

<b>Rates of Subscription</b>
Eng. Guardian
Yearly
Rs. 6-50
Half Yearly
Rs. 3-50
Eng. & Tamil Guardian
Yearly
Rs. 10-50
Half Yearly
Rs. 5-50

# The Catholic Guardian

ESTABLISHED AS A FORTNIGHTLY, 1876; ISSUED AS A WEEKLY, 1878.

REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON.

Telegrams: "GUARDIAN", JAFFNA.

Telephone: NO. 100.

"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

<b>Rates of Advertisement</b>
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Vol. 73, No. 12

JAFFNA, FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1948.

PRICE: 10 CENTS.

## MARY'S MISSION SPECIAL NUMBER

### MARY'S MISSION CALL TO PENANCE

#### II. DIFFERENT WAYS OF DOING PENANCE

In the previous article under the same caption as the above, it has been shown that penance is really necessary for our salvation. The practice of our Lord, His divine words, His solemn warnings, the teaching of the Apostles, the rigid practice of the early Christians and the unmistakable utterings of the later Saints of the Church—all these clearly established this necessity beyond a doubt with perfect certitude and confirmed conviction.

But we know, there is a great deal of difference between words and examples. It is not that words, exhortations and warnings are wanting: but then what is wanting? It is the *hic et nunc* practice of penance which is unfortunately not very congenial to human weakness; yet man must do penance, especially sinful man has no other alternative if he is to flee from the eternal wrath to come. Penance do he must; or else eternal damnation is inevitable. Unaided human weakness may shrink from this all important practice! but there is the help and aid from on high ready to come in torrents to the one who calls for it with confidence and co-operates with it wholeheartedly when once it has come. Saints who are now reigning in heaven are witnesses for it. What they did we can do. We must do if we want ourselves to reign like them.

Having said this much by way of a little preface, let us now proceed to the detailed account of the different ways of doing penance.

What is penance? Here again there is a good deal of misunderstanding. Some are of a convinced opinion that penance is something very high and hard; hence it is not the lot of ordinary and plain Christians. It is something required only of some religious persons such as priests, monks and nuns. With some

others, penance is nothing but an external abstinence at stated times from food of the body. Now what is penance in reality? It is simply and plainly this: the guilty soul which feels that it has offended the august majesty of God punishes itself or revenges on itself before the offended God comes in all His rigid severity and justice to punish that soul. In other words: penance is the disarming of the offended God's inexorable justice by the voluntary self sacrifice the guilty soul imposes on itself.

Penance may be considered as an internal virtue which consists in the heartfelt sorrow of the soul for having offended an infinitely good God with a firm resolution never to do the like again. It could be considered as well, as the external self sacri-

ficing actions which are nothing but the external outcome of the internal virtues to expiate sin.

One way of doing penance is to punish ourselves for having offended God before God Himself comes to punish us. If a sinner wants in all sincerity to punish himself, he must give up his many and immoderate desires for the pleasures of the world, even harmless ones.

Another way of doing penance is to accept with cheerfulness, in conformity with God Almighty's holy will, all the misfortunes, troubles, misunderstandings, that befall us in the world often through our own faults. Do we not more often than not murmur and grumble in times of tribulation? Do we not even go, so far as to curse God Almighty

saying God has no eyes to see our miseries.

Another very efficacious way of doing penance is to feel in all sincerity a very great pain of heart for having lost God, lost Heaven, lost the life of our soul, which is the Sanctifying Grace, for having merited hell with all its dire and miserable eternity. Do we not often feel greater regret for the loss of material goods than for the loss of the eternal interests of our soul?

One more way of doing penance will be to keep before our mental eyes the ugliness and abhorrence of sins and at the same time to excite ourselves to great compunction of heart for the black ingratitude, temerity and malice contained in sin.

Repression of our disorderly and immoderate appetites and affections which always weigh us down the mire of sin is one of the highest forms of penance, most pleasing to God and most conducive to our salvation.

