



News letter

**DIOCESE OF SALEM**

NO. 524

SEPTEMBER 2018

**BISHOP'S CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2018**

Date	Programme	Place	Time
01	Mass	Sowripalayam	09.30 a.m.
01-02	Pastoral Visit	Agraharam	
02	Vincent De Paul Meeting	Epiphany Center	01.00 p.m.
<b>03</b>	<b>Clergy Monthly Recollection</b>	<b>Bishop's House</b>	<b>09.30 a.m.</b>
03	Pastoral visit	Agraharam	Evening
04	Mass	Johnsonpet	06.15 p.m.
05	Mass, M.C. Sisters Convent	Alagapuram	07.00 a.m.
05	Pastoral visit	Agraharam	Evening
06	Mass	Namakkal	09.00 a.m.
06	Pastoral visit	Agraharam	Evening
07	RIP Mass	Mathiampatti	11.00 a.m.
08	Feast Mass	Reddiyur	08.30 a.m.
08	Feast Mass, Saminathapuram	Arisipalayam	06.00 p.m.
09	Mass	Tutikulam	09.00 a.m.
09	Mass	Patlur	06.30 p.m.
10	Godown Lease deed Registration	Suramangalam	
11	Board Meeting, St. Peter's Seminary	Bangalore	
12	Mass	Johnsonpet	05.00 p.m.
13-16	Pastoral Visit	Sendarapatti	
17	Travel to Pune		
18-20	Bishops' Meeting on SCC in India	Pune	
21	Youth Meeting	Epiphany Center	Evening
22	Madha TV Office	Chennai	
<b>23-28</b>	<b>Salem Diocesan Clergy Annual Retreat</b>	<b>Poondi</b>	
29	TNBC Commission for Catechetics meeting	Yercaud	
30	Bible Feast, St. Xavier's Church	Arisipalayam	04.00 p.m.

**FROM BISHOP'S DESK - SEPTEMBER 2018**

1. **The Clergy Monthly Recollection on 03.09.2018** we will have Msgr. Joseph Lourdu Raja, Vicar General of Sivagangai diocese, to animate us on the new way of running a parish.
2. **BIBLE SUNDAY** will be celebrated in Tamilnadu this year on **23.09.2018**. Let us make it a weeklong celebration to drive home to our people the importance of the Word of God in the life of every Christian and of the church using the material supplied to every parish by the

Diocesan Bible Commission. Since we shall have the Diocesan Clergy Retreat during this week, Parish Priests are requested to choose suitable week for this important celebration.

3. **SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR BIBLE SUNDAY is to be taken in all the parishes and institutions on 23.09.2018 for the activities of Bible apostolate in Tamilnadu.** Please inform the faithful on the purpose of this collection and **remit the amount collected to Rev. Fr. Benjamin Sandanaraj, Secretary, Bible Commission, Mary Palace, Thammanan Road, Salem – 636009** as early as possible.
4. **8<sup>th</sup> September is observed every year as GIRL CHILD DAY.** Using the liturgical material prepared by the TNBC Commission for Women, kindly arrange to celebrate the Girl Child Day in a meaningful way. Various competitions could be conducted to develop the talents of the girl children in the parishes and institutions. This is a good occasion to conscientize our people on removing all forms of violence against women and girl children.
5. **The Register of Parish Chronicles is to be kept updated** always. The bishop will sign it on every visit, even on casual visits.
6. **SC/ST Scholarship from Tamilnadu Bishops' Council for those who are doing following professional courses; B.Ed., Nursing, B. Pharm; BPT; TTC; DTE/ Polytechnic; ITI; DMLT; MPHW, Pre-school teacher training; Degree & Dip. in Catering.** Applications, at the cost of Rs.10 each, can be obtained from Fr. R. Jayaseelan, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rasipuram, Namakkal Dt. and from Mariasusai Catechist, Bishop's House, Maravaneri, Salem, from the beginning of September till 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018. **The filled-in applications from eligible candidates should reach Fr. R. Jayaseelan before 30.09.2018,** after which date, application cannot be accepted. For filling up the applications kindly take note of the following:
  - The applicants must be studying in Institutions approved by the Government.
  - Only one person can apply for Scholarship from a family.
  - Applications must be duly signed by the Student, Principal & Parish Priest.
  - Copy of the Community certificate must be attached.
  - Incomplete applications will be rejected.
  - Late date to submit the filled-in application is **30.09.2018.**

**Kindly note that the Applications from our Commission office will be issued only to those who produce a copy of the SC / ST Community Certificate.**

7. **Use of the New Tamil Missal is obligatory** for all in Tamilnadu from February 2018. All the priests, including the priests of Religious Orders, are instructed to strictly follow and not to use any more the old Missal. All priests are invited to observe the Liturgical Rules in all Public liturgical celebrations.
8. **The Collection** received in the Salem Diocesan Procurator's Office, **for Relief work in flood devastated areas of Kerala is Rs. 618821 till 25.08.2018.** This amount is sent, at the instruction of the CBCI office, to Caritas India, through the Salem Social Service Society. I thank all the donors and the effort of the Parish priests and others in making the collection for our suffering brethren in Kerala.
9. **SALEM DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREAT is arranged this year from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evening to 28<sup>th</sup> Friday lunch time, September 2018.** The Venue of our Annual Retreat is: Shrine Retreat Center, Poondi, in Kumbakonam diocese. Tel. 04362-287780.

**Please note that we will start by Bus to Poondi on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 Sunday leaving from Infant Jesus Cathedral, Salem, Sharp at 02.00 p.m. All the priests are expected to be at the Cathedral Campus before, 02.00 p.m. to avoid any delay in departure. Lunch will be provided at Infant Jesus Cathedral Presbytery dining hall from 12.30 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.**

**10. The Mercedarian Sisters of Charity**, who started a convent in Sadayampalayam, have started a house in Salem Town for the facilities English Medium Education of their candidates of initial formation. Their address is Mercedarian Sisters of Charity, 40/19A, Natesan Colony, II floor, Sankar Nagar, Salem – 636007.

