

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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SWIP Circular BK/55

March 20, 2020

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny Koottanal. As we are in the third week of the season of Lent, I wish each of you the graces of God specially derived through the Lenten practices of Prayer, Fasting and Alms-giving. May this holy season bring home to each one of us God's choicest blessings through the renewed nearness to the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. I take each of you in my prayers with brotherly nearness and love.

The Pandemic COVID-19

My dear Confreres, as the world is experiencing the terrific impact of the epidemic **Corona Virus**, the life around is coming to a standstill. All around there is a sense of fear, suspicion and helplessness. Several countries have issued severe restrictions on movement and gatherings. All of us are aware what is happening in Italy, Spain, South Korea, France etc.



In India too, the government is taking stringent measures for containing the contagion. On the one hand, the colossal effort of the governments, both national and international, give us a sense of security, protection and continued instructions to keep ourselves free of this wide-spreading menace, on the other, there are a lot of irresponsible behaviours of the public and private persons keeping this menace spreading far and wide. There is a very urgent and serious response expected of each of us to be responsible in handling this very serious epidemic to arrest it and stop it from destroying life around. Therefore, **I would earnestly request your attention to the following instructions and practice it without fail.**

1. As responsible citizens of our country (wherever we are, in India or abroad), please do follow all the instructions given by the local government authorities.
2. **All our education institutions and centers should function only in accordance with the ordinances given by the government authorities.**
3. **Our Honourable Prime Minister** in his recent address to the nation to combat the Corona virus has declared a nationwide "**Janta Curfew**" on Sunday the 22nd March from 7am to 9pm. He has

urged to people to stay at home. I request all of us to respect the instruction of the Prime Minister.

4. **Our Superior General** has invited all of us to keep the same day, 22nd March 2020 as a day of **“Solidarity and Prayer”** for those affected by the Corona Virus. Please take this invitation of our Superior General to heart and observe this day as a day of prayer and solidarity with the victims.
5. **All the parishes and other centers such as retreat centers and other spiritual centers should strictly follow the instructions given by the local bishops without fail.**
6. **Regarding the Holy Week Celebrations please follow strictly the instructions of the Local Ordinary.**
7. **Administering the sacraments in the common gatherings shall be done in accordance with the clear instructions given by the Local Ordinaries.**
8. Children in our Boys’ Homes shall not be kept any longer in the Boys’ Homes against the ordinances of the government. Please send them to their homes until the situations are brought under control.
9. **In our religious communities, we shall continue our regular religious practices of the celebration of the Eucharist, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and all other spiritual activities.**
10. Please do spend more time in prayer (both private and common) and seek the blessings of the Lord for the healing of the world.
11. **All the common programs of the Province, such as seminars, catechism camps, Apostolic Community Meetings and other social gatherings which are expected to take place within the coming one month shall remain postponed or cancelled.**
12. Please avoid any common or private travelling for fun or holidays especially with the public transportations.
13. Even visiting our homes for holidays shall be cancelled. The best thing would be that each of us remains in our own communities without travel and other social gatherings.
14. **Entertaining guests in our communities, including our family members, shall be strictly forbidden during these times.**
15. If any of us are infected by cold, fever or any symptoms of bodily ailments please do seek medical assistance at once without fail.
16. **Hygienic levels of our personal management and that of the community shall be raised to higher grade. Our domestic staff should be instructed strictly of cleanliness and sanitary neatness. There is a need to wash hands with soap when coming from outside or touching objects that others have handled, avoiding physical contacts.**
17. At the same time, we may do well to see how to help the poor people around us who do not have the luxury of cutting themselves off from others, or even keeping themselves clean and safe.

My dear Confreres, I am convinced of one thing and I am re-affirmed of my conviction: **WE NEED GOD IN OUR LIFE**. It is high time for us to return to God and seek His mercy on us. **I request that during this quarantine period let us take a special connection with the Lord**. In all our communities let us conduct special adoration of the Blessed Sacrament seeking the blessings of the Lord. Let it be a time of personal renewal and education. Let us realize that WE NEED GOD IN OUR LIFE.

