst. Parish Priest at Mugaiyur
08-07-2001 – 20-07-2002	:	Asst. Parish Priest Cathedral, Pondicherry
25-07-2002 – 09-07-2006	:	Parish Priest of Fathimapalayam
10-07-2006 – 03-06-2009	:	Parish Priest of Kovilanur
04-06-2009 – 18-06-2014	:	Parish Priest of Tindivanam & V.F. of Tindivanam Vicariate
19-06-2014 –	:	Parish Priest of Periapet
		Archdiocese of Pondicherry - Cuddalore

Death and Funeral of Fr. S. P. Jegaraj

On 11th November 2021, Fr. S. P. Jegaraj got admitted at the New Medical Centre, Pondy, since his HB and Sodium had been low. On 12-11-2021 he was discharged and referred to PIMS Hospital, Pondy. From PIMS he was brought to M.V.R. Hospital on 13-11-2021. His health condition was not improving. Due to multiple complications, his health condition became serious. Then he had breathing problem. Finally on 20-12-2021 at 12.20 A.M. he died of Septic Shock due to kidney Failure. From M.V.R. Hospital, his body was brought to the Archbishop's House at 04.00 A.M. Then Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator blessed the body of Fr. S. P. Jegaraj and offered his condolence to his relatives and then prayed the rosary and offered it for his eternal rest.

Throughout the day, his parishioners from Periapattu, Tindivanam, Kovilanur, Fathimapalayam, Cathedral, Mugaiyur, Kallakurichy came and prayed for him. The Fathers and Sisters came and blessed the body and prayed for him. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss, the Director of the Pastoral Centre co-ordinated all these. At 03.55 p.m. Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator blessed the body and through the corridor, the body was carried to the Cathedral. At 04.05 Most Rev. Peter Abir offered the Funeral Mass Along with 100 Priests. About 300 People and Sisters attended the Mass.

In the Introduction Fr. L. A. Arul Pushpam said, "Fr. S. P. Jegaraj, in his 50 years, he has lived 22 years as a Priest. According to God's will, he has died. His parents were pious. After his priestly ordination in 1999, he did not ask for any particular parish. He always went, where he was sent. He was one among the parishioners. He was known for his Total Dedication, Complete enthusiasm and Hard Work. He stuck to the parish. He lived for the parishioners. No advertisement about his Ministry. He renovated the big church of Tindivanam, which was more than a hundred years old. He made the church at Peraipattu into a bigger one. The Archdiocese has lost an honest and straight forward priest. Even during his sickness, he was praying. Let us thank God for this holy priest. Let us pray for his eternal rest. May he intercede for us powerfully".

In his homily Most Rev. Peter Abir said, This is a sad event to our Archdiocese and to his family. He was only 50 years old, out of which he has served 22 years as a priest. With dedication and enthusiasm he worked. I knew him very well when I was at Tindivanam for 2 years. Fr. S. P. Jegaraj was the V.F. and Parish Priest of Tindivanam. He would always speak with a smile. Even when he was sickly, he had a smile on his face. He had the spiritual maturity. It is a great loss to our Archdiocese. The song that he liked most was:

“பொன்மாலை நேரம்
புந்தென்றால் காற்றில்
என் ஜீவராகம் கரைந்தோடுதே!”

Life is a big suffering. It is a mystery. We can't accept it. Money, prestige, authority and power vanishes like mist in the presence of the sunlight. We are all united in Baptism. It means, we have decided to participate in Jesus' life and death. We follow his suffering on the cross. Jesus has changed this life into eternal life. In Jn. 11:25 he says, "If you believe in me, you will live forever" So, if we die like Christ, we will live like Christ. He was 22 years as a priest, and 50 years as a Christian. He was the son of a Catechist. The Catechists are so dear to me. This death is not an end. Jesus also was buried in a grave. But He broke open the grave.

Heaven is our homeland. Even if we die here, we have to go to our Homeland. For that Homeland, we have to make use of this life. In Rom. 8:18, St. Paul writes, The suffering of this world are nothing in comparison with the joy we will have in our eternal Homeland in Heaven. Our life is a pilgrimage. This death must end in the second eternal birth. As St. Paul says, "This life is a Tent" (2 Cor. 5:1). It is a loss and an end for our eyes. But, it is a Beginning. Let us pray for Fr. S. P. Jegaraj and offer him to the Lord".