**11. The Seva Missionary Sisters have opened a new Community near Sheshanchavadi** village in Valapadi parish. They are discerning God's will for a relevant and meaningful ministry in that area.

**12. Kindly note the following regarding the Diocesan Clergy Retreat:**

- a. **It is obligatory for all the Diocesan Priests to attend the Diocesan Annual Clergy Retreat. Anyone who is not able to attend the Retreat for valid reason should get the prior permission from the Bishop in writing before the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.** This will also help the Procurator to book the number of rooms needed for our Retreat.
- b. **It is desirable that all of us travel together in one bus to Poondi. If anyone is not joining bus journey and want to come on his own for any serious reasons, please inform the Diocesan Procurator before 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018.** This will help the Procurator to arrange the size of bus we need. If Procurator does not receive any information by 15<sup>th</sup> September, it is understood that you are joining the bus travel.
- c. **Please bring your MASS DIARY to the Diocesan Clergy Retreat to present it to the Bishop for verification and signature.** Kindly write in your Mass Diary the date and the number of the Mass Receipts from Procurator and the date of the return of the Exoneration Slip to the Procurator. The Bishop will have to verify these in the Mass Diaries and in the Mass issue Register of the Diocese.
- d. **Please bring your cassock** to be used for the liturgical celebrations.
- e. **Our Retreat will close with lunch on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Friday and we will travel back after lunch on the same day.**

Bishop S. Singaroyan

## **NEWS FROM DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS**

### **ANBIAM COMMISSION:**

On 05.08.2018 Fr. Benjamin went to Thumbal parish and offered mass. He met the people and anbiya leaders after the mass and encouraged them in conducting anbiams regularly. On 09,10,11.08.2018 Fr. Benjamin and Bro. Julius visited anbiams in Arisipalayam parish and encouraged them. Fr. Vincent, Aasst. parish priest had arranged the programmes well.

### **LAITY COMMISSION**

On 29.07.2018 Fr. Benjamin and his team members went Chinnagollapatty parish and conducted election for all anbiams. The elected members are to go for parish council. On 04.08.2018 the elected, nominated and ex-officio members were given proper orientation in dispensing their duties well. On 05.08.2018 during the Holy Mass in the evening the new parish council was officially announced and all members took oath. Fr. Alex Prabu had arranged all the programmes systematically.

On 12.08.2018 Fr.Benjamin had gone to Agraharam Parish in view of rejuvenating anbiyams through which parish council has to be erected soon. He told the people clearly the necessity, need and duties of a parish council.

On 18.08.2018 Fr.Benjamin and Bro.Julius went to Udayapatti parish and gave orientation to the newly elected members from anbiams and erected a new parish council. Fr.Alex Peter is appreciated for all the arrangements.

## **LITURGY COMMISSION**

A rubber stamp for the correction of “ithu andavar valangum arulvakku” into “andavarin arulvakku” in lectionary had been given to all the parishes on 06.08.2018.

A seminar on “**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Holy Communion**” was arranged on 19.08.2018 in Epiphany sentre, Salem. 28 religious sisters from various congregations who took part in this seminar were given certificates by our Bishop.

Fr. Benjamin, Secretary for Liturgy Commission insisted on the need of a liturgy committee in the parishes when he went to Thumbal, Agraharam, Arisipalayam, Chinnagollapatti, Kakkavery, Pudupalayam, Udayappatti parishes this month.

## **COMMISSION FOR LITURGICAL MUSIC**

On the invitation of Fr.Francis Xavier, parish priest, Pudupalayam, Fr.Benjamin trained the choir in the parish to sing well for their parochial feast on 15.08.2018.

Parish Priests are welcome to make use of the commission for Liturgical Music by informing well in advance. We are ready to help you.

## **BIBLE COMMISSION**

One day seminar on Wisdom Literature was arranged as a part of ongoing biblical course on 22.07.2018 at Marthal illam, Salem. Fr.David Stanley kumar was the resource person and 53 members took part and benefitted out of this seminar. Thanks to Bro.Mariasusai for all the arrangements. This seminar will be conducted on 23.09.2018 also.

**Kindly note:** A “**Vivilia Vilayaatu Vizha**” is arranged on 30.09.2018 in the Little Flower Matriculation School and St.Francis Xavier Minor Seminary campus. Other details will be notified to you soon in a letter.

## **FAMILY COMMISSION**

Two full days of training of the trainers (TOT) was arranged by CCBI commission for family in association with TNBC commission for family at Poondy on 06,07.08.2018. Fr.Benjamin, Bro. Julius and Bro.Arulraj as representatives of Salem Diocese took part in the training and got certificates.

**There will be No Marriage Preparation Course in the month of October -2018**

## **Marriage Preparation Course in the Month of SEPTEMBER 2018**

<p><b>Place : Marthal Illam, Epiphany Centre, Salem –9</b> <b>Day : 8<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 9<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) of September 2018.</b> <b>Time : From 08.30 a.m. to 05.30 p.m.</b> <b>Reg Fee : 300/- (Registration, Certificate and Lunch for two days)</b></p>
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Note:

1. Participants must come with parish priest's letter and register their name on time.  
8.30 am - 9.00 Registrations  
9.00 classes begin.

Late comers are not allowed to attend this course.

2. Parents must attend the seminar on 09-09-2018, Sunday from 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm.

-Fr.S.Benjamin Sandhanaraj, Secretary.

## **SC/ST/BC COMMISSION**

**More than 300 people from Salem Diocese attended the Protest Rally and Public Meeting at Thiruchirapalli** on 19.08.2018, demanding from the Central Government the SC rights to Christians of Schedule caste origin. Many people Salem diocese from came by 5 busses and 7 private vehicles arranged by our Diocesan Commission and others came on their own by private vehicles and by train. We thank all those who participated and we thank all the sponsors and Salem Diocese for helping for the busses and other expenses.

