



May 2018

No. 51

News Bulletin Diocese of Sultanpet

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Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,



The Marginalised!

Thousands of people all over India, on Monday 9th of last month, have joined mostly peaceful protests and sit-ins as part of the Bharat Bandh, or all-India strike, demanding the government challenging the apex court's verdict last month, which barred the immediate arrest of those accused of violence against people of Schedule Castes (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST). The Dalit community in India is huge in number; they are *like the elephant but look like the ant*. Along with them all those of religious, linguistic and ethnic minorities in the world and in particular, in India, face the same misery. Mostly it is not the 'number' but economic muscle and ruling power victimize the less fortunate and the marginalized.. Indian Christians in many civil States face severe discrimination and marginalisation. However, there is a very strong consoling message in the Bible to counter such aggressive majoritarianism in society.

Jesus the Marginalised!

"A Marginal Jew"! This is the title of the two volumes written by Prof. John P. Meier (USA) in 1991 on the historical face of Jesus. No doubt, the term 'marginal' applies very much more to Jesus of Nazareth than anyone else in the history of humankind. Even though the selfish ruling outfits tried to dispose him of at his birth itself (Mt 2:16) the aggressive marginalization started with his own Nazareth people despising him at the Synagogue (Lk 4:22-30). 'Jesus, the poor layman turned prophet and teacher, the religious figure from rural Galilee without credentials, met his death in Jerusalem at least in part because of his clash with the rich high-class urban priesthood' (Meier; I, 9). Jesus was anti-establishment, anti-atrocities and anti-majoritarianism. Without having a political power-base in society or in the ruling dispensation he was easily brushed aside into the dustbin of death.

But, history changes! "Whom you crucified, God raised him from the dead," thus proclaimed St. Peter (Acts 4:10), so too Stephen (Acts 7); Paul would assert that because Jesus endured all sufferings of marginalisation "God also highly exalted him" (Phil 2:9). At this stage we cannot but remember the words of St. Leo the Great: "Lowliness is assured by majesty, weakness by power, mortality by eternity" (Epist. 28 ad Flavianum). In spite of being severely discriminated and marginalised, Jesus stood firmly in his chosen course of action well-grounded on righteousness and justice (Jn 18:36); being thoroughly aware of the wickedness of the human frailty (Jn 5:39-47) and unwaveringly assigned to his responsibility (Jn 12:24). The marginalised has become the centre of the world (Mk 12:10; 1 Pet 2:7), attracting everyone through his self-sacrifice, merciful forgiveness and resurrection from the dead!

Lifted up the Lowly

The Synoptic Gospels present Mary the mother of Jesus as a simple, unknown girl of a remote village of Nazareth. In the rural set up of Nazareth, being a Jewish girl, she did not sit under a master of education; as such she was 'ignorant,' unknown, already betrothed to a man for marriage. Even though the angel brings good news of her becoming the 'Highly Favoured one' (Lk 1:28), her fear and trembling did not get settled (v. 29). This anxiety and panic continued when Joseph wanted to put her away (Mt 1:19), Simeon predicts that her child will be a sign destined to be opposed and a sword will pierce her soul (Lk

2:33-35), his own people in Nazareth will ridicule her son, saying that he is only “Mary's son” (Mk 6:3), her own son will ask others: 'Who is my mother?' (Mk 3:33) and witness with deep grief when the arrogant Jewish leaders along with big-headed ruling power hanged him on the cross (Jn 19:25). These are all moments of discrimination and marginalization. What is worse, these miseries happened to our divine Mother not because of her ethnic, linguistic and social minority status, but because of living a merciful life and adhering to truth and justice.

But history changes! Jesus, by his resurrection, brought to Our Lady a total transformation from weakness to strength, from lowliness to majesty and misery of opposition to endurance of hardships. Waiting to receive the power of the Holy Spirit she was able to encourage the trembling disciples (Act 2) and she could remember her hymn of praise to God addressed to Elizabeth: “He has brought down the powerful and lifted up the lowly” (Lk 1: 52). Very recently Pope Francis said: “Humility can only take root in the heart through humiliations”(GaudeteEtExsultate, published, on 19 March 2018; no. 118). From that moment of her encounter with Jesus till the end of the world she is the great dispenser of God's mercy to all those who seek her!

