



MST World

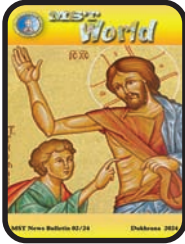




**New M'samsanas
13/05/2024**



**New Karoyas with the Director General and
General Councillors (13/05/2024)**



MST WORLD

News Bulletin 02/2024
Dukhrana

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Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle

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DUKHRANA 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Dear Rev Fathers in Jesus Christ,

We are celebrating the great feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Patron of our Society, the father of our faith and the apostle of India! Let me wish all of you at the very outset a very happy feast!

There are many evidences both in the history and tradition that St. Thomas is the apostle of India. St. Thomas the Apostle had the courage and readiness to travel into such a distant land to share his faith experience. The references about him in the gospel according to St. John proves that he was bold enough and that he was courageous enough to die for the Lord. Even when all other apostles were reluctant to go to the house of Lazarus, only Thomas had the courage to say: Let us go and die with him. It means that it is good to die than to be away from the Lord. If we die with Lord, it is a blessing. His courage was also seen even after the death of Jesus. When all disciples were frightened and remained inside the house having the doors shut, Thomas was courageous enough to go out. When he understood that he missed the opportunity to meet the Risen Lord, he strongly felt that being an apostle, it was his inalienable right to have the experience of the Risen Lord.

Therefore, Thomas was so insistent and bold to demand and say that he needed to see the Risen Lord and that he needed to touch and experience Him. His strong desire to be with Risen Lord was rewarded when the Risen Lord appeared to the disciples the next time on the first day of the week and he encountered and experienced the Risen Lord. And Thomas confessed, the most perfect confession of faith in the whole of the Gospel: “My Lord, and My God” (Jn 20:28). Thomas understood that he is a hero if the Lord was with him and a zero without Him. “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13). Thomas got the courage to argue with the fellow disciples because of his strong faith in the Lord and his undivided love for Him. It is this strong faith and love for the Risen Lord, that inspired and motivated Thomas to venture into the longest missionary journey to India to preach the gospel. “If God is for us, who is against us?” (Rom 8.31).

As missionaries we need to imbibe the courage that St. Thomas manifested when he ventured to evangelise the peoples and nations in the world and to preach the Gospel to all nations. At times, we are too timid and frightened like the rest of the apostles, perhaps seeing the changing Indian Political scenario or the attractions and allurments of modern world. There are deep within us tendencies of mediocrity, despair, lethargy as well as the tendency to seek hidings and find securities and safe zones to live in. St. Thomas invites us missionaries, to come out of this fear and asks us to be prepared to go and die with him. It is the strong faith of St. Thomas that the Risen Lord is with him, that gave him the courage and boldness to preach the Gospel in our mother land. Let us also imbibe the same strong faith in the Lord through the intercession of St Thomas the Apostle our heavenly patron and guide. Let us remember that Jesus has promised us: “And remember that I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20).

Wishing you all once more a very warm greetings of feast of Dukhrana!

Fr. Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura
Director General

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

01. Fr Adappoor, Roby: Santhwana, Centre for Counselling & Psychotherapy, CBG Building, Bandi Gowda Layout, 1st cross, Mandya- 571401, Karanataka.
02. Fr Ammanathukunnel, Kurian, Preshitharam, Deepti Mount, Melampara P.O., 686 578
03. Fr Anakallil Anand, is relieved in view of missionary apostolate in the diocese of Itanagar in the North East
04. Fr Elamthuruthiyil George (Alex): Santhome School, Kokasmanur P.O-504307, Ichoda Mandal, Adilabad Dt, Telangana
05. Fr Elavumkal Mathew MST: Mother Theresa Minor Seminary, Kalenahalli P.O-571402, Mandya Dt, Karnataka
06. Fr Eettayankal Bebin is appointed Assistant Priest in charge, Khachrod
07. Fr Kallupuraparampil Jayaprasad: Seva Sadana, Gollarahalli, Halagur-571421, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya Dt.
08. Fr Karickamukalel Philip (Benny) is relieved from Mandsaur and assigned to Eparchy of Ujjain
09. Fr Karingada Lithosh is appointed Vice-Principal, St Thomas School Pawasa, Ujjain
10. Fr Kattuthara, Joe Anson MST: Diocese of Bunbury, 11 Money Street Bunbury, Western Australia 6230.
Ph (+61)483 375 317
11. Fr Kizhakekara Joseph (Ashil): Christalaya, Hadanur, Tendekerwe-571426, K.R.Pet Taluk, Mandya Dt, Karnataka
12. Fr Kizhakel Sebastian, Director, Santhome Bhavan, Thamarassery
13. Fr Kochumalayil Manu appointed Priest in charge, in Indore

14. Fr Kollakompil Deepu, is appointed Assistant Priest in charge, Mandasaur
15. Fr Koottarappallil Jacob, is relieved for Higher Studies in Mumbai
16. Fr Kudakkachirakunnel Sebin MST: #45221/2, Carmel Bhavan, Shivaji Main Road, N R Mohalla.Mysore-570007, Karnataka
17. Fr Kuppayil Johnson MST: c/o/ Deepti Bhavan, Melampara. P.O., Bharananganam
18. Fr Madavana (Manu) Emmanuel: Seva Sadana, Gollarahalli, Halagur-571421, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya Dt.
19. Fr Mechery George, Procurator, Angel home, Kadanad, 686 653
20. Fr Nattunilath, Thomas (Manu), St Mary's Church, Anicad, Kanjirappilly. 686503
21. Fr Ottalankal Jose, Karuna Animation & Retreat Centre, Nedumkandam -655 553
22. Fr Pathalil Toms MST: Dharmaram Vidya Kshethrem, Diary Circle, near Christ University, Bengaluru Karnataka-560029.
23. Fr Panthilapadam, Vinoy Thomas: St Peter Cathedral, 311 W Baraga Ave, Marquette, Michigan 49855
24. Fr Pattasseril Abhilash is relieved for Higher Studies, in Rome, (C/o. Deepti Bhavan Melampara)
25. Fr Poovathinkal Paul (Siby), Procurator, Santhome, Thamarassery.
26. Fr Pullikkattil Thomas, relived from Mary Matha School Chiplun, and appointed in Santhome School Sangli.
27. Fr Puthusseryputhenpurayil Joseph (Jithin): St. Thomas School, Pocera P.O-504 304 Boath Mandal, Adilabad Dt., Telangana
28. Fr Thuppalanjiyil George, relived from Alphonsa Region for

Dicennial Break.

29. Fr Vadaketh Jacob (Jobin), Dharmaram Vidya Kshethrem, Diary Circle, near Christ University, Bengaluru Karanataka-560029.
30. Fr Vadakkemury Neyoor Lijo appointed as Principal & Asst. priest-in-charge, Mary Matha School Chiplun.
31. Fr Vadayaparambil Bibin is appointed Priest-in-charge, Mandasaur
32. Fr Vanmelil Vipin appointed as principal of Santhome School Tasgaon.
33. Fr Vattukulam Thomas relived from Santhome School, Tasgaon and appointed Priest-in-charge & Manager, Mary Matha School Chiplun.
34. Fr Vazhuthanappallyil Abin, Catholic Church, St Alphonsa Church, Nellyady P.O. 574 229, Karnataka
35. Fr Vedikkunnel Arun appointed as the Manager of the Santhome Ayurvedic Arogya Kendra, Bedshi.
36. Fr Vettukallel, Justin, Ruhalya Major Seminary, Kamed village, Agar Road, 456006, Ujjain.

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NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

1. Erection of German Coordination and Visit of DG

The Director General Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, left for Europe on April 1, 2024 and he reached Germany safe and sound. On April 2, 2024 the Director General formally erected the Coordination for Germany and appointed Rev. Fr Baiju (Mathew) Nellikunnel as its First Coordinator. The Director General visited all the members working and studying in Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, and Austria till April 30, 2024.

2. SMRC General Assembly

The General Assembly of the SMRC (Syro-Malabar Religious Conference) was held at CMI Generalate on Chavara Hills at Kakkannad on April 5. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott and Fr Lonappan Arangassery participated. In the afternoon business session the office bearers of SMRC for the ensuing period were elected.

3. Demise of Rev. Fr Augustine Puthenpura

Rev. Fr Augustine Puthenpura (Panchakuzhy) [P.D. August 94] one of the pioneer members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, belonging to St Paul Region Ujjain, was called for his eternal reward at 6.10 pm on April 10, 2024 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam. Rev. Fr Ivan Muthanattu, the General Councillor, administered to him the sacrament of the anointing of the sick at 2.30 pm. At 5.30 pm his health started deteriorating and Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, Rev. Sisters, Nurses and family people were present at his bed praying as he passed away at 6.10 pm. The body of Rev. Fr Augustine Puthenpura was shifted to the mortuary after the office for the dead prayed by Fr Kurian Kochettonnil, the Director of Aaraam.



4. Funeral of Fr Augustine Puthenpura

The body of Fr Augustine Puthenpura was brought to the Priest Home: Aaraam on 13th April Saturday at 7.30 am and was placed



in the Deepti open auditorium for public viewing from 8.00 am on 13th April 2024.

The Director General, Rev.Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura accompanied by the General Councillors and all the priests present joined the first part of the funeral service.

The first part of the funeral service started at 1.15 pm on 13th Saturday, 2024 in the open auditorium followed by Holy Qurbana in the public chapel officiated by Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the Bishop of Ujjain concelebrated by all the Fathers present.

After the second part of the funeral liturgy which was officiated by Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the body was carried in procession to the Cemetery.



The final phase of the funeral rites was officiated by Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the bishop of Palai, in front of the

Grotto close to the cemetery.

5. Visit of Mar Sebastian Vaniapura

The Curia Bishop Mar Sebastian Vaniapura made a casual visit to Deepti Generalate on April 22, 2024 on his way to Aruvithura Church for Qurbana in connection with the Feast of St George.

6. Visit of Mar George Cardinal Alencherry

Mar George Cardinal Alencherry visited Deepti Generalate at 4.00 pm to pray at the Tomb of Fr Augustine Puthenpura and Fr Sebastian Thuruthel. He was received by Fr Lonappan Arangassery, the Secretary General and the fathers on Deepti Mount.



7. Major Surgeries

7.1. Fr Binoy Thazhathuveetil

Rev. Fr Binoy Thazhathuveetil was admitted in the hospital at ULM in Germany on 24th April 2024 and he underwent a major surgery for removing tumor in the brain. He is slowly convalescing in Germany.

7.2. Fr James Kurukilamkatt

Rev. Fr James Kurukilamkatt underwent a bye pass surgery at Jubilee Mission Medical College Hospital Thrissur on March 25, 2024. He is perfectly healthy now after a strict period of convalescence at Deepti and in Thumboor.

7.3. Fr Manichirickal Thomas

Rev Fr Thomas Manichirickal underwent an Angioplasty and Balloon surgery at Caritas Hospital Kottayam, on April 10, 2024.

He is back to normal and resumed the charge of his mission station in Ujjain.

8. Promise and Sacred Orders

8.1. Preparation for Receiving Sacred Orders

The brothers who were permitted to renew their promise of incorporation into the Society and promoted to the Sacred Orders of M'Shamsanutha and Karoyusa started their spiritual preparation in the evening on the 11th of May, 2024. There were altogether twenty one brothers and the whole day (May 12) was spent for the spiritual preparation.

8.2. Promise and Sacred Orders

Two brothers made their Promise of Perpetual Incorporation before the Director General on the 13th May morning during Holy Qurbana in view of receiving the order of Diaconate in the afternoon. The following brothers, who were promoted to the Orders of M'samsanutha and Karoyusa respectively, were conferred the Orders by Mar James Athikalam on May 13, 2024 at 3.00 pm. in the presence of Fathers, major seminarians, parents and the relatives of the deacons. The list is given below.

8.3. The Sacred Order of *M'samsanausa*



The following two brothers were conferred the Order of *M'samsanausa* on May 13 at 3.00 pm.

1. Vembenickal Joseph (Joseph V.J) Parish -Malom, Tellichery
2. Vettukallel Michael (Michael Mathew), Parish -Peringulam, Palai

8.4. The Sacred Order of *Karoyusa*

The following eight brothers studying in the Major seminaries in Kerala were conferred the order of *Karoyusa* on May 13 at 3.00 pm.



