

**News Letter**

**DIOCESE OF SALEM**

**No: 514**

*For Private Circulation only*

**OCTOBER- 2017**

**BISHOP'S CALENDAR – OCTOBER- 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Time</b>
01	Feast Mass	Karumathampatti	08.00 a.m.
01	Visit to St. Mary's Syro-Malabar Church	Thiruvagaundanur	04.00 p.m.
02	Golden Jubilee of Carmel Ashram	Yercaud	10.30 a.m.
02	Fatima Centenary Celebration	Arisipalayam	06.00 p.m.
03-12	Pastoral Visit ( Evenings & Sunday whole day)	Attur	
03	Mass, St. Antony's Church	Sangagiri	11.00 a.m.
04	Blessing of School building, Pagalpatti	Steel plant	09.30 a.m.
06	Feast Mass, L. F. Matriculation School	Salem - 9	10.00 a.m.
07	Feast Mass, Little Flower Hr. Sec. School	Salem - 7	09.00 a.m.
07	Feast Mass, St. Theresa's Home for Boys	Maravaneri	11.00 a.m.
08	Feast Mass	Kumarapalayam	05.30 p.m.
10	Blessing of the New Chapel at Kakkathopu	Pettaipalayam	10.00 a.m.
13	Primary School, Mass	Agraharam	09.30 a.m.
13	Feast Mass, Fatima Convent, Gugai	Shevapet	06.00 p.m.
14	Golden Jubilee Mass, St. Joseph's Hr. Sec. School, Susaigiri (Montfort Brothers)	Yercaud	10.00 a.m.
14	Marian Congress- Dharmapuri Diocese	Krishnagiri	03.00 p.m.
16-17	Class, Good Shepherd Seminary	Coimbatore	
18	Madha TV Office	Chennai	
21	Golden Jubilee, Holy Angels Matriculation Hr. Sec. School Holy Mass Public Function	Alagapuram	10.15 a.m. 05.00 p.m.
22-25	National Meeting on Basic Christian Communities	Nagpur	
28	Feast Mass	Salem Steel plant	06.30 p.m.
29	Salem Vicariate Children Program	Chinnagollapatti	11.30 a.m.
30	Mass	Cathedral	09.30 a.m.

## FROM BISHOP'S DESK – OCTOBER - 2017

1. **Let us remember Our Lady of Holy Rosary in the month of October.** Let us try to revitalize **Family Rosary Devotion practice** during this month. Preaching and insisting on Family Rosary are very important for the wellbeing of Christian Families.
2. **A Plenary Indulgence may be gained by those reciting five decades of the Rosary** in a Church, as a Family at home, as a religious community, or as a pious fraternity, or in general whenever several persons have gathered together for a good purpose.
3. **MISSION SUNDAY is celebrated this year on 22.10.2017.** Let us make special efforts to celebrate this day meaningfully. Each parish can fix its own convenient day for the celebration of Mission Sunday.
4. **A SPECIAL COLLECTION is to be taken on MISSION SUNDAY in all the Parishes and Institutions.** Special fund raising activities are to be organized in the Parishes and Institutions **to contribute our might for the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, Rome.** All collections are to be immediately **remitted to the Diocesan Procurator** for onward transmission to Rome.
5. **I congratulate and thank all our parishes** for making great efforts for the fundraising for the Mission Sunday which makes Salem Diocesan contribution for the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, come up to Rupees 15,82,634 in the year 2016. Let us make greater efforts to raise our contribution a little higher this year.
6. **May I kindly remind you to remit the Bible Sunday (September 2017) Collections to Fr. Stanly Kumar, Secretary of the Bible Commission or Catechist Mariasusai** early and help him to settle accounts with the Tamilnadu Regional Bible Commission.
7. **There will be no Clergy Monthly Recollection in the month of October** at the Bishop's House, Salem. **I encourage all the Vicar Foranes to call for Vicariate Meetings** to plan for Vicariate level Advent and Christmas Programmes, which will be good season for Ecumenical programmes in the parishes and Vicariates.
8. **Seminarians Fund for Salem Diocese** is constituted to meet the expenditure of the Formation of Future Priests for the Diocese of Salem during their Minor seminary, College studies and Major Seminary Courses. I appeal to all the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful of Salem Diocese to contribute regularly and generously for this Salem Diocesan Seminarians Fund and participate in the formation of priests for our own diocese.
9. **Bination Mass Offerings to the Seminarians' Fund: Priests have a way of contributing to the Diocesan Seminarians' Fund.** All priests who need to binate Masses for pastoral needs may receive an offering for the binated Mass from the people and the offering amount has to be remitted to the Diocesan Procurator to the Seminarians Fund of our Diocese. Those priests who do not receive any offering from the people for a binated mass, may apply the Mass to the intentions of *Ad Intentionem Dantis* of the Diocese and inform the Diocesan Procurator from time to time in writing the number of Masses thus offered, so that the stipend for these masses celebrated may be credited to the Diocesan Seminarians' Fund. Kindly follow this and help the Seminarian's Fund..
10. **Surplus Mass Intentions.** All parishes who receive more Mass Intentions than the priests residing there can individually offer, are requested to **handover to the Diocesan Procurator the Surplus Mass Intentions together with the Stipends, together with the list of the donors, which we need for accounting purposes,** so that all the Masses may be celebrated by our priests during the year. This will ensure the celebration of every Mass that is received from the people and it is a help to the Diocesan Procurator to provide regularly Mass Intentions to all the priests in our diocese.
11. **The Meeting of the Diocesan Council of Priests will be held on 06.11.2017 at 02.00 p.m. at the Bishop's House, Salem,** soon after the Clergy Monthly Recollection. All the members of the Salem

Diocesan Council of Priests are invited to attend the meeting. **The points for the agenda may be sent to Rev. Fr. M. Rajamanickam, the Secretary of the Council of Priests before 20.10.2017**, to his address: Salem Social Service Society, Convent Road, Alagapuram, Salem – 636 016.

12. The Salem Diocesan Clergy Retreat went on well at Carmelaram in September 2017.  
I thank all those who made this event fruitful and successful.

Bishop S.Singaroyan

Procurator's Note: You are expected to send your monthly accounts before **the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of every month**.  
Thanks for your cooperation

## NEWS FROM DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS:

### Catechetical Commission

#### Konerippatti

The Catechism Mass was held on 1<sup>st</sup> september 2017 at St.Mary's, Church Konerippatti for Attur vicariate schools catechism students. Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph Raj presided over the Eucharistic celebration. Rev.Sisters, Teachers, and more than 140 students from konerippatti, Gangavalli, Sendarappatti participated in the Holy Mass. 38 Prize winners of the catechetical exam were honoured during the function. Director gave away the prizes and encouraged the students for their faith formation.

**Mettur:** On 6<sup>th</sup> September Catechism Mass was held at St. Mary's, Church, Mettur for Mettur vicariate schools catechism students. Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph Raj presided over the Eucharistic celebration. Rev. Sisters, Teachers, and more than 200 students from Mettur, Salem Camp, Saveriyarpalayam, Boomanur and Kolathur participated in the Holy Mass. 78 Prize winners of the catechetical exam were honoured during the function. Director Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph Raj , Rev.Fr. Jacob VF gave away the prizes and appreciated the students and the teachers.

**Attur:** On 7<sup>th</sup> September Catechism Mass was held at St.Mary's, Church Attur for Attur vicariate schools catechism students. Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph Raj presided over the Eucharistic celebration. Rev.Sisters, Teachers, and more than 75 students from Attur, Valappadi and Pungavadi participated in the Holy Mass. 27 Prize winners of the catechetical exam were honoured during the function. Rev.Fr. Arul Francis Xavier VF gave away the prizes to the winners and appreciated the students and the teachers.

**National Meeting :** CCBI Commission for Catechetics National Conference on '**Family Catechesis**' was held on 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Nadiad, Gujarat.

Archbishop.Thomas Macwan Chairman, presided over the conference. Archbps. Stanislaus, Thumma Bala,140 Rev.Fahers, Rev.Sisters, and Laity from 95 dioceses and Fr. Maria Joseph Raj, Tr.Francis Sagayaraj and Mr. Rajamanickam from our diocese participated in this Conference. All the resource persons gave magnificent presentation on the topic based on *Amoris Laetitia*. Two couples from different dioceses spoke about their own good Christian life and the Family catechesis.

**There are 10 tips for Catholic families to follow ...**

1. **Family Prayer** - few moments to gather as a family to pray.
2. **Cell off Hour** - Cell phones can be in silent –have a gadget – free hour in the family at least once a week in order to spend quality time together....
3. **Family Etiquette** - use the three essential words 'Thank you' 'Sorry' 'Please' in a polite way ....



4. **Moral Formation** – Parents have to observe , accompany and educate their children as regards their moral life...
5. **Teaching Faith** - parents have to teach and educate their children to pray...
6. **Sacred Space**- Allot a space in the family home for sacred articles like Sacred Images,the Bible, the Rosary etc.....
7. **Domestic Church**- let the whole family regularly participate in the Sunday Mass, Sacraments etc.....
8. **Family Saint**- Choose a saint as a patron of the family, read and learn about that saint from books and imitate him/her.....
9. **Charitable family**- Charity begins at home. Share our meals to others especially to the poor .....
10. **Family Faith Tradition**- Have a specific family faith traditions. Go on a pilgrimage together once a year to visit a shrine near or far in order to pray.



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ehfYh; gq;F : 27-08-2017 QhapW md;W ,af;Feu; mUl;gzp. kupa N[h]g; uh[;]> Vw;fhL gq;fpw;F nrd;W QhapW jpUg;gyp epiwNtw;wp gq;Fg; Nguit gw;wp tpsf;fkspj;jhu;. gq;fpd; tsu;r;rp;F gq;Fj;je;ijNahL ,ize;J nray;gl MNyhridfs; toq;fpdhu;. md;W GjpjhF md;gpaq;fspypUe;J Nguit;F Nju;e;njLf;fg;gl;l cWg;gpdu;fis; nfhz;L Gjpa gq;Fg;Nguit Vw;gLjjg;gl;lJ.



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**ANBIYA COMMISSION:** On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 is the Birth of Mother Mary which is also the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health. After a long break Irai irakka anbiyam from Suramangalam had the gathering. Sr. Mary Has visited them and encouraged them to have it regularly. They planned an action plan to bring Mother Mary's Picture to all the families of this Anbiyam in the month of September and October and pray the Rosary and as well as the Family Prayers.



On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 we had the gathering of the Anbiya Vazhigattigal in the Holy Mass and sent 8 Pilgrim Mother - shrines to the Anbiya Families. Mr Regis has taken the main charge for this Project. Mother Mary is visiting in the Month of October each family so that they may pray Rosary for all their intentions. Sr. Mary and Sr. M. Bridget have visited them.



On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Naranampalayam, the BCC Families from Housing board has received Mother Mary Shrine to pray the Rosary in the Month of October dedicated to Our Lady of Rosary. Mr. Dominic and Mrs. Mary have taken charge of this Project. They would like to gather the Families to pray the Rosary and pray for their intentions.

**These pious activities help the broken families to come together and set right the relapsed Anbiams to function again.**

**YERCAUD PARISH:** On 27.08.2017 during the Sunday Mass the newly elected Anbiyam leaders took oath and active part in the mass. Fr. Maria Joseph Raj offered the Mass and instructed them to do their service to the best of their ability.





## Family Commission

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE :** Marriage preparation course was held on 02-09.2017 & 03.07.2017 ( 2 days) at Ehipany centere. Salem. Around 45 male and female youth participated in the seminar. Fr.Jacob, Dr. Sr.Martina , Dr.Sr. Annie Joice, Mr.Amulraj(counsellor) Mr. Arokiasamy and Mrs. Arokiamary were the Resources persons of the seminar. Sunday afternoon Parents of all the participants attended the special season. Fr. Maria Joseph raj, Commission Secretary gave explanation about the seminar seasons and explained about the value of the marriage and the problem of divorce aspect. Mr. Amulraj spoke about the responsibility of the parents to the newly married couples. Parents eagerly participated and understood the value of this season. Msgr John Joseph VG appreciated the parents of their presence with their son and daughter and gave the certificates to the participants.



***There will be no Marriage Preparation Course for October- 2017***

### **Marriage Preparation Course for the Month of November 2017**

Place : Marthal Illam, Epiphany Centre, Salem –9  
Day : 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and 12<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) of November 2017.  
Time : From 08.30 a.m. to 05.30 p.m.  
Reg Fee : 300/-Registration and Lunch for two days

Note: **Parents must attend the seminar on 12-11-2017 Sunday 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm.**

**Fr. T. Maria Joseph Raj, Secretary - Catechetical, Laity, Anbiam, & Family Commissions**

## **EPIPHANY PASTORAL CENTRE**

### **MARIVALAM:**

September 8<sup>th</sup> is a wonderful Happy Birthday of our sweet 'Mother Mary' It was fittingly celebrated with a Marivalam on 09.09.2015 at Epiphany Pastoral Centre. More than 400 faithful were walking along with Mother Mary reciting Holy Rosary and chanting 'AVE MARIA'. Rev.Fr. Andrew, OCD from Villupuram, celebrated Holy Mass. During his homely, he highlighted the power of intercessory prayers and the abundant steadfast love of Mother Mary.