Hope for the Best!

Sad to say, what *The Los Angeles Times* reported long ago (20 June 1968): “[T]he Negro was kept aside, *marginalized*, thus composing in its large majority the chronically poor,” continues even today in various forms and spheres. Approval of Euthanasia, anti-conversion bill, anti-migrant's bill and anti-religious freedom are a few examples of domination of 'throw away culture.' In this desperate situation our Lord Jesus comes to say: Evil might rule for some time, but not forever! Illusion of the power of majoritarianism and dominant cultural supremacy will fade away one day. “Son of Man is coming (for judgement) at an unexpected hour” (Mt 24:43). To the oppressed and discriminated people, Jesus says: “All will be judged according to their own deed” (Rev 20:12).

Sure judgment of God and the definite defeat of the wicked people are not a matter of the future or at the 'end of the world,' but they are the daily historical factors happening in different parts of human society. Only people do not open well their eyes. To those people Our Lady says: 'God will scatter the proud and bring down the mighty' (Lk 1: 51-52). To the marginalised Our Lady says: “God will lift up the lowly” (Lk 1:53).

Missionary Journey of Our Lady of Fatima



The mission Congress held in Ernakulam last October underlined the fact of our witness to Jesus Christ in our own situation. We were encouraged to take the Mission Cross as a mark of reminder of our witness to Jesus Christ and it was proposed that Our Lady of Fatima, whose apparition anniversary we are celebrating this year will accompany the Mission Cross. The Statue of Our Lady of Fatima along with the Mission Cross are now being taken around all the parishes of our Diocese. This pilgrimage started from the Cathedral on Saturday, 7 April and it will end at the chapel of Our Lady of Fatima on Sunday, 13 May when we will have the installation of Our Lady of Fatima there with a grand annual feast of the chapel. I appreciate all the

parishes, taking to their parishes both the Mission Congress Cross and the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. This has enhanced our devotion to Our Lady and our witness to the Catholic faith.

New Bishop for Quilon

Rev. Msgr. Paul Antony Mullassery, until now Vicar General of the diocese of Quilon, is appointed as the new Bishop of Quilon on 18 April 2018. Bishop-elect Paul Antony Mullassery, a priest of the diocese of Quilon, has served the same diocese in various capacities. His Episcopal Ordination is held on 3 June 2018. We appreciate him and wish him all success in his new ministry to lead effectively the Church of Quilon.



Invitation to Sisters of St. Anne, Bangalore

The Sisters of St. Anne of Bangalore, from the Province of Dindigul, are coming to the parish of Sorappara from the first week of June this year. They will run the new Christ the King Public School (ICSE syllabus) and help the pastoral and Spiritual activities of the parish of Sorappara.

New ICSE Public School

A new diocesan school(Christ the King Public School) will start functioning at Sorappara from June this year. It is run by the Sisters of St. Anne, Bangalore. The children for Pre-KG, LKG, UKG& 1 Std will be admitted in this year.

New Appointments of Priests May 2018

S. No	Name	Mission & Commissions	Residence
1	Fr. A. Sunder Raj	Head Master, St. Paul's High School &	Kozhinjampara
		Associate Parish Priest	Palaniarpalayam
2.	Fr. Martin Jose	Parish priest &	Olavacode
		Teaching in St. Paul's High School	Kozhinjamoara
3.	Fr. Joy Kuzhinjalil, msfs	Parish Priest	Nemmara
4.	Fr. X. Vincent, msfs	Parish Priest	Kularayanpalayam
5.	A Priest from OFM (Cap)	Parish Priest	Menonpara
6.	Fr. Jesmin Nelson	Associate Parish Priest &	Sayathurai
		Manager, ITI	Polippara
7.	Fr. Francis Xavier Kavalakkal	In charge of Malayalam section	P. Kovilpalayam
8.	Fr. Arul Arasan	Assistant parish priest & studying B.Ed.	Palaniarpalayam
9.	Fr. Amal Charles, cps	Assistant Parish Priest	Kanjikode
10.	A Priest from OFM (Cap)	Assistant Parish Priest	Menonpara
11.	Fr. Jnanamani Simon, msfs	Assistant Parish Priest	Kularayanpalyam
12.	Dn. Chinnpparaj	Bishop's Secretary	Palakkad