To crown all these means there is for us the infallible guide of the Church in all matters spiritual. The Church as a solicitous mother for the manifold interests of her children prescribes salutary bodily fasts a few times in the year. But are there not among us a good number of persons who always find some reason or other which are very often flimsy, not to comply with these prescriptions and then increase their condemnation for an eternally regrettable hell.

Let us avail ourselves of this loving invitation of our Pilgrim Queen who is deigning to come to our very doors, as it were, to ask each one of us to profit by this great conversion movement which has been already launched out in our diocese. If one does not feel attracted towards this salutary penance, let us pray to the Holy Ghost to enkindle in our hearts a great desire for the renovation of our hearts. Happy shall we be if only we can prevent expiating our sins by penance in this world before eternity dawns on us.



OUR LADY OF MADHU



## Mary's Mission Manual

(Tamil)

Explaining

The Directions and  
Instructions

&

Containing Special Prayers  
to be  
recited during the Tour.

Price 20 cts.

Copies can be had of the Parish Priests and at St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

## Church Calendar

APRIL 1948

FRI.	... 2 S. Francis Paul.
SAT.	... 3 S. Richard.
SUN.	... 4 Low. S. Isidore.
MON.	... 5 ANNUNCIATION.
TUES.	... 6 S. Celestine.
WED.	... 7 S. Epiphanius.
THUR.	... 8 S. Dionysius.
FRI.	... 9 S. Mary of Egypt

## The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 2ND 1948

### THE MOTHERHOOD OF MARY

Many factors go to fixing the climate of Catholic Spirituality but even on the admission of sympathetic outsiders no two factors are so potent as the Doctrine of the Eucharist and devotion to the Mother of God.

The Eucharist focusses spiritual life and realization on the living Christ, the operative word being *living*. It is of course possible to focus thought and aspiration on the historical Christ that lived some nineteen hundred years ago. But it is a different religion and a different atmosphere when contact is established with the actual Christ living now. It is the Mass that matters, the Mass and the Eucharist.

Catholic spirituality aims at and is characterized by a warmth and a joyousness that have impressed even the social student. The more penetrating student has been at pains to trace this vivid realization of the unseen to its source which he attributes to a certain childlike quality in our faith. That childlike quality he sees deriving from what has always been a marked characteristic of Catholic life, viz., devotion to Christ's Mother.

The characteristic distinguishing Christ's followers and their spiritual life is precisely this quality of childlikeness as Our Lord emphasized in the Gospel. The two words that spring naturally to the child's lips are 'Father' and 'Mother.' Christ came to make us the sons of the Father so that we might legitimately cry 'Abba, Father,' and His dying bequest to us was His own Mother that we might call her our Mother.

Hers is a name dear to us on many counts. As God's graces come to us we learn to associate them with her and her sweet intercession. We got our first

ideas of religion from the only predilection and the seat of your mercy. In that hallowed spot your spiritual and temporal largesse to our forefathers and to us has rivalled your utmost munificence in the most celebrated shrines of christendom.

Exactly one hundred years ago your humble children, your Obalates, discovered your wretched abode in the jungle, a poor hut of mud and wattle. You were hidden and forgotten behind the giant trees and amidst the wild beasts of the Wannu. You know, Mother Dear, how their hearts bleated at the sight of their mother's penury and how they spared no effort or expense and had no rest till they had reared a glorious temple to you and brought millions of your devotees to your shrine: so much so that an illustrious visitor said that if Madhu made Jaffna famous, it also made Lourdes jealous. Thank you ever so much, Mother, for what you did for us during the last hundred years. Verily you have magnificently given priests and people in spiritual and temporal favours a thousand-fold return for their filial love.

We see her in the trials and triumphs of the church, vanquishing 'the big battalions' at the time of the Albigenses, at Lepanto, at the sombre beginnings of the 19th century. And our hearts throb when she appears again at Fatima and tells us to hope still, to have confidence that she will again bring the world back to her Son if we invoke her with confidence.

