



# INTERNOS

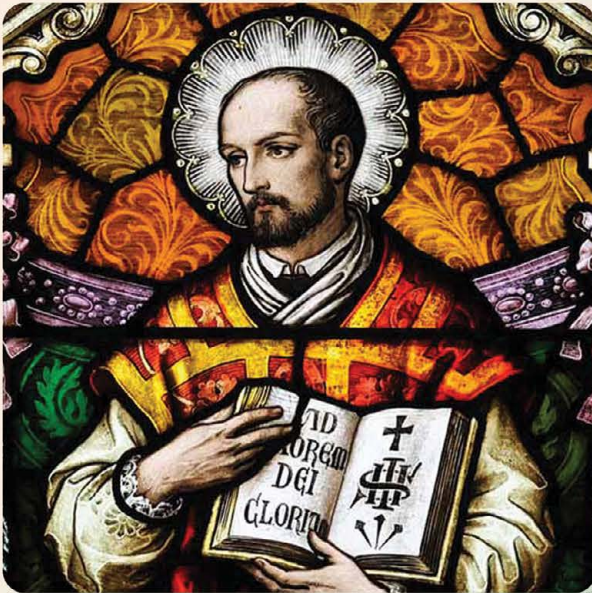
UBI CARITAS ET AMOR IBI DEUS ES



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

JULY 2023

ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA  
31.07.2023  
FOUNDER OF JESUITS  
PATRON OF THE DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE



### Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Dearest Lord,  
teach me to be generous;  
teach me to serve You as You deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to ask for reward  
save that of knowing I am doing Your Will.

## VISIT OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO



Papal Nuncio to Sri Lanka His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Brain Udaigwe made a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Trincomalee for a period of three days and visited various places of the Diocese and the historical importance of Trincomalee District.

## SEMINAR FOR THE ALTAR SERVERS



A half-day seminar for the Altar Servers who are offering their services at the parishes held at the Deepam Centre, Uppuveli, Trincomalee.

## LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE



Foundation Stone for the new Church is laid at Pavanasapuram, Kanniya, Trincomalee.

## CATECHETICAL EXAMINATION



Diocesan level Catechetical examinations were held on July 8, 2023 and the students from all the parishes of the diocese participated enthusiastically.

# Bishop's Message

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Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,  
Greetings in the Holy Name of Jesus!

We have been journeying with different programmes, functions and visits. We experienced joy, success, failures and disappointments. Yet we learn from these experiences and move forward. Pastoral visit of His Excellency Most Rev. Brian Udaigwe, the Apostolic Nuncio for Sri Lanka was a huge event for our diocese. We thank His Excellency for taking time to visit our diocese. I appreciate and thank all those who made this visit memorable and historic.

We are saddened at the death of Rev. Fr. N.C. Arulvarathan. He was the first priest from Muthur. He served in parishes and served as diocesan director for Catechetics. Due to his sickness he had to retire early. He is a uniquely talented person. May he rest in peace. Jesuit community lost Rev. Fr. Guy Rajendram sj. and Rev. Fr. Aloysius Vanderwall sj. They made their exceptional contribution towards the Church and the society. Our deepest condolences to the Provincial and members of the Congregation.

We celebrate this month the feasts of St. Thomas, the Apostle (03<sup>rd</sup>), St. Maria Goretti (06<sup>th</sup>), St. Mary Magdalene (22<sup>nd</sup>), St. James the Apostle (25<sup>th</sup>), Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus (29<sup>th</sup>) and St. Ignatius of Loyola, Patron saint of our diocese and founder of the Society of Jesus (31<sup>st</sup>). Those Apostles and personalities who lived during the time of Jesus had their own ups and downs and struggle in expressing their faith. But Jesus was there to personally understand their weaknesses and guide them to a new life in Him. Same Jesus reaches out to us in our struggles to save us in danger. Let us trust him unconditionally like Thomes, set our priorities like Mary, be always hospitable like Martha, acknowledge our faults like Mary Magdalene, firm in our Christian vocation like Maria Goretti and be a soldier for Christ like James and Ignatius of Loyola.

LGBTQ is a serious moral issue that the Catholic Church is facing today. It is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. There are LGBTQ persons even in the Catholic Church expecting the Holy Father to give a green signal accepting them with sacraments. They try to interpret every single word of Pope Francis in their favour and say Catholic Church is in favour of gay or lesbian marriages. Recently we heard the news that Pope Francis has signed a Decree that forbids priests and Bishops to bless same-sex marriages and he has urged them to condemn the barbaric and satanic acts called LGBTQ Rights. The official position of the Catholic Church is that LGBTQ Rights should not be entertained on earth!

In 2010 Argentina was debating a bill to allow same-sex couples to marry and adopt children. Pope Francis in a letter to the Carmelite nuns of Buenos Aires said that “what is at stake here is the identity and survival of the family... here also is the envy of the Devil, by which sin entered into the world, which cunningly seeks to destroy the image of God.”

In 2013 Pope Francis spoke about welcoming and loving all people regardless of sexual orientation. “The key is for the Church to welcome, not exclude, and show mercy, not condemnation.” He also said ‘If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?’