Please Note:

1. Fathers are kindly requested to handover the present charge and assume their new assignments in the presence of V.G. or Vicar Foranes on or before Sunday 3rd June 2018.
2. While handing over the charge of the parish please hand over:
 - a. The up to date account of the parish
 - b. The inventory of movable and immovable assets of the parish and presbytery
 - c. All the records and documents of the parish.

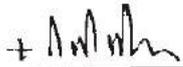
A Gentle Reminder please!

1. All our priests and religious are kindly requested to take care of the Sunday catechism and School Catechism wherever it is possible. Please get the required text books in Malayalam, Tamil or English as per the need from the Secretary of the Diocesan Catechetical Commission.
2. Marriage cases will be referred to the Vicar General.
3. Parish Priests are kindly requested to announce once a month the income and expenditure of the parish to the people on the fourth Sunday of the month and send a copy of the same to the Procurator.
4. Kindly see to it that BCC is functioning both in the Parish and in all the Mission Stations.
5. Please form also the Parish Council as per the norms of the Diocese.
6. The respective VF is the immediate reference for any issues of the parishes.

Thanks You!

Fr. Satyan Innasi, OFM (Cap), Parish Priest of Menonpara, is elected the Provincial Superior of his Province (Madurai). I would like to congratulate him for this new ministry and wish him a successful mission in his new assignment. I thank him for his committed service for the last one year as the Parish Priest of Menonpara.

Fr. Mathew Manayathumariyil, msfs (Province of Visakapatanam), Parish Priest of Nemmara and Fr. Christuraj, msfs, and Fr. Joseph Arulraj, msfs, (Province of Nagpur), Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priest respectively are transferred to various other ministries in their respective provinces. We thank and appreciate them for their dedicated service in our diocese.


+ Antonysamy Peter Abir
Bishop of Sultanpet

Bishop's Appointments

Date	Time	Programme	Place
1	8.30 am	Feast Mass	Punganthurai
	7.00 pm	Blessing of the Renovation of the Church & Mass	Kanakankalam
5	9.30 am	Mass	Kovilpalayam
6	8.30 am	Confirmation & Mass	Attapallam
	5.30 pm	Feast Mass	Thenkara
7-9		Madha TV Programme	Chennai
12	5.30 pm	Feast Mass of Our Lady of Fatima	ITI, Kanjikode
13	8.30 am	Blessing of the Presbytery & Confirmation	Pampupara
	4.30 pm	Blessing of the Presbytery, Feast Mass &	
		Confirmation	Olavacode
14	10.00 am	Priests' Recollection	Palakkad
15- 2 June			Out of Station

From Vicar General Desk

The next recollection for priests will be held at 10.30 am on Monday 14 May 2018 at Palakkad.

Rev. Msgr. A. S. Madalaimuthu,
Vicar General

From the Procurator's Desk

1. I wish to remind all the parish priests again to submit at the earliest the accounts of the parish for auditing. You are reminded to submit also all the bills, vouchers, bank pass books, documents of FDs, Tally data and your contact number.
2. Kindly submit Mass Intentions and following special collections Education Fund, Opus Securitatis (2018), Holy Child Hood (Feb 2018), Hunger and Decease (2017), Good Friday (2018).

Rev. Fr. Lorance L.,
Procurator

Marriage Preparation

The next marriage preparation course will be held at Sorapara on 21 and 22 July 2018. Please note: there will not be the marriage preparation classes in the month of May and June.

