

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

VINAYALAYA, MSFS Provincial House P.B.No.5557,
Malleswaram West P.O, Bengaluru 560 055, INDIA

Tel. 080 23340379 Mob: 91 9739010026, Fax: 080 23341329



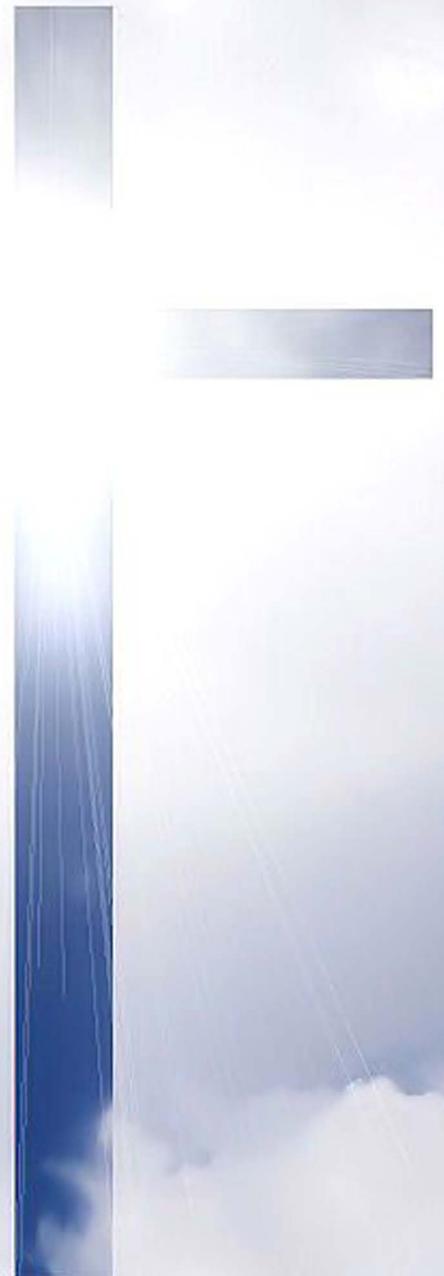
E-mail: provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com, secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com

Website: www.msfsouthwest.com

BK 71

June 09, 2021

Being Human is a Guest House
Every Morning a New Arrival
Be Grateful for Whatever Comes
Because Each Has Been Sent
As a Guide From Beyond



**Rev. Fr Anish Mundiyanickal MSFS
1980-2021**

My dear Confreres,

It is with heart-rending agony and in the midst of suffocating experience of human confines, which make me to apprehend the appalling and looming reality of the shortness of life that I come to tell you with choking words that our beloved Confrere **Rev. Fr Anish Mundiyanickal MSFS** is gone to eternal rest. The human dreams and plans that we built around him are apparently shattered. The promises of unparalleled talents that he possessed, the sternness of will that he demonstrated to preach the Word of God so fervently, the exuberant joy that he vibrated in friendship and community living and the uncompromising conviction to stand by that which is right, have come to a halt. But the firm conviction that the petite dreams and hopes of human beings can never comprehend the unfathomable plan of God makes me say with courage: **Lord, Let Your Will Be Done!**

My dear Confreres, Fr Anish was doing a wonderful ministry of Preaching in Charis Bhavan. Within the short span of his Priesthood, he had become a well-known preacher globally. He enjoyed rather good health too. On May 7, 2021 he went home to North Kerala for the funeral of his beloved Father. Perhaps it is there that he contracted Covid. On May 15, 2021 Fr Anish returned to Charis Bhavan but immediately developed symptoms of Covid and after the test, it was confirmed that he was positive with Covid. Although he was home quarantined in Charis Bhavan, as he complained of difficulty in breathing he was immediately rushed to Mar Sleevea Medicity Hospital, Cherpunkal, Pala on May 17, 2021. He was admitted in the MICU as the Oxygen level dropped. Meanwhile, he was also diagnosed with extreme Pneumonia, which jeopardized the functioning of his liver. I am sure that the effect of prayers raised to heaven by thousands of people all over the world was shone on Fr Anish. In three days he miraculously regained his health and was shifted to the room and the Covid test turned negative. He was able to communicate with everyone. I too had the opportunity to have a videoconference with him. Sad to say, it was too short a joy.