### **CHARISMATIC COMMISSION:**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October 2017 there was a Night vigil service conducted by Rev.Fr. Andrew, OCD from Villupuram and C.C.R. of Salem diocese; around 40 members of the Charismatic Renewal members took part in it. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of October 2017, a day of Fasting and Prayer was observed, and the teaching on one of the basic of renewal namely the Word of God was explained. The sharings of personal witness by a few of participants were an inspiration to others.

### **Out Reach Programme:**

At Sacred Heart Church, Kovilmedu, Yercaud, on 03/09/2017, the Pilgrims to Velankanni came together for prayer. Mr Antony conducted this prayer meeting. At Our Lady of Arockiamadha Chapel, Thevur, Vellalalayam on 08/09/2017 Friday, the faithful came together to pray and celebrated the Feast of Our Mother Mary's birthday. Fr Gopi Emmanuel celebrated mass and prayer meeting.

### **CATHOLIC SENIOR CITIZEN ORGANIZATION:**

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, the members of the CSO gather together to have prayer and fellowship. During these meetings they are specially inspired by the Holy Spirit to be a fruit bearing branches among the believing Community.

## YOUTH COMMISSION

The Director Father and Youth Co-ordinator Suriya visited the youth and collected their feed back in the following places:

03/09/2017	- Youth Visit	- Siluvaigiri
10/09/2017	- Youth Visit	- Mettur
12/09/2017	- DYD's meeting	- Kottar
17/09/2017	- Youth Visit	- Namakkal
24/09/2017	- Youth Visit	- Chinnakollapatty



## COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

### Madha TV

The Salem Diocese Madha TV Team joining together with Rev. Fr. Gopi Emmanuel have done a fruitful shooting for Madha TV in the following places:-

04/09/2017	- Solvom Velvom	-Epiphany Centre
07/09/2017	-Mass Shoot	-Kosavampatty Parish
10/09/2017	- Solvom Velvom	-Epiphany Centre
17/09/2017	- Illathil Iraiyaici	-Trichengodu

On 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 Solvom Velvom programs final shoot was held at Epiphany Center. Most Rev Dr Singroyan, Chairman of Madha TV , Rev Fr David, CEO, Rev Fr Adaikalam, Programme Director, Rev Fr Jackson, Technical Head, Rev Fr Amaladoss Thaddeus, West Zone Coordinator, Coimbatore, Rev Fr Arulandam, Central Zone Coordinator, Madurai, Rev Fr Anbu, Madurai and many Religious participated in this function. 2 schools participated in the GRAND FINAL. The Jeyarakkini Matric School, Nethimedu, Salem got the first place and Sacred Heart Hr. Sec. School, Rasipuram got the 2<sup>nd</sup> place.



### Events in October

Date	Event	Place
01/10/2017	Youth Retreat	Balmadis, Yercaud
02/10/2017	Youth Retreat	Balmadis, Yercaud
02/10/2017	Mass Shoot	Carmel Convent, Yercaud
04/10/2017	Mass and Prayer	Kumarapalayam
05/10/2017	Mass Shoot	Pungavadi
05/10/2017	Youth Director's Meeting	Kottar

08/10/2017	Mary Valam & Night Vigil	Epiphany Centre
09/10/2017	Youth Director's Meeting	Trichy
15/10/2017	Shoot	Epiphany Centre
22/10/2017	Angelic Choir Shoot	Epiphany Centre
22/10/2017	Fasting Prayer	Epiphany Centre

**Fr Gopi Emmanuel, Director, Epiphany Pastoral Centre, Salem**

## SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

### ESAI Project – DBA 2017

- ❖ The Coordinator and trainer had visited Holy Cross Matriculation School and Cluny Matriculation School to meet the DBA students and to evaluate the efficiency, the impact and the benefits of the program “Do it 2017”.
- ❖ The coordinator and trainer had a monitoring visit to the field in Muthampatti to know the update situation of the field and to evaluate the planted tree saplings.



