

ARCHDIOCESE OF PONDICHERRY - CUDDALORE



NEWS LETTER



VOL. 38 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2021



OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH!
PRAY FOR US!

PRIVATE CIRCULATION



NEW FLAG POLE AND FLAG HOISTING @ PANIKANKUPPAM PARISH ON 6TH AUGUST 2021



FEAST MASS AT KALPATTU PARISH ON 8TH AUGUST 2021



JUBILEE MASS @ ATTUPATTY ME SISTERS ON 10TH AUGUST 2021



FEAST MASS @ NELLITHOPE ON 15TH AUGUST 2021

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for September 2021

Universal Intention: An environmentally sustainable lifestyle. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely



Spirit-filled Vaccine!

One of my family friends in Germany recently sent me an SOS mail asking whether I had received the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Anthony Fauci, America's top public health expert, long back said (*The Hindu*, 9 May 2021) that getting people vaccinated is the only long-term solution to the current COVID-19 crisis in India. When I went to receive the first dose there were very few people to receive it, but when I went for the second dose there was a long queue of people. This is either because of increased awareness of the vaccine or growing fear of contamination by the virus. At this moment of continuous waves of COVID-19, threatening us at our door, the whole world is gripped by this one word: vaccination. True, the whole human race today is worried about saving their bodily health, however, it is worthwhile, at the moment, to remember the words of Jesus "What comes

out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles" (Mt 15:8).

Pharisaic Tradition and Jesus!

The Pharisees were very particular with external purification, a tradition laid down by *Mishna*, the Jewish law code. They picked quarrels with Jesus' disciples. Jesus does not deny the charges of those Pharisees, but points out a much graver offence of the adversaries who through a casuistic device of their tradition render void the commandments of God and so he says: "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles" (Mt 15:11). Jesus underlines that it is not food that enters the mouth (Ezek 4:14-15; Rom 14:1-4; 1 Tim 4:3) but what comes forth (Mt 12:34-37; Eph 4:29; Jas 1:19) that renders unclean; he further illustrates with a list of vices (Mt 15:19). Indeed, he emphasizes a healthy state of mind and heart (cf. Mt 5:21-6:18) and hence the disciples of Christ, the new *divine plantation* (Is 60:21), should be worried about their healthy mind and heart in order to become a messianic community.

They Ate the Fruit!

Adam and Eve in the Genesis account were placed in a paradise without any environmental or health hazard. No sickness was reported. Then they eat the forbidden fruit. The fruit itself was not harmful to their body and mind; but eating the fruit exhibits their contaminated heart (Gen 3:1-6). Eve was tempted in three areas of 1 Jn 2:16: lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride of life. Being tempted, Eve sinned (1

Tim 2:13-14, 2 Cor 11:3) but Adam sinned gravely; he did not stop Eve from sinning, thus failing to exercise headship, he committed sin by acquiescence; with full knowledge they disobeyed God, leading to spiritual death. Their mind and heart were deviated from God/Good and so their life, both bodily and mentally, became miserable: “to till the ground from which he was taken and could not regain paradise” (Gen 3:23-24).

In these times, it is deplorable in India to be unconcerned about polluting rivers or seas through which health hazards are inevitable, bringing much danger to both physical and mental health. It is a common but awful habit of some people to use social media to make character assassination. Such people are much worried about safeguarding their bodily health while “they hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth” (Amos 5:10). Human wickedness brings natural disasters and physical pandemics, as Pope Francis at the beginning of his Encyclical *Laudato Si* notes: “The violence present in our hearts, wounded by sin, is also reflected in the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life” (No. 2).

Our Lady of Good Health!

It is human selfishness that creates discriminations, even caste-discrimination, and ails peace and harmony of society. People suffer from loss of meaning in life, feelings of alienation, consequences of sins committed and so on. Their mind is sick much more than their body. Along with physical

healing people need psycho-social and spiritual healing, especially during the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. Our blessed Mother through her ‘fiat,’ shows us how we can maintain healthy life with connectedness both to God to our neighbour. As soon as she received her wonderful vocation to be the virgin-mother, she surrendered herself to the mysterious designs of God (*fiat*) while also taking the trouble of visiting Elizabeth to give a helping hand to her (Lk 1:39-55). Deep faith in God and a total commitment to Christ’s way of life are spirit-filled vaccines for a holistic healthy life following in the footsteps of Our divine Mother whose birthday we celebrate this month.