At the end of the Mass Very Rev. Fr. A. Arulanandam said, "We bid farewell to Fr. S. P. Jegaraj. His life was a witnessing life. Your presence reminds this truth. The Testimony that you gave about Fr. S. P. Jegaraj is a witness to his life. His life was a witness to Jesus. Jesus said, "He who wants to follow me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" Fr. S. P. Jegaraj followed this. Let us pray for his eternal

rest. Then his brother Mr. Paul thanked the Apostolic Administrator, the Procurator, Dr. Michael Anand and M.V.R. Hospital and all who took care of his brother. Then Most Rev. Peter Abir blessed the body of Fr. S. P. Jegaraj at the Cathedral and at the graveyard adjacent to the Cathedral. At 06.00 p.m. the body of Fr. S. P. Jegaraj was laid to rest.

May His Soul Rest in Peace

Biodata and Eulogy on REV. FR. I. SAGAYAARUL SELVAM



Name : I. Sagaya Arul Selvam
 Parents : Mr. C. Isaac
 Mrs. A. Alangaramary
 Date and Place of Birth : 30-06-1965. Kakkanur
 Date and Place of Baptism : 15-07-1965, Kakkanur
 Parish : St. Francis Xavier's Church,
 Villupuram
 Diocese of Origin : Pondicherry & Cuddalore
 Places and Years of Studies : 1977 – 7th St. Xavier's
 Middle School, Villupuram
 1978 – 8th St. Ann's
 Tindivanam
 1979 – 1982 9th to 12th St.
 Joseph's, Cuddalore
 Years and Places of
 Seminary Formation : 1979 - 1982 St. Agnes'
 Seminary, Cuddalore
 1984 – 1986 Philosophy
 Sacred Heart Seminary,
 Poonamallee
 1986 – 1987 Regency at
 Athipakkam
 1988 – 1991 Theology
 Sacred Heart Seminary,
 Poonamallee
 Diaconate : 22nd May 1990
 Date of Ordination : 15th May 1991

Place of Ordination : Immaculate Conception
 Cathedral, Pondicherry
 Minister of Ordination : Most Rev. Dr. V. S.
 Selvanather
 Ministry Places :
 03-06-1991 – 14-06-1993 Asst. Parish Priest at Karaikal
 15-06-1993 – 08-06-1994 Asst. Parish Priest at Mugaiyur
 19-06-1994 – Jun. 1999 Parish Priest of Memalur
 30-06-1999 – Parish Priest and Headmaster &
 Correspondent of St.Mary's
 High School, Odiathur. He
 took charge of the parish on
 04-07-1999 and the school on 05-07-1999
 01-11-2000 Secretary of Archdiocesan SC/ST/BC
 Commission till 31-07-2002
 10-09-2004 – 03-06-2007 H.M. and Correspondent, St.
 Antony's Hr. Sec. School, Mel-
 Nariappanur
 04-06-2007 – 30-04-2011 HM & Correspondent,
 St. Michael's Hr. Sec. School,
 Gingee
 02-05-2011 – 05-06-2013 – Principal, Fatima Hr. Sec.
 School, Muthialpet
 03-06-2013 – PP, Athipakkam
 12-06-2013 – 31-05-2019 HM & Correspondent, St.
 Arokia Annai High School, T.
 Athipakkam
 01-06-2019 – Principal & Correspondent, St. Ann's Hr.
 Sec. School, Tindivanam

Death and Funeral of Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam

Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam, Manager & Principal of St. Ann's Hr. Sec. School, Tindivanam had breathing problem on 22-12-2021 Wednesday around 05.30 a.m. in his room. Around 06.45 a.m. Fr. D. Savarimuthu, the V.F. of Tindivanam took him to the nearby I-Med Super Speciality Hospital in Tindivanam. Around 07.00 to 08.00 a.m. he had 3 Heart attacks and he became unconscious. He was given treatment. The doctors started emergency Dialysis around 10.30 a.m. Most Rev. Neethinathan, the Bishop of Chengalpattu, his maternal uncle came to the hospital. It was planned to shift him to the Global Hospital, Chennai; But the doctors started doing IIInd Dialysis; But they had to stop since the patient's condition was going down. The doctors said that shifting was not possible. They could not do the dialysis on the 24th also. So, the family members decided to shift him to the PIMS Hospital, Pondicherry. On the 24th around 07.45 p.m. he was brought to PIMS. The doctors after examining him said that his brain already got damaged. Still they tried their level best. Finally on 24-12-2021 at 08.46 pm. Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam died due to cardiac arrest. Next day being Christmas, his body was kept in the PIMS – Mortuary. On the 26th December, Sunday his body was taken to Villupuram, St. Francis Xavier's, the native parish of Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam. Most Rev. Neethinathan, along with the other Priests offered the Mass for his eternal rest at 03.00 p.m.