### New Thrust (NT)

- ❖ We organised dengue awareness programme for the CBO leaders and members at Thammampatti on 22<sup>nd</sup>, August, 2017.
- ❖ Thirumahal & Vinayagar Groups at Thalaivasal, received a loan amount of Rs.4, 75,000/- & 5, 50, 000/- respectively.
- ❖ Our staff had taken initiatives to get orders for stitching government school uniform for 2 members.
- ❖ SSSS organised staff capacity Building training to our staff at SSSS office.
- ❖ NT Point person attended problem tree analysis (PTA) training held at Coimbatore on 24<sup>th</sup> of August, 2017.



### Kolping India

- ❖ We organised capacity building trainings to kolping members on PRA, VLKF, Life skill, Lobby & Advocacy at Thedavur, Nathakarai, Kondayampalli.
- ❖ Our Director Rev. Fr.M.Rajamanickam and Kolping Coordinators Ms.Dorathy Ruban and Ms. Christina had participated in the Kolping Review meeting held at Asha Nivas, Chennai on 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> of August, 2017.
- ❖ Our Siluvagiri Vanathuchinappar Kolping family group members received a loan amount of Rs.2, 47,000/- and Lilly Poo Kolping family received a loan amount of Rs.4,00, 000/-



### CHAI – Axshya Project

- ❖ Our CHAI staff visited 1150 houses in Door to Door campaign at Periyakadu, Mettur, Tholasampatti, Kuttapatti. During the campaign 33 TB symptomatic were identified and they have been referred to DMC centre; among them 10 symptomatic were reached at DMC Centre.
- ❖ In Primary Health Center 130 sputum samples have been collected and 6 peoples' sputum were positive. They are registered and referred to DOTS treatment.



### ECO-DRR

- ❖ SSSS organised food and security training for our CBO members at Gangavalli on 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2017. Mr. Annamalai, from Ekam Foundation was invited as Resource person.

- ❖ Our Project Coordinator Ms.Geetha, participated in ECO DRR Review meeting which was held at Chennai on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 2017.
- ❖ We organized training on land and water conservation for the farmers group in Thammampatti.

Rev. Fr. M. Rajamanickam, Director ,Salem Social Service Society.

## NAMAKKAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

**International Day for Peace:** The International Day for Peace was celebrated in Jedarpalayam on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The women in Joint Liability Groups participated in the awareness program. The program emphasized on the importance of the peaceful and secured life for everyone locally, nationally and globally. The Former Local Body members also participated. The participated women were motivated to keep on the love, affection and mercy to lead peaceful life.



### National Nutrition Day

The program was organized in Kamatchi Nagar, near Paramathi Velur. The adult women and the pregnant women participated. The village Health Nurse was the Resource person. It was highlighted to take care on the Nutritional Status of the Children, pregnant women and the family members. The participants were encouraged to ensure Healthy Diet and Happy Life.

**International Literacy Day:** The women in Allalapuram near Namakkal participated in the program held on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.2017. The women belonging to Joint Liability Groups participated. The Officials from the Assistant Educational Office delivered the resources. Rev. Fr. Selvam Francis Xavier, Director, NSSS facilitated the program.

**Green Consumer Day:** This day was celebrated in Mohanur organized by volunteers. The villagers participated. The importance of consuming greens in the daily food was emphasized in the program. Mrs. Saroja, Nutritionist from Karur was the Resource person.

**Girl Child Day:** This program was conducted in the community Hall at Ayyampalayam in Kabilarmalai Block on 15<sup>th</sup> Sep. – 07. The effect of feticide and infanticide and the causes were explained. The sex ratio and the importance of maintaining the equilibrium of the sex was explained. Dr.Mrs.Malliga. DGO was the Resource person.

**Vermin compost and Organic Training:** The women belonging to the small and marginal farmer community participated in the Training. Mr. Rajendran, MSc. Agri, Consultant, Expert in Vermin compost and Organic Cultivation was the Resource person. The usage of vermin compost was explained. A demonstration on preparation of Vermin Compost was done. Mr. T. Annadurai, Project Manager, NSSS facilitated the program held in Manapalli on 13.09.2017.