Our Lady of Good Health, born immaculately, was assumed into heaven body and soul and thus enjoys a total healthy life; and so, she continues to bring us healing of God’s mercy to all kinds of sickness. In a world that views illness and death as the denial of the meaning of life and as annihilation, our Heavenly Mother teaches us that our suffering and death, united to the suffering and death of Christ, can lead us to a spirit-filled vaccine of caring for the sick and suffering, and thus, we become spiritual-vaccines of a healthy and harmonious society.



+ Antony Peter Abir

*Apostolic Administrator,
Archdiocese of Pondicherry - Cuddalore.*

Information from Bishop

Indo-German Care Transfer Project (IGCTP)

இந்தியா ஜெர்மனிக்கிடையே நலப் பராமரிப்பு
மாற்றும் திட்டம்

This is an invitation from Indo German Centre for Health Care Sustainability (IGCHS) which co-ordinates German Care Academy (GCA) which funds this project and medizin Park Khein – Ruhr which Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Ltd.(ODEPC) and (Government Recruitment Agency in India) which are involved in recruitment process of the candidates for Nursing training and Language training and Abhayam (an NGO), Charitable Trust in Kottayam, Kerala will arrange for boarding and lodging in Germany till their employment. The selected candidates in future after getting the job opportunity in Germany may pay back the money spent on them voluntarily. But it is not compulsory. Kindly find out the candidates, with preference orphans, widows, single women over 30 years and single mothers who would like to make use of this opportunity and ask them to go to the website www.germancareacademy.eu. And get in touch with them and profit, if possible.

+ **Antonysamy Peter Abir**

*Apostolic Administrator,
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LIST OF SEMINARIANS IN THE YEAR 2021-2022

Major Seminarians

Sl. No.	Name Parish	Seminary
IV Year Theology		
01.	Bro P. M. S. Jeeva - Keezhvayalamur, Anilady	St. Peter's
II Year Theology		
02.	Bro. C. Auxiliam Selva Kumar - Arcadu	St. Peter's
03.	Bro. A. Geo Francis Xavier - Seedeve - Saveriarapuram	St. Peter's
04.	Bro. J. Gilbertraj Azhagapuram, Sozhampattu	Good Shepherd
I Year Theology		
05.	Bro. N. Alpha Venis - Neyveli Township	St. Peter's
06.	Bro. V. John Britto - Arumpattu, Madampattu	St. Peter's
07.	Bro. A. Thomas Berna - Nellitope	St. Peter's
08.	Bro. S. Vincent - Sathiamangalam	Good Shepherd
II Year Philosophy		
09.	Bro. R. Albert Raj - Iruppukurichy	St. Peter's
10.	Bro. I. Antony Richardson - Krishnankuppam	St. Peter's
11.	Bro. A. Antony Prabakaran - Alagappasamutiram	Good Shepherd
12.	Bro. A. Donald Robin - Sathipattu	Good Shepherd
I Year Philosophy		
13.	Bro. B. Antony Raj Viriyur	Sacred Heart
14.	Bro. D. Joyson Mugaiyur	St. Peter's
15.	Bro. R. Lourdu Sagayaraj -Thely	St. Peter's
16.	Bro. D. Tony Clinton Elemangalam, Mel-Sithamur	Good Shepherd