**SC/ST Scholarship from Tamilnadu Bishops' Council for those who are doing following professional courses; B.Ed., Nursing, B. Pharm; BPT; TTC; DTE/ Polytechnic; ITI; DMLT; MPHW, Pre-school teacher training; Degree & Dip. in Catering.** Applications, at the cost of Rs.10 each, can be obtained from Fr. R. Jayaseelan, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rasipuram, Namakkal Dt. and from Mariasusai Catechist, Bishop's House, Maravaneri, Salem, from the beginning of September till 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018. **The filled-in applications from eligible candidates should reach Fr .R. Jayaseelan before 30.09.2018**, after which date, application cannot be accepted. For filling up the applications kindly take note of the following:

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Fr. R. Jayaseelan, Secretary.

## **YOUTH COMMISSION**

**YCS / YSM: New Regional Leaders from Salem.** On Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at Poondi, Regional commission for YCS/YSM conducted general elections and representatives were chosen for Tamilnadu Region. **Selvi. Vincy, Class IX from Cluny Mat. School was elected as Tamilnadu YCS/YSM Leader. Mr. Santhosh, St. Vincent Palloti School was elected as Tamilnadu YCS/YSM Teachers Coordinator.** Hearty Congrats to the elected members from our diocese. We mark our special thanks to Rev. Fr. Principal, L.F Mat. School, Rev. Sr. Principal, Cluny Mat. School, Rev. Fr. Principal, St. Vincent Palloti Mat. School for all their kind support and cooperation.

The Diocesan Animators of YCS/YSM visited Little Flower Higher Secondary School, on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018. YCS/YSM is very active in the school; boys take up lot of initiatives on daily basics. Motivation and orientation were given to the Students. Sixty two of them participated. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. John Joseph, HM, LFHS, and Mr. Sagayaraj & Mr. Lawrence, the School Animators for all their support.



The Diocesan Animators of YCS/YSM visited Little Flower Matriculation School on Thursday, 16 August 2018. The motto and the goal of YCS/YSM “Puthiya Samuthayam Padaika” was the topic of the day. Fifty Five Students actively responded. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Christu Raj, Principal, Staff & Students for their encouragement and support.

The Diocesan Animators of YCS/YSM visited St. Mary’s Girls Higher Secondary School, Arisipalayam, on Friday, 24 August 2018. Students were motivated on the goal of YCS/YSM “Puthiya Samuthayam Padaika”. Role of women in the society and women empowerment topic were introduced. Thanks to Rev. Sr. Irudaya, Headmistress, Staff & Students for their encouragement.

**SALEM YOUNGSTERS MEET:** On Sunday, 05 August 2018, the Diocesan Youth Commission had organized one day seminar on “**Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment**” at Epiphany Pastoral Centre. The first input session was led by Rev. Fr. Southern Star, Vice Rector, St. Francis Xavier Minor Seminary, Salem. Role and responsibilities of the youngsters and the summary of the Papal letter were the topic of the hour. The second session was led by Rev. Fr. John Baptist SDB, Province Secretary for Catechetical Commission from Trichy. Indeed, it was an interesting session. Youth & Media was the topic dealt with. After lunch break, third session was led by Rev. Fr. Martin, Regional Youth Director. The role and responsibilities of the youth and specially the office bearers were well explained, after which the general elections was conducted. Vicariate level and then the diocesan representatives were elected. The day was concluded with the Holy Mass lead by Msgr. John Joseph, V.G. and Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Cathedral.

Sincere thanks to all the Animators. We also express of sentiments of gratitude to Rev. Fr. Arulappan, Parish Priest and Vicar Forane of Salem Vicariate for the timely help and support. Special thanks Rev. Sisters of Aloysius Gonzaga, parish council members and the Youth of Suramangalam Parish for their coordination and support:

**New office bearers of the Salem Diocesan Youth Commission:**

**Leader – Selvan Antony**, Valapady Parish, Attur Vicariate

**Asst. Leader – Selvi Maria Selvi**, Tharamangalam Parish, Mettur Vicariate

**Secretary - Selvi Aneesh**, Sendamangalam Parish, Namakkal Vicariate

**Asst. Secretary - Selvan Praveen**, Namakkal Parish, Namakkal Vicariate

**Treasurer - Selvan Dowvin**, Pallipalayam Parish, Tiruchengode Vicariate

**Representatives:**

**Male - Selvan Isaravel**, Suramangalam Parish, Salem Vicariate

**Female – Selvi Princy**, Sanniyasigundu Parish, Salem Vicariate

**Full timer – Selvan Surya, Staff, EPIC**

**Hearty congrats to the new office bearers. Wishing them fruitful service!**

**\*\*The office bearers by rule have three years to service in their respective offices.**

**All India Youth Directors’ Meet:** Conference of Catholic Bishops’ of India had organized 6<sup>th</sup> National seminar for the Youth Directors’ of India on August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Naveenta, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Ajmer, Rajasthan. From Tamilnadu Region twelve Directors from Various Dioceses participated. Reporting, Plans and proposals for the Synod on Youth, Functions of Diocesan and Regional Commissions networking with the National Commission, Action Plan, Progress and Projects for the coming years were the main topics discussed during the days.

## COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

**Mass shoot for Madha TV :** On Wednesday, 01 August 2018 at Thirumanur Parish Mass shoot for Madha TV program was organized. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Albert Antony Raj, the Parish Priest and the Parishioners for their timely help and support. On Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at Rasipuram Parish Mass shoot for Madha TV program was organized. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Jeyaseelan, the Parish Priest and the Parishioners for their fraternal support.

**Illathil Iraiatchi for Madha TV:** On Thursday, 02 August 2018 at Epiphany Centre, Illathil Iraiatchi programme shoot was organized. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Solomon, Parish Priest, St. Michael's Church, Alagapuram for being the moderator. We thank the families who actively participated and the Technical team for their support.



## EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

**Marivalam:** On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018, Marivalam started from Infant Jesus Cathedral premises. Rev. Fr. Kirubakaran, Parish Priest of Siluvaigiri conducted the evening services. Nearly two hundred people participated. Thanks to Msgr. John Joseph, the Parish Priest and Rev. Fr. Vincent the Asst. Parish Priest, Infant Jesus Cathedral, for their support. Sincere thanks all the volunteers for their prayerful services.