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

Prayer Intentions of the Superior General for the Month March 2020

That all our formees in the formation houses may nurture their God-given call to religious life in the missionary courage of Father Peter Mermier and the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

Formators' Meeting in Trichy

Formation of the Formators is one of the immediate and important need of the hour in the formation apostolate. This aspect is rightly stressed even by the General Chapter 2019 and is also included in the call of the General Chapter. Therefore, as a response to this significant recommendation, the General Sec-



retary for Formation organized two training seminars for the Formators at Guwahati (29th October to 1st November 2019) and Trichy (28th to 31st January 2020). For the First Training Seminar, there were 20 formators from all the Indian Provinces and for the second, there were 35 formators. The Resource Person was Rev. Fr Binu Edathumparampil MSFS. His input sessions were focused on the aspects of formation for all the stages of formation from a Christological approach i.e. Christ being the central focus of all Seminary formation. It was widely appreciated by all those who participated in these seminars that they appealed to the General Administration for Formation to conduct as many such programs as possible.

175 Years - Celebrations

Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General, has exhorted all the Provinces to have a meaningful celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the arrival of the MSFS Priests in India on September 08, 2020. The General Administration is organizing a special event at the congregational level in Visakhapatnam, India on October 23 and 24, 2020.

The committee for organizing this Event in VIZAG on October 23 and 24, 2020 is:

Rev. Fr P. Chinnappa Reddy, the Provincial of Visakhapatnam (Convener)

Rev. Fr John Britto Muthuswamy, the Provincial of Nagpur

Rev. Fr K. Ignaci Muthu, the Provincial of Southeast India

Representing the General Administration Rev. Fr Johnson Kallidukil, General Secretary for Mission, will assist the Organizing Committee. Let us pray for the success of this event and organize the programme the best way possible in our province.

LIFE IN THE PROVINCE

Jubilarians

My dear Confreres, we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the priestly ordination of Rev. Fr Joseph Mullenkuzhy and Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr A. Anthony Swamy, Rev. Fr Kuzhuppallil Aloysius, Rev. Fr Panickerveetil James and Rev. Fr Ponnambel Josey. Along with you, I take this opportunity to congratulate each one of them for their total surrender to the Lord through the MSFS Congregation and in particular through our Province. Dear Fathers, you are unique and through your own unique dynamism, you have brought in the flavour of love and commitment through the various ministries you have undertaken in the province until now. May this Jubilee year be a time of joy, fulfillment and motivation for further commitment.

Rev. Fr Joseph Mullenkuzhy



Congrats!

Fr Joseph Mullenkuzhy s/o Joseph and Mariam was born on 20th February, 1943 at Anickad. He completed his schooling at St Mary's Church, Anickad and St Aloysius Manalunkal. He joined the Mount Mary Seminary at Arumanoor in 1960. He made his first profession on 29th May, 1964 at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. He completed his philosophical studies at JDV, Pune, from 1964 to 1967. He did his theology at JDV, Pune, from 1967 to 1971. He made his Perpetual Profession on 17th June, 1969, Pune and was ordained a deacon on 13th June 1970, Pune. He was ordained a priest on 24, October 1970, in Vijayapuram.

Appointments

- Staff at SFS Seminary – ETTUMANOOR from 1971 to 1974
- Rector at SFS Institute – PHILIPNAGAR from 1974 to 1977
- Parish Priest at Mother of Mercy Church -ORAVACKAL from 1977 to 1979
- Rector at Fransalian Vidyaiothi -NIDADAVOLE from 1980 to 1981
- Staff, Vice Rector, Dean of Studies at SFS Seminary - ETTUMANOOR from 1981 to 1996
- Rector at Sudhirvana - CARMELARAM from 1996 to 2002
- Vice Rector at SFS Seminary - ETTUMANOOR from 2002 to 2003
- Rector at SFS Seminary – ETTUMANOOR from 2003 to 2008

- Staff at SFS Seminary – ETTUMANOOR from 2008

Dear Fr Joseph, on behalf of the whole Province I place on record your exemplary life as a 'good Priest' and as a role model for many of us. Thank you for being an inspiration to all of us. *Ad multos Annos.*

Rev. Fr A. Anthony Swamy



Fr A. Anthony Swamy was born on 10th June, 1966 at Chickaballapur. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 1985. He made his First Profession on 16th July 1988, Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. He completed his philosophy at Suvidya College, Bangalore, from 1988 to 1991. He did his regency at MSFS House, Ananthapur from 1991 to 1992. He completed his theology at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, from 1992 to 1995. He made his Perpetual Profession on 14th June, 1994 and was ordained a deacon on 15th January, 1995. He was ordained a priest on 17th October, 1995.