Into our lives in Jaffna she is now coming almost dramatically. Her coming is to be in God's plan, His invariable plan, to be marked by signal graces of which we shall, please God, have made ourselves not too unworthy. The reign of her Son in our hearts will be only the prelude to the extension of that reign in the hearts of all men.

## WELCOME TO MOTHER MARY

For the last two thousand years, Dearest Mother, Jesus has made use of you as His messenger to us. He remembers how generously you have accepted on Calvary the new maternity he offered when He looked at every one of us and murmured: "Behold thy son." He realises that often our wickedness and stubbornness may prompt us to spurn His advice, but He, who long ago fashioned the human heart, also knows that a mother's appeal is irresistible. This is why for the last two thousand years you go back to heaven from every one of your apostolic expeditions chanting a paean of victory.

We, your thrice happy children in Jaffna, joyfully recall that two hundred and fifty years ago you chose to come and live in our land. When you came you were an exile just as formerly you were driven out of the stable of Bethlehem by the cruelty of Herod. You were threatened by the fury of the Dutch Presbyterians and the enchanting woods of Madhu became your abode of

predilection and the seat of your mercy. In that hallowed spot your spiritual and temporal largesse to our forefathers and to us has rivalled your utmost munificence in the most celebrated shrines of christendom.

Exactly one hundred years ago your humble children, your Obalates, discovered your wretched abode in the jungle, a poor hut of mud and wattle. You were hidden and forgotten behind the giant trees and amidst the wild beasts of the Wannu. You know, Mother Dear, how their hearts bleated at the sight of their mother's penury and how they spared no effort or expense and had no rest till they had reared a glorious temple to you and brought millions of your devotees to your shrine: so much so that an illustrious visitor said that if Madhu made Jaffna famous, it also made Lourdes jealous. Thank you ever so much, Mother, for what you did for us during the last hundred years. Verily you have magnificently given priests and people in spiritual and temporal favours a thousand-fold return for their filial love.

And to-morrow, Mother, you will crown all these favours with a supreme gift. For the first time you will leave your sylvan palace and visit your children. Imitating your son who left the splendours of heaven to redeem us from the slavery of Satan, you will come to us to deliver the selfsame message which Jesus asked you to deliver at La Salette, at Lourdes, at Pontmain, and at Fatima. You are moved by pity for our sinful souls. From Heaven and from Madhu you have sorrowfully watched how our effete civilisation has sapped our spiritual vigour. You see what our blindness does not see, that the spirit of revolt created by the madness of war, the love of pleasure, our insatiable craving for money, power and lust have brought us to the brink of the abyss. Indeed the prophets of old must have thought of us when they said of the Jews that seeing they did not see and hearing they did not hear. This is why to-day you come to repeat to us, perhaps in more gentle tones than Jesus, the stern threat He made to the Jews: "Unless you shall do penance, you shall all similarly perish."

Dearest mother! We are deeply moved and thrilled with joy at the thought of your loving condescension. We welcome you and we thankfully salute you. Our hearts are ready, they are full of sorrow for our past tepidity. Our ears are attentive, we shall carefully listen to your maternal warnings and advice. Retreats, missions, fervent appeals to conversion, we have had in plenty—with indifferent results, we are ashamed to confess! But this maternal visit of yours, Most Blessed Virgin of Madhu, graciously returning the many visits we have made to you in your jungle shrine, will be a brilliant land-mark in the spiritual progress of the Jaffna Catholics;

it will be a powerful protection against the attacks of a wicked world which has turned its back on God and His Gospel. Self-conquest and the spirit of mortification will be our daily bread: the devout recitation of the Rosary our constant prayer.

Again, Mother Dear, come to us: we are ready. We speak to you in the same tones as we speak to Jesus when He personally visits us: "We are not worthy that thou shouldst come under our roof. Say but one word to Him who sends you and our souls shall be healed."