1. Attarumackal Abel Babu (Joseph George), Parish -Lourdu Mount, Palai
2. Karuvelil Thomas, Parish -Thankamany, Idukki
3. Kunnath Vargheese (Nirmal Devesia), Parish -Vazhathoppe, Idukki
4. Manjalil John (Jomon Thomas), Parish- Kodikulam, Kothamangalam
5. Palapulickal Thomas (Thomas Mathew) Parish- Chengalam, Kanjirappally

6. Putukkara Lazer (Aghil Pauly), Parish- Wadakkancherry, Trichur
7. Vettukallel Sebastian (Sebastian Binoy), Parish- Vimalagiri, Idukki
8. Vattoth Augustine (Joyal Thomas) Parish- Cheruvallikulam, Kanjirappally

9. Major Seminarians Gathering (MIST)

The Major Seminarians' Gathering of 2024 was held at MST Generalate from 13 to 16th May, 2024. The seminarians reached Deepti before noon on May 13 for the gathering (MIST).

- | | |
|---------|---|
| May 13: | 6.00 pm Inauguration. |
| May 14: | 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Classes on C&D
6.30 pm Ramsa, Cultural Programme |
| May 15: | Holy Qurbana at Bharananganam
Morning Hours, Motivation class
2.30 pm Election and meeting with GC
6.30 pm Ramsa & Exam on C&D
8.15 pm Supper & Preparation for Vestition |
| May 16: | 7.00 am Holy Qurbana, Vestition, Promise. |

10. Vestition and temporary Promise (May 16)

The following brothers were promoted by the General Council of the MST to the next stage of formation in Theology. They made the temporary promise of incorporation and given the clerical dress (Cassock) during the Holy Qurbana at 7.00 am on 16th May, 2024 at the Generalate.

- 1) Alackal Mathai (Nirmal Martin)
- 2) Choorapuzhayil Scaria (Savio Thomas)
- 3) Kaithakulathuputhenpurayil Sebastian (Manu George)
- 4) Kakkaniyil Emmanuel (Lino Charly)
- 5) Kandathil James (Albin Joseph)



- 6) Kottuppally Kurian (Abhishek Siby)
- 7) Kulanjiyil Abraham (Justin George)
- 8) Mankuzha Paulose (Alan Joseph)
- 9) Mannoor Thomas (Sajith Chandy)
- 10) Nedumthuruthimyalil Mathew (Mathew Jose)
- 11) Nirappel George (Geo Tomy)
- 12) Orappuzhikkal Chandy (Jeswin Chandy)
- 13) Puthenkalam Geevarghese (Bonny Baiju)
- 14) Puthenpurakkal Joseph (Albin Varghese)
- 15) Thuruthel Mathew (Sobin Jose)

11. Brothers Promoted for Philosophy Studies

The brothers listed below made the first promise of incorporation and are promoted by the General Council of the MST to the next stage of formation i.e. philosophy studies.

1. Choorapoikayil Thomas (Alfy Manoj)
2. Ettackal Edwin (Edwin Joseph)
3. Kappilumakkal Cherian (Albin)
4. Karimattathil Kuriakose (Rijo)
5. Kunnel Joseph (Aeon)
6. Nadackal Paul (Alan)
7. Nellissery Joseph

8. Paikayil Joseph (Boby)
9. Parackal Thomas
10. Pauvath Thomas (Alvin)
11. Vettickal Joseph (Emil)

These brothers made the first promise of temporary incorporation before the Director General V. Rev.Fr Vincent



Kadalikattilputhenpura on 16th May, 2024 during the Holy Qurbana along with the senior seminarians.

12. Formators' Meeting (April 30-May 3, 2024)

Formators from all MST seminaries came together in Deepti Generalate on April 30, 2024 for the formators' meetings. All our formators except four who went for formators' Training at Denahalaya, Punnapra, Alapuzha were present. The formators' meeting started with a formal inauguration on May 1st morning and the resource person, Rev. Fr Bosco Ponthokkan, Rector of Kristu Jyothi Major Seminary, Bangalore, led the classes for two days. His classes were very scholarly, systematic, contextualized, practical and rich with personal experiences. His notes were printed in a book form and was given to all participants.

The major themes dealt with by Fr Ponthokkan in his classes are the following: Vocation discernment and accompaniment, New skins for fresh wine: Trends in formation ministry, Criteria for

discernment of vocation, Spiritual accompaniment: Revisioning ethical guidelines in formation ministry and Transference issues in formation: Understanding relational depths and its impacts. In the light of the materials given in the appendix of the booklet there were discussions on the following issues:

- Sharing and discussion on candidate assessment,
- Vocational motivation and discernment,
- Personal history writing,
- A religious sister's vocational discernment testimony,
- Markers and associated difficulties by developmental stage and Psychological assessment of candidates.

On the third day, the discussions were on MST formation system in the light of the classes and based on our experiences in formation ministry. Discussions were moderated by the Director General and the Formation Secretary. The rectors of the MST seminaries presented a brief report of each seminary and based on the reports discussions were held. How accompaniment can be put into practice, was discussed elaborately and members came out with many practical suggestions. The members also highlighted the areas to be concentrated and the areas to be improved. Open discussions and suggestions threw much light on this important ministry of formation and on how we can make it more effective for the wholistic development of the formees as Jesus wills. Formation as transformation is a never ending process. Formation should enable the formees to develop deep-rooted convictions which should be translated into commitment. Ultimately formation should encourage and inspire the formees to grow in passionate love for Jesus Christ and in ardent desire to share the Good News with the people.

Prepared by Fr Joseph Thekkekarott

13. Seminar on Education and Social Apostolates

The Department of Education and Social Apostolates of the MST conducted a four-day workshop cum seminar for MST priests working in the field of education and social apostolates from **May**

21 to May 25, 2024, at the Generalate. The seminar's central theme was "MST Priests as Heralds of the Gospel" for transforming humanity. Inspired by the divine mandate, we serve humanity through various ministries of *diakonia*. Hence, the workshop tried to introduce the relevance of our ministries in this changing and



challenging political, social, cultural, and religious milieu. Prospects and Challenges of Catholic Education, New Strategies and

Welfare Approaches in Social Apostolates, New Pedagogies for our Ministries, Networking and Interpersonal Relationships, and Legal Aid for Education and Social Apostolates were some of the topics of this seminar. More than 50 MST priests participated, updating and enhancing their knowledge and forging a way forward to create better educational pedagogies and social welfare



approaches. Rev. Dr John F. Sequeira OCD, Rev. Dr Paul Puduserry CSE and Mr Willson Mathew (Advocate of the Supreme Court) were the esteemed speakers for this seminar.

Prepared by Fr Ivan M.S.

14. Meeting of General Administration at Kripasadan

The members of General Council and Treasurer General gathered at Kripasadan for three days from May 28 to 30, 2024, to discuss,

evaluate and plan for the coming year as well as to prepare a long term plan for the next four years. Thanks to Fr Peter Vattaparayil, the Director of Kripasadan who welcomed us and treated hospitably the members of the Central administration. The meeting at home away from home was very fruitful. The discussions and planning sessions went on well during those three days.

15. Reception to Major Archbishop and St Thomas Day Celebrations

A formal reception was accorded to the Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil in the Generalate which anticipated the St Thomas Day celebrations.

It was organized at Deepti Bhavan on July 1, 2024. The Major archbishop was received at 4.45 pm at the Generalate by the Director General in



the presence of the General Councillors, Vicars General from Pala,





the Major Superiors, Parish priests, Religious and Women from neighbouring parishes and Religious communities, the Staff and students of Deepti Seminary, and the MST fathers from Aaram and MST houses in Kerala, “The solemn Holy



Qurbana was followed by the meeting to felicitate the Major Archbishop and to celebrate the Feast of Dukhrana in the open auditorium. The programme was concluded with dinner.

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

1. ST PAUL REGION, UJJAIN

1.1. Appointments

1. Fr Philip (Benny) Karickamukalel is relieved from Mandsaur and assigned to Eparchy of Ujjain
2. Fr Lithosh Karingada is appointed Vice-Principal, St Thomas School Pawasa, Ujjain
3. Fr Bibin Vadayaparambil is appointed Priest-in-charge, Mandsaur
4. Fr Manu Kochumalayil appointed Priest in charge, in Indore
5. Fr Bebin Eettayankal is appointed Assistant Priest in charge, Khachrod
6. Fr Deepu Kollakompil, is appointed Assistant Priest in charge, Mandsaur
7. Fr Abhilash Pattasseril is relieved for Higher Studies, in Rome
8. Fr Jacob Koottarappallil, is relieved for Higher Studies in Mumbai
9. Fr Anand Anakallil, is relieved in view of missionary apostolate in the diocese of Itanagar in the North East

1.2. St Thomas School Khachrod

Construction and Blessing of New Class Rooms:

Four new classrooms are constructed at St Thomas School Khachrod. Rev. Fr Sebastian Pullatt, the Regional Director blessed



the new section of the school on 8th June 2024 and conveyed his appreciation and regards for the hard work done by everyone concerned especially Fr Shinto Pendanath, the Priest-in-charge. The Community at Khachrod is very much indebted to all who extended their supporting hands for the successful completion of the work, especially

to the Kindermissionswerk and St Paul Region, Ujjain.

Reported by Fr Bebin

2. ST THOMAS REGION, MANDYA

2.1. Regional Picnic

In order to strengthen Koinonia and togetherness among the members a beautiful Picnic, sponsored by Rev. Fr Saji Plapillil, was organised



on 02/04/24 and 03/04/24. Almost all the members within the region joined the picnic to Ooty. All visited the picnic area and enjoyed the beauty of the place and the natural beauty. All stayed one day in Ooty and visited various picnic spots in Ooty.

2.2. Annual Retreat

Annual Retreat was organized by the Region from 6th of May to 10th of May. The retreat preacher was Fr. James Niravath OCD, the vice Provincial of Malabar province of OCD Congregation Trivandrum. Almost all the fathers working in the region participated in the retreat.

2.3. New Assistant Priest at Christalaya Hadanur

Rev. Fr Ashil Kizhakkekara, the new priest took charge as the New Assistant Priest in Charge at Christalaya Hadanur on 01/06/24. Rev.



Fr. Augustine Mundiavil welcomed him very cordially in the presence of Rev. Fr. Sojan Aikkarakunnel, the Regional Director and other community members.

2.4. Welcome back to Fr Mathew Elavumkal



Rev. Fr. Mathew Elavumkal has come back to the Region after a long period. He is appointed the Spiritual Director of Mother Theresa Seminary of the Diocese of Mandya. He is also the spiritual Director of the Priests and sisters in the

Region and the diocese of Mandya.

2.5. Visit of the Director General

Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkatilputhenpura, the Director General of the MST visited the Region and spent long time with the missionaries who had gathered at Santhome regional house on 12/06/24. It provided a beautiful occasion to discuss and share the concerns of the members with him on various matters as well as the developments in the Region in the recent times.

2.6. New Principal at Sevasadana

Rev Fr Immanuel Madavana MST is appointed Assistant priest-in-charge of Seva Sadana and the principal of Divya Jyothi School, Halagur.



2.6.1. Transfers of Sisters

Rev. Sr Jancy CHF & Sr Rennet CHF got transferred from Sevasadana mission center Halagur. We thank them for their hard work and dedicated service in carrying out the ministries of the center for the past three years. Rev. Sr Lisieu and Sr Rani Maria

were welcomed by Sevasadana Mission center. We wish them all the blessings of the Almighty for carrying out their ministries faithfully.

2.6.2. New Principal appointed

Rev Fr Immanuel Madavana MST was appointed as the assistant priest-in-charge of the center and the principal of Divya Jyothi School, Halagur. He took charge of the office by June 1st from the former principal-in-charge, Fr Toms Pathalil MST in the presence of Rev Fr Jiby Thekkemuriyil MST, the first councilour and Rev Fr Prasad, the manager and priest-in-charge.

2.6.3. World Environment Day Celebrated

The World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5th. The message of the day was given by Rev Fr Prasad. As part of the celebration, we planted trees and students wrote different article regarding the importance of the day. Students delivered speeches also on the same topic.