Appointments

- Asst. Parish Priest & Warden at Boy's Home at Mermier Bhavan - HEBBAGODI from 1995 to 1996
- Studies at Mysore University in Folklore and Karnataka Culture, with residence in Saumya Sadan, from 1996 to 2000
- Post Graduate Diploma in Translation, Mysore University, 1999
- Vice-Rector at SFS Seminary - ETTUMANOOR from 2001 to 2003
- Principal De Sales College - HEBBAGODI from 2004 to 2012
- Superior of Mermier Bhavan- HEBBAGODI from 2007 to 2011
- Doctorate in Folklore – Mysore University 2012
- Assistant Parish Priest, St Mary's Church – KOLAR from 2012 to 2013
- Pastoral Ministry in USA, from 2013

Rev. Fr Kuzhuppallil Aloysius



Congratulations!

Fr Kuzhuppallil Aloysius s/o Mathew and Annakutty was born on 28th May, 1965 at Mankuzhi, Udumban-

noor. He completed his schooling at St Thomas L.P. School, Ezhanikootam and St Joseph H.S., Karimannoor. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1985. He made his First Profession on 16th July 1988, Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. He finished his philosophy at Suvidya College, Bangalore, from 1988 to 1991. He did his regency at Vinayakumar Estate, Nilambur, from 1991 to 1992. He completed his theology at JDV, Pune from 1992 to 1995. He made his Perpetual Profession on 14th June 1994, Fransalianum, Pune and was ordained a deacon on 15th January 1995, Fransalianum, Pune. He was ordained a priest on 31, December 1995 at St Sebastian's Church, Udumbannoor.

Appointments

- Assistant at PSI Seva Bhavan – MALUR in 1996
- Assistant Parish Priest at Sacred Heart Cathedral - SHIMOGA from 1996 to 1997
- Boarding in-charge at Mermier Bhavan - HEBBAGODI from 1997 to 1998
- Procurator at Suvidya College - HEBBAGODI from 1998 to 2001
- Superior at MSFS House – MUNDARAGI from 2001 to 2007
- Parish Priest at SFS Church – HEBBAGODI from 2007 to 2011
- Superior & Parish Priest at MSFS House - KOPPALA from 2011 to 2013
- Parish Priest at St Mary's Church – KOLAR from 2013 to 2018
- Superior, Principal & Mission in Charge at MSFS House - KUKNOOR from 2018

Rev. Fr Panickerveetil James



Fr Panickerveetil James s/o of Varghese and Annamma was born on 20th May, 1967 at Philgiri. He completed his schooling at Government LPS, Kottukkal, Kollam and Government High School at Vayala, Kollam. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1983. He made his First Profession on 16th July, 1988 at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. He finished his philosophy at Suvidya College, Bangalore, from 1988 to 1991. He did his regency at PSI, Bangalore, from 1991 to 1992. He completed his theology at JDV, Pune from 1992 to 1995. He made his Perpetual Profession on 14th June, 1994, Fransalianum, Pune and was ordained a deacon on 15th January, 1995, Fransalianum, Pune. He was ordained a priest on 30th January, 1996 at St Joseph Church, Philgiri.

Appointments

- Assistant Parish Priest at St Joseph's Church - KALOOKAN CITY, Philippines from 1996 to 1997
- Parish Priest at Immaculate Conception Church - AZHIKODE from 1997 to 1999
- Parish Priest at St Mary's Church - KURUMULLUR from 1999 to 2001

- Parish Priest at Little Flower Church - KAPRASSERY from 2001 to 2005
- Staff at Charis Bhavan – ATHIRAMPUZHA from 2005 to 2007
- Staff at SFS Seminary - ETTUMANOOR from 2007 to 2008
- Pastoral Ministry in GERMANY from 2008

Rev. Fr Ponnambel Josey



Fr Ponnambel Josey was born on 04th January, 1969 at Pakalomattom, Kalathoor. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 1984. He made his First Profession on 16, July 1988, Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. He finished his philosophy at Suvidya College, Bangalore, from 1988 to 1991. He did his regency at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, from 1991 to 1992. He completed his theology at St Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Aluva from 1992 to 1995. He made his Perpetual Profession on 04th August, 1993. He was ordained a priest on 03rd February, 1996.

Appointments

- Vocation Promoter & Assistant Parish Priest at St Thomas Church - MANGARA from 1996 to 1997
- Staff at Charis Bhavan – ATHIRAMPUZHA from 1997 to 1998
- Vocation Promoter at SFS Seminary - ETTUMANOOR from 1999 to 2002
- Dean of Studies at SFS Seminary - ETTUMANOOR from 2000 to 2002
- Manager & Principal at SFS Public School - ETTUMANOOR from 2003 to 2004
- Member of the Community at Sudhirvana - CARMELARAM from 2004 to 2005
- MSW Studies - COIMBATORE from 2005 to 2007
- M.Phil – COIMBATORE from 2007 to 2009.
- Director and Superior, Jyothi Nilaya – CALICUT from 2009-2010
- Secretary of the Social Harmony and Vigilance Commission of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council from 2011 to 2015
- Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of Adelaide, Australia from 2016

We wish all our Jubilarians God's abundant blessings. *Ad Multos Annos!*

Mermier Bhavan turns golden!