17. Bro. A. Denish
Thurinjicollai
Papel Seminary, Pune

18. Bro. A. Idayath Ragavan -Alagappasamutiram
Good Shepherd

Propaedeutic Course in Good Shepherd Seminary, Coimbatore

19. Bro. J. Alwin
Palayanur, Viriyur

20. Bro. L. Anthuvan Joseph
Eraiyyur

21. Bro. J. Arun Prakash
Kunankurichy

22. Bro. V. Jerome Selvaraj
Velanthangal

23. Bro. P. Rajendram
Oulgaret, Reddiarpalayam

24. Bro. P. Vijayakumar
Alagappasamutiram

College Seminarians and Latinists in St. Agnes' Seminary

III Year College

25. Bro. S. Clinton
Seedeve-Saveriarpuram

II Year College

26. Bro. F. Abiyouth
Anilady

27. Bro. H. Gnana Anishek
Mel-Sithampur

28. Bro. A. Lucas
Arulambadi

I Year College

29. Bro. S. David Pushparaj
Viriyur

30. Bro. A. Ruban Diyas
Konankuppam

Latinists

31. Bro. S. Anvar Jacob
Konankuppam

32. Bro. L. Arockiadass
Memalur

33. Bro. A. Emil Pradeesh
Arasakuzhi

34. Bro. C. Leo Leprane
Ariyankuppam

Rev. Fr. P. Rozario
Rector, St. Agnes' Seminary

Voice from Metropolitan Matrimonial Tribunal – 129

Family Faith Formation

Faith is the strong belief in the doctrine of a religion, based on spiritual conviction rather than the proof. Faith is a gift from God! It is grace that gives us necessary faith for appropriate situation in our life. Faith cannot be earned! While knowledge is tangible, faith is experienced only as a response to the mystery of God. That which is tangible can be perceived by the senses whereas mystery is intangible and cannot be grasped by senses. Knowledge can be grasped by the senses with the exposure of the underlying truth. Faith, on the other hand, cannot be felt or grasped by the mind even though faith has its own underlying truth; the reason why faith cannot be grasped although based on Truth, is because this Truth resides in God and is itself, the mystery of God.

Often, Faith is misunderstood and mixed with its companions, namely, reason, knowledge and belief.

i. Faith and Reason: The source of reason is the cognitive mind; faith cannot be developed from cognizance alone.

ii. Faith and Knowledge: Knowledge arises from what is existing, a fact; the fact in faith lies in the spiritual realms of the Divine.

iii. Faith and Belief: Believing is placing confidence in something that can be perceived or touched or felt – beliefs can change; faith is a gift from God and is unchangeable.

Only a sincere surrender of the intellect and will that drive reason, knowledge and belief, can form and increase an individual's faith.

Quoting from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Faith is certain, it is more certain than all human knowledge

because it is founded on the very Word of God who cannot lie.” (CCC, n.157) “God willed that external proofs of his Revelation should be joined to the internal helps of the Holy Spirit” (CCC, n.156). “In the words of St. Augustine, “I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe.” (CCC, n.158).

Further, the Catechism quotes St. Paul’s first letter to Timothy while stating, “We can lose this priceless gift”, as St. Paul indicated to St. Timothy, ‘Wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith.’ To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the word of God; we must beg the Lord to increase our faith; it must be ‘working through charity,’ abounding in hope, and rooted in the faith of the Church.” (CCC, n.162).

Thus, the Catechism of the Catholic Church exhorts us to look towards our witnesses of faith – Abraham and Mother Mary. Abraham is said to have believed against hope, in hope. Mother Mary stood sharing the darkness of her son’s suffering and death simply by remembering and having faith in God’s promise. (CCC, n.165).

It is commonly understood that faith formation is about the Sunday Catechism classes. This is only one of the elements contributing to faith formation. As parish priests, you can explore various elements of faith formation in our parishes and intuitions like: Personal Prayer, Word of God, Sacraments, Faith education, Family, community, intergenerational involvement and activities, etc.

Family Faith Formation: Family is the fulcrum for faith formation. Family faith formation involves separate activities for different age groups in the family which even if conducted simultaneously, are found interesting and adventurous, resulting in learning specific areas of faith together. Thus,

while the specific needs of the distinct age groups are met, through selection of a single area of learning, the whole family journeys together, growing in faith. Training and workshops in New Evangelization are examples of such focus area.

Additionally, specialized programs for certain age groups like preteens may also be included. The Parish can also organize centralized programs where the whole family is present and is able to interact with other families who come together for the program.

One of the primary goals of family formation is to make parents aware that they are the primary faith educators of the entire family and helps them take initiatives for the same.

Like faith formation for teens, family faith formation is also a continuous and consistent process and will therefore need to be viewed as one single initiative where programs are only a part of the initiative. (cf. ‘A Vibrant Parish’ – Rev. Dr. Peter Thumma, Manya Printers & Publishers, Chengalpattu, 2021, pp.89-119)

Points to Ponder:

- This 21-year old is now the only woman in history to run under 52 seconds in the women’s 400-meter hurdles and one of the preeminent faces of the new generation of track and field athletes. *Sydney McLaughlin* set a new world record and received the gold medal. Her words reflect her faith as she boldly said, “Records come and go, the glory of God is eternal.” And “I no longer run for self-recognition, but to reflect His perfect will that is already set in stone. I don’t deserve anything. But by grace, through faith, Jesus has given me everything.” – Tokyo Olympics 2020, Japan.

- Regardless of what trial we are going through, what mistake we have made, or what sin we have

committed- God still loves us and He always welcomes us to come to Him for forgiveness and help.