Rev. Fr. Selvam Francis Xavier, Director, NSSS.

## PRISON MINISTRY:

**Volunteers' Meeting:** The Prison ministry volunteers meeting was held on 12.9.2017 at SSSS hall, Alagapuram and 17 members have participated. The meeting began with the short prayer led by Sr.Lourdu Mary. Sr. Joyce welcomed the new Secretary Rev. Fr. Rajamanikam and honoured him with ponnadai. Then the members shared their various experiences and expectations. The Coordinator explained about the PMI activities inside the prison as well as outside the prison. Finally Father appreciated the activities of the PMI and encouraged us by assuring his continuous support and cooperation. He also expressed that he would like to visit the prison with us. Sincere thanks to our dear father for boosting us with his powerful words. The meeting ended with a simple meal.



**Visits to the Sub Jail.** Coordinator and along with the PMI volunteers visited all the sub jails and reorganised the various programmes of the jails and introduced the new volunteers to the prison officers.

Sr. Joyce. S.J.C. Coordinator.

## ATTUR VICARIATE

**Karumandurai:** Attur Vicariate Catechism children had a friendly day with Jesus on 03.09.2017 at Karumanthurai Parish. More than 170 catechism children took part in that programme. This programme was led by Rev. Fr. Nepolian HGN who gave inspiring speech on importance of altar boys and guided them to accept Jesus as their friend in life. Party games and cultural programmes added beauty to the children programme. This beautiful day ended with the Blessings of Holy Mass.



Rev.Fr. A. Amal Mahimairaj, P.P, Karumandurai.

## METTUR VICARIATE:

**Masilpalayam:- Kullaveerampatti:** In order to honour Our Lady's Birthday, the people of Kullaveerampatti, a sub-station of Masilpalayam Parish took up a decorated car procession and had a festival mass in honour of Our Lady of Good Health in their chapel dedicated to St. Paul the Hermit.

Fr. C. Michael, P.P.

## NAMAKKAL VICARIATE

**Namakkal Teacher's day celebration:** Teachers' day in Christ King Matriculation School, Nallur, was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> of September, during the morning assembly prayer. All the teachers were warmly welcomed by the students with flowers. We had some sports and funny games followed by the cultural programme. The programme included dance, skit and song performed by the students. The teachers were felicitated for their wonderful service and sacrifice with gifts. Teachers got very delighted by the programme organized by the students. Thanks to all the students for their initiation, respect and love towards all the dedicated teachers.

Fr. A. David, Principal, CKMS, Namakkal

## SALEM VICARIATE:

### **Arisipalayam: Feast of Our Lady of Good Health at Saminathapuram**

Our Lady of Good Health chapel at Saminathapuram is a popular chapel. To this place many devotees come and venerate Our Lady every Saturday. The feast of Our Lady of good health was planned well by the celebration committee and celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September Friday. Most Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius, Bishop of Dharmapuri celebrated the feast Mass and blessed the decorated car for the procession. Many people participated in the feast day Mass and procession and received the blessings from Our Lady of Good Health



**Teachers' day celebration in the Parish:** We celebrated a special mass for the teachers on 3<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in the Infant Jesus Cathedral. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Gregory Rajan. During the homily he appreciated the teachers for their valuable services to the society and encouraged them to continue their demanding services to the society.

**Bible quiz competition:** In order to encourage the people and children to read the Bible, we conducted the bible quiz competition every month through the parish news letter. This month we conducted bible quiz from the book of Genesis. Many people and children participated in this quiz competition. We gave three prizes for the winners.

**Teachers' day celebration in Little Flower primary School:** We celebrated the teachers' day on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Little Flower Primary school. The main celebrant was Rev. Fr. Alex. During the

homily he appreciated the teachers for their valuable service to the society. After the Mass the children gave programs to the teachers and prizes were given to the students and teachers. The Head master thanked the students and teachers who arranged the program on a grand scale.

Fr. Gregory Rajan, VF- Salem Vicariate

#### **TIRUCHENGODE VICARIATE:**

**TIRUCHENGODE** - Grotto Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> Sep. at 6.30 pm. A decorated Car procession took place which was followed by a Solemn Mass and Agape. 400 people participated in this lively and lovely Feast.

**PERUNKURICHI** - Grotto Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni was celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> Sep. at 7.00 pm. The Car Procession of our lady started from perunkurichi school and concluded at the Parish Church and it was followed by Solemn Mass and Agape. 200 people happily participated in this wonderful Feast.