3. ST ALPHONSA REGION, SANGLI

3.1. Picnic of Alphonsa Region to Ganapathipule

Fathers from the Alphonsa Region enjoyed a rejuvenating picnic to the picturesque Ganapathipule in Ratnagiri on April 8th and 9th, 2024. The two-day event provided a welcome respite, filled with camaraderie, fun activities, and cultural performances amidst the stunning coastal beauty. The picnic cum gathering fostered a strong sense of community, offering the fathers a chance to relax and connect in a serene environment. From beach games and group discussions to exhibiting their musical talents, the event had something for everyone. The fathers returned home refreshed with unforgettable memories of their time at Ganapathipule.

3.2. Sunday-School Camp to Foster Faith and Friendship

The Department of Catechism in the Alphonsa Region successfully hosted a vibrant Sunday school camp at *Vishwadeepthi* Kolhapur from April 14th to 16th. Students from various parishes within the region came together for an enriching and engaging experience. Bro. Biljo Parakkattu and Bro. Jison Attuchalil, under the guidance of Fr Jobin Edamanasseril the Director of catechism guided the camp. Mr Babu Thomas, a member of Kolhapur parish took some motivational classes to the children. The camp was aimed at: strengthening the students' understanding of their faith and fostering unity and friendship among themselves. Through interactive sessions and prayerful reflections, participants gained a deeper conviction about their faith and they were helped to build lasting friendships with their peers. The camp strengthened them to make their faith commitment stronger.

3.3. Meeting of Special School Teachers

Teachers from special schools across the region came together for a two-day social work meeting at *Vishwadeepthi* in Kolhapur, held from April 24th to 25th, 2024. The program aimed to improve teaching



methods, share best practices, and explore the latest developments in special education.

The event featured workshops, seminars, and collaborative sessions, fostering a

sense of community and purpose among the teachers. Exchanging ideas and experiences enriched the attendees, equipping them with new strategies to better support their students.

3.4. Teachers' Picnic

Following the intensive program, the teachers embarked on a refreshing picnic to Lonavla, Pune on the third day. This relaxing excursion



provided a well-deserved break and an opportunity for the participants to unwind, bond, and enjoy the scenic beauty of Lonavla.

The event was met with great acclaim, with attendees expressing their appreciation for the knowledge gained and the camaraderie fostered during the meeting and the picnic.

3.5 Marathi Courses at Vishwadeepthi

Alpho Academy wrapped up two fruitful Marathi courses held at Vishwadeepthi, Kolhapur. The program catered to separate groups: fathers (May 3rd-15th) and Regents (May 28th-31st), offering them essential elementary knowledge and skills in various areas.

Ms. Rupali Kamble led the engaging sessions for the fathers, covering



a comprehensive range of topics. Her expertise and teaching style were lauded by the participants who appreciated the informative and

empowering nature of the course.

Fr. Lijesh laid a strong foundation for Marathi for Regents, through well-structured lessons on the basics. His approachable demeanor and clear explanations helped them grasp key concepts, preparing them effectively for their roles. Both groups expressed satisfaction with the learning experience, highlighting the value of the program.

The successful completion of these Marathi courses reinforces Alpha Academy's dedication to providing high-quality education and training opportunities for various community members.

3.6. Excellent Performance of Sangli Mission Schools

The Sangli Mission Society celebrated a phenomenal achievement at the publication of Board exam results! All affiliated schools under the society achieved a remarkable 100% pass rate in the 10th standard state syllabus examinations.

Above 90%: 53; Distinction: 126; First Class 22
1st Rank: 97.40 %; 2nd Rank: 97 %; 3rd Rank: 96.80
Total number of students: 148;

This outstanding outcome exemplifies the tireless efforts of both students and educators across the society.

3.7. Glimpse of School Results

	TOTAL STUDENTS	DISTINCTION	FIRST CLASS	ABOVE 90 %	TOP SCORE
ALPHONSA SCHOOL MIRAJ	133	110	16	38	99.6
ALPHONSA SCHOOL YADRAV	121	101	20	22	96.4
ALPHONSA SCHOOL KOLHAPUR	102	97	5	36	99.2
ALPHONSA SCHOOL JATH	72	44	10	17	95.6
ALPHONSA SCHOOL KARANJOSHI	45	37	7	4	91.8
MARY MATHA SCHOOL CHIPLUN	156	131	21	38	96.2
ST THOMAS SCHOOL RATNAGIRI	76	66	10	13	95.8
DIVYA JYOTI SCHOOL BANDA	24	23	1	4	92
TOTAL	729	609	90	172	99.6

3.7.1. Alphonsa Schools: All Alphonsa Schools at Yadrav, Kolhapur, Jath, Karanjoshi & Miraj, a significant number of students secured distinctions, with top scorers reaching above 99%.

3.7.2. Mary Matha Chiplun witnessed similar success with a high percentage of distinctions and students scoring above 90%.

3.7.3. St. Thomas School at Rathnagiri & Divya Jyoti School at Banda achieved impressive pass rates with a majority of students excelling in the exams.

3.7.4. Santhome School Sangli (ICSE affiliated) achieved a commendable 100% pass rate, with a significant portion of students securing distinctions and scoring above 90%.

The Sangli Mission Society extends sincere congratulations to the entire student body, teachers and staff for their commendable accomplishment and unwavering dedication. The exceptional results are testament of the missionaries and their collaborators commitment to delivering high-quality education and fostering academic excellence.

3.8. Alphonsa Region Welcomes Regents!

The Alphonsa Region is thrilled to welcome four new Regents who will be embarking on a missionary journey in the Mission to enrich their missionary experiences! They are assigned to the following centres

Bro. Abin Chollampuzha -Pratiksha Vilavade, Watul

Bro. Alex Vadayanezhath - Deepti Plantations, Mulas

Bro. Biljo Parakkattu - Nirmalgiri, Amberi

Bro. Jisson Attuchalil - Dilasa Bhavan, Tasgaon Phata

The entire Alphonsa Region extends its warmest wishes to these new Regents as they begin their rewarding missionary journey.

3.9. Transfers and Appointments

1. Fr Joe Anson Kattuthara relived from Alphonsa Region for pastoral ministry.
2. Fr George Thuppalanjil, relived from Alphonsa Region for Dicennial Break.
3. Fr Thomas Vattukulam relived from Santhome School, Tasgaon

and appointed Priest-in-charge & Manager, Mary Matha School Chiplun.

4. Fr Lijo Vadakkemury Neyoor appointed as Principal & Asst. priest-in-charge, Mary Matha School Chiplun.
5. Fr Vipin Vanmelil appointed as principal of Santhome School Tasgaon.
6. Fr Arun Vedikkunnel appointed as the Manager of the Santhome Ayurvedic Arogya Kendra, Bedshi.
7. Fr Thomas Pullikkattil, relived from Mary Matha School Chiplun, and appointed in Santhome School Sangli.



D. MQM REGION, NEW DELHI

1. Annual Retreat

The annual retreat for the priests in the Delhi region of MST, offered a profound period of spiritual renewal from 13th of May to 18th of



May 2024 in St Francis Monastery, Mussoorie. It was led by Rev. Fr Benny Puthennada, the Director of

the Mother home Retreat Centre, Pariyaram. The Priests spent five days in retreat with insightful spiritual conferences, emphasizing pastoral / missionary care and personal holiness. Time as given for silent reflection and one-on-one spiritual direction in view of deep personal discernment. The retreat fostered a strong sense of fraternity and solidarity through shared meals and discussions, providing much-needed rest and revitalization for the ministry.

2.0. Deepti Foundation

2.1 Send off

It was with a sense of pride that the Gyaansarovar Child Resource Centre as 32 of the students were given sent off. They are being enrolled in the government schools. It is the aim and hard earned efforts of the Gyaansarovar Child Resource Centre to provide a strong foundation to the growing underprivileged and sidelined



children of the rag picking communities living around the landfill site of the area.

3. Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies, New Delhi

Round Table Conference : Institute of Harmony and Peace Studies (IHPS), New Delhi, in collaboration with Sawan Adhyatmic Satsang Society (SASS), New Delhi, organized a round table conference on Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah' (May All be Happy) at Conference Room, Sawan Adhyatmic Satsang Society, New Delhi,



on 13 April 2024.

Dr M. D. Thomas, chaired and moderated the session. Dr Chand Bharadwaj, General Secretary, Sawan Adhyatmic Satsang Society, New Delhi, welcomed the participants at the beginning and proposed a vote of thanks at the end of the programme.

4.0. Mother Theresa Catholic Mission Dehlon

4.1. St. Thomas Convent School

St. Thomas Convent School, Rurka, recently welcomed new leadership with the appointment of Fr. Sijo Mundaplackal as Manager and Fr. Sogin Chirayil as Principal. The transition was celebrated on the first day of the new academic year, marked by a special gathering attended by students,



faculty, and the broader school community.

The outgoing Principal, Fr. Bobby M.S.T, and Assistant Manager, Fr. Albin Tomy M.S.T, addressed the assembly, expressing gratitude and extending best wishes to the new leadership team. Fr. Sijo emphasized continuity and growth, while Fr. Sogin shared his vision for academic excellence and holistic development.



The ceremony concluded with a cultural program organized by students, showcasing their talents and creativity. With the new



leadership team in place St. Thomas Convent School begins the academic year with optimism and renewed energy, looking forward to continuing its legacy of excellence and

nurturing the potential of every student. The school community is excited to embark on this new journey, confident in the guidance of Fr. Sijo and Fr. Sogin Chirayil.

4.2. St. Thomas School Celebrates Mother's Day

Mother's Day was celebrated at St. Thomas Convent School and it was marked by a special assembly and various activities designed to honour and appreciate mothers. Father Sogin delivered an inspiring speech on the significance of Mother's Day. He emphasized the role of mothers in nurturing and shaping the future of their children and highlighted the importance of expressing gratitude and love towards them.

Following the assembly, the school organized a series of class-wise competitions, allowing students to express their creativity and affection for their mothers. The activities included making

personalized cards, writing letters and poems, and crafting beautiful bouquets for their mothers.

These competitions not only provided a platform for students to exhibit their talents but also instilled a sense of appreciation for the self-effacing efforts of their mothers.

The children expressed their appreciation of their mothers by presenting them gifts they made with their hands in the school on Mother's Day. This gesture not only delighted the mothers to a great extent but also strengthened the bond of love and gratitude between the students and their mothers.

The celebration of the Mother's Day at St. Thomas Convent School was a touching tribute to the mothers which was organised to acknowledge their indispensable role in the lives of their children. The activities and the special assembly made the day memorable for both the students and their mothers, creating lasting memories of love and appreciation.

4.3. Farewell to Fr Bobby M.S.T

The farewell ceremony, organized under the able leadership of the newly appointed principal, Fr. Sogin M.S.T, was a fitting tribute to Fr. Bobby's invaluable contributions. Students, teachers, and staff members all participated enthusiastically in the event. Various cultural performances, including songs and dances were presented, showcasing the talents of the students and paying tribute to Fr. Bobby's legacy. In his farewell speech, Fr. Bobby expressed his deep gratitude to the entire school community for their unwavering support and cooperation over the years. He reminisced about the early days of the school and the challenges faced, acknowledging the collective effort that led to the institution's success. Fr. Bobby also extended his best wishes to Fr. Sogin, expressing confidence in his ability to lead the school to greater heights. The farewell was not just a celebration of Fr. Bobby's achievements but also a testament to the strong sense of community and shared purpose within the school. Fr. Bobby's legacy will continue to inspire and guide the institution in the future.

5.0. Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Rohru Himachal Pradesh

5.1. Consecration of the Church & Erection of the Parish

The **Kristjoti Catholic Church in Rohru** witnessed on April 28, a significant milestone in its history. His Excellency Mar Jose Puthenveetil officiated the solemn ceremony, and consecrated the Altar and the Church and dedicated it for the parishioners. After a year of dedicated hard work, the church was finally blessed in a heartfelt ceremony. The congregation gathered to witness the momentous occasion, celebrating the culmination of countless hours of effort and devotion. The blessing of the church symbolized not only the sanctification of the physical space but also the unity and commitment of the community that brought it to fruition. It was a time of joy and gratitude, reflecting the challenges overcome and the collective achievements made possible through unwavering faith and perseverance.

Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarottu MST the vice Director General of MST, Fr Joseph Karodan MST the Regional Director of Delhi Region and other priests of the region blessed the occasion with their presence prayers. This momentous event was attended by a large congregation, reflecting the strong faith and community spirit of the faithful. The church, beautifully decorated with flowers and garments provided a fitting backdrop for the occasion. In the homily Mar Jose Puthenveetil spoke about the significance of the church as a place of worship and community gathering. He commended



on the contributions of MST to the diocese. He appreciated Frs Sanoj and Fr Shinto for their dedication and efforts in nurturing the community and highlighting the importance of their contributions to the growth of

the Church. The official declaration of the mission station as a parish church on the same day was welcomed with joyous applause

and heartfelt prayers. This elevation signified not only an administrative change but also a recognition of the vibrant and active faith community in Rohru. The new status as a parish church will enable Kristjoti Catholic Church to expand its pastoral activities and services, further strengthening the spiritual life of its members.

Following the liturgical celebrations, a small gathering was organized, in which the parishioners expressed their gratitude to



the distinguished guests and the newly elected trustees who took their vows in a solemn ceremony, pledging to faithfully fulfill their duties and responsibilities. The

event concluded with a meal, fostering fellowship among those present. The blessing of Kristjoti Catholic Church and its establishment as a parish church marks a new chapter in its journey of faith. It stands as a testament to the unwavering devotion of its congregation and their commitment to faith and living the faith nourished by the teachings of Christ in their daily lives.

5.2. Adieu to Rev Fr Sanoj

Kristjoti Catholic Church, Rohru bid a heartfelt farewell to Rev. Fr. Sanoj on June 16, who faithfully served the parish for the past four years. The farewell ceremony was marked by a mix of gratitude, reflection, and celebration, honoring Fr. Sanoj's remarkable contributions to the community, particularly his leadership in constructing the new church for the faithful in Rohru.

The event began with regular Sunday services and following the Mass, a formal send-off ceremony was held in the church hall. Parishioners, children, young and old, shared heartfelt testimonials, recounting personal stories and memorable moments with Fr. Sanoj. They praised his dedication, spiritual guidance, and tireless

efforts in completing the new church building. Fr. Sanoj shared his feelings reflecting on his time with the parishioners. He expressed his deep appreciation for the community's support, cooperation,



and faith. The congregation, in turn, offered prayers and blessings for his future endeavors. The event concluded with a photo section

providing an opportunity for parishioners to personally thank Fr. Sanoj and wish him well on his new journey. Fr. Sanoj's departure marks the end of a significant chapter in the history of Kristjoti Catholic Church, but his influence and the strong foundation he built will continue to inspire and guide the community.

6.0. St Joseph's and St Thomas School, Bathinda

St Thomas Convent School, Bathinda began the classes of the new academic year on 1st April, 2024. Children came back to school after 10 days of holidays after their exams. The Staff wholeheartedly welcomed the children back to school with decorations in the classrooms and school premises.



The faithful of Chrithuraja Catholic Church, Barkandi had days of joy as many received Sacrament of Baptism after an intensive formation in catholic faith. Rev. Fr Ranji Chirayil administered the Sacrament in the presence of many faithfull.

7.0. Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Chirgaon

7.1. New Priest in charge



Fr Jeas Thundathil took charge at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Chirgaon on 13th June 2024 and Fr Siby Poovathingal moved to Santhome Bhavan, Thamarassery. We wholeheartedly thank Fr Siby

for his great service at Chirgaon.

7.2. Farewell

A farewell conducted for Rev. Fr Siby on 16th June 2024 where the members of Holy Trinity Catholic church expressed their gratitude



and love for Fr Siby Poovathingal. It was an emotional moment for everyone. We in a special way thank Fr Siby for spiritually nourishing the people towards God.

Fr Shinto Augustine

E. ST JOSEPH MISSION, ODISHA

1.FABC-OE Gathering of Pioneering Missionaries

Rev. Fr Joseph Cheriampanatt, the Coordinator of St Joseph Mission, Odisha participated in the ‘Gathering of Pioneering



Missionaries’ organized by the Office of Evangelisation of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conference (FABC OE) at the Camillian Pastoral Social Centre, Bangkok from 18th to 21st April, 2024.

The Gathering was graced by the presence of Bishop George Palliparambil SDB (Chairman, FABC-OE) throughout and was attended by 23 full-time missionaries from 13 countries. The Gathering took place in the context of the Silver Jubilee of *Ecclesia in Asia* and the 10th anniversary of *Evangelii Gaudium*. Presentations by Bishop Palliparambil, Manoj Sunny (Executive Secretary, FABC-OE), and Bishop Indrias Rehmat (Faislabad), among others, guided the discussions. The sessions focused on the FABC Bangkok Document, the Synodal journey in the Asian Church, the change of heart that *Evangelii Gaudium* advocates, the missionary challenges from a South Asian perspective, the possibilities of Lay full-time mission, G033 and Rising Gospel Poverty and Global 2033, highlighting the urgent need to focus the efforts of the Church and galvanise it to the missionary mandate of Asia, especially in the context of the Jubilee Year 2033.

The participants responded with questions, clarifications and suggestions with regard to various aspects raised in the presentations. The voice of the Delegates and the sharing sessions by the participants on their faith journey and missionary experience were enriching and motivating. Altogether, it was a fruitful initiative by the office of Evangelisation as the participants joyfully responded to the challenging

call to plant the Cross of Christ in Asia more intentionally and to network with one another to keep the flame glowing more zealously.

2. Nirmal Jyothi, Baliguda

2.1 Faith Formation Camp



A Faith Formation Camp was conducted at Baliguda from 5th to 10th June 2024 in which 45 children participated. Classes were centred on different themes of

faith formation.

2.2 Intensive Tuition Programme

During the vacation, intensive tuition was provided at Nirmal Jyoti Social Action Centre, Baliguda for children, from 5th to 29th of May 2024. Thirty three children from different villages attended the programme. Basics of Odia, English and Mathematics were taught during the sessions.

3. Divine Mercy Centre at M. Rampur

3.1 The Yuba Sabha 2K24

The Divine Mercy Centre at M. Rampur hosted a ten-day programme from 23rd May to 2nd June, 2024, with a definite goal to faith formation of youth. The programme was organized by Fr Joseph Cheriampanatt, Fr Ambrose Kollamattom and Fr Ajay Varickickal. The *Yuba Sabha* was attended by 87 participants, comprising of 40 boys and 47 girls.

The program covered various aspects of faith formation, including sessions led by resource persons from Jesus Youth India and SMYM Australia. These sessions delved deep into topics such as understanding the teachings of Jesus Christ, exploring the Syro-Malabar liturgy, and strengthening spiritual practices.



Facilitators from Jesus Youth India, SMYM Australia, ASJM Sisters, and Bhakti Pradhan played crucial roles in guiding and supporting the participants throughout the programme. Their expertise and guidance helped create a nourishing environment for the youth to deepen their faith and spiritual understanding.

Overall, the *Yuba Sabha* 2K24 programme provided a valuable opportunity for young people to engage with their faith, learn more about Jesus Christ, and develop a stronger connection to their religious community. Through a combination of educational sessions, spiritual practices, and community activities, the programme fostered in the participants personal growth and a deeper appreciation for Syro-Malabar liturgy.

Fr Jestin Vattamannil

F. ARUNACHAL MISSION

1. Holy Week and Easter celebrations

The Holy week and Easter celebrations were grand in the parish church as well as in the sub parish churches. All the three sub parish churches combined together and arranged the services in one Church. We had candle procession and Vigil Mass in the eve of Easter. Easter day Holy Mass and celebrations were in the morning and concluded the celebrations with lunch.



2. Easter blessing

As usual the Easter blessing of the houses was done on the following weeks of Easter. The parishioners also joined us for the house visits and blessing.

3. Annual Retreat

A retreat for the faithful was conducted in the month of May 2024. It was for seven days(4 days in the village church and 3 days in the main parish church) from 1st to 7th of May. The retreat was led by Bro. Simon and team from Mumbai. A large number of the faithful attended the retreat and received blessings.

4. Mission visit of Frs Paul and Joby

After Easter on 8th of April Fr Paul Mudathotty and Fr Joby Kootumkal from Ruhahaya Seminary made a visit to Pakke Kessang parish and



explored the Arunanchal Mission. People were very happy to receive them in their houses. They could experience the love of the people, the beauty of the place as well as the taste of some local dishes. With beautiful memories they returned from here on 15th of April

5. Visit of Rev. Bp Thomas Padiyath



Rev. Bishop Thomas Padiyath, the auxiliary bishop of Shamshabad diocese made a casual visit to Pakke Kessang mission station on 11th of June. Bishop congratulated and encouraged the mission work of MST priests in

Arunanchal Pradesh. It was his first pastoral visit to Arunanchal Mission of Syro- Malabar Church.

HOUSES OF FORMATION

1. DEEPTI MINOR SEMINARY

1 Sent off to the staff



Rev Frs Kurian Ammanathukunnel, Joshy Mullappallil, and Ebin Vazhuthanappallil were given a cordial send-off on 14th April

2024. Fr Joshy Mullappally served the Seminary as the Vice Rector, Director of Studies, and Professor for three years. Rev Dr Kurian Ammanathukunnel was the Spiritual Father and professor for 2 years and Rev Fr Ebin Vazhuthanappally served the Deepti Seminary for 2 years as the Professor. Rev Fathers from the Generalate and Aram(Priest home) participated in the program. Very Rev Dr Vincent Kadalikkattil Puthenpura, the Director General, and Rev Dr Joseph Thekkekarott, the Vice Director General felicitated the outgoing missionaries and appreciated their hard work and collaboration with the formation team of Deepti.

2. Arrival of New Staff Members

On 30th April 2024, Rev Fr Jijo Kottakavil as the professor, and Rev Fr Abhilash Akkattu as the new Spiritual director joined the staff. And on 17th May 2024, Rev Fr Binoy Kootumkal, as the new Vice Rector and Director of Studies.



3. Reopening of the Seminary

Deepti Minor Seminary was reopened on May 20, 2024. On 22, May 2024 eighteen candidates for MST and one for the Sagar Diocese joined Deepti Seminary in the first year. The total number



of brothers at Deepti in the present academic year 2024-25 is 46 including 4 brothers for the diocese of Sagar. Sincere thanks to the vocation promoters Rev Frs Ashish Keeranchira and Tony Ramachanattwas for their hard work under the guidance of the formation secretary Rev Fr Joseph Thekkekarott.

4. Orientation Programme

An Orientation program was conducted for the brothers at the beginning of the academic year from 26 to 29 May 2024. Rev Fr Binoy Kootumkal and Rev Dr. C D Sebastian took classes for the brothers



5. Visit of the Director General and the General Councilors

The Director General of MST Very Rev Fr Vincent Kadalikkattil Puthenpura and the General Councilors visited Deepti Seminary on 17th June 2024.



Rev Fr Jacob Njarolickal, the Rector welcomed and introduced them to the brothers. The first-year brothers also introduced

themselves to the councilors. The Director General instructed the brothers with an inspiring message.

6. Pilgrimage in the Diocese of Pala



On 19th June 2024, the staff and the brothers of Deepti had a pilgrimage to Servant of God Colethamma at Maniyankunnu, the home of the Servant of

God Mar Mathew Kavukatt at Pravithanam, the shrine of Blessed Kunjachan at Ramapuram and the shrine of the Servant of God Fr Mathew Kadalikkattil in Pala. The day was spent praying and reflecting on the life of those saintly people who led exemplary lives as priests and religious with the help of resource persons.



B. JEEVAN JYOTHI-MOC, GANJAM

1. 36th Batch Says Goodbye to Jeevan Jyoti

After completing the one-year Missionary Orientation Course, the 36th batch of students said bye-bye to Jeevan Jyoti on Tuesday 16th April 2024. All the 11 brothers had successfully completed their formation at Jeevan Jyoti and were eligible to be promoted to the next stage of formation. The staff sincerely thanked all the brothers for their genuine collaboration in the formation programme.