Golden memories of Mermier Bhavan, Hebbagodi were celebrated in a meaningful and solemn way on February 06, 2020. The Golden Jubilee festivity began with the solemn celebration of the Most Holy

Eucharist presided over by Rt. Rev. K. A. William, Bishop of Mysore in the presence of Rev. Dr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial and over hundred priests, religious and lay faithful. The Bishop appreciated the contributions and the efforts by the MSFS to the Church and commended the great service rendered in the campus at Hebbagodi. The Provincial, with a deep sense of gratitude to the Graces of the Lord, placed on record the contributions of all the Fathers and Brothers in the campus over the last fifty years. *“When we honour the past, we energize the future and the present becomes a celebration!”* The Holy Mass was followed by a felicitation program during which all the confreres who had served the community were specially thanked and honoured. A special prayer was offered for all the faithful departed from the community. The program also witnessed the Blessing of the Foundation Stone of the Jubilee Memorial SFS Administrative Block, handing over of a token of appreciation to Mrs Sujatha – a long serving person in the campus, giving of scholarship cheques for 50 students of the SFS Kannada medium school and release of ‘Reflection Capsules’ book of Fr Jijo Manjackal. A fellowship meal was served to all and a Jubilee Souvenir of Gratitude was given to everyone.



Diaconate Ordination at Tejas

It was a memorable day for all the members of Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, as eleven of our confreres (eight for the South West India Province, two for the South East India Province and one for the Nagpur Province) were given the privilege of serving God at His altar through the Diaconate ordination on 17 February 2020 at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Kengeri. The chosen theme was *“To Live Jesus, To Serve Like Him”*. Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao, the Bishop of Shimoga, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and ordained them as deacons. Rev. Fr Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, the Rector welcomed the gathering. The presence of Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial of South-West India Province, Rev. Fr Binu Edathumparambil, the councillor in charge of Formation (SW), Rev. Fr Santhiyagu, the councillor in charge of Formation (SE), and many of our confreres who



had come from far and near added great joy to the day. In addition to MSFS confreres, there were also many priests, religious, friends and well-wishers participated in the celebration. The celebration was concluded with a short felicitation of the new deacons followed by a sumptuous dinner.

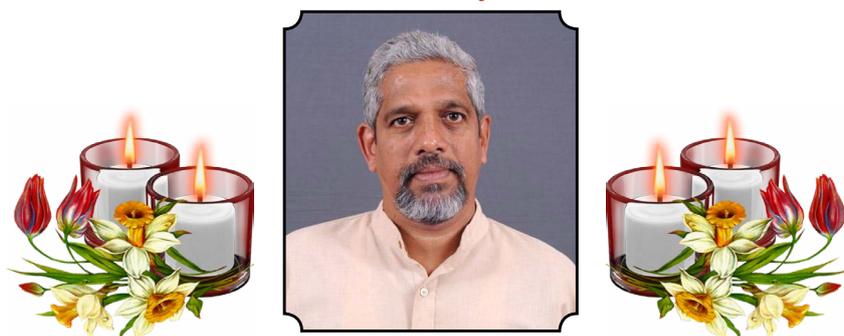
Publication of the Books of Confreres

“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). Our Confreres, in the recent times, had been innovatively bringing out their knowledge and wisdom in the form of books. We are happy to introduce three more new books written by our Confreres:

- **Rev. Fr Kurian Karickal** has brought out his latest two books titled '*Deivatheyum Pranayikam*' and '*Vachanam Paraye Thakarkkunna Koodam*'.
- **Rev. Fr Jijo Manjackal** has published a book titled '**Reflection Capsules**' - on the gospels for cycle A and weekdays.

We congratulate our Confreres for their commitment to spread the wisdom of the Word through their writings.

Obituary



Rev. Fr Daniel Alphonso MSFS, belonging to Pune province died in an accident on 15th March 2020. He was well known for his love for the poor and the pastoral commitment. We thank God for this great missionary. May God bless him and give him eternal rest.