- When two ears are put side by side, it forms the shape of the Heart. Interestingly, the word 'ear' sits right in the middle of the word 'Heart' (h-ear-t). The 'ear' is the way to the 'heart.' So, if you want someone's heart, learn to listen to him/her.
- "All Birds find shelter during a rain. But Eagle avoids rain by flying above the Clouds. Problems are common, but attitude makes the difference!"

For your kind information:

Dear loving parish priests,

I am once again reminding you. Kindly do not send the people to the tribunal office, until the school reopens. Hearing and enquiries are impossible through phone contacts, due to defect in technology system. You may send them when everything takes shape in running the normalcy, informing me ahead with your letter as the parish priest.

Fr. S. Pascal Raj

Judicial Vicar

St. Xavier's Pastoral Centre

Commission for Evangelization

One of the commission's activities that we have been doing so far is to conduct the "Third Saturday One Day Charismatic Healing Prayer Meeting". Just before the commencement of the lockdown due to Corona 19 from March 2020, we were conducting it regularly for around 5 years where and 400 to 500 people from the Parishes of Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Tindivanam and Villupuram came

and attended with great interest and enthusiasm every month and enriched themselves spiritually with the Word of God. But it is a great spiritual tragedy that we are unable to restart this programme because of the fear of the spread of this pandemic from this centre. I hope and pray that the things may get to normalcy very soon so that we can get together without the fear of the other and join in good numbers and pray.

National Prayer Service

The Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India, called for a Prayer Service and Benediction for "ONE HOUR" on 7th August from 08.30 p.m. to 09.30 p.m. We received the circular on 26th August, so we could not immediately publish it in the News Letter but we have immediately sent the details of this "National Prayer Service For the Health of the World" in our diocesan official website and Whatsapp group and also in other Whatsapp groups of our Priests such as "UNUM Presbyterium", "Real Unum Presbyterium" and in other groups as well.

It was coordinated by the CCBI Office, Bangalore and those who conducted it were the Office Bearers of the CCBI and the Commissions' Secretaries and the prayers were conducted from the tombs of St. Thomas, St. Francis Xavier, St. Theresa of Kolkota and from the Shrine Basilicas of Bandra (Mumbai), Sardana (Meerut), Hyderabad, Shivajinagar (Bangalore) and Vailanganny and this prayer was live telecasted in Madha T.V., Shalom T.V., Goodnews T.V., Divyarani T.V., Atmadhashan T.V., Ishwani T.V., CCR T.V., and Prathana Bavan T.V. and also through the You Tube of the Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) to pray for the health of the world. I hope you have joined and prayed together for the whole world to be protected from the pandemic Covid 19. Thank you all.

Madha T.V. and 55th World Communication Day Programmes

Santhome Communication Centre and Madha T.V. are the TNBC Commission for Media and Communication which is in charge of the Tamil Nadu Level animation and celebration of this day. So from last year we decided to celebrate this day for a week. So this year we started this week long celebration from 1st of August to 8th of August, Sunday as the World Communication Sunday.

During this week, in Madha T.V. every day we had special mass, adoration, rosary and special programme. Every day of that week was allotted to one Region and the Regional Co-ordinator arranged the participation of the dioceses of that Region. And the main theme of the day was given by the Centre taken from the Message of the Pope for the 55th World Communication Sunday. Our diocese was asked to give a Rosary programme on the 3rd of August. That was prayed by the Sisters of Louis de Gonzaga Generalate (FSAG) with technical assistance of Lourdes T.V. and our outgoing and incoming Curia Secretaries, Rev. Fr. R. Jayanth Rayan and Rev. Fr. L. Arokiadoss. It was well prepared and nicely presented.

World Communication Day

I have informed you and invited you in many ways making use of the Modern Media and our traditional media of News Letter and circulars to read and know the message of our Pope regarding the 55th World Communication Day and to celebrate it liturgically on 8th of August. I have sent the Eucharistic liturgical materials by post well in advance. I hope you have made use of them for the masses of August 8th. Kindly send the offering collection of that day to the Procurator even if it is a small sum.