"Mother! for whom words never have been, never can be coined with which to weave the crown of glory that we would place upon Thy brow—Mother! by whom God became man, by whom the human race has thus been linked for ever to the throne of God!—Mother! the light of whose eyes was the first light that shone upon the Babe of Bethlehem—Mother! whose face was the first face into which the Infant Jesus ever looked—Mother! who alone of all God's servants cradled Deity in thine arms and laid Him on Thy bosom—Mother! who taught the feet of the Infant Son of God to walk—Mother! the first word that the lips of the Babe, that was God and Man, learned the lisp—Mother! who watched the footsteps of the Son of God through a spotless youth to a spotless manhood—Mother! who followed the Son of God, thy Son, bone of thy bone and flesh of thy flesh, to the cross to ignominious death—Mother! the last of all the earth in the thought of the Saviour as He hung upon the cross—Sweet Mother Mary, one and all we rise up and call Thee Blessed and place upon thy brow our richest diadem. We give thee the first place in God's creation and more especially in the heart of each one of us. Accept this whole-hearted consecration of our persons and our interests to Thee and be to us a Mother, a Queen, an Advocate, a Protectress, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

## "Be Vigilant and Pray"

Pope's Easter Message

His Holiness the Pope on Easter Sunday spoke of "a shadow of singular gravity hovering over Rome" at a special message to the world spoken to a crowd of 300,000 outside St. Peter's.

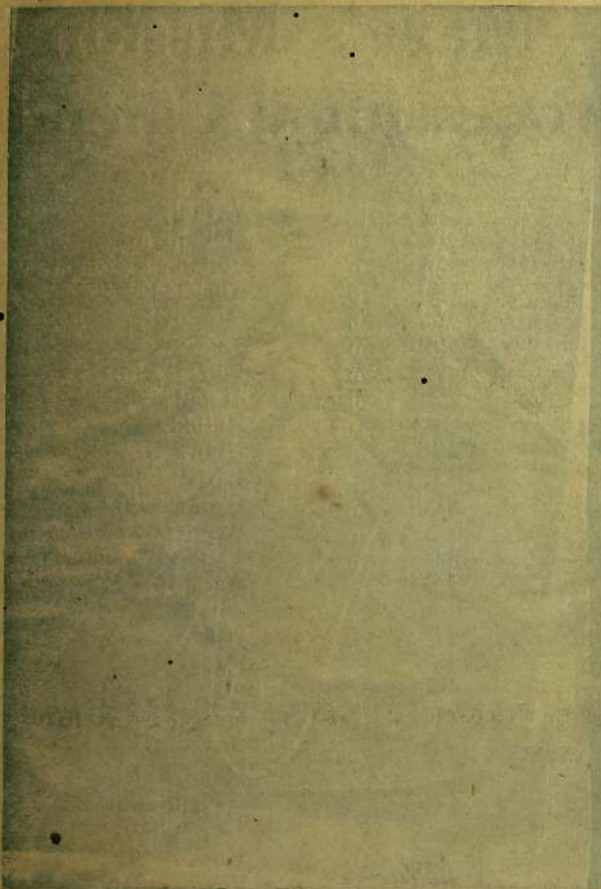
Before his traditional Easter blessing "to the city and to the world" the Pope spoke for about ten minutes from the central balcony of St. Peter's to the crowd packing the great square and down the broad new road leading to the River Tiber.

As the Pope spoke of "this year of anxieties and dangers" the crowd held aloft banners bearing the words "Nothing will be lost by peace, and all will be lost by war."

Accentuating his message with decisive gestures, the Pope said: "He who is not blind sees, he who is not disturbed in spirit feels that Rome—the cradle, propagator and protector of eternal values of life and civilisation—is now in a phase which demands the highest vigilance, continuous action, and uncon-

(Continued on Page 3 Col. 1.)





His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna  
Who Initiated the Mary's Mission on March 15.

## THE FIRST STAGE OF THE PILGRIM VIRGIN'S TOUR

The spiritual state of the world, as it is, is not so apparent here. We have not been lulled by the false promises of Science to subserve iniquitous purposes of carnage and destruction simply because our scientific knowledge had not developed to such an extent. But in our spirit we have been as sinful as they of Europe. The big powers in Europe crushed or attempted to crush the small states. Among us there is communal disharmony—may communal strangulation. Similar examples can be multiplied to show that a special manifestation of Our Lady was called for and we are glad to note that we are just in the middle of it.