I request all the Confreres to fulfil the suffrages as prescribed by MSFS Constitutions.

- **Mrs Kochuputhenpurayil Mariakutty Joseph (98)**, Paternal Grand Mother of Fr Josemon Kochuputhenpurayil died on 8th February, 2020.
- **Mrs Plathottathil Mariyam (94)**, Paternal Grand Mother of Fr Roy Plathottathil died on 11th February, 2020.
- **Mr P. V. Thomas Pannalakunnel**, Father of Fr Tom Pannalakunnel died on 23rd February, 2020.
- **Mrs Annis Mathew Vazhappillil (65)**, Sister in Law of Fr Joy Vazhappillil died on 15th March 2020.

We assure you, dear Confreres, the remembrance of your dear ones in our Holy Mass and Prayers

My Schedule

My dear Confreres, please do take note of the schedule of my program. Different from the previous circular, each new circular would bring in additional changes in my programs as per the need. Please do organize the visitation and other common meetings/programs according to the latest communication.

April 2020

April 5	Palm Sunday – Mass in St Joseph’s Church, Ulikal
April 9	Maundy Thursday – MSFS Novitiate Makkiad
April 10	Good Friday
April 11	Easter Vigil – SFS Church, Hebbagodi
April 13-15	Provincial Congress of the Dibrugarh Province
April 25	Council Meeting
April 27	Ordination of Dn. Kelvin Olikunnel at St Francis Assisi Church, Adukkalakandam, Archdiocese of Thalassery
April 28	Ordination of Dn. Bibin Kelimattathil, St Mary’s Church, Mangode, Archdiocese of Thalassery

May 2020

May 1	Salesian Seminar at IIS – Talk and Mass
May 3-9	Retreat for the Presentation Sisters (DPMT) in Perinthalmanna
May 26	Council Meeting
May 28	Perpetual Profession and Renewal of Vows at Tejas Vidya Peetha
May 30	Initiation to Novitiate at MSFS Novitiate, Makkiad
May 31	First Profession at MSFS Novitiate, Makkiad

June 2020

June 2	Visitation to MSFS Community Koppal
June 3	Visitation to Kuknoor
June 4	Visitation to Mundargi
June 5	Visitation to Savanur
June 6	Visitation to MSFS Community Shiralakoppa and the Parish of Thandagunde
June 8-9	Stewardship Forum Meeting
June 10-11	Visitation to Mermier Bhavan Community, Parish Community and Boys’ Home Community at Hebbagodi
June 12	PIF Meeting and General Body and Governing Body Meeting of Suvidya College
June 13	Inauguration of Suvidya Academic Year
June 15-25	Visitation to the Philippines Delegation: Meeting with the Confreres, Delegation Colloquium and planning
June 27	Education Forum Meeting
June 28	Council Meeting
June 30-July 1	Superiors Meeting

July 2020

July 1	Superiors’ Meeting
July 2	Orientation Program for the Postgraduate Students of IIS
July 3-4	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
July 5	Formation Forum Meeting
July 7	Visiting the Postulants in MSFS Seminary Vadakancherry

July 8	Visiting Fr. Chacko Ottalankal, Visitation to Atmajyothi Pattikad
July 9	Visiting Fr. Paul Aranjani, Visitation to SFS Vidyashram Aluva
July 9-10	Visitation to MSFS Community Kattappana
July 11-12	SFS Seminary Ettumanoor
July 13-17	Annual Retreat at Charis Bhavan
July 18	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
July 25	Council Meeting
July 27-Aug. 1	Classes for the Diploma Students of IIS

August 2020

August 1	Classes for the Diploma Students of IIS
August 3	Visitation to MSFS Community Karahalli
August 4	Mission Forum Meeting
August 5	Visitation to MSFS Community (PSI Seva Kendra)
August 7-8	Recollection for the Post Graduate Students of IIS
August 13	Council Meeting
August 15-31	Visitation to our Confreres in the USA

September 2020

September 5	Ordination of Dn Ajeesh Cheeramban at SFS Church Vattiyoorkavu
September 6-7	Visitation to SFS Parish Vattiyoorkavu, ITSSCAT, St. John of the Cross Parish Adoor
September 10	Social & Innovative Ministries Forum Meeting
September 13	Institute Day of IIS
September 14	Council Meeting
Sept.16-Oct. 6	Visitation to Germany-Austria Delegation: Meeting with the Confreres, Delegation Colloquium and Planning

VOICE OF SFS

“Prudence guided by grace, is based on simple confidence in God.”

Fraternally,



Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS

Provincial