**On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018,** the Audio unit of Epiphany assisted the Sports meet held at Mount Mary Mat. School, Chinnagollapatti. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Jothi Fernando, Principal.

**On Monday, 20 August 2018,** the Audio unit of Epiphany assisted the Sports meet held at St. Thomas Mat. School, Sanniyasigundu. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Arokia David, Principal.

**On Friday, 24 August 2018,** the Audio Unit of Epiphany assisted the Sports Meet held at Little Flower Mat. School, Salem. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Christu Raj, Principal.

**Valapady Parish:** On Tuesday, 21 August 2018, Epiphany cultural team staged the life history of Pius X, the patron saint of Valapady, on the Diamond Jubilee Function. Thousands of devotees in and around the parish witnessed the event. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Vimal Dass, Parish Priest and the Cultural team members for the fraternal support and cooperation.



**Salem Kalai Sangamam:** On Sunday, 15 August 2018, Independence Day Special Programme was organized by the Cultural Team members at Epiphany Pastoral Centre at 7 pm. Thiru. Maria Nesan, Rtd., Teacher from Little Flower Higher Secondary School, motivated the audience on the theme of the day. Refined drama on the theme '*Freedom Struggle and patriotism*' was staged. With colorful patriotic song the program came to an end. Nearly three hundred people witnessed the event. We sincerely thank and appreciate the team members for their hard work and sincere effort for making the day a memorable one.



## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL COMMISSION

**Inaguration of Jericho Prayer:** The Diocesan Charismatic team members have visited the following parishes to Form & Strengthen the Prayer groups (Jericho Prayer) and explained about the Growth Retreat to be held in the month of September 29 (Saturday), 30 (Sunday), & October 01 (Monday), 2018. **On Sunday, 12 August 2018, Service team visited** SPB Colony and Tiruchengode Parishes. **On Sunday, 19 August 2018, Service team visited** Attur, Koneripatti, Gangavalli, Siluvaigiri and Mettur Dam Parishes. **On Sunday, 26 August 2018, Service team visited** Namakkal, Rasipuram, Kosavampatti, Kakkaveri and Sendamangalaam Parishes. We, sincerely thank all the Parish Priests and the respective service team members for their cooperation and support. Hoping to visit the other parishes in the coming days.

**One day Retreat:** The Diocesan Charismatic Service Team members have conducted one day retreat for the Salem, St. Mary's School Catholic girls. *God's providence, Call, role of women* in the Bible were the main theme of the day. Nearly two hundred girls participated. Sincere thanks to the Superior and the Principal of St. Mary's School, Salem. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Kirubakaran and the service team members for their prayerful services.



**Full Night prayer:** On Saturday, 11 August 2018, Full Night Prayer was organized. Around forty of the lay faithful participated and prayed for the special intensions of the day and specially for the people of Kerala. Thanks to Rev. Fr. Kirubakaran, Parish Priest, Siluvaigiri and the Service team members for their effort.

## CATHOLIC SENIOR CITIZEN MOVEMENT

The Senior Citizens of our diocese had monthly meeting on II & IV Saturday. They actively participated in Marivalam and the IV Sunday Bible class. Sincere thanks to the Senior Citizens for all the initiatives.

## WOMEN COMMISSION

செப்டம்பர் 8 அன்று பெண்குழந்தைகள் தினம். இந்த ஆண்டு “சமுதாய சூழ்நிலை மாற்றங்களும் பெண்குழந்தைகள் வளர்ப்பும்” என்ற மையப்பொருளுடன் பெண்குழந்தைகள் தினத்தைக் கொண்டாட பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு அனைவரையும் அழைக்கிறது. அனைத்து பங்குகளுக்கும் சுவரொட்டிகள் திருப்பலிக் குறிப்புகள் அறிவிப்புகள் அனுப்பப்பட்டுள்ளன. இவற்றைப் பயன்படுத்தி பெண்குழந்தைகள் தினத்தைச் சிறப்புடன் கொண்டாட அனைவரையும் அன்புடன் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

சு. ஜெசிந்தா ரோசி செயலர்.



மறைக்கல்வி பணிக்குழுக் கூட்டம் 16-08-18 அன்று இயக்குநர் தலைமையில் மேரி பேலஸ் அலுவலகத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. 10 உறுப்பினர்கள் கலந்துக்கொண்டனர். இக்கூட்டத்தில் 2018-2019 கல்வியாண்டிற்கான மறைக்கல்வி குறித்து ஆலோசனை செய்யப்பட்டது. அதன்படி, கத்தோலிக்கப் பள்ளிகளில் அனைத்து வகுப்பினருக்கும் ( 1 வழு 12) மறைக்கல்வி வகுப்புகள் எடுக்கவும், புத்தகத்தில் உள்ள அனைத்துப் பாடங்களையும் கண்டிப்பாக நடத்த வேண்டும் எனவும், மறைக்கல்வி தேர்வுகளில் 75:25 என்ற அடிப்படையில் மதிப்பெண்கள் வழங்கலாம் எனவும், பங்குகளிலும் ஞாயிறு மறைக்கல்வி வகுப்புகள் நடத்த ஆசிரியர்களுக்கு பயிற்சி வழங்கலாம் எனவும் முடிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.

**சின்னக் கொல்லப்பட்டி பங்கு:** 12-08-2018 அன்று சின்னக்கொல்லப்பட்டி பங்கில் ஞாயிறு மறைக்கல்வி மாணவ மாணவியரை பணிக்குழு செயலர் அருட்பணி மரிய ஜோசப் ராஜ், மற்றும் திரு. பிரன்சிஸ் சகாய ராஜ் சந்தித்து மறைக்கல்வி வகுப்பு எடுத்து உற்சாகப்படுத்தி பாராட்டினார். ஆடல், பாடல் பயிற்சியோடு உவமைகளையும் இறைவார்த்தைகளையும் புரிந்துக்கொண்டு நமது அன்றாட வாழ்வில் எப்படி கடைபிடிக்க வேண்டும் என்று கூறி நம்பிக்கையிலும், பக்தியிலும் வளர வழிகாட்டினார். இதில் 40 பேர் கலந்துக் கொண்டு பயனடைந்தனர்.