Europe, at least a very good part of it, has lost its light of faith amidst the encircling gloom of its various "isms". Europe that had once been the light of the world a few centuries ago, that had carried the lamp of learning, religion and culture to the ends of the earth lies low to-day waiting for a breath of spirituality to revive her into her former glory. Issuing from Europe ripples of spiritual decay and death have widened all over the earth. His Holiness himself in his Easter message (published elsewhere) has struck a severe note of warning to the Christian world against the onrush of communism.

At a time like this the Blessed Virgin, the merciful mother, the Refuge of Sinners manifests herself to mankind and shows a collapsing world her power as a mediatrix between an offended God and sinful man. Our Lady's modern manifestation is seen by a sudden re-awakening to faith and morals in the lands through which a replica of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima had been and is being carried.

A similar re-awakening is taking place in our diocese where Our Lady of Madhu is going round preaching penance.

We are as much steeped in the mire of sin and the mud of iniquity as those in Europe though outward signs of having abused the good gifts of God

are not so apparent here. We have not abused Science to subserve iniquitous purposes of carnage and destruction simply because our scientific knowledge had not developed to such an extent. But in our spirit we have been as sinful as they of Europe. The big powers in Europe crushed or attempted to crush the small states. Among us there is communal disharmony—may communal strangulation. Similar examples can be multiplied to show that a special manifestation of Our Lady was called for and we are glad to note that we are just in the middle of it.

Since we had given an account of the departure of statue from Madhu in our last issue it will be useful to continue the thread by giving a resume of the first part of the Grand Retour.

The long-awaited for 15th of March came. A large and expectant crowd of pilgrims gathered in front of the Portico of the Sanctuary. A short impressive and Solemn Ceremony was performed. His Lordship the Bishop blessed the first batch of Directors and entrusted to them the Miraculous Statue. After the opening address explaining the spirit and aim of Our Lady's pilgrimage through the Diocese she solemnly moved on in the stately processional car. The waiting pilgrims watched the Statue move on but they could not wait and watch very long. Their feelings got over them and that too followed the pilgrim Virgin, praying all the way.

An unexpectedly large gathering of devotees awaited Her at Madhu Road. They spontaneously fell on their knees at the sight of Statue. Filial love overcame all. Tears rolled down the cheeks and hearts throbbed with affectionate yearnings for the Mother. Words, not many were spoken but the Message of the Pilgrim Virgin was delivered. The Faithful understood it and bowing down

their heads they struck their breasts in repentant sorrow. The reconciliation had been made between the Prodigal and the Mother.

The historic statue that had been enshrined in the holy sanctuary of Madhu and not a replica had just finished the first lap of its Grand Retour and has entered on its second and greater lap.

It was in the fitness of things that the Pilgrim Virgin should tour first the Mannar District her original home and habitation, between the 15th and the 24th of the last month. It was also in the fitness of things that the statue should be back in its home town for Easter. Yesterday it has started on its second and greater lap and will be within the Jaffna Peninsula by Monday next.

As the procession went through various parishes in the district of the holy matters with many a halt the impressiveness and solemnity of the tour progressively increased day by day. Atippu, Murempkan, Nanattan, Uylankulam, Vankalai, Pallimunanai, Talaimannar, Pesalai, Mannar, Vidathaltheevu, the holy Mantai, the original repository of the Statue from where it was rescued from the fury of the iconoclasts, and Adampan are names hallowed in the Catholic history of Jaffna. The passage of the Statue through these places was fervently expected and once the Statue entered a Parish the penitential programme outlined and previously explained was piously gone through. Decorations there were, but it was decoration of soul through a three day retreat, fast, prayer and penance that was most potent. From far and near many a prodigal returned to reconcile himself with the Father whom he had estranged for years through the Mother who had loved him so much and so long and so tenderly.