**SPB COLONY** - The Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni was celebrated on 10<sup>th</sup> Sep. at 6.00 at K P L Nagar, Kaadachanallur, a substation of SPB Colony. Rt. Rev. Dr. Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem celebrated the Festival High Mass. Many people participated in this grace-filled Feast.

Fr. Francis Asaithambi, VF- Tiruchengode Vicariate.

#### **FEAST DAY WISHES TO**

Rev. Fr. S. Pushpanathan	01.10
Rev. Fr. R. Francis	04.10
Rev. Fr. A. Edward Rajan	13.10
Rev. Fr. M. Selvam	14.10
Rev. Fr. J. Lucas Thumma	18.10
Rev. Fr. T. Jude Nirmal Doss	28.10
Rev. Fr. A. Edward Thaddeus	28.10

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Episcopal ordination**



On 18<sup>th</sup> October we gratefully thank the Almighty for the Jubilee gift of our beloved shepherd. The Clergy, The Religious, and the Laity of the Diocese of Salem lovingly and joyfully wish your Lordship and constantly pray for your continued fruitful shepherdship. God's abundant blessings be upon you on your march towards your dreamed goal: **“THAT ALL MAY HAVE FULLNESS”**

#### **NECROLOGY**

Rev. Fr. M. Gnanapragasam	07.10.2009
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Rev. Fr. A.M.A. Hirudayanathan	13.10.2007
Rev. Fr. M. A. Colas	13.10.2010
Rev. Fr. J. J. Santhappa	14.10.2001
Most Rev. V.S. Selvanather	14.10.1993
Rev. Fr. Arul Rozario	15.10.1984
Rev. Fr. Mario Rodeschini	19.10.2012
Rev. Fr. Janiere	19.10.1931
Rev. Fr. George Edathiparampil	27.10.1973

## **MESSAGE OF POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD MISSION DAY 2017**

### ***Mission at the heart of the Christian faith***

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

Once again this year, World Mission Day gathers us around the person of Jesus, “the very first and greatest evangelizer” (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 7), who continually sends us forth to proclaim the Gospel of the love of God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. This Day invites us to reflect anew on the ***mission at the heart of the Christian faith***. **The Church is missionary by nature; otherwise, she would no longer be the Church of Christ**, but one group among many others that soon end up serving their purpose and passing away. So it is important to ask ourselves certain questions about our Christian identity and our responsibility as believers in a world marked by confusion, disappointment and frustration, and torn by numerous fratricidal wars that unjustly target the innocent. **What is the basis of our mission? What is the heart of our mission? What are the essential approaches we need to take in carrying out our mission?**

### **Mission and the transformative power of the Gospel of Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life**

1. The Church’s mission, directed to all men and women of good will, is based on the transformative power of the Gospel. The Gospel is Good News filled with contagious joy, for it contains and offers new life: the life of the Risen Christ who, by bestowing his life-giving Spirit, becomes for us the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. *Jn* 14:6). He is the *Way* who invites us to follow him with confidence and courage. **In following Jesus as our Way, we experience Truth and receive his Life, which is fullness of communion with God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit. That life sets us free from every kind of selfishness, and is a source of creativity in love.**

2. **God the Father desires this existential transformation of his sons and daughters**, a transformation that finds expression in worship in spirit and truth (cf. *Jn* 4:23-24), through a life guided by the Holy Spirit in imitation of Jesus the Son to the glory of God the Father. “The glory of God is the living man” (Irenaeus, *Adversus Haereses* IV, 20, 7). The preaching of the Gospel thus becomes a vital and effective word that accomplishes what it proclaims (cf. *Is* 55:10-11): Jesus Christ, who constantly takes flesh in every human situation (cf. *Jn* 1:14).

### **Mission and the *kairos* of Christ**

3. **The Church's mission, then, is not to spread a religious ideology**, much less to propose a lofty ethical teaching. Many movements throughout the world inspire high ideals or ways to live a meaningful life. **Through the mission of the Church, Jesus Christ himself continues to evangelize and act**; her mission thus makes present in history the *kairos*, the favourable time of salvation. Through the proclamation of the Gospel, the risen Jesus becomes our contemporary, so that those who welcome him with faith and love can experience the transforming power of his Spirit, who makes humanity and creation fruitful, even as the rain does with the earth. "His resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 276).

4. Let us never forget that **"being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a Person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction"** (Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, 1). **The Gospel is a Person who continually offers himself and constantly invites those who receive him with humble and religious faith to share his life by an effective participation in the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection.** Through *Baptism*, the Gospel becomes a source of new life, freed of the dominion of sin, enlightened and transformed by the Holy Spirit. Through *Confirmation*, it becomes a fortifying anointing that, through the same Spirit, points out new ways and strategies for witness and accompaniment. Through the *Eucharist*, it becomes food for new life, a "medicine of immortality" (Ignatius of Antioch, *Ad Ephesios*, 20, 2).

5. **The world vitally needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Church, Christ continues his mission as the Good Samaritan, caring for the bleeding wounds of humanity**, and as *Good Shepherd*, constantly seeking out those who wander along winding paths that lead nowhere. Thank God, many significant experiences continue to testify to the transformative power of the Gospel. I think of the gesture of the Dinka student who, at the cost of his own life, protected a student from the enemy Nuer tribe who was about to be killed. I think of that Eucharistic celebration in Kitgum, in northern Uganda, where, after brutal massacres by a rebel group, a missionary made the people repeat the words of Jesus on the cross: "My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?" as an expression of the desperate cry of the brothers and sisters of the crucified Lord. For the people, that celebration was an immense source of consolation and courage. We can think too of countless testimonies to how the Gospel helps to overcome narrowness, conflict, racism, tribalism, and to promote everywhere, and among all, reconciliation, fraternity, and sharing.

### **Mission inspires a spirituality of constant exodus, pilgrimage, and exile**

6. **The Church's mission is enlivened by a spirituality of constant exodus. We are challenged "to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the peripheries in need of the light of the Gospel"** (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 20). The Church's mission impels us to **undertake a constant pilgrimage across the various deserts of life**, through the different experiences of hunger and thirst for truth and justice. The Church's mission inspires a sense of *constant exile*, to make us aware, in our thirst for the infinite, that we are exiles journeying towards our final home, poised between the "already" and "not yet" of the Kingdom of Heaven.

7. **Mission reminds the Church that she is not an end unto herself, but a humble instrument and mediation of the Kingdom. A self-referential Church, one content with earthly success, is not the Church of Christ**, his crucified and glorious Body. That is why we should prefer "a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security" (*ibid.*, 49).

### **Young people, the hope of mission**



8. **Young people are the hope of mission.** The person of Jesus Christ and the Good News he proclaimed continue to attract many young people. They seek ways to put themselves with courage and enthusiasm at the service of humanity. “There are many young people who offer their solidarity in the face of the evils of the world and engage in various forms of militancy and volunteering... How beautiful it is to see that young people are ‘street preachers’, joyfully bringing Jesus to every street, every town square and every corner of the earth!” (*ibid.*, 106). The next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, to be held in 2018 on the theme *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, represents a providential opportunity to involve young people in the shared missionary responsibility that needs their rich imagination and creativity.

### **The service of the Pontifical Mission Societies**

9. The Pontifical Mission Societies are a precious means of awakening in every Christian community a desire to reach beyond its own confines and security in order to proclaim the Gospel to all. In them, thanks to a profound missionary spirituality, nurtured daily, and a constant commitment to raising missionary awareness and enthusiasm, young people, adults, families, priests, bishops and men and women religious work to develop a missionary heart in everyone. **World Mission Day, promoted by the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, is a good opportunity for enabling the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life and communion of goods, in responding to the vast and pressing needs of evangelization.**

### **Carrying out our mission with Mary, Mother of Evangelization**

10. Dear brothers and sisters, in carrying out our mission, let us draw inspiration from Mary, Mother of Evangelization. Moved by the Spirit, she welcomed the Word of life in the depths of her humble faith. **May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own “yes”, conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time.** May she obtain for us renewed zeal in bringing to everyone the Good News of the life that is victorious over death. May she intercede for us so that we can acquire the holy audacity needed to discover new ways to bring the gift of salvation to every man and woman.

*From the Vatican, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Solemnity of Pentecost*

**FRANCISCUS PP**

**There will be NO Clergy Monthly Recollection at Bishop’s House, Salem, in October 2017.**

**The Next Clergy Monthly Recollection at Bishop’s House, Salem, will be on 06.11.2017.**