**வேதியர் மற்றும் கோவில் பிள்ளைகளுக்கான தியானம்:** 20-08-2018 மற்றும் 21-08-2018 இரண்டு நாட்கள் இயக்குநர் தந்தை அருட்பணி மரிய ஜோசப் ராஜ் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் நாமக்கல் மறைவட்ட பங்குகளில் பணிபுரியும் வேதியர் மற்றும் கோவில் பிள்ளைகளுக்கான தியானம் நாமக்கல் பங்கு கிறிஸ்தர்சர் ஆலயத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. மாலை 6.30 முதல் 7.30 வரை இறை மக்களுக்கான சிறப்பு ஆராதனை வழிபாட்டை வேதியர்கள் நடத்தினர். நாமக்கல், மோகனூர், காக்காவேரி பங்குகளிலிருந்து கோவில்பிள்ளைகள் மற்றும் வேதியர்கள் கலந்துக்கொண்டு பயன்பெற்றனர். முடிவில் வேதியர்கள் தங்கள் பணித்தள மற்றவர்களும் ஊக்கம் பெறும் வகையில் அனுபவங்களை பகிர்ந்துக்கொண்டனர். மறைவட்ட முதன்மை குரு அருட்பணி. ஜான் அல்போன்ஸ் சிறப்பான ஏற்பாடு செய்திருந்தார்.

21-08-2018 அன்று வேதியர்கள் ஜான்ஜோசப், ஜூலியஸ் சீசர், அருள்ராஜ், மரியசுசை, மற்றும் வின்சன்ட் ஜோதி ஆகியோர் நாமக்கல் புனித பாத்திமா நடுநிலைப்பள்ளியில் உள்ள மறைக்கல்வி மாணவ மாணவியருக்கு மறைக்கல்வி வகுப்புகள் எடுத்து உற்சாகப்படுத்தினர். மேலும், வள்ளிபுரம், தும்மங்குறிச்சி மற்றும் மாரப்பநாயக்கன்பட்டி பகுதியில் உள்ள ஆர்.சி. பள்ளிகளுக்குச் சென்று மாணவ மாணவியரை சந்தித்து நல்லொழுக்கம் கற்பித்தனர்.

#### கல்விப்பணிக்குழு

**பள்ளி சந்திப்பு:** 20, 21-08-2018 அன்று ஆர் சி பள்ளிகளின் மேலாளர் அருட்பணி மரிய ஜோசப் ராஜ் புனித பாத்திமா நடுநிலைப் பள்ளி, நாமக்கல் புனித மரியன்னை துவக்கப்பள்ளி, வள்ளிபுரம் புனித மரியன்னை துவக்கப்பள்ளி, தும்மங்குறிச்சி புனித மரியன்னை துவக்கப்பள்ளி, மாரப்பநாயக்கன்பட்டி ஆகிய பள்ளிகளை பார்வையிட்டார். தலைமையாசிரியர், மற்றும் ஆசிரியர்கள் நமது பள்ளியில் கல்வி பயிலும் மாணவ மாணவியர் படிப்பில் மட்டுமன்றாது அறிவிலும், கடவுள் பக்தியிலும், ஒழுக்கத்திலும் வளர வேண்டும் எனவும் மாணவர்நலன், பாதுகாப்பு மற்றும் பள்ளி நலனை கருத்தில் கொண்டு ஒவ்வொருவரும் சிறந்த முறையில் தங்கள் பணியினை தொடர்ந்து செய்திட கேட்டுக்கொண்டார். பள்ளி வளாகமும், வகுப்பறைகளும் எப்பொழுதும் தூய்மையாக வைத்திருக்க ஆலோசனை வழங்கினார். பள்ளியில் 'Smart Class' ஏற்பாடு செய்திருப்பதும், பள்ளியின் மாணவர் சேர்க்கைக்காக வாகனம் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டிருப்பதும், பள்ளியின் ஏனைய காரியங்களை தாளாளர், தலைமையாசிரியர், மற்றும் பள்ளியில் பணியாற்றும் ஆசிரியர்கள் ஆலோசனை செய்து இணைந்து செயல்படுவதை குறித்தும் பாராட்டினார்.

Fr. Maria Joseph Raj, Secretary.

#### மரியாயின்சேனை

**பள்ளிபாளையம் பங்கு:** 12.08.2018 அன்று பள்ளிபாளையம் பங்கில் சேலம் கொமிசிய தலைவர் சகோ.பிரன்சிஸ் வழிகாட்டலின்படி புதிய மரியாயின் சேனை “ சகாயமாதா பிரசிட்யம்” என்ற பெயரில் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. 20 உறுப்பினர்கள் வாக்குறுதி கொடுத்தனர். பிரசிட்யத்தின் தலைவர்- சகோதரி. ஜாய்ஸ் ஜெசிந்தா மேரி. துணைத்தலைவர்- சகோதரி. ஜெயசீலி. செயலர்- சகோதரி. ஆனிதா. பொருளர்- சகோதரி. ஜாய்ஸ் ஆகியோர் பிரசிட்ய அலுவலர்களாக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டனர்.



**சின்னக்கொல்லப்பட்டி பங்கு:** ஆன்ம இயக்குநர் சின்னக்கொல்லப்பட்டி பங்கு மரியாயின் சேனை கூட்டத்திற்கு சென்று ஆலோசனைகள் வழங்கி உற்சாகப்படுத்தினார். கூட்டம் நடத்தும் நடத்தும் முறைகளை விளக்கிக்கூறி 45 முதல் 60 நிமிடங்களுக்குள் கூட்டத்தை நடத்தி முடிக்க வழிகாட்டினார். மேலும் ஆண்கள் பிரசிட்யம், சிறுவர் பிரசிட்யம் அமைக்க முயற்சி செய்ய வலியுறுத்தினார்.

**செனாத்துஸ் கூட்டம்:** 05-08-2018 அன்று மரியாயின் சேனையின் செனாத்துஸ் கூட்டம் பாண்டிச்சேரியல் நடைபெற்றது. இக்கூட்டத்திற்கு சேலம் கொமிசிய அலுவலர்கள் சகோதரி. செல்வமேரி மற்றும் சகோதரி. மரிய செல்வம் ஆகியோர் கலந்துக்கொண்டனர். ஆண்டு திட்டங்கள் பற்றி விவாதிக்கப்பட்டு அதனை அந்தந்த மாதங்களில் நடத்தி முடிக்க கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டனர்.

**கொமிசிய கூட்டம்:** 12-08-2018 அன்று 2.30 மணியளவில் சேலம் மரியாயின் சேனையின் கொமிசியக் கூட்டம் கொமிசியத்தலைவர் சகோதரர் பிரன்சிஸ் தலைமையில் நடைபெற்றது. இக்கூட்டத்திற்கு கொமிசிய அலுவலர்கள், சேனையின் விஸ்தரிப்பாளர்கள், கியூரியாக்களின் அலுவலர்கள், நேரடி பிரசிட்யங்களின் அலுவலர்கள் என 17 பேர் கலந்துக்கொண்டனர். ஆன்ம இயக்குநர் கூட்டத்தில்

கலந்துக் கொண்டு ஞான உரையாற்றினார். மேலும், புதிய பிரசிடியங்கள், கியூரியாக்கள், ஏற்பாடுத்தவும் அதனை கொமிசிய அலுவலர்கள் தொடர்ந்து சென்று சந்திக்க வேண்டும் எனவும் அறிவுறுத்தினார். கூட்டத்தில் எடுக்கப்பட்ட தீர்மானங்கள்:

1. 26.08.2018 அன்று கொமிசிய அலுவலர்கள் நாமக்கல் பங்கிற்கு சென்று சேனையின் பிரசிடியம், கியூரியா வளர்ச்சி குறித்து ஆய்வு செய்ய வேண்டும்.
2. கொமிசியத்திற்கென்று கடித தொடர்பாளரை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும்.
3. நவம்பர் மாதத்தில் கொமிசிய மற்றும் கியூரிய அலுவலர்களுக்கு பயிற்சிக் கூட்டம் நடத்த வேண்டும்.
4. டிசம்பர் மாதத்தில் பிரசிடிய அலுவலர்களுக்கான பயிற்சிக் கூட்டம் நடத்த வேண்டும்.

Fr. Maria Joseph Raj, Spiritual Director.

## SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

**Kolping India:** SSSS Coordinators Mrs. Dorathy, Mr. David and Documentation officer Ms. Gayathri visited Meenavar Colony, Masilapalayam Parish for group formation on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

**New Thrust (NT):** The Resource Mapping exercise was conducted on 14.08.2018 at Koodamalai village, Gangavalli Block. The Zonal Programme officer Mrs. Mary Nirmala, TASOSS facilitated the programme. SSSS Coordinators, field staff and people from Koodamalai village participated in this programme. Thomaiyar kolping SHG group at Konneripatti Block received loan amount of Rs. 1,10,000/- from the ICICI Bank. Gandhi SHG group at Attur village received loan amount of 4,50,000/- from the ICICI Bank.

**Minority Welfare:** The District Minority welfare Department has conducted “Minority Loan mela” on 07.08.2018 at collector’s GDP Hall, Salem. 5 TAMCO Loan Applications and one Minority education loan application have been submitted to the panel.

**Exposure Visit:** Kolping Group members and CBO members from Attur, Gangavalli, Agraharam and Thalaivasal block had an Exposure visit on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 to Javvaathu Hills and Chengalpattu Diocese. In Javvaathu hills we visited the farmer producer groups and farmer producer company. Mr. Mohanalingam, Programme Executive officer, Jamunamathur facilitated the programme. He explained about group activities, cultivation of



organic agricultural products and their marketing methods. In Chengalpattu Diocese we visited the best Kolping groups and their IGP activities. The household bio-gas plant was one of the successful implementation of CRDS Kolping programme. Many Kolping members of Vadanemmel village implemented this plant and reduced their monthly expenses. Mr. James, kolping coordinator Chengalpattu facilitated the programme.

**Kerala Flood Relief:** Due to heavy rain and flood, 12 districts of Kerala have been heavily affected. SSSS took initiative to support Kerala through relief materials and monetary support. Messages were passed to all parishes. Relief materials were being Collected from all parishes of Salem Diocese and sent to flood affected areas of Kerala. The monetary assistance will be sent to Caritas India and Kolping India.



**Awareness Training:** On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018 Mr. Arul, Project Manager, conducted TB Awareness training in Cluny Matriculation Hr. Sec. School for JRC students. 45 students participated in this Awareness training.

Fr. M. Rajamanickam, Director, S.S.S.S.

## PRISON MINISTRY INDIA- SALEM UNIT

**PMI. Sunday celebration in Suramangalam Parish.** On the 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018 a well prepared holy mass with the theme “**You Are Not Alone**” was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Arulappan. He informed the people about the PMI celebration on the previous week. He encouraged the parishners to support this ministry by sharing his experience of his visits to the different prisons. During the sermon he spoke about the prisoners and their back ground. Parish Youth decorated the church with the bible quotations pluck cards. Sr. Joyce shared about prison ministry activities in Salem prisons. People were very much touched and contributed Rs.10000 generously. We sincerely thank Rev.Fr. Arulappan and the parishners of Suramangalam for their wonderful support towards this noble ministry.

**Alagapuram Parish.** PMI Sunday was celebrated in Alagapuram Parish. Rev. Fr. Solomon celebrated holy Mass. Sr. Lissy shared about Prison ministry activities. The dump box collection was. Rs. 2500. And after the mass some of them contributed generously Rs. 2916. We thank Fr. Solomen and the parishners for their cooperation towards this ministry.