The ceremonies of the reception to the Statue were a sight at which angels would undoubtedly have rejoiced. At a convenient spot on the boundary of the parish, the priest and the faithful await prayerfully the arrival of the Mother. Then the following exercises are gone through with penetrating piety.

1. Reception of the Statue by the Parish Priest and the faithful reciting a decade of the Rosary with arms outstretched in a cruciform fashion. Sermon at Reception. Procession to Church with the recitation of the Rosary.

2. Acclamations in the Church.

3. Sermon on Confession.

Recess during which the faithful have their personal devotions.

4. At 9.30 p. m. a solemn recitation of the Rosary is conducted by a Priest commenting on the mysteries.

5. By 12.30 the Midnight Mass begins during which comments are offered by a Priest on the significance of the Divine sacrifice.

6. In the morning several Masses are offered and Statue is ready to start to the next Parish.

Reading through the schedule of exercises one naturally gets the impression of monotony, of ennui. Priests who had taken part and the faithful who had been following Our Lady from Parish to Parish tell us a different story. Day after day freshness and fervour are added on. All available time is spent by the Priests in the confessional. Very often they are besieged by penitents till three in the morning and even later. All that means grace—a flood of grace.

Now that flood has turned into the peninsula with the added momentum of the Mannar march. We publish elsewhere the peninsular programme and look forward to the publication of the remaining part of the account after the 2nd of May when there will be a Mass Rally of the faithful at the Reclamation Grounds, Jaffna, to thank Our Lady for all the favours showered on the diocese through her tiring tour of over two months.

## THIS IS JUSTICE

The following is a summary of  
Pope Pius XI's encyclical on  
"THE SOCIAL ORDER."

### The Power of the Rich

The rich men in one state covet the riches of the rich men in other states; and the clash between the rich men produces the clash between states themselves. The power of these men is so great that they can control even the state for their own selfish ends. The state should have one object only.

This should be justice and the common good. But the state has become a slave of these rich powerful men. The state has become bound over to the service of human passion and greed. These things can be changed if the Christian teaching on capital and labour is put into practice. If this is done free competition will be checked and economic power controlled.

### Communism and Genuine Socialism

Some people say that Communism and genuine Socialism will cure these abuses.

PIUS XI condemns Communism and genuine Socialism because Communism teaches class warfare;

because Communism teaches that private ownership is wrong; because Communism makes people hate God.

PIUS condemns genuine Socialism because it is only Communism with qualifications, though it may appear to be Christian.

Genuine Socialism is pagan; it teaches

that man's earthly good is all that matters.

If genuine Socialism

is pagan, no Catholic can become a genuine Socialist.

Some Catholics

have turned to Socialism

because they say the Church upholds the capitalists and neglects the workers.

But the Church does not uphold

unjust capitalists

who abuse the right of private property.

PIUS XI condemns

all unjust capitalists

and deplores the fact

that some of these

are Catholics.

Although the Church

upholds private property

and teaches its right use,

she does not

side with the wealthy

as LEO and PIUS have shown.

(To be Continued)



Use Crown Brand Tiles, for they are the best in the market, and remember that they are Gold Medalists.

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## The Life of Rev. Sr. Alphonsa