In 2019 speaking to Spanish journalist Pope Francis referred to Church teaching and said “tendencies are not sin. If you have a tendency to anger, it is not a sin. Now, if you are angry and hurt people, the sin is there.”

Most affected due to LGBTQ are the Asian countries. Most of the Asian countries depend on western nations for financial assistance in the form of grants or loans. World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and many other organizations in turn demand from Asian governments to legalize Abortion, same-sex marriages and LGBTQ Rights. Asian countries with their religious, cultural and traditional heritage struggle to face this situation.

God created man and woman, brought them together and initiated marriage. God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and increase

in number, fill the earth and subdue it' (Gen 1:28). Jesus added to this saying, 'so they are no longer two but one body; what God has joined together, let no one separate' (Mt 19: 6). This is Doctrine of the Church and it is derived from the Holy Scripture. Let us be aware of LGBTQ issues and guide our faithful where and when necessary.

On 16<sup>th</sup> Sisters of the Apostolic Carmelites celebrate their feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Though according to the ORDO it is not celebrated this year as it falls on a Sunday we wish all members of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation specially those sisters serving in our diocese a happy feast.

26<sup>th</sup> July is the feast of Ss Joachim and Anne. It is the 'World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly'. I invite you to use this occasion to honour our grandparents and the elderly. It is also an occasion to teach our younger generation to honour and learn from their experience and wisdom. You may use that day or a suitable day to creatively organize liturgy and other programmes to honour our grandparents and the elderly.

Indigenous Clergy and Religious Sunday falls on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. "Serving the Lord Joyfully" is the theme of this Sunday. It is an occasion to educate our people of the importance of local vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle provides for the education and formation of priests and men and women religious. We are invited to pray for all those who generously support this effort financially and all those beneficiaries.

Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola falls on 31<sup>st</sup> July. We wish all Jesuits specially Jesuits serving in our diocese a happy feast. It is also our feast as St. Ignatius is the Patron saint of our Diocese.

I wish you all success in all your pastoral initiatives.

God bless

**- Bishop Noel Emmanuel**

# Bishop's Diary - July 2023

- 02 - Sunday - 7.00am Confirmation Mass – St. Mary's Cathedral.  
04 - Tuesday - 9.30 am Monthly Recollection for Priests at Pastoral Centre, Uppuveli.  
08 - Saturday - Seminar for Diocesan CYF members.  
9.00 am - Meeting with Civil Community Leaders of Northern Province at Kilinochchi  
09 - Sunday - 7.00 am - Festive Mass at Iruthayapuram.  
1.00 pm - Meeting with Civil Community Leaders of Eastern Province in Batticaloa.  
14 - Friday - 5.00 pm - Opening of New Community Building at 6<sup>th</sup> Mile Post followed by Mass.  
16 - Sunday - 7.00 am Confirmation mass at Nilaveli.  
11.30 am - Mass at St. Joseph's Convent.  
18 - Tuesday - 10.00 am Opening of Parish House at Gantalawa followed by priests gathering.  
22 - Saturday - 9.30 am Award ceremony organized by the Catechetical Centre at Jubilee Hall.  
23 - Sunday - 7.30 am - Confirmation mass at Kumpurupitti.  
23 - 24 Monday - Workshop on Prison ministry at Lewella, Kandy.  
29 - Sunday - 9.00 am - Meeting with selected members from Trincomalee Deanery at Cathedral Hall.  
31 - Monday - Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Patron Saint of the Diocese.  
01 - August - 9.00 am - Meeting with selected members from Muthur Deanery at De Mello Hall, Muthur.

## *Pope's Prayer Intention for the Month of July*

### **For a Eucharistic life**

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.





# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE THIRD WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

Theme for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

**SUNDAY, 23 JULY 2023**

## “His mercy is from age to age” (Luke 1:50)

Dear brothers and sisters!

“His mercy is from age to age” (Lk 1:50). This is the theme of the Third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, and it takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth (cf. Lk 1:39-56). Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth addressed the Mother of God with words that, millennia later, continue to echo in our daily prayer: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb” (v. 42). The Holy Spirit, who had earlier descended upon Mary, prompted her to respond with the Magnificat, in which she proclaimed that the Lord’s mercy is from generation to generation. That same Spirit blesses and accompanies every fruitful encounter between different generations: between grandparents and grandchildren, between young and old. God wants young people to bring joy to the hearts of the elderly, as Mary did to Elizabeth, and gain wisdom from their experiences. Yet, above all, the Lord wants us not to abandon the elderly or to push them to the margins of life, as tragically happens all too often in our time.

This year, the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly takes place close to World Youth Day. Both celebrations remind us of the “haste” (cf. v. 39) with which Mary set out to visit Elizabeth. In this way, they invite us to reflect on the bond that unites young and old. The Lord trusts that young people, through their relationships with the elderly, will realize that they are called to cultivate memory and recognize the beauty of being part of a much larger history. Friendship with an older person can help the young to see life not only in terms of the present and realize that not everything depends on them and their abilities. For the elderly, the presence of a young person in their lives can give them hope that their experience will not be lost and that their dreams can find fulfilment. Mary’s visit to Elizabeth and their shared awareness that the Lord’s mercy is from generation to generation remind us that, alone, we cannot move forward, much less save ourselves, and that God’s presence and activity are always part of something greater, the history of a people. Mary herself said this in the Magnificat, as she rejoiced in God, who, in fidelity to the promise he had made to Abraham, had worked new and unexpected wonders (cf. vv. 51-55).