**Independence day was celebrated** in a grand manner in Salem Women prison. Selvi. Andal SP. of central prison Salem presided over the function. 35 children from Amala Anbu Karankal, Udayapatti, with great exuberance presented an inspiring programme for the inmates; all were happy and appreciated the programme. SP. Delivered a thought provoking message. Sr. Amali performed Karaga Attam dance. It was very nice and all appreciated. PMI Salem volunteers distributed snacks to the inmates and the staff. Superintendent of prison appreciated the dedicated service of PMI. One of the prison Staff presented a small gift to all the children who gave the programme. We extend our deep gratitude to Sr. Amali and the community and the students for radiating happiness in the inmates by their performance.

Sr. Joyce. SJC. Coordinator, Salem unit.

## NEWS FROM VICARIATES

### ATTUR VICARIATE

**Attur:** Flood relief materials collected and sent them to the flood affected area in Kerala on 19th August 2018 through Salem Social Service Society from Attur parish. Rs.70,000.00.has been collected for the flood victims and sent. Thanks to all those who extended their helping hands and raised their praying hands.



**Black Day:** Black day was observed on 18th August 2018 by hoisting the black flag demanding the central government the SC rights to the SC Christians. 70 people from Attur Vicariate participated in the political awareness state level meeting at Trichy by which the demand was insisted and raised the voice for the voiceless.



**The parochial feast of Attur parish** and the feast of our lady of Assumption ( JEYARAKKINI ANNAI) was celebrated on 15th August 2018. 9 days of special Novina prayers Holy mass and Rsary with decorated car procession around the church were observed. Very Rev.Fr.John Joseph enaugurated the feast days with flag hoisting. Each day was celebrated by Anbians. Most Rev Dr Lawrence Pious celebrated the Feast day Holy mass and blessed the highly decorated Ther of Our Lady of Assumption followed by procession. Thousands of devotees participated praying the rosary and singing the devotional songs. The feast day celebration was concluded with Benediction followed by lowering of the Feast day Flag. Good food was served to all the people.



## **SALEM VICARIATE**

**Arisipalayam: First Thursday Novena Celebration:** In honour of Infant Jesus, a special Novena mass and an adoration with healing services are conducted on every First Thursday of the month at the Cathedral at 11.00 a.m and 06 p.m. Many devotees from many parishes are flocking together for these grace showering services. The SVDP conference of Infant Jesus, Arisipalayam is providing a friendly meal to all the devotees at 12. 30 P.M. Infant Jesus is abundantly blessing the devotees and the Vincent de Paul members for which they bear witness.

**Madha TV team's visit:** In order to promote Madha TV, the fifteen members from Chennai visited the parish of Arisipalayam on 19. 08. 2018 and spoke about the various ways of promoting Madha TV. They conducted many games and interviewed many people. At 06.00 p.m. the bishop of Salem, the Chair- Person of Madha TV, celebrated the Holy Mass and presided over the function there after. The coming of the team brought about the needed awareness and some good hearted people came forward with generous donations. The mission and vision of Madha TV is to bring about the Kingdom of God in every home. Let us all join our hands in season and out of season for this noble cause.

**Flood Relief services for the people of Kerala:** We, the parishioners of Infant Jesus Cathedral were heart-broken when national calamity struck earth our brothers and sisters in Kerala. The news broke us to pieces. We at once launched into action. With the wonderful initiative taken by the members of Infant Jesus Conference (SVDP), the parish council members and many volunteers sat in front of the main gate of the cathedral under a big banner earnestly appealing to the public to rush to the aid and need of our suffering brethren in Kerala. There was a very good response from the public and the Cathedral parishioners generously contributing both in kind and cash. May The Good God have mercy on them and restore them as quickly as possible to normal life.

Fr. A. Vincent, ISch Asst. PP, Cathedral.

**Suramangalam - Aug 15, 2018.** A few games and Biblical Competitions preceded the solemn celebration of our Independence Day and Feast of Assumption on Aug 15th 2018. Winners were Honoured with medals, certificates and prizes. It was spectacular to witness kids as well as veterans participating in them.

**Aug. 18, 2018: CANA TASTE** was the theme on which 22 couples from Suramangalam Parish met together on Aug 18th 2018 at the Sacred Heart church and pondered aloud over the sublime aspects of married life guided by Manoj, Camille, Alexraj, Bhuvana from Pondicherry. Participants found it good and proposed to have it for a full day. So there will be a day's programme on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018, at Epiphany Centre, Salem on the theme 'CANA EXPERIENCE'.

Fr. S. Arulappan. P.P.

## **NAMAKKAL VICARIATE**

**Pudupalayam :** The Annual Feast of Our Lady of Assumption was celebrated with great devotion at Pudupalayam on August 15th, 2018. It all started with the Flag hosting by Rev. Fr. Rajappa, Parish Priest of Kakaveri followed by Holy Mass on 11th of August 2018. The three days of Novena prayers followed by Holy Mass were celebrated by our Fathers each day meditating on a special theme. The Solemn Feast day concelebrated High Mass was presided over by our Bishop. During the feast mass, our parish faithful gave their generous offerings towards Matha TV, which serves to promote our Catholic faith. In the evening 'Kalasam blessings' was done by our Namakkal Vicariate fathers. Then blessed Kalasam went around the streets of the whole village and the Blessing of the Car-Procession was the high light of the festival. The Theru devotionally went around the streets of Pudupalayam. All Religion People participated in the procession and received God's favours through

the procession. The celebrations came to a close around 4 am next morning. Indeed it was grand and full of God experience!

Fr. Francis Xavier. PP Pudupalayam

**Namakkal:** From the Namakkal Vicariate Master Praveen was elected as Secretary to the Salem Diocese Youth Commission on 05.08.2018 at Epiphany Centre. He was honoured by the parish priest during the Youth day celebrations on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2018. It was an eye-opening event to all young people to be a part of our youth club.

Fr. John Alphonse. VF & PP Namakkal.



**There will be NO Clergy Monthly Recollection in October 2018.  
Next Clergy Monthly Recollection will be on 05.11.2018**

**POPE FRANCIS**  
**GENERAL AUDIENCE ON IDOLATRY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters Good morning!

We have heard the first commandment of the Decalogue: “**You shall have no other Gods before me**” (Ex 20:3). It is good to pause on the theme **of idolatry** which is significant and timely.