Fr. Paul Vincent
Family Commission

Way of the Cross



A solemn Way of the Cross was conducted by the Cathedral parish on Good Friday (30 March 2018). The carrying of the Cross with prayer went about three kilometres in the town of Palakkad. Many participated with much devotion and it was a great witness of our Faith to the non-Christians in the town.

As in the previous years the parishes of Mannarkad and Mukkali joined together and conducted the 14 km Way of the Cross, starting from Thenkara to Mukkali. Our bishop joined the Way of the Cross and conducted the Good Friday service in Mukkali at 3 pm on Friday 30 March. A large number of faithful participated in this Way of the Cross all through 14 km, in which the people prayed the fourteen Stations of the Cross climbing the hill toward Mukkali.



Holy Land Pilgrimage

A group of five priests and 38 people of our Diocese, led by our Bishop, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 15th to 25th April. Six pilgrims from Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) also joined this group. They visited all the holy shrines in Israel, Egypt and Jordan. Our bishop gave the biblical and spiritual explanations in all the places they visited. The pilgrims enjoyed and benefited very much from this spiritual journey to the Holy Land.



*Dn. Chinnaparaj,
Secretary to the Bishop*

SMSSS News

Joint Liability Group Loan Distribution (JLG).

Nabad Bank supports our 100 JLG groups as income generation source with amount of 1 crore. The Project was inaugurated at SMSSS office and distributed the first step of benefits to the JLG groups in the selected regions.





SMSSS Mutual Benefit Trust Inauguration.

Smsss mutual benefit trust was inaugurated on 21st April at SMSSS office with the purpose of empowering income generation to the poor families with their savings and involvement. FrDenzil Raj, founder of virutcham micro finance, Tuticurin inaugurated this initiation in the presence of director, staff and the governing body members of SHGs and Kolping groups.

Summer Camp at Attapallam

The Sultanpet kolping region enriched the vacation of the youth and children of Attappallam with a special summer camp with the purpose of different dimensions of awareness. Career guidance, waste management and need of nutritious food, and basic English, craft and create and Drawing. The camp started on 16th April, Monday and concluded on 21st Saturday. Ninety students participated and achieved for life.



*Rev. Fr. Prince Robert,
Director, SMSSS*

BIRTH DAY

- | | |
|---|---|
| 06 th Fr. Charles Ceasar | 15 th Fr. A. Antonysamy |
| 10 th Fr. Sylvester D' Cruz | 19 th Fr. Antony Xavier Pius |
| 10 th Fr. James Robert Morais SJ | 24 th Fr. Vimal Arokiaraj |
| 11 th Fr. K.P. Vincent | 30 th Fr. Martin Jose |
| 13 th Fr. Joseph Xavier Tharayil, CP | |

SNL wish you a Happy Birth Day

ORDINATION DAY

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|---|---|
| 01 st Fr. L. Lazar Arulappan | 04 th Fr. A. Albert Anandaraj |
| 01 st Fr. M. Prince Robert | 05 th Fr. Stalon, OFM (Cap) |
| 01 st Fr. Vimal Arokiaraj | 08 th Fr. L. Jabamalai Peter Lorange |
| 01 st Fr. E. Arul Arasan | 08 th Fr. Charles Ceasar |
| 01 st Fr. Manuel Muthumakuzhy, TOR | 10 th Fr. Joseph Xavier Tharayil, CP |
| 02 nd Fr. M. Paul | 12 th Fr. Jesudass |
| 02 nd Fr. Antony Xavier Pius | 12 th Fr. Joseph MSFS |
| 03 rd Fr. A. Antonysamy | 14 th Fr. Sylvester D' Cruz |
| 03 rd Fr. Martin Jose | 18 th Fr. Antony Sagayanathan |
| 03 rd Fr. Jesmin Nelson | 18 th Fr. J. Paul Vincent |
| 04 th Fr. Sundara Raj | 29 th Fr. Vailankanni, OMI |

*SNL wish you a
Happy Ordination Day*

FEAST DAY

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|---|
| 01 st Fr. C. Maria Joseph |
| 03 rd Fr. James Robert Morais SJ |

SNL wish you a Happy Feast Day