2. Rev. Fr Binoy Koottumkal bids Adieu to Jeevan Jyoti

In a more heartfelt and lasting tone Rev, Fr Binoy Koottumkal said goodbye to Jeevan Jyoti on 15th of May 2024, after completing 6

years of his excellent service. In the last four years he was serving as the procurator of the seminary. The responsibilities entrusted to him



were fulfilled with cent percentage dedication and commitment. He made countless effort to keep the Jeevan Jyoti building and its campus beautiful and attractive. He was a person who loved the nature and its

plants very much.

A farewell gathering was arranged on 15th May and all the priests working in and around Mandya were invited. All those who gathered proudly attested to the great service done by Rev. Fr Binoy Koottumkal. Furthermore, speaking on the occasion Rev. Fr Sojan Aikkarakunnel made a special note on the extraordinary service by Rev, Fr Binoy Koottumkal describing him as a ‘silent worker’.

Dear Rev. Fr Binoy, you will be remembered for ever with great love by the Jeevan Jyoti community for your excellent service and especially for the verities of fruit trees you have planted in our campus. Wish you also the very best for your new office as the Vice Rector of Deepti Mionor Seminary.

3. Jeevan Jyoti Welcomes the 37th Batch

A very warm welcome was accorded to the new batch of students at Jeevan Jyoti on 15th June 2024. There are 5 brothers in this batch. All of them are very smart, active and vibrant. The day following their arrival they began the Group Dynamics class.

After the classes they were taken for a pleasure trip to the nearby





historic destinations.

The entire MOC formation programme was also explained to them. And these days Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal is taking the Kannada language course for them.

The following are the names of

the brothers of this batch:

1. Chengazhacheril Joel Roby
2. Madathiparambil Alen Benny
3. Palathadathil Akhil Joy
4. Plaparambil Benson Kuriakose
5. Payyappilly Akhil Ittiyachan

4) Group Dynamics Class by Rev. Fr Jaison Joseph Puthenpurackal MST

An orientation class with the title “Knowing oneself and Others” was conducted by Rev. Fr Jaison Joseph Puthenpurackal MST for the MOC brothers. The course was a mix of group dynamics and social psychology. It was very enriching and useful for the brothers.



C. RUHALAYA MAJOR SEMINARY, UJJAIN

1. Farewell to Six Priests at Ruhhalaya



Rev. Frs Paul Mudathotty, Joseph Venattumattam, Justin Kaithottumkal, Manu Kochumalayil, Vipin Vanmelil and Lithosh Karingadayil, from the teaching staff, both from philosophate and theologate, bade farewell to

Ruhalaya on 24th March 2024. They shared their experiences at Ruhalaya during their farewell speeches. Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector of Ruhalaya, highlighted their outstanding contributions to Ruhalaya and thanked them all for their life and dedicated service at Ruhalaya.

2. Valediction to Third Year Philosophy Students

Valedictory function arranged for the outgoing third year brothers was held on 23rd March at Philosophate so as to wish them farewell on the successful completion of the Philosophical studies at Ruhalaya.



Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector, acknowledged their contribution to the growth of Ruhalaya and wished them the best in the ensuing days. 25 brothers bade farewell to Ruhalaya and all of them have begun their regency in different parts of India.

3. Conclusion of the Academic Year 2023-2024

His Excellency Bp Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the Bishop of Ujjain, celebrated Holy Qurbana at Ruhalaya Theologate on 18th March 2024 at 06:30 am as part of the conclusion of the academic year

2023-2024. He prayed for Ruhelaya and congratulated the Ruhelaya community for having completed an enriching and grace-filled academic year. After the completion of their exams, the brothers of both Philosophy and Theology departed to their places of ministry and home on 25th March 2024.

4. Fr Joby Koottumkal appointed Vice Rector



Rev. Fr Joby Koottumkal was appointed the new vice Rector of Ruhelaya Theologate and he took charge of his office from Fr Justin Kaithottumkal in the

presence of Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector and several other fathers of the staff of both Philosophate and Theologate. Fr Manoj thanked Fr Justin and wished Fr Joby all the best and God's choicest blessings.



5. Easter Celebration

Rev. Fr Joby Koottumkal, the Vice Rector of Ruhelaya Theologate, celebrated the Eater Qurbana at 09:00 pm at Philosophate and all available fathers in the seminary concelebrated the Qurbana. Brothers of Ruhelaya Philosophate as well as the religious communities around attended the Qurbana. After the Qurbana, all of them meaningfully shared the joy of Easter in the refectory.

6. Renovation of Ruhelaya Philosophate and Theologate

During summer holidays, Frs Tony Mampilly and Jubil Muricken undertook the work of renovation both at Philosophate and Theologate. The toilet sections of the first block of bothers were renovated at Theologate and the wiring of the rooms of brothers was done anew at Philosophate.

7. Visiting the Families of Brothers

During the summer holidays, the Fathers on the Staff in different groups visited the families of Brothers. It was in view of having good relationship with the parents which did not happen in the previous years due to Corona. These visits and the good rapport with the parents and the family members would really help in the formation of the brothers.

8. Formators Meet at Deepti Generalate

The formators meet was held at Deepti Generalate from 1st-4th May 2024 and it was well-attended by all the Staff members of Ruhalaya. The first two days session was conducted by Rev. Fr Bosco Ponthekan, the Rector of Kristu Jyoti Salesian Theological College Bangalore. We had very fruitful discussions and resolutions are taken for the better formation to be imparted to the students according to the new signs, situations and challenges.

9. Mission Seminar in Ujjain

A Mission Seminar was successfully conducted at the Social Apostolate Centre at Chandessary in Ujjain from 10th to 12th June 2024. Frs John Kudiyiruppil and Joby Koottumkal were the resource persons for the first day of the Seminar, attended by about 200 people, including priests, sisters, brothers and lay people.

10. Seminary Reopening & Monthly Recollection

Ruhalaya was reopened on 17th June 2024. Rev. Fathers on the staff came back on 13th to plan out for the new academic year and Brothers reached Ruhalaya by 17th June. After the initial cleaning, shifting and shopping, there was a monthly recollection guided by Rev. Fr Thomas Manjalankal at Theologate and Rev. Fr Joyal Anjilithoppil at Philosophate. It began at 09:00 pm with the night prayers on 18th and concluded with the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on 19th June 2024.

11. Blessing of Ruhalaya and the Compound

Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, the Rector, officiated the blessing ceremony of Ruhalaya Theologate along with the Deacons and at

philosophate with other fathers on the staff. They blessed the entire house as well as the whole compound of Ruhhalaya Theologate as well as Philosophate, invoking God's blessings at the beginning of the new academic year 2024-2025.

12. Total Strength of Ruhhalaya in 2024-2025

Ruhhalaya Theologate has 81 brothers this year, the highest in its history. There are 17



Deacons, 21 third year students, 23 second year students and 20 first year students this year. Rev. Fr Dr Jaison Kulappurath joined the staff on 10th June 2024 and Rev. Fr Justine

Vettukallel is to join the staff on 8th July 2024. Ruhhalaya Philosophate welcomed her 28 newcomers to philosophy with utmost gusto. The total strength at Philosophate is 84, i.e., 26 third years, 27 second years, 29 first years and 2 day scholars in the second



year philosophy. Rev. Fr Biju Koothottil joined the staff on 9th June, Rev. Fr Joyal Anjilithoppil joined the staff on 13th and Rev. Fr Lijo Manikombel would be joining the staff on 15th July. Now Ruhhalaya has 16 members on the staff.

13. Intensive Hindi and English Courses

Ruhalaya Theologate has arranged intensive Hindi and English courses for its students at the beginning of the new academic year 2024-2025 to equip the brothers to face the challenges of study and ministry. Hindi course at Philosophate was taken by Rev. Fr Jubile Muricken in an effective manner to fortify them with Hindi language skills and taste.

14. Group Dynamism at Philosophate

Ruhalaya conducted three days of Group Dynamism sessions (20-22 July) for the first-year philosophy students to set a new tone for their sojourn in Ruhalaya. Rev. Dr Joe Kokkandathil SDB, the Principal of Don Bosco Degree College in Chithradurga in Karnataka, the resource person of the sessions, guided and animated the students in an effective manner.



OVERSEAS MISSIONS

A. GERMANY

1. Golden Jubilee of MST's mission in Germany and the establishment German Co-ordination

During our Easter gathering we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of MST's Mission in Germany. On this occasion, a long-cherished dream of the MST fathers in Germany has been realized: the establishment of Co-ordination, enjoying constitutional rights and duties as a juridical entity within MST.

"The pioneering MST presence in Germany was initiated by our late and beloved Father John Kadookunnel, who arrived in 1974 in the Diocese of Münster. Subsequently, there was a gap of 10 to 15 years before MSTs arrived again as a small group in the early 1990s.



At that time, a formal administrative team was appointed, including a leader, councilors, and a procurator. Since the year 2000, there has been steady growth in the number of members sent for pastoral work here. During this period, further development ensued with the establishment of a Registered Society called St. Thomas Institute e. V. in 2006, with its office at Ludwigsmoos, situated in the parish-presbytery of the former procurator,

Fr. Kuriakose Moozhayil.

Looking back, there is a long history behind this achievement. As the number of members increased, so did the need for adequate representation in decision-making bodies like our General Assembly. The complaint that we were not represented or heard in the General Assembly was on every agenda. Members requested that the group of Fathers working in Germany be recognized at least as a delegation. However, the different General Assemblies encountered constitutional and functional obstacles and hindrances. Finally, the Extraordinary Assembly of 2022 paved the way for the possibility of establishing a constitutionally supported entity outside India called Coordination

(C 77, 1. iv). Furthermore, Coordination outside India with 10 or more members shall have its Coordinator as an ex-officio member in the General Assembly. MST in Germany has now reached this level.

We are grateful to Very Rev. Fr. Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General and the General Council of MST for implementing this important constitutional provision and erecting St. Thomas Coordination in Germany. We also remember with gratitude all our former leaders in Germany for successfully leading and guiding us.

The present office bearers of the Trust are Fr. Mathew Nellikunnel



- President, Fr. John Nayathuparambil – First Councilor, Fr. Johny Maniamkeril – Second Councilor, and Fr. Mathew Mulamkothra – Procurator. This same governing body represents MST in Germany to administer and organize the members and their

apostolates collectively as Coordination. The present team has been in office for more than three years, and their term ends in December 2025. From January 2026, there will be an election for the new coordinator and their team.” (Excerpts from the address of Rev. Fr Mathew Nellikunnel)



Hearty Congratulations to our First Co-ordinator, Rev. Fr Mathew Nellikunnel.

2. Visit of Director General

After the Easter gathering, the Director General visited the MST priests in Germany. It was a great occasion for us to express our



views and to share our experiences with him. He received a warm welcome, when he visited diocesan officials and there he also submitted some projects for the mission. Afterwards we also had arranged a Zoom meeting with the Director General on 10.06.24, as a follow up of his visit.

3. Silver Jubilee of Rev Frs. Ettanyil and Kochuparambil



Rev. Fathers Jiji Ettaniyil and Johny Kochuparambil are celebrating their Silver Jubilee this year. Let us join them to thank the Lord for all the

blessings they have received during the past 25 Years. Felicitations to both of them.

4. Bible class and Adoration, through Media Assistance



All Christians who believe in God, not only priests and missionaries, are called by God to do some sort of ministry. There are different

ways of doing the Ministry. The Bible is the greatest proof of this. Rev Fr Anto Thattil is conducting Bible class for the parishioners and outsiders very successfully. His Media assisted Bible class and adoration is well appreciated by all. This program, which has been

running for the past two years, has been a cause for faith formation and spiritual awakening among people. People participate in the Bible class enthusiastically, which also involves reading a passage from the Scripture and conducting further discussions on it, which help them to deepen their relationship with God. The Adoration of the Holy Eucharist gives an opportunity for the faithful to spend some time praying before the Eucharist at their local parish. After the Bible class and adoration, which lasts around 30 minutes, the faithful return Home, with a joyful heart, with blessing from the Lord. (Photo 07 and 08)

B. CANADA

All the eight priests working in Canada are doing well. We are working in four different dioceses, in four different Provinces of Canada. Everyone is busy and happy in their own ways. Fr Joseph



Kizhakkethottam has gone for yearly holidays. We had our annual retreat from June 17 to 21 where all the priests and bishop stayed and prayed together.