Other Special Programmes

a. En Vazhvil Maria Viannery

We had a “Filler Programme”, i.e. a very short sharing of the diocesan Priests of their experience of St. John Maria

Vianney in their life and ministry. Five/Six days were allotted to each Region. I arranged for 5 days from 6th August to 11th of August. Rev. Fr. M. Peter, Rev. Fr. Pon. Antonysamy former V.G., Rev. Fr. A. S. Antonysamy, Rev. Fr. A. Dominic Rozario, and Rev. Fr. P. Aruldoss gave their sharing very nicely. Lot of people appreciated this because it was telecasted many times on that day.

b. Good Samaritan Programme

In the context of this pandemic Covid 19, the Tamil Nadu Church wanted to identify, admire and appreciate the voluntary relief works of our lay Catholics in their respective areas. This concept was developed during the Secretaries' meeting of the TNBC Commission for Media and Communication and decided to introduce this programme “Nalla Samariyan” = “Good Samaritan” a special programme appreciating the laity who were doing generous and very risky services in their own capacities in the places where they are living. Each Region was asked to prepare a programme for 30 minutes. So we, the North Region of Madha T.V. co-ordinated by Rev. Fr. Sudharsan, the Diocesan Secretary of Vellore for Media and Communication and Madha T.V. Zonal Co-ordinator prepared this special programme. In this, we have selected Mr. Dr. A. Xavier Michael Anand, who is the Nodal Officer for the government of Puducherry and French Consulate for the Management of the Covid 19 and who is working in Indira Gandhi Government General Hospital and asked him to share his experiences of his services in this field. This programme was telecasted on 19th August at 09.00 p.m., 11.30 p.m. and 04.00 a.m, on 20th of August. It was really one of the best programmes.

All these programmes can be re-viewed in Madha T.V., Madha T.V. You Tube or in Madha T.V. apps in the Sub Title “Shows”. So if you want to watch once again or ask others to do so, kindly make use of these facilities.

Commission for Anbiyam

Every Saturday, the Commission for Anbiyam of TNBC is conducting an Online participatory consultative seminar, kindly encourage people to attend it. Just send a SMS to Rev. Fr. Joseph Justus, the Regional Secretary of the Commission for Anbiyam once and it is enough that the regular information regarding the Online meetings will be informed regularly and people may profit and contribute towards the building up of the Kingdom of God in the miniature Church, Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC). Cel. No. 917904253074

Rev. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss

Director

Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination

Fr. P. Rosario 21-09-84 

Birthdays of our Archdiocesan Clergy

Fr. S. Albert	05-09-76
Fr. J. Arockia Raj	05-09-76
Fr. D. Arokiadoss	07-09-69
Fr. V. Arokiadoss, MEP	08-09-60
Fr. L. Jayaraj Maguimey	10-09-49
Fr. J. Lenin Andreves	10-09-83
Fr. C. Joseph Arumai Selvam	11-09-56
Fr. C. William Johnson Antonyraj	12-09-86
Fr. R. Pascal Raj	14-09-74
Fr. A. Pitchaimuthu	15-09-40
Fr. V. Albert Thambi Durai	15-09-64
Fr. A. Arokiadoss	16-09-55
Fr. M. Arokiasamy	17-09-61
Fr. S. Maria Joseph	21-09-46
Fr. P. Rosario	22-09-56



Fr. A. Wilson George	23-09-78
Fr. A. Alex	24-09-78
Fr. A. Nayagam	25-09-76
Fr. P. Arulnathan	26-09-65
Fr. A. Sebastian	27-09-73
Fr. L. Josephraj	28-09-72
Fr. R. Martin Antony	28-09-83
Fr. L. John Edison	29-09-67
Fr. A. Justin Arokiaraj	30-09-78



NECROLOGY

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

03-09-1971	Lamathe. J.M., MEP
08-09-1975	Cussac. A., MEP
08-09-1998	Irudayaraj. M.
10-09-1980	Raja. G.
10-09-1993	Vanchipura. J.
11-09-2020	Velanganni Savaridoss. A
14-09-1976	Chauvet. R., MEP
15-09-1970	Gandy S.J.
16-09-1976	Gnanapragasam. A.M.
18-09-2016	Rajarathinam T.S.
22-09-1969	Paul S.
22-09-1986	Lazar Chinnappa. C.
26-09-1982	Amalorpavanather. A.
27-09-1983	Antonisamy. K.P.
29-09-1981	Anthony. G.M.
29-09-1892	Mgr. LAOUËNAN François
	Jean Marie
29-09-1991	Yagappa. P.
30-09-1982	Hougard. A., MEP



**75TH YEAR PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION
& RENOVATION OF THE
PARISH CHURCH AT MICHAELPURAM
ON 16TH AUGUST 2021**



Most Rev. Dr. A. RAYAPPAN, BISHOP OF SALEM
Celebrated Thanks Giving Mass at Cathedral on 9th August 2021



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