The post covid syndromes were acute on Fr Anish, leading to a dangerous deterioration of his health. He had to be shifted back to ICU due to a mild but persistent fever. There was a slight fungal infection in the throat and scaling in the lungs due to post covid pneumonitis. He was put under strict observation and constant medication, as there was an infection in the liver causing the development of fatty liver. The liver enzymes value went quite high triggering major concern and his blood count went very low leading to low immunity. He was kept under oxygen support to maintain his breathing and saturation level. He was given anti-viral, anti-fungal and pulse steroid in addition to anti-biotics. As his health condition steeped still low due to liver infection he had to be shifted to Ventilator. In the course of time the functioning of his liver came to a standstill sparking multiple system failures. Due to this critical situation, the doctors had to increase the dose of the medicine and started dialysis. But Fr Anish's body was too weak to respond to it as the oxygen level and the Blood Pressure went very low. His body succumbed to death on June 09 at 1.30 am.

Fr Anish Mundiyanickal, son of late Abraham M. M. and Annamma was born on November 08, 1980 at Anickad. At present his family belongs to St Sebastian's Church, Karthikapuram in the Thalasseri Arch-diocese. He completed his studies at St Thomas H.S. Anickad. After graduation from Calicut University, Fr Anish joined S.F.S. Seminary Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He completed the novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made First Profession on June 11, 2004. He graduated in Philosophy at Suvidya

College, Bangalore from 2004 to 2006. He was appointed in Charis Bhavan for regency in the year 2006. He completed the Theological Studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha, MSFS Contextual Theologate, Bangalore in the year 2010. He made the Final Commitment on June 02, 2009. He was ordained a priest on December 30, 2010 at St Sebastian's Church, Karthikapuram, Kerala.

Appointments

- Assistant Parish Priest at St Mary's Forane Church, Kandassankadavu, Arch-diocese of Thrissur, 2011-2012
- Assistant Parish Priest at St Thomas Forane Church, Anakkara, Diocese of Kanjirappally and Training in Charismatic Preaching at Marian Retreat Centre, Anakkara, Kerala in the Year 2012
- Member of Charis Bhavan Community and Retreat Centre, Athirampuzha, 2012-2021

Yes, My dear Confreres, painful experiences of such exorbitant level as this, in losing a young and holy Priest like Fr Anish, is realistically perplexing. From the time I began to realize that the health condition of Fr Anish is deteriorating I was only praying to Jesus in the following words: **Jesus, Fr Anish is your holy Priest; he has preached YOUR WORD with such conviction and passion - please allow him to stay with us some more time that your name may be glorified.** My felt experience of Fr Anish is that he lived a holy life. The human definition of holiness is always weighed from the aura of common experiences. He is the one priest I always approached, as many others do, for support in prayer in the difficult moments of my ministry as Provincial. I have always experienced him as an obedient priest, who listened attentively to his human authorities as a sign of his obedience to God. At every canonical visitation, after my personal meeting with him he would kneel down and seek my blessing and then hold my hands and say, **Father, I will pray for you.**

My dear Confreres, we bid adieu to a Confrere, who has sealed in our hearts the marks of irremovable imprints of fraternity, sanctity, obedience and poverty. I am sure that tears are soaking the eyes of every Confrere at the sad demise of Fr Anish. Let it not lead us to doubt the faithfulness of God. God's plan is fulfilled in Fr Anish. As St Paul says: *I have run the race. Paul never said that he has 'won' the race.* Winning and losing are human parameters. Our beloved Confrere Fr Anish has run the race with such vigour and enthusiasm that many of us can only aspire for. Let us earnestly pray that the Lord receives him into HIS HOME with that just reward. As **Jalaludin Rumi**, a thirteenth century Persian poet, wrote: This being human is a Guest House. Every day there is a new arrival – sadness, shame and bitterness... But be grateful for whatever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from Beyond. Let us send Anish home with gratitude. He was sent to us for a short while as a guide from Beyond. In turn, let us run the race, not to win it, but to LIVE JESUS.

Dear Fr Anish,

It is so painful to say goodbye to you
You had been such a faithful friend, brother and Confrere!
You touched us with the gracefulness of your life
You encountered our meanness with your meekness!
You challenged our distractions with your ardent commitment

You corrected our flatteries with your profundity!
All around us there is sadness and gloominess
But we know it's because our hearts are weary!
Be a beacon of light for us from above
That we may run the race faithfully
Not to win it but to LIVE JESUS
Until we join you along with HIM

Adieu dear Fr Anish, REST IN PEACE!

My dear Confreres, the mortal remains of Fr Anish Mundiyanickal MSFS will be brought to Charis Bhavan on June 10, 2021 at 9 am. At 2 pm the liturgical ceremonies will commence at Charis Bhavan under the strict Covid Protocol. Rt. Rev. Dr Sebastian Thekethecherry, the Bishop of Vijayapuram will preside over the Holy Mass. It will be followed by the funeral in the cemetery at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. Let us accompany our beloved Confrere with our prayers and the resolve to live our Priesthood meaningfully.

SALESIAN THOUGHT

"Let us die to ourselves and to all that depends on us. We ought to live only for God."

Fraternally,



Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial