



# INTERNOS

UBI CARITAS ET AMOR IBI DEUS EST



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

SEPTEMBER 2023

*Feast of the  
Exaltation  
of the  
Holy Cross*

*We adore You O Christ  
and we praise You,  
for by Your holy Cross  
You have redeemed  
the world.*

Anastpaul

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are  
perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 1:18)*





Biblical & Catechetical Achievers' Awarding Ceremony – 22.07.2023



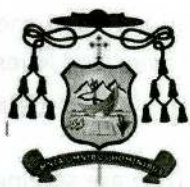
Administration of Sacrament of Confirmation, Kumpurupitti – 23.07.2023



Trincomalee Vicariate Laity Seminar – 29.07.2023



St. Joseph Vaz Minor Seminary Day Celebrations – 01.08.2023



# Bishop's Message



My dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,  
Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

Month of September marks some important events. They make us ponder our vocation and mission.

Feast of St. Teresa of Calcutta falls on 5th Tuesday. St. Teresa was a saint of our time. She discerned her vocation and stepped forward to take care of the sick and those rejected by their children and society. She faced lot of challenges. Yet God had his own way of treating people. Among many awards she received prominent ones are Pope John XXIII Peace Prize in 1971 given by Pope Paul VI and Pacem in Terris Award in 1976. She also received Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her struggle to overcome poverty and distress, Christian Charity and efforts for peace. She was popularly known as Mother Teresa for her extraordinary care for the poor, needy, sick, homeless and parentless. She always remains a challenge to the world. When Mother Teresa received her Noble Peace Prize she was asked 'what can we do to promote world peace?' she answered 'Go home and love your family.' She was always convinced that 'Peace begins at home.'

We wish sisters of the Congregation of Missionaries of Charity stationed at Linganagar and serving in different parts of the diocese a happy feast. May more and more people experience the presence and love of God through your services.

On 14th we celebrate the feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. As we celebrate the Exultation of the Holy Cross we see the lifted up serpent in the wilderness as a prophecy of the lifted up Jesus on Calvary.



What is really interesting is that the cure for snakebite is to look at the serpent. And with the Cross, the cure for suffering is to look upon the suffering One. And the message from both images is the same: God loves and is very close to people who suffer. Let us gaze and gaze and grasp the inner meaning of it all.

We wish Sisters of the Holy Cross a happy feast. They are serving at Alles Garden doing health care and taking care of the elderly. Your mission of caring for eh elderly is also important and unique. We wish you God's blessings.

Memorial of St. Padre Pio falls on 23rd September. He was an Italian Capuchin Friar, priest, stigmatist and mystic. At the early age he was very sickly. Yet he wanted to become a priest and joined Franciscans. As a youth he experienced heavenly visions and ecstasies. Padre Pio's fellow friars claimed to have seen him in ecstasy and levitating above the ground.

"Pio was devoted to rosary meditations. He compared weekly confession to dusting a room weekly, and recommended the performance of meditation and self-examination twice daily: once in the morning, as preparation to face the day, and once again in the evening, as retrospection. His advice on the practical application of theology he often summed up in his now famous quote: 'pray, hope and don't worry.' He directed Christians to recognize God in all things and to desire above all things to do the will of God." (Rf. Internet.)

Feast of Sts. Michael, Raphael and Gabriel falls on 29th September. They are Archangels with special missions. There were many angels who appeared in the Scriptures but only Michael, Raphael and Gabriel's names are mentioned. Michael appears in Daniel's vision as the great prince who defends Israel. He is also mentioned in the book of Revelation. Devotion to St. Michael is an ancient tradition in the Church going back to fifth century. We have St. Michael's picture at the entrance of our houses trusting and praying that he will protect the home and the surrounding. St. Gabriel made an appearance in Daniel's vision in the Old Testament. St. Gabriel's role in the New Testament is very crucial. He brought the good news

to Mary about the coming of the Messiah. Raphael's activity is found in the Old Testament.

St. Michael's College, Batticaloa celebrates her 150th anniversary on 29th September. We wish the Patron Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Ponniah, Principal, students, teachers, past students and members of School Development Committee a happy feast.

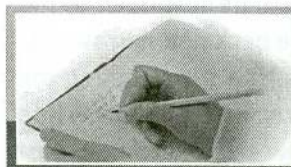
We have started meeting selected lay members from parishes and meeting them at Vicariate level. There is good response from the participants. We will continue meeting lay faithful in their parishes. Fr. Douglas James, Diocesan Director for Laity will organize these meetings.

Let us continue to support each other and pray for our mission.

God bless you,

✠ Rt. Rev. Dr. Noel Emmanuel

Bishop of Trincomalee.

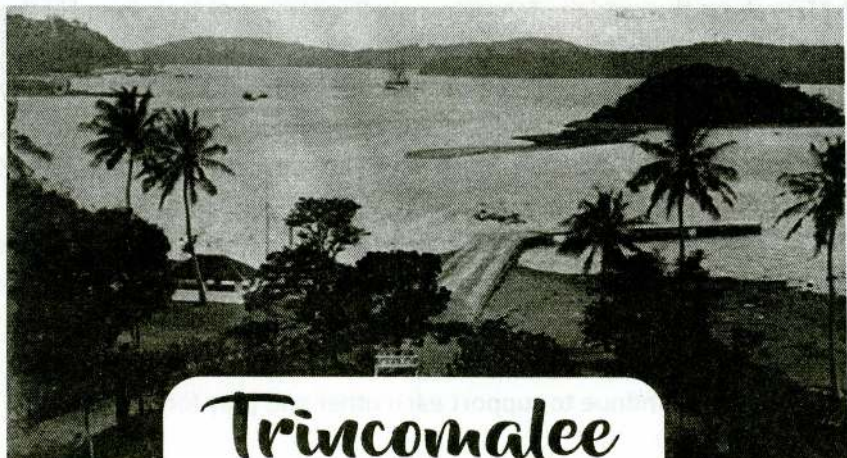


## Bishop's Diary

### -September 2023

- |                                     |              |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 01 <sup>st</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>  | Sept         | - Programmes in Canada   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> | Sept         | - Meeting of the National Small Christian Communities                |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> Sat                | - 9.30 a.m.  | - Seminar for Sinhala Catholic Laity                                 |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> Mon                | - 10.00 a.m. | - Meeting of the College of Consultors                               |
|                                     | 4.00 p.m.    | - Administrative Council Meeting                                     |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> Tue                | - 9.30 a.m.  | - Meeting of the Council of Priests                                  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Sun                | - 7.00 a.m.  | - Festive Mass at Guadalupe  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> Thu                | - 7.00 a.m.  | - 150 Anniversary Celebrations of St. Michael's College, Batticaloa. |
| 01 <sup>st</sup> Oct                | - 7.00 a.m.  | - Confirmation at Anpuvelipuram                                      |





The three-coned mountain (Tiri-cona-malei) stands on a spur projecting from the central hills, which end abruptly over the sea in a mass of rocks two hundred feet in height! On the summit of this crag formerly stood the famous temple of thousand pillars destroyed by the Portuguese in 1623. The town is situated on the neck of a narrow slip, which separates the interior harbour from the high sea between the hills, which command the entrance of the harbour and fall sharply into the deep waters of a volcanic basin which allow ships of the deepest floatation to approach. Although Trincomalee is one of the most beautiful natural harbours of the world it has always been neglected from a commercial point of view, for the simple reason that it is not on the ordinary trade routes, has nothing to export and very little to import. Even the little trade from the products of local industry between Trincomalee and India has been ruined by the Indo-Ceylonese railway.

At the period with which we are dealing (1895 – 1905) Trincomalee, on account of its magnificent harbour, were still a naval station and a garrison. The parish priest was the official chaplain of the Catholic sailors and soldiers, mostly Irish. It was a cosmopolitan town of about 8 thousand souls where Europeans, Tamils, Sinhalese, Malays and Muslims rubbed shoulders. The garrison consisted of 500 British troops and 200 Indian troops who were occupying the barracks, which stood on the hills around

the forts. The navy added its contingent when the Admiral – ship of the East – Indian squadron was anchored in the harbour.

About 600 workmen were employed in the vast docks of the naval yard and many petty traders earned their livelihood as suppliers to the army and the navy. These were days of prosperity for all, Christians and pagans.

Toward the end of December 1904, an alarming rumour began to circulate a readjustment of the Indian squadron was to delete Trincomalee from the list of military harbours. This rumour was soon to be officially confirmed; the admiralty and the navy were to be transferred to Hong Kong; the arsenal to be closed, the forts dismantled and the garrison withdrawn.

For the majority of our Catholics it meant ruin, forced unemployment and the necessity of emigrating to look for work elsewhere. Naturally indolent and easily discouraged they had recourse to the charity of the priests who were unable to help all in their needs.

The English schools felt the distress, the parents being unable to send their children to learn the little English which up to now had helped many of our pupils to find employment in the offices of the administration. They were reduced to learn one of the trades in which there were already too many unemployed. It was hard trial from the effects of which Trincomalee took many years to recover but out of which God knew how to derive some advantage. Here, as in other places, the presence of a European element was not always a benefit from a moral viewpoint; this temporary prosperity had spread drunkenness and other vices. On the whole poverty with its salutary lessons, an increase of faith and confidence in God, was far better than these material advantages.

After 30 years of unglorified downfall, Trincomalee has regained a little life. More or less secret works occupied several hundreds of workers digging stores in the heart of the hills, capable of holding an immense supply of ammunition. Camouflaged by the thick forest, which border the bay, enormous oil tanks can feed in a few hours the largest ships of the fleet. The abandoned barracks and officers' houses are being prepared to receive the officers, who will find again their tennis courts and golf links as before.

Extract from the Historical Sketch of the Mission Of Trincomalee By  
**Fr. Charles Reichard, S. J.**



# The Nativity of the *Blessed Virgin Mary*

The Catholic Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on its traditional fixed date of September 8, nine months after the December 8 celebration of her Immaculate Conception as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne.

The circumstances of the Virgin Mary's infancy and early life are not directly recorded in the Bible, but other documents and traditions describing the circumstances of her birth are cited by some of the earliest Christian writers from the first centuries of the Church.

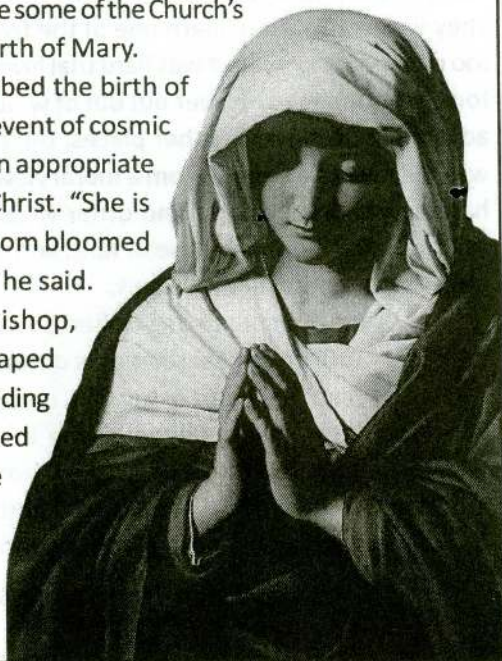
These accounts, although not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about the birth of Mary.

Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley," he said.

The fourth-century bishop, whose theology profoundly shaped the Western Church's understanding of sin and human nature, affirmed that "through her birth, the nature inherited from our first parents is changed."

Courtesy:

[www.catholicnewsagency.com](http://www.catholicnewsagency.com)





# Remembering with Gratitude

## BIRTHDAYS:

- 04.09.2023 - Rev. Sr. E. A. J. Soyza  
20.09.2023 - Rev. Fr. J. Gerald (OMI)  
21.09.2023 - Rev. Fr. X. I. Rajeeva  
21.09.2023 - Rev. Sr. M. Nivedha (AC)

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:

- |            |                                 |            |
|------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| 05.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. S. S. Johnpillai     | - 21 Years |
| 05.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. X. I. Rajeeva        | - 21 Years |
| 05.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. Eugene Paul Jonathan | - 21 Years |
| 07.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. E. Rohan Bernard     | - 24 Years |
| 15.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. A. Arulanandam       | - 52 Years |
| 18.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. Rebouam Thierry (SJ) | - 20 Years |
| 21.09.2023 | - Rev. Fr. E. A. J. Soyza       | - 51 Years |

## FEAST DAY:

- 21.09.2023 - Rev. Sr. M. Nivedha (AC)

## DEATH ANNIVERSARY:

- 04.09.2023 - Rev. Fr. G. Donesan - 22 Years

## POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance

## BISHOP'S COMMUNIQUE:

**Rev. Fr. S. S. Johnpillai** is appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Anpuvalipuram, Trincomalee.

**Rev. Fr. S. Sugunanenthiran Croos** left for Toronto, Canada for a Parish Pastoral Mission.

We wish both of them in their respective ministries.

# Love Surpasses All

Pope Francis' prayer intention for the month of September invites every believer to that matter every human being to be considerate towards fellow human beings especially people who are at the margins. Pope is very much concerned about the indifference shown towards the people who have nothing and are homeless. "A homeless person who dies on the street will never appear among the top stories of search engines or newscasts" he lamented, and brings out the saddest part of humanity which treats less fortunate people with indifference. Pope attributed this indifference to a "throwaway culture in which millions of men and women are worth nothing compared to economic goods."

Pope's invitation to all human beings is to pay attention to marginalized brothers and sisters who are affected by poverty, addictions, mental illness, or disability. Let us turn our attention towards them. "Let's focus on accepting them, on welcoming all the people who need it" is His call. Amidst indifferences, his call is to hold up a "culture of welcoming, of providing shelter, of giving a home of offering love, of giving human warmth." He concluded his message by inviting every Christian to pray for those people "on the margins of society living in subhuman living conditions."

Pope's prayer intention for the month of September was accompanied by video clips containing images of homeless people, street children washing car windshields, and people with various disabilities. According to the UN, over 10 percent of the global population, or 700 million people, live in extreme poverty. Even in developed nations, another 1.6 billion people dwell in inadequate living conditions. "Similarly, reports from the World Health Organization reveal that one of every eight persons lives with a 'mental disorder,' and that 16% of the world's population lives with a 'serious disability'," according to the press release.

In response to the Pope's prayer intention, Cardinal Michael Czerny, the Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development invites us all to have hearts of flesh and not stone. "Welcoming is more than helping: it means putting the other person at our level, rediscovering a sister or a brother we have lost," said Cardinal Czerny. "We are transformed into one Body through prayer."

As true Christians let's look for the people who are at the margins of our society. They need our consideration and support. Don't show indifference towards them rather welcome them with open hearts and smiling faces. Let them see the love of Jesus the Saviour, in and through our ministry.

**Fr. Navaji**





Pre-Cana Marriage Preparatory Class – 12.08.2023



Nilaveli Vicariate Laity Seminar – 12.08.2023



Laying the foundation stone for a New Church, Sahayapuram, Mutur – 13.08.2023



Grand Parents and Elderly Day Celebrations, Alles Garden – 20.08.2023



# Hearty Congratulations



We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful extend our warmest greetings and prayers to Rev. Fr. M. Stanislaus and Rev. Fr. M. N. Chandrakanthan of the Diocese of Batticaloa on their Silver Jubilee of Sacerdotal Anniversary on September 1, 2023. Ad Multos Annos Vivit!



We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful joyfully extend our fraternal greetings and prayers to the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, Holy Cross and Holy Angels who are celebrating their paternal feast days on 05.09.2023, 14.09.2023 and 29.09.2023 respectively.



SISTERS  
of the  
HOLY  
CROSS



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DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

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