To better appreciate God’s way of acting, let us remember that our life is meant to be lived to the full, and that our greatest hopes and dreams are not achieved instantly but through a process of growth and maturation, in dialogue and in relationship with others. Those who focus only on the here and now, on money and possessions, on “having it all now”, are blind to the way God works. His loving plan spans past, present and future; it embraces and connects the generations. It is greater than we are, yet includes each of us and calls us at every moment to keep pressing forward. For the young, this means being ready to break free from the fleeting present in which virtual reality can entrap us, preventing us from doing something productive. For



the elderly, it means not dwelling on the loss of physical strength and thinking with regret about missed opportunities. Let us all look ahead! And allow ourselves to be shaped by God's grace, which from generation to generation frees us from inertia and from dwelling on the past!

In the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth, between young and old, God points us towards the future that he is opening up before us. Indeed, Mary's visit and Elizabeth's greeting open our eyes to the dawn of salvation: in their embrace, God's mercy quietly breaks into human history amid abundant joy. I encourage everyone to reflect on that meeting, to picture, like a snapshot, that embrace between the young Mother of God and the elderly mother of Saint John the Baptist, and to frame it in their minds and hearts as a radiant icon.

Next, I would invite you to make a concrete gesture that would include grandparents and the elderly. Let us not abandon them. Their presence in families and communities is a precious one, for it reminds us that we share the same heritage and are part of a people committed to preserving its roots. From the elderly we received the gift of belonging to God's holy people. The Church, as well as society, needs them, for they entrust to the present the past that is needed to build the future. Let us honour them, neither depriving ourselves of their company nor depriving them of ours. May we never allow the elderly to be cast aside!

The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is meant to be a small but precious sign of hope for them and for the whole Church. I renew my invitation to everyone -dioceses, parishes, associations and communities - to celebrate this Day and to make it the occasion of a joyful and renewed encounter between young and old. To you, the young who are preparing to meet in Lisbon or to celebrate World Youth Day in your own countries, I would ask: before you set out on

your journey, visit your grandparents or an elderly person who lives alone! Their prayers will protect you and you will carry in your heart the blessing of that encounter. I ask you, the elderly among us, to accompany by your prayers the young people about to celebrate World Youth Day. Those young people are God's answer to your prayers, the fruits of all that you have sown, the sign that God does not abandon his people, but always rejuvenates them with the creativity of the Holy Spirit.

Dear grandparents, dear elderly brothers and sisters, may the blessing of the embrace between Mary and Elizabeth come upon you and fill your hearts with peace. With great affection, I give you my blessing. And I ask you, please, to pray for me.

***Rome, Saint John Lateran, 31 May 2023,  
Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

FRANCIS:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>.

***Accessed on July 5, 2023.***

## Remember with Gratitude



### **Ordination Anniversary**

26.07.2023 - Rev. Fr. Vijiyakamalan Alfred - 17<sup>th</sup> Year

### **Feast Day**

24.07.2023 - Rev. Sr. M. Cristelle A. C.

### **Death Anniversary**

11.07.2023 - Most Rev. Dr. Charles Lavinge S. J. - 100<sup>th</sup> Year

## ADMINISTRATION OF SACRAMENTS



The Students of St. Mary Cathedral, Trincomalee received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. His Lordship, Most. Rev. Dr. C. Noel Emmanuel graced the liturgy and administered the Sacraments to the students.

## PLAY ON MICHEL DE MELLO



Life of Fr. Michel de Mello, one of the companions of St. Joseph Vaz staged at Gnanapragasam Hall, St. Anthony's Church, Mutur. The burial ground of Fr. Michel de Mello is found in Mutur and it is the witness of the long tradition of the Catholic faith in Mutur.

## Obituary



It is with grief and sadness we remember late Rev. Fr. N. C. Arulvarathan. He was ordained priest on 16.09.1992 at Mutur by Most. Rev. Dr. J. Kingsley Swampillai. He served both in Batticaloa and Trincomalee Dioceses. As retired priest he remained at the Pastoral Centre, Uppuveli, Trincomalee and died after a brief illness. We pray for his eternal rest.



## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS



We, the Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful extend our warmest greetings and prayers to His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. C. Noel Emmanuel on the Eighth Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination on 25.07.2023



ST. IGNATIUS  
OF LOYOLA

His Lordship the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful extend our warmest greetings and prayers to all our Jesuit Fathers, Brothers and Pre-Novices who are celebrating their patronal feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the Founder of the Jesuit Order on July 31, 2023



His Lordship the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful extend our warmest greetings and prayers to all our Apostolic Carmel Sisters who are celebrating their patronal feast of St. Mount Carmel, on July 16, 2023

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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