The diocese of Nelson has a tradition of celebrating special years of priesthood or marriage in our diocese during Chrism Mass in the Lenten season. They celebrated the 45th anniversary of the ordination of Fr Thomas Kakkaniyil. His parishioners were extremely happy to hear that he had been working as a priest for 45 years as a missionary and as a pastor.

They decided to celebrate his 45 years of priesthood in a solemn way inviting priests and the Bishop. On June 11, Tuesday, there was solemn Mass headed by the bishop of the diocese and other twelve priests from the deanery and his friends. Food was served to all the participants from all the three different parishes where he serves.



Fr Tom Kakkaniyil is elected and appointed as the Vice Chairperson of “Priests Council of the Diocese of Nelson” for a period of Five years.

Fr. Tom Kakkaniyil

C. ITALY

The Director General Very Rev Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpurayil was cordially welcomed by MST priests in Italy on his first official visit to Italy from 26 - 30 April 2024. He prayed for the intentions of MST and its members at the tomb of St Thomas the Apostle in Ortona offering Syro-Malabar Holy Qurbana and visited St Peter’s Basilica in Rome. During his visit, he met the local hierarchs of the MST priests in the pastoral ministries. He also met personally all the priests working in Italy, and motivated them. All the MST priests



in Italy, without exception, came together in Rome to participate in the Common Gathering followed by supper in his honour and to listen to him collectively. It was a great experience and boosted the

MST spirit in the members. Fr Bino Kannamundayil has returned India after completing his pastoral services in Italy in the month of June and Fr Justin Vettukallel, after his research for the post-doctoral studies during his decennial break returned to India.

Fr Monse Karuvakunnel and Fr Lijo Manikompil successfully defended their theses as per the University requirements.



They are getting ready to return to India to take up new assignments in India after successfully completing their licentiate in Rome.

Fr Koren

D. UNITED KINGDOM

MST Fathers' Easter Gathering

On April 10th, the MST Fathers held an Easter gathering at the residence of Fr. Hans in Leicester. All members were present for the celebration, which began with a shared prayer. We had meaningful discussions about our ministry in the UK, reflecting on our experiences and the path forward. Following a solemn lunch, we concluded the gathering and each of us returned to our respective homes, carrying with us the spirit of fellowship and renewed dedication to our mission.

Fr Abin Kochupurackal

E. TANZANIA

1. Corpus Christi Celebration

The MST Mission Parish in Chengena celebrated the Corpus Christi Feast in the most solemn way while organizing the Eucharistic procession around the village. There was the huge participation from the parishioners and also from all the five substations. We had a solemn mass with 120 choir members from every Christian community under the parish. The Eucharistic procession was a blessing for the people to do the thanksgiving while it's the time for harvest in the cultivation fields.



2. First Holy Communion

We have prepared the little children in the parish for receiving the first holy communion in the month of June. We have around 80 children receiving first holy communion from the parish and the other



substations. We have started it from 18 June until 22 June at different Catholic communities under the parish. We had 32 children receive Holy Communion at the main parish church in Chengena.

3. Convent Construction

MST Fathers in Chengena are supervising the construction work of the OSF convent in our mission in Chengena. The construction work is getting progressed. We were able to complete the roofing work now. We anticipate to complete the construction work in three months. It would be possible to have the collaboration with OSF Sisters in the mission once the construction work finishes in three months.



4. borewell for the Convent

We successfully dug a borewell in the Parish premises for the convent in the parish land. We could get the water facility at a 30 mtr depth



with a good source of water for the daily need of the community. The available water source would be enough for the candidates' formation needs of the OSF community in the parish.

5. Football Team

The Chengena MST Mission parish has organized to have a football team from the UVIKASO, the youth organization of the parish. We have put up a team of 22 members from the parish and the members from the other 5 substations. This would revitalize the community feeling as a single parish by the communities under the parish. We are grateful to Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikkattilpputhenpura, the

Director General of MST for encouraging the youth group with the Jersey sponsored by him during his last visit to Chengena Mission. The team in participating in different league matches here.



6. Youth meeting of the Dekano

There are five parishes under the Namtumbo dekanos where the MST Mission Chengena is part of it. We hosted the youth leaders' annual assembly of the dekanos at our parish where there was the participation from all the parishes.



Our parish leaders were elected to the central committee of the dekanos. Congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected UVIKASO leaders.

Our parish leaders were elected to the central committee of the dekanos. Congratulations and best wishes to the newly elected UVIKASO leaders.

7. Social Work Department MST Tanzania

The Social Work Department of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle Tanzania is revived during the visit of Fr Director General in 2024 to MST Mission in Tanzania. We are trying to collaborate with our missionaries in other missions to organize different socio development programs in Africa.

8. Youth Development program

The MST Mission Chengena has organized to have the youth self help group in Chengena with 42 members in it. There isn't any goods transportation facility locally available in chengena village. As per the request of the youth group in chengena, we put our effort to purchase a Toyo, goods transportation vehicle for them.



We are grateful to different donors from Galway parish in Ireland and the other Irish donors for their little amount as their contributions to gather €3000/- to help the youth group to purchase this vehicle. Thanks to the Irish donors.

9. Medical camps

The medical Dispensary under the Chengena parish is providing adequate medical service to the people in the village. Mr Duurt Huisman is organizing the day today affairs of the dispensary. We organized different medical camps for the villagers here and also at the out station in liyuni, especially for the infants under 2 years old. We usually assess the health conditions of the infants of all these categories of children who are facing issues like malnutrition, underweight and STD related diseases. We have a good appreciation from the people in and around Chengena Village for the services that we provide through the Dispensary here.



OTHER MINISTRIES

A. SANTHOME IMPACT

1. Leaders' training camp

A Leaders' training camp for the Youth Leaders of Changanacherry Archeparchy was conducted by the IMPACT team under the



leadership of Fr Manu Pottanany at Kunnanthanam on 23 and 24 March 2024. The fathers of IMPACT helped different parishes and convents through hearing confessions and by conducting Holy Week Liturgy.

2. Communication Course

A three week's Communication Course for the second year theology students of MST was successfully conducted in IMPACT under the leadership of Fr Jose Palakeel.

3. Retreat for the catechism students

The IMPACT team assisted Fr Scaria Thamarakatt to conduct a residential retreat for the catechism students of class VII to XII of a parish in Thalassery Archeparchy. This retreat was conducted in Mar Walah Prayer Centre near Karunyashram.





4. Welcome & Send off

Fr Jijo Kottakkavil was relieved from IMPACT and he left for Deepti Minor Seminary and Fr Jince Kodikulam replaced him in the last week of April 2024. Fr

Jibin Maniyalil left for Philippines on 7 June 2024 to do studies in Communication.

5. Youth Camp

Missionary Training Youth Camp was conducted in IMPACT for a few selected youth of Kanjirapally Eparchy. Fr Manu Pottanany conducted this missionary training and the youth were taken to Orissa



Mission to directly experience the mission area. Emeritus Major Archbishop Cardinal George Alencherry spoke to the youth and blessed them before their journey.

6. 'Faith Conference'

A three days 'Faith Conference' for the youth of Changanacherry Archeparchy was conducted by IMPACT team under the leadership



of Fr Manu Pottanany at Changanacherry pastoral centre. The IMPACT house facilities were given for small camps of Jesus Youth etc., a few times.

7. 'Mission Exhibition'

A 'Mission Exhibition' using miniature statues of mission areas and people was conducted at Thrissur under the auspices of Fiat Mission under the leadership of Fr Jibin Maniyalil.

B. SANTHOME FELLOWSHIP

1. New Centres Started

Three new units of Santhome Fellowship are inaugurated in St Thomas church, Nalukody in the Archdiocese of Changanassery,



SF Moonnilavu Unit, PALA



SF Unit Nalukody, Changanachery

St Mary's Church, Moonnilavu, in Pala Diocese and St. Martin De Pores Church, Ambalavayal, in the Mananthavady Diocese. Members of all these centres are very enthusiastic and participate every month in the meetings! We plan to start Santhome Fellowship Units in every Diocese.

2. Promise of Association

The Fourth Batch of the Missionary Associates of the MST made the Promise of Association on Monday, July 01, 2024 during the



Holy Qurbana celebrated by Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil.

We are also happy to inform that there will be

one new Associate Missionary at Chengena in Tanzania. He will take the Promise of Association on 03 July, 2024.

3. Financial Assistance to Mission Centres

Santhome Fellowship is trying to assist the MST Missions through small projects. The projects from Mission Centres are accepted and reasonable financial help is granted.

1.1. Rohru Mission: Santhome Fellowship had a great dream to help Rohru Mission in Himachal Pradesh right from its inception. A monetary assistance was given to the mission in March 2024. We are grateful to the Rohru Mission for making Santhome Fellowship its partner.

1.2. Odisha Mission: Santhome Fellowship helped many Mission Centres in the Odisha Mission, namely Rampur Mission Centre, Baliguda Mission Centre, Laxmipur Mission Centre, Kundra Mission Centre and Sanjo Ashram, Chancharaguda.

1.3. Tikiri Village in Odisha and the Prayer Hall

Santhome Fellowship unit is linked to a particular Mission centre whereby the members who cannot visit the Mission centre can get updation from the Missionaries directly. Santhome Fellowship Thamarassery Unit is linked to Laxmipur Mission centre in Odisha. Two members from this unit have already visited Laxmipur Mission centre and could understand the felt need of the place is a church or Prayer hall at Tikiri village. They returned to their place and informed the matter to the group. The Santhome Fellowship members were all ready to help Tikiri village to have a small Prayer hall. Now the construction work is going on under the leadership of Fr Binish Kuzhiyadiyl.

1.4. Africa Mission

MST's missionaries at Songea in Tanzania are doing a wonderful service. Santa Maria Kung'ombe Parish in Songea requested Santhome Fellowship for financial assistance to buy articles for Liturgy. Santhome fellowship members were happy to meet the request and have already sent some Liturgical vestments.

4. Prayer support to Missions

It was decided in the meetings of Santhome Fellowship Units that each Unit adopts one Mission Centre of the MST and pray for the Priests and Sisters and for the success of their activities. It was also decided that a few members, at least the leaders of the Unit would telephone the Missionaries of their particular Mission Station and

assure them of their prayer support and get updated with the mission work going on there.

5. Santhome Preshithagni Dhyanam

The Santhome Preshithagni Dhyanam is going on every third Saturday of the Month without any break. It is attended by many



people and profiting very well. In the recent months Fr Zacharias Thadathil preached the retreats. *Nercha Kanji* is served for all at 2.30 pm. Many benefit from

Counselling. Unit Meetings takes place regularly. Kolar, Bhopal, and Indore have their regular meetings under the leadership of the MST Priests there. Online meetings are conducted in Dubai (Every Thursday) and Chicago (Daily).

6. Meeting of Associate Missionaries

The Associate missionaries – **SAHADUSA** - meet regularly every Second Friday in the Preshitharam Chapel for prayer, confession and Holy Qurbana, followed by meeting. Online prayer and meetings are conducted regularly every Friday at 09.00 pm.

7. Pilgrimage to Churches

Under the initiative of the Santhome Fellowship a pilgrimage to the churches of St Francis Xavier & St Joseph Vaz, was organized to Goa in the first week of April 2024. It was a wonderful experience for all the 20 members.

8. Preshitha Jwala

The E-magazine, *Preshitha Jwala*, the mouthpiece of the Santhome Fellowship, comes out regularly in the first week of every month. All the Santhome Fellowship Units send their reports of the monthly

meetings, photos and other activities taking place under their initiatives.

9. Help to School students

Poor children going to school are given school bags by Santhome Fellowship members.

10. Helps to Boarding Students

Certain Santhome Fellowship members help the students in the boardings in Odisha. Some members find out Sponsors for our seminarians and some of them help in finding vocations to MST.

Conclusion

The Santhome Fellowship Members are doing a wonderful job and growing very well. Many are ready to come under the banner of Santhome Fellowship.

Prepared by Fr Joseph Pulavelil



NECROLOGY

- 07/05/2024: Mr TM Joseph Thundathil (90) the paternal grand father of Fr Jeas Thundathil
- 07/05/2024: Mr Thomas Mathew Mailadiyil the brother of . Fr Joseph Mailadiyil MST
- 23/05/2024: Mrs Cinnamma Luka (89) beloved mother of Fr Joseph Pothanparampil
- 28/05/2024: Mr Reji Mathew (55) the first cousin of Fr J Aryankalayil
- 20/06/2024: Mr N.D. Jose Ikkolampil (72) cousin of Fr Paul Vadakeoram
- 20/06/2024: Mrs Molly Xavier Kandaramparambil (62) the first cousin of Fr Joy Panjikaran
- 20/06/2024: Molly Salim (62) youngest maternal aunt of Fr Joby Maprakavil
- 20/06/2024: Mr Kurian Varkey (85) Father of Rev. Fr Benny Puthenpurackal
- 20/06/2024: Rev. Br. Mathew Kallidukil (82) Elder brother of Fr Savio Kallidukil
- 20/06/2024: Mr Manuel Puthenpuranirappel (Kollichira Kunjetan)
- 27/06/2024: Mr Joy George (62) Kannamthadathil Brother of Fr Benny Kannamthadathil
- 30/06/2024: Mrs Eleykutty Joseph Thundathil (89) Paternal Grand Mother of Fr Jeas Thundathil

OBITUARY

REV. FRAUGUSTINE PUTHENPURA



Rev. Fr Augustine Puthenpura (Panchakuzhy) [P.D. Augusty 94] a pioneer member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, belonging to St Paul Region Ujjain, is called for his eternal reward at 6.10 pm on April 10, 2024 at IHM hospital, Marygiri, Bharananganam. Rev. Fr Ivan Muthanattu, General Councillor, administered to him the sacrament of the anointing of the sick at 2.30 pm. At 5.30 pm his health started deteriorating and Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, Rev. Sisters, Nurses and family people were present at his bed praying as he passed away at 6.10 pm. The body of Rev. Fr Augustine Puthenpura was shifted to the mortuary after the office for the dead prayed by Fr Kurian Kochettonnil, the Director of *Aaraam*.

The body will be brought to the Priest Home: *Aaraam* on 13th April Saturday at 7.30 am and will be placed in the Deepti open auditorium for public viewing from 8.00 am. The first part of the funeral service will start at 1.30 pm on 13th Saturday, 2024 in the open auditorium followed by Holy Qurbana and the second part of the funeral liturgy in the Deepti Public Chapel and the final rites at the cemetery.

Rev. Fr Augustine Puthenpura who hails from Mutholapuram parish was born on June 20, 1930 to Mr Devassia and Aley Puthenpura as the third of five children (Joseph, Mathew, Augustine, George

and Sr Mary Sunitha). He had his primary Education at Government Primary School, Mutholapuram (1936-1942), Middle school education at St Peter and Paul Middle School, Elanji (1942-1946) and High School Education (SSLC) at St Mary's School Kuravilangad (1946-1949).

After SSLC, Fr Augustine completed his minor seminary formation at St Thomas Petit Seminary Changanacherry (June 12, 1949-1951) and Major seminary formation at St Paul's Seminary Trichy (1951-1958). He was conferred the minor orders and diaconate in 1956 and 1957 respectively and the Order of priesthood on March 28, 1958 from the first Bishop of Palai and the founder of MST Mar Sebastian Vayalil.

Rev.Fr Augustine Puthenpura who was ordained for the eparchy of Palai in 1958, served the eparchy for 15 years in various parishes till 1973. He served as Asst. Vicar at Holy Cross Church Cherpunkal and Holy Ghost Church, Muttuchira and as vicar at St Joseph's Church Maniamkulam, St Xavier's Church, Adukom, St Mary's Church, Adivaram and St Thomas Church, Neeranthanam. The Parishioners of all these places have fond memories of Fr Augustine and the parishioners of Adivaram are very much indebted to him who was instrumental in the constructing the church at Adivaram.

Fr Augustine Puthenpura is one of the founding fathers of the MST. Even before the formal founding of the Missionary Society of St Thomas, Fr Augustine was part of the prayer group of diocesan priests who gathered to pray for the missions and who were harbouring on the same missionary dreams. When this group was raised to the status of a Pious Union on 22 January, 1965 by Bishop Mar Vayalil, Fr Augustine was a member of this pious union which was eventually erected as the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle on February 22, 1968.

As a pioneering member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, he was appointed the first Superior of Deepti Bhavan, the present Generalate at Melampara and the first Vocation promoter.

Since the first building on Deepti Mount was under construction, he was accommodated at the house of Mr Mathewwnny chettan Plathottathil who generously gifted a major portion of the land on Deepti Mount to the Society.

As a loyal and pioneer member, when he joined the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, he whole heartedly and eagerly opted to serve in the mission i.e. in the Exarchate of Ujjain, the first Mission entrusted to MST. He proved to be a great missionary by his zeal and enthusiasm for the Mission *ad gentes* spending 35 years in the mission field till the age of 81. In the exarchate of Ujjain he started his mission as priest in charge at Shujalpur (1973 to 1975), procurator at Jeevan Jyothi, Kamed (1975 to 1977), and Director & Bursar of Vikas Maithri, Kotra (1977 to 1978). He was the Regional Director of St Paul Mission Region, Ujjain from 1978 to 1983 and was priest in Charge of Nagda Mission (1984-1987).

At the request of Fr Augustine on January 1, 1987, prompted by his zeal for 'an effective ministry of the Word', he was relieved from Nagda by Bishop Mar Perumattam on 8-1-1987. He stayed for a short period in the villages near Mehidpur road in view of the ministry of the word. In 1988 he was appointed at Ghonsala (1988-1991) and staying in a hut Fr Augustine constructed the Minor seminary of the eparchy of Ujjain. From Ghonsala he was transferred to the Mission at Malikhedi (15-05-1991 to 16-07-1993). Fr Augustine who was in touch with the village Anwalia –Bhutia from 1970s, purchased a plot of land and a house was constructed by the name Sanjeevan Ashram, Bhutia-Avlia. Respecting his zeal for direct evangelization and thirst for souls he was transferred from Malikhedi to Sanjeevan Ashram, Bhutia-Avlia as priest in charge. He was there from July 16, 1993 to January 1, 1999. He was appointed Proto-Syncellus of the eparchy of Ujjain by Mar Sebastian Vadakel with effect from 23/09/1998 and he held this post till 15-09-2008. While he was the *Proto Syncellus*, he was also the Director of the Inter Religious Dialogue Centre from Aug 18, 2000 to Feb.17, 2001 and the priest in charge of the Mission at Chandukhedi till August 2008.

He was relieved from his responsibilities as Proto-Syncellus on September 19, 2008 and at the age of 81 he returned to Kerala. Even at this age, from 2008 August, he served the eparchy of Idukki till 2011, a thing to be emulated by all MST priests.

He was a very zealous missionary and he has to his credit the title: the only Pioneer member of the Missionary Society who spent the longest period in the Missions i.e. in Exarchate and Eparchy of Ujjain, dedicating fully to the mission *ad gentes* for 35 years from 1973 to 2008, remaining faithful to the nature and purpose of the Society and his promise of incorporation.

Rev.Fr Augustine Puthenpura has left behind a culture of austere missionary life and thrust for primary evangelization as well as complete surrender to the authorities without murmuring and dissatisfaction. His missionary zeal, enthusiasm and ardent desire to serve among the poor villagers of the eparchy of Ujjain made him remain in the mission even after the age of retirement. The personality of Fr Augustine was charming which everyone who knew him would like to imitate. He was an endearing personality thanks to his childlike innocence, affectionate nature, disciplined prayer life, and cheerfulness. To everyone who visited him in the hospital during the past few days, he had only one thing to say that he eagerly waits to meet the Lord and blessed mother Mary. He was fully prepared to meet the Lord from the first day he was admitted IHM hospital. He spent his life in *Aaraam* and the hospital joyfully in spite of severe pain in his body. The members of the MST are saddened at the loss of Fr Augustine, but happy to say that he was well prepared to meet the Lord. Let us continue to pray to the Lord that he may adorn him with heavenly blessings and life eternal. RIP

CURRICULUM VITAE

AUGUSTINE PUTHENPURA (PANCHAKUZH)

Name:	Augustine Puthenpura (Panchakuzhy)
Date of Birth:	June 20, 1930
Baptismal Name:	Augustine

Place of Baptism	St Sebastian Church, Mutholapuram
Name in the School:	P. D. Augusty
Name at Home:	Kunjagasthy
Parish & Diocese:	Udayagiri & Palai
Name of Parents:	Devassia (Late +23/10/1982) Aley Kottackakathu (Late +03/04/1993)
Siblings:	Mathew (late), Joseph (late), George (late), Sr Mary Sunitha

School Education

Primary Education:	Govt Primary School, Mutholapuram (1936-1942)
Middle school:	St Peter and Paul Middle School, Elanji (1942-19460)
High School Education:	St Mary's School Kuravilangad (1946-1949)

Priestly Formation

Minor Seminary:	St Thomas Petit Seminary Changanacherry (1949-51)
Major seminary:	St Paul's Seminary Trichy (1951-1958)
Minor Orders & Prelate:	1956 Mar Sebastian Vayalil
Diaconate & Prelate:	1957 Mar Sebastian Vayalil
Priestly Ordination & Prelate:	28/03/1958 Mar Sebastian Vayalil

Appointments and Ministries:

26/04/1958-12/04/1960:	Asst. Vicar, Holy Cross Church Cherpunkal
12/04/1960-07/02/1961:	Asst. Vicar, Holy Ghost Church, Muttuchira
07/02/1961-31/03/1962:	Vicar, St Joseph's Church Maniamkulam.
31/03/1962-28/08/1964:	Vicar, St Xavier's Church, Adukum

28/08/1964-20/01/1969:	Vicar, St Mary's Church, Adivaram
20/01/1969- 1970:	Deepti Bhavan, Superior and Vocation promoter
1970-1971:	Chaplain, SH Convent, Mailady
1971-1973:	Vicar, St Thomas Church, Neeranthanam
16/04/1973:	Assigned to the Exarchate of Ujjain
22/05/1973-04/08/1975:	Priest in Charge, Shujalpur
04/08/1975-27/07/1977:	Procurator, Jeevan Jyothi, Kamed
27/07-1977 to	Director & Bursar, Vikas Maithri Kotra
20/03/1978-1983:	Regional Director, St Paul Region
16/09/1984-08/01/1987:	Priest in charge, Nagda
1987:	In the search of possibilities for Direct Evangelization
1988-1991:	Priest in Charge, Ghonsala
15/05/1991-16/07/1993:	Priest in charge, Malikhedhi
16/07/1993-01/01/1999:	Priest in charge, Sanjeevan Ashram, Bhutia-Avliya
18/8/2000-11/02/2001:	Director, Inter-Religious Centre, Ujjain
2000-2008:	Priest in charge, Chandukhedhi
23/09/1998-15/09/2008:	Proto-Syncellus, diocese of Ujjain
2008-2011	Eparchy of Idukki
2011-2024	Retired life at <i>Aaram</i> , Deepti Mount
Prepared by Fr Lonappan Arangassery Secretary General MST 12/04/2024	

REMINISCENCES OF KUNJETTAN, HEALER OF BODY AND SOUL



Mr Manuel Puthenpuranirappel, popularly known as Kollichira Kunjettan, has left for his heavenly abode. He was a man who loved God, the Church and his fellow beings. He started his career in the Church as a catechism teacher and later became a retreat preacher as well as a naturopathic healer. Thanks to his austere life and devotion to the Word of God, he was endowed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gift of wisdom and healing, which he used to help the suffering masses. His greatest legacy is the Naturopathic Centre which offers effective treatment for autism, psoriasis, allergies and arthritis. The demise of this lover of humans is a great loss for the Church and the people.

Early Years

Kunjettan (Manuel Puthenpuranirappel) was born on 23rd March 1949 as the seventh child of Mani and Eliamma Kollichira in Chemberi. Although he was good in studies, he could not continue his studies, because of an ailment in the eye. Even as a youth, he began to teach catechism in Chemberi parish which he continued for over 25 years. During this period, he came into contact with many scholarly priests like Rev. Dr Michel Karimattam, Rev. Dr Puthumana, Rev. Dr Mani Attel, from whom he learned the Bible and the teachings of the Church.

He began taking leadership in socio-political and cultural activities in and around Chembery and was soon an accomplished organizer. He attended short term courses and seminars on agriculture, ayurveda, naturopathy, unani, vasthu etc. Having learned modern methods of agriculture, Kunjettan took interest in helping fellow farmers in cultivation and manuring. Kunjettan also served as the President of Milma Milk Society. He also served as the President of Secular Franciscan Third Order (SFO) of the Archdiocese. In this capacity, he visited many Parishes of the Archdiocese and established new units of SFO, along with his friend P.K. Kuriakose. In 1991, he and his family moved to Kariappally near Vellora where his family lives today.

Growing interest in the Word of God and Preaching

He was introduced into the popular charismatic retreats and prayer groups. As a quick learner and avid reader, he studied the Bible with devotion and acquired a deep knowledge and love of the Word of God. Slowly his interest turned into Bible and preaching. He travelled widely in Kerala and out of Kerala like Maharashtra, Goa for preaching and prayer. In a prayer session in Tabor near Cherupuzha he had a vision of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in the Monstrance. Thereafter, Kunjettan began an austere life and he got the gifts of vision, wisdom, and interpretation. Since then he multiplied these gifts and used it to build up the Church. He never used it for his own name or fame. Kunjettan was instrumental in opening several Retreat Centres like Krupalayam Cherupuzha, Prayer Centre Pilathara, Darshana Thaliparambu, CST Retreat centre Malayattur, Mother Home Pariyaram etc. In 1996, Fr Benny Kalarickal MST, a former catechism student of Kunjettan, met him while Kunjettan was preaching a retreat in Goa with his Pilathara Team. Fr Benny came to know about his spiritual gifts and introduced him to different communities in Mumbai, Sangli and so on.

Aranyashram Ayurvedic Naturopathic Centre

Once in a prayer session in Mother Home, Pariyaram, Kunjettan

got an inner calling to start a prayer centre in a secluded place and continue austere life. In search of suitable location, he came to Moonnamkoop in Paithalmala, Pottanplavu near Kudianmala in Kannur district. There he and his team bought some land and started prayer and meditation in a makeshift tent. The extreme weather and other unfavourable situations made his team members quit, leaving Kunjettan alone. Kunjettan did not give up and continued prayer and fasting despite the harsh conditions.

One day in 2004, his hand became numb and he applied mud from the place, recalling his boyhood sight of mud therapy given to his sick younger brother by his father who was a local healer. His hand was healed in a few days and he tried mud therapy on some sickly people who came to him seeking prayer and healing. The mud-therapy proved to be a big success and as this news spread many, including parents with autistic children, came to him for mud therapy and they all got healed.

Thanks to his spiritual gift of vision, Kunjettan was able to diagnose the root cause of diseases and prescribe natural herbs and medications to heal it. Together with treatment, prayer, spiritual guidance, and classes on the causes and remedies of sickness were offered and patients recovered fully and fast. In this context Kunjettan named the Ashram as Aranyashram Ayurvedic Naturopathic Centre.

Due to hard work and austere life his health was deteriorating and he had a stroke in 2016. Kunjettan understood that he was no more able to run the Centre by himself. He wanted someone to continue the Centre in the same spirit for the welfare of others and wanted to entrust the centre to a charitable society. Fully aware of his intentions, his wife and children and family members were supportive of his plans. Through Fr Benny Kalarickal and other MST priests who received treatment at his centre, Kunjettan contacted the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST). The then Director General of MST, Very Rev. Dr Kurian Ammanathukunnel, with the consent of his Council, agreed to take up the Centre in 2016. Kunjettan donated his entire property and MST bought some adjacent

property to have ample area for development. MST named it *Karunyashram*, since it was the year of Mercy (2016).

A. Karunyashram under the MST

Fr George Koorumullumpurayidom from the General Council was assigned to develop the Centre. Fr Gracious Njaralakkattukunnel and then Fr Lijo Arackalputhenveedu served as Administrator of the Centre, while Fr George supervised the development of the centre. Kunjettan continued to render his services in diagnosing and prescribing medicines and guiding the treatment processes. In 2017 Rev. Fr John Madukoly was appointed the Director. With Kunjettan's guidance and MST's support, the Centre has now grown into a popular Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Treatment Centre with a resident Doctor, Physiotherapist and other staff. There is also an Ayurvedic day clinic in Kudiyanmala town.

Despite his worsening health conditions, Kunjettan used to receive patients at his house and visit *Karunyashram* on a regular basis to meet the patients, prescribe medicines and supervise treatments till his last days. He would lead eucharistic adoration and take Bible classes for patients in the evenings during his visits. He knew that prayer and medication go hand in hand to heal any disease, including those illnesses like autism, rheumatism, psoriasis etc.

B. Mar Walah Prayer Centre

Aranyashram was started as a prayer centre which also offered healing ministry. In order to continue the same, MST opened Mar Walah MST Spirituality Centre in 2018 in the compound of *Karunyashram* and Fr Scaria Thamarakatt was appointed the Director. He dedicated himself to regular prayer, eucharistic adoration and spiritual direction. With Kunjettan's guidance, Fr Thamarakatt started monthly three-day residential Inner Healing Retreat, which is being continued. The centre can accommodate 30-35 persons; and individuals and groups come to the centre regularly for individual, guided and preached retreats and spiritual exercises.

Final days of Kunjettan

Kunjettan always loved pilgrimages. Despite his physical discomforts, he undertook pilgrimages to Velankanni and to the Seven Churches of St Thomas in Kerala in 2024. He also made a pilgrimage to Goa to venerate the holy relic of the great missionary saint Francis Xavier. It was also his earnest desire to make a pilgrimage to St Thomas Mount in Mylapore, Chennai. But the Lord called him to visit his favourite Saint Thomas, the Apostle in heaven.

Kunjettan visited Karunyashram and met patients for the last time in May in the third week. Back at home in Kariappally he had severe health problems and was hospitalised. After a surgery, his condition got worse and on June 4, in the early hours at 3.00 am, Kunjettan left this world all to meet face to face his Loving Jesus whom he served and witnessed throughout his life.

He served the Church and her mission till his last breath. His devotion to St Thomas led him to the Missionary Society of St. Thomas (MST) and the MST missionaries. It was his great dream and desire to extend his Healing Ministry to the different Mission Regions of MST and beyond. He was very happy when he came to know the Naturopathic Hospital started by MST at Bedshi in Sangli Mission and expressed the desire to create a herbal garden with all kinds of medicinal plants in the estate owned by MST in Bedshi. MST is very much indebted to Kunjettan always for his selfless and unique contributions. May the Merciful Lord grant him eternal bliss. May his apostolic spirit serve as inspiration for all the MST missionaries engaged in healing ministry.

O Lord, grant him eternal rest and let the perpetual light shine upon him!

Fr Scaria Thamarakkatt and Fr John Madukoly

APPENDIX



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

CIRCULAR: XI/8/2023-2028

June 25, 2024

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

Warmest Greetings and the Joy of the Feast of Dukhrana!

We are blessed with yet another opportunity to remember our Father in Faith St Thomas the Apostle and celebrate his feast. H.B. Mar Raphael Thattil has consented to join us in the Generalate for the St Thomas day celebration scheduled on July 1, 2024. May I wish you all a very happy Feast of our heavenly patron and inspiration in our missionary life.

1. Celebration of Synodal Qurbana

All the members of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle are hereby exhorted to abide by the liturgical discipline of the Church and celebrate liturgy as per Synodal decision and as stipulated in the Taksa of the Syro-Malabar Church, wherever they are. The members may avoid all situations and places and refrain from taking up ministries where they are not able to celebrate liturgy as per approved liturgical texts and Synodal decisions. Disobedience in this regard may invite canonical disciplinary action by the ecclesiastical authorities.

2. Appointment of New Committees

- i. A Committee to prepare *Guidelines and Policies on Safe Environment* is appointed consisting of Rev.Fr Peter Vattappara (Convener), Rev.Fr Thomas Changanariparampil (Member) and Rev.Fr Manuel Karimpanackal (Member)
- ii. A Committee, consisting of Rev. Fr Sebastian Pullatt (convener), Rev. Fr Veenus Karamullil, and Rev. Fr C.D. Sebastian Cherickanampurath, is appointed to prepare the *Guidelines for the Visitation of Director General or his delegate*.
- iii. Rev.Fr Justine Vettukallel (Convener), Rev.Fr Parayadyil and Rev.Fr Jomon (Ex Officio) are appointed to the Committee to prepare *Guidelines on the Portfolios of the General Councillors of the MST*.
- iv. A Core Committee for *Renewal Programmes* consisting of Fr James Kurukilamkatt (leader), Fr Saju Thuppalanjyil and Fr Scaria Thamarakatt is appointed to plan and execute Renewal Programmes with the assistance of one representative each from every Region, Europe and America to coordinate in the programmes in their respective regions or countries. They are: Fr Manu Kochumala (Ujjain), Fr Roby Adapoor (Mandya), Fr Kanattu (Sangli), Fr Rony Alenchery (Delhi), Fr Johny Maniamkery (Europe) and Fr G. Thotteparampil (America). Rev.Fr Ivan Muthanatt, the Councillor in Charge of Ongoing formation will be Councillor in charge of the Renewal programmes.

3. Right of the Members Against infringement of Good Name

I would like to bring to the attention of all members the statement passed by the Eleventh General Assembly on anonymous letters which infringe the good name of the members and the Society (cf. Report of the Ordinary General Assembly, 2023, p. 93). As you all know, the circulation of anonymous letters in the past has not done any good, instead, they have created unrest in the Society, wounded many innocent members, destroyed the morale of the missionary personnel and spoiled the good name of the Society. We have various forums, like *Grievance Redressal Forum*, Administrative bodies at the Centre and the Regions, for ventilating the

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Website: mstworld.org E-mail: mstgeneralate@gmail.com

grievances in a positive way. Therefore, I would like to appeal to you to make use of them or share your concerns with authorities, choosing the paths of dialogue, forgiveness and fellowship. "We do not weave the fabric of human history by lumping together unverified information, repeating banal and falsely persuasive speeches, and shocking others with declarations of hatred. These actions strip people of their dignity" (Pope Francis@Pontifex, June 18, 2024).

4. Propriety in Requesting Permissions

The members who plan or wish to make short visits abroad for various reasons shall get permission from the Director General or the Regional Director, as the case may be, well in advance. The 11th Ordinary General Assembly has made the following decision: *"The Assembly decided that the Regional Directors have the competence to give permissions for foreign visits (not exceeding 30 days) to members working within the Region. A formal procedure for acquiring permission, stipulating the days of visit and replacement for one's ministry, should be in place and information should be given to the Director General."* (Report of OGA 2023, p.86)

5. Praying for the Church and with the Church

As you all know, Syro-Malabar Church is passing through difficult times and it is our duty to support the Church by praying for her and you are exhorted to organize special prayers for the intention of the Church. While celebrating the sacraments, praying the liturgy of the Hours, and reading and meditating on the word of God (cf. D64.2), let us also keep this intention.

6. Promise of Incorporation, Sacred Orders and New Admissions

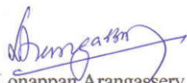
Two brothers, Vembenickal Joseph and Vettukallel Michael made the Perpetual Promise of Incorporation and received the Order of *M'samsanausa* on 13th May, 2023 and eight brothers studying in Kerala received the Order of *Karoyusa* on the same day. Ten brothers made the first promise of temporary incorporation. Fifteen brothers, promoted to theology course, renewed the temporary promise of incorporation on 16th May, 2024 and they were given the clerical dress (Cassock). There are 19 new admissions this year in Deepti minor seminary. Special thanks to the vocation promoters, Fr Ashish Keeranchira and Fr Tony Ramachanatt for their hard work. All the members are earnestly requested to try their best to identify good vocations and connect them to the vocation promoters.

Once again wishing you all the blessings and joy of the Feast of *Dukhrana* and invoking St Thomas, the Apostle to intercede for each and every member of the Society, to continue the mission of our Lord and our God,

Yours in the Lord,



Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General, MST

Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General, MST



The Fourth Batch of Associate Missionaries

The First year theology students after Vestition (16/05/2024)



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