## BOOK REVIEW

GOD WRITES STRAIGHT WITH  
CROOKED LINES

Having read week after week, in the "Madras Mail" of numerous favours being granted to pilgrims, who visit the tomb of Sister Alphonsa of the Convent of Poor Clares, Bharananganom, in the diocese of Changanacherry, Travancore, South India, I was looking forward for some time to visit her grave. The opportunity presented itself, when I was directed by the Colombo Magistrate, on the 21st of February last, to take a child, who had been entrusted to me on Christmas day, 1943, by His Lordship the Bishop of Changanacherry and hand him over to His Lordship. Two years ago the boy was lost when he was returning home from the Archbishop's Palace, Borella, and was found last August in the house of a Protestant gentleman. He had given up his Faith and was being brought up as a Presbyterian. I had to make an application to the Supreme Court for the custody of the child and it was at the Magisterial inquiry that the above order was made. I had invoked the intercession of Sister Alphonsa to save the soul of the boy who was of her own country and like herself a Malayalee. I also promised to take the boy to her grave if everything passed off well. Almost miraculously I got back the custody of the child and in spite of being threats of murder, I managed to take the boy over to India on the 21st night. We reached Quilon on the 23rd morning and the same night went by steam boat along the back water canals to Kotayam, which we reached the following morning. There were several pilgrims, like ourselves on board and we joined the party and took an omnibus to Bharananganam, a place twenty four miles away from Kotayam and four miles away from Palayi. We were dropped in front of St. Mary's Church and after making a short visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament we went to the Presbytery where we met the Parish Priest, Very Rev. Fr. Kutuvila Piarthottam. He was the Vicar-General of His Lordship the Bishop of Changanacherry, when the boy was handed over to me and he knew me very well. He took us to the tomb of Sister Alphonsa which is in the mortuary Chapel and a large number of pilgrims were making their devotions before the tomb when we arrived. After fulfilling their vows the pilgrims in different Indian languages recited the Rosary. The Priest told me that from about three months after her death, pilgrims began to visit the grave and several miracles were reported some with medical certificates of the person cured. These were all being recorded to be forwarded to Rome in due course.

The facts about her life which I propose to publish in a series of articles were gathered by me from the lips of the Parish Priest, who was the Spiritual Director of the Sister for over twenty years and from the life of the Sister published by Rev. Fr. Romulus O.C.D. with the Imprimatur of His Lordship the Bishop of Changanacherry in Malabar.

In obedience to the decree of His Holiness Pope Urban VIII I declare that I claim no more than a purely human consideration for the contents of these articles, and that I hereby submit unreservedly to the judgment of Holy Church.

(To be Continued)

CWM—SERIES.

Maire Cotter repeats it again and again in her book on Mother Cabrini, "Westward by Command", and the story bears it out fully. The only qualification one would like to add to the axiom is that God writes all right provided the pen allows Him free play.

With a ball-fixed instrument at His disposal the heavenly Father can use it even upside-down.

In this lies the secret of Mother St. Cabrini's phenomenal achievements in quite impossible circumstances. Her daring trust in Divine Providence did not however prevent her from displaying a sharply-defined character: once again the story as told by Miss Cotter, does not obscure the reality.

The world was big enough for Mother Cabrini's zeal; it is not surprising therefore that her Daughters have occupied its key-points.

Wherever the campaign for souls is on, "Westward by Command" will revive hardiness and clear our vision.

(Published by Mercier Press, Cork. Price 10/6) ... C.W.M.

## Split in and the Boycott of the South East Asia Youth Conference

Members of the Indian delegation to the South East Asian Youth Conference, representing eight organizations including the All India Students' Congress dissociated themselves from the Conference which began on Feb. 19.

The Conference has been boycotted by the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All-India Students' Congress, the Bengal Provincial Students' Congress, the Muslim Students' Congress, Labour Bureau, the Hind Kisan Sangh, the Young Socialist League and the Rashtra Deva Dal.

In a statement the representative of these organisations gave as reason for the boycott, their conviction that "the conference was a subtle and insidious attempt on the part of the Communist Party to hoodwink South East Asian Youth and parade the views of a section as being those of the entire Youth of this region."

Mr. Jose A. Rono, of the Santo Thoma University and Mr. Enrique M. Magallon of Far Eastern University, Manila, who came to Calcutta as representatives of the Student Councils' Association of the Philippines have issued the following statement: "We, the Philippine delegates, were registered in the South Eastern Youth Conference not as delegates but in the category of observers. We, therefore, disclaim any responsibility for any resolutions or manifestos adopted and passed by this body. We are sorely disappointed that discussion in this conference has been more emotional than logical and parliamentary processes were cleverly manipulated to channel the discussion along one ideology which is incompatible with the ideals of the Filipino student youth."

Our own occasional correspondent in Calcutta who was present at the conference writes as follows: "It was generally boycotted by the student population and the