At 06.10 p.m. the body of Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam was brought to the Bishop's House. The fathers of the Bishop's House recited rosary and offered it for his eternal rest. At 08.00 p.m. Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator blessed the body. Then the faithful and relatives prayed. On the 27th December, Morning his former parishioners from Memalur,

Odiathur, Athipakkam and the teachers from Odiathir, Mel-Nariappanur, Gingee, Muthialpet, St. Ann's Institutions, Tindivanam came and did their prayerful Anjali to Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam. Great number of Fathers of Pondy and many priests from Chengalpattu Diocese also did their Anjali. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss, the Director of the Pastoral Centre co-ordinated all these. At 10.50 a.m. Most Rev. Neethinathan, blessed the body and through the corridor the body was taken to the Cathedral.

Mot Rev. Neethinathan, Bishop of Chengalpattu offered the Funeral Mass along with Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator and 150 priests. Very Rev. Fr. A. Arulanandam, the Delegate in his introduction said, "Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam was dedicated to God by his Father at Kakkunur. At the age of 92, now his father offers his son, the priest to God who is 56 years old. During his 30 years of priestly life, Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam has worked in parishes and schools. To so many children, he opened the doors of knowledge; Now God will open the door, to give him lasting joy. He will intercede for us from God's presence".

In his homily, Fr. William, Tuticorin, a friend of Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam for 40 years, who had also preached in Fr. Selvam's First Mass, said,

"Our Lord shed tears and wept 3 times.
i.e. for Lazar, For the city and temple of Jerusalem and at
Gethsemane garden"

Ist was, out of Compassion, second was out of pity for Jerusalem that ignored Christ and the third was due to thinking about the pain and sins of mankind.

1. Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam was a Free Personality (சுதந்திரமான ஆளுமை). He would obey the truth. He was calm, But bold.

2. His belief in God (இறைமை குறித்த நம்பிக்கை). He believed that we give glory to God by making Man to live fully as a Man with human dignity.

3. His Inner Personality (தகைமை). It is in the presence of the pains of the others, our inner personality comes out. Those, who had pain and suffering went to him. He helped them to relieve their pain and sorrow.

4. He was a good pilgrim (நல்ல பயணி). Like our Lord, Fr. Selvam was compassionate, upheld human dignity and shared in the pains of others. We entrust him to the Lord".

At the end of the Mass, Fr. Agnel, his classmate said, "சகாய அருள்செல்வம், ஒரு பொறுமைசாலி, திறமைசாலி, அனைத்து மக்களையும் அனுசரித்து போகக் கூடியவர்".

From his priestly ordination in 1991 to December 24, 2021 his dedication as a priest was great. His parishioners are witnesses to it.

The teachers of Fatima School, Muthialpet praise him for his kindness and co-operation with them.

- ✓ He would help anyone who asked of him. When he lends money, he would not pressurise them to pay back.
- ✓ He was straightforward in correcting the others. At the same time, he would not hurt anyone.
- ✓ He was a generous giver.
- ✓ When we die, we can't take even a pin, out of this world. The Book of Revelation says 'only the good that we have done, will accompany us even after our death'. Like of Our Lord, he would do good always.

- ✓ If he had some problem and suffering, he would go to our Lady's Shrine at Acharapakkam and pray there. He had devotion to the Eucharistic Lord and to the Mother of God; This made him to behave like a Free Bird.
- ✓ He has done only good. And our Lord would have rewarded him.
- ✓ Let us pray for his eternal rest.

Then Most Rev. Peter Abir, the Apostolic Administrator said, The sudden death of Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam has caused everyone deep sorrow. It is a irreparable loss to the Archdiocese. I offer my condolence to his aged father Mr. Isaac, his uncle Most Rev. Needhinathan, his siblings, relatives and friends. He is just 56 years old, out of which he had served 30 years as a priest. When I was at the Bible Institute, Chennai, I had the opportunity to move with him, when he did his Philosophy. Yesterday, while, talking with some his Professors and classmates, they said,

"மிகுந்த பொறுப்பு மிக்கவராக எல்லாருக்கும் இனியவராக இருந்தார்"

He was in parishes for 14 years and in schools 16 years. He was highly responsible in 5 parishes and in 6 schools. He helped the priests who were in difficulties. He was bold and straightforward in making corrections. In this way he was prophetic. His death is a big loss. In keeping with the Teaching of Genesis 3/- many thought,

"Man you are dust, And, to dust you shall return"

But Jesus changed this idea. **"Man dies not for dust; He dies for Heaven"**. Jesus lived and showed it. It is true that we feel sad at the death. But we have the hope in Christ; Even though he dies, he shall live forever'. With this hope, we bid farewell to him. May the Lord grant him eternal rest".