The commandment bans us from setting up idols<sup>[1]</sup> or images<sup>[2]</sup> of any kind of reality<sup>[3]</sup>. Indeed, everything can be used as an idol. We are speaking about a human tendency that involves both believers and atheists. For example, we Christians can ask ourselves: who is truly my God? Is it the One and Triune Love or is it my image, my personal success, perhaps even within the Church? “Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. **Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God**” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 2113).

**What is a “god” on the existential plane? It is what is at the centre of one’s life** and on whom one’s actions and thoughts depend.<sup>[4]</sup> One can grow up in a family that is Christian in name but that is actually centred on reference points that are foreign to the Gospel.<sup>[5]</sup> **Human beings cannot live without being centred on something.** And so the world offers the ‘supermarket’ of idols, which can be objects, images, ideas and roles. For example, even prayer. We must pray to God, our Father. I remember one day I had gone to a parish in the Diocese of Buenos Aires to celebrate Mass and after that, I had to celebrate Confirmation in another parish that was a kilometre away. I went on foot and I walked across a beautiful park. But in that park, there were over 50 tables with two chairs each, and people were seated facing each other. What were they doing? Tarot cards. They went there “to pray” to their idol. Instead of praying to God who is the Providence of the future, they went there to have their fortunes told, to see the future. This is one form of the idolatry of our times. I ask you: how many of you have gone to have your cards read to see the future? How many of you, for example, have gone to have your hands read to see the future instead of praying to the Lord? This is the difference: the Lord is alive. The others are idols, forms of idolatry that are unnecessary.

**How does idolatry develop?** The commandment describes the various phases: “**You shall not make for yourself a graven image or any likeness ... you shall not bow down to them or serve them**” (Ex 20:4-5).

The word ‘*idol*’ in Greek is derived from the verb ‘*to see*’.<sup>[6]</sup> An idol is a ‘*vision*’ which has the tendency to become a fixation, an obsession. **The idol in reality is a projection of self onto objects or projects.** Advertizing, for example, uses this dynamic: I cannot see the object itself but I can perceive that car, that smartphone, that role — or other things — as a means of fulfilling myself and responding to my basic needs. And I seek it out, I speak of it, I think of it: the idea of owning that object or fulfilling that project, reaching that position, seems a marvelous path to happiness, a tower with which to reach the heavens (cf. Gen 11:1-19), and then everything serves that goal.

We then enter the second phase: “**You shall not bow down to them**”. Idols need worship, certain rituals: one bows down and sacrifices everything to them. In ancient times, there were human sacrifices to idols, but today too: children are sacrificed for a career, or neglected or, quite simply, not conceived. Beauty demands human sacrifices. **How many hours are spent in front of the mirror! How much do some people, some women, spend on makeup? This too is idolatry.** It is not bad to wear makeup but in a normal way, not to become a goddess. Beauty demands human sacrifices. Fame demands the immolation of self, of one’s innocence and authenticity. Idols demand blood. Money robs one of life, and pleasure leads to loneliness. Economic structures sacrifice human life for greater profit. Let us think of unemployed people. Why? Because at times the businessmen of that company, of that firm have decided to lay off those people in order to earn more money. **The idol of money. We live in hypocrisy,** doing and saying what others expect because the god of one’s self-affirmation imposes it. And lives are ruined, families are destroyed and young people are left

prey to destructive models in order to increase profit. Drugs too are idols. How many young people ruin their health, even their lives, by worshipping the idol of drugs?

And here we come to the **third and most tragic phase: and you shall not serve them**, he says. **Idols enslave. They promise happiness but do not deliver it** and we find ourselves living for that thing or that vision, drawn into a self-destructive vortex, waiting for a result that never comes.

Dear brothers and sisters, idols promise life but in reality they take it away. The true God does not demand life but gives it, as a gift. The true God does not offer a projection of our success but teaches us how to love. The true God does not demand children but gives his Son for us. Idols project future hypotheses and make us despise the present. The true God teaches how to live in everyday reality, in a practical way, not with illusions about the future: today and tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, walking towards the future; the concreteness of the true God against the fluidity of idols. Today, I invite you to think: how many idols do I have and which one is my favourite? Because recognizing one's own forms of idolatry is the beginning of grace and puts one on the path of love. Indeed love is incompatible with idolatry. If something becomes absolute and supreme, then it is more important than a spouse, than a child or a friendship. **Being attached to an object or an idea makes one blind to love.** And so, in order to pursue idols, one idol, one can even renounce a father, a mother, children, a wife, a husband, a family ... the dearest things of all. Being attached to an object or an idea makes us blind to love. Take this to heart: idols rob us of love, idols make us blind to love and, in order to truly love, we must be free from all idols. **What is my idol? Remove it and throw it out of the window!**

#### Notes

[1] The term *Pesel* means “a divine image originally sculpted in wood or stone and mostly in metal” (L. Koehler, W. Baumgartner, *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*, vol. 3. p. 949).

[2] The term *Temunah* has a very broad meaning which can be reduced to a “likeness, form”; thus the ban is very broad and these images can be of any kind (cf. L. Koehler, W. Baumgartner, *Op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 504).

[3] The command does not ban images per se — God himself ordered Moses to make golden cherubs on the cover of the Ark (cf. Ex 25:18) and a bronze serpent (cf. Num 21:8), but he bans these from being worshipped and served, thus the entire process of deification of something, not just its reproduction.

[4] The Hebrew Bible refers to Canaanite idolatry with the term *Ba'al* which means “lordship, intimate relationship, reality on which one depends”. The idol is domineering, takes the heart and becomes a pivot of life (cf. *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*, vol. 1, 257-251).

[5] Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 2114: “Idolatry is a perversion of man's innate religious sense. An idolater is someone who ‘transfers his indestructible notion of God to anything other than God’ (Origene, *Contra Celsum*, 2, 40)”.

[6] The etymology of the Greek *eidolon*, derived from *eidōs* is from the root word *weid* which means *to see* (cf. *Grande Lessico dell'Antico Testamento*, Brescia 1967, vol. iii, p. 127).

The Vatican, Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.