Then, Most Rev. Needhinathan, the Bishop of Chengalpattu, the maternal uncle of Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam offered his condolence to the Apostolic Administrator, the priests, the religious and the faithful, his uncle Mr. Isaac, his children and friends. He said: "In Mk. 6:34 we read that on seeing that the people were like sheep without a shepherd, Jesus preached to them at length "இயேசுவின் இதயம் அன்பு, அக்கறை, பரிவு, இரக்கம், மனித நேயம் நிறைந்த இதயம்" A priest has to show this. Fr. Selvam was kind to everyone, especially the downtrodden. He took care of priests, who had some problem or the other. He promoted human dignity. He helped everyone who came to him. He lead a meaningful priestly life. We can surely hope that God would have accepted him, saying, "Well done, My faithful servant; Now enter into the joy of your Master "Let us pray for him".

Then Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam's Brother, Ramesh @ Anthuvam Maria Joseph thanked the Apostolic Administrator Most Rev. Peter Abir, his maternal uncle Most Rev. Needhinathan, the Delegate Very Rev. Arulanandam, the Procurator J. M. Gregory, the Tindivanam Parish Priest and V.F. Fr. D. Savarimuthu, Fr. S. Jayaseelan, School Asst., Fr. A. Cyril, Parish Priest of Keezhputhupattu, Fr. William, his friend, Very Rev. Fr. Regis, V.G., Chengalpattu, priests of Pondicherry and Chengalpattu dioceses, the Religious and the Teachers and his former parishioners. Then Most Rev. Peter Abir blessed

the Body at the Cathedral after the Libera Me. Then the body was carried to the graveyard and Most Rev. Needhinathan blessed the body after the prayer of ultimate commendation. Then all did Pushpanjali to the Body and at 01.30 p.m. the Body of Fr. Sagaya Arul Selvam was laid to rest.

May His Soul Rest in Peace

Funeral photos of Rev.Fr. I. Sagaya Arul Selvam wil be published in the next February newsletter 2022.

- Fr. John Paul, Office Secretary.

Fr. A. Melchizedech Chancellor

Birthdays of our Archdiocesan Clergy

JANUARY

Fr. A. Ratchagar	02-01-41
Fr. S. Pascal Raj	05-01-62
Fr. S. Arockiasamy	06-01-82
Fr. I. Anthonysamy	08-01-73
Fr. A. Arputharaj	12-01-80
Fr. R. Arockia Ratchagar	14-01-81
Fr. K. P. Delamourd	15-01-35
Fr. P. Paul Rajkumar	15-01-61
Fr .L. A. Arul Pushpam	15-01-67
Fr. R. Joseph Paul	15-01-69
Fr. A. James	22-01-84
Fr. A. Arokiaraj	24-01-80
Fr. A. Arulanandam	28-01-54



Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination**JANUARY**

Fr. A. Thomas

21-01-76

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

03-01-1957	Chaumartin. J, MEP
03-01-2011	Arokiaraj R. S
04-01-1984	Lourdusamy. A
04-01-1975	Abel.M
04-01-1998	Viallet Henri Adophe, MEP
06-01-1969	Curtin. M
07-01-1963	Jacob Pazhampallil
07-01-1987	Solomon. E
07-01-1995	Irudayasamy.A
07-01-2017	Cornu. C, MEP
08-01-1987	Emmanuel Melvattam
09-01-1965	Swamikannu P. A
09-01-2017	David. C
10-01-1962	Antonisamy. T
10-01-1972	Palliparambil. A
11-01-1985	Gnanamanickam. I
13-01-2020	Augustine Rolland, MEP

14-01-1951	Seyres. B., MEP
17-01-2003	Lazar Montfort
22-01-2008	Irudayam. P
25-01-2000	Arulappan. A
25-01-2013	Pennal Gerard, MEP
26-01-2007	John Bosco. V
28-01-1977	Massot. C, MEP
28-01-1984	Irudayaraj. K. G
31-01-2007	Adaikalasamy. S



**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHEDRAL ON 8TH DECEMBER 2021.**



**EUOLOGY ON REV. FR. S.P. JEGARAJ WHO
DIED ON 20TH DECEMBER 2021.**



BY THE MERCY OF GOD, MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE!

**CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTION
AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL
ON 14TH DECEMBER 2021**



Archbishop's House, Post Box No. 193, 206 Cathedral Street, Pondicherry 605 001.

Tel. 0413 2334748, 2339911. Facebook: PONDICHERRY ARCHDIOCESE

E-mail: archbishop@archdiocesepondicherry.com, dioceseofpondy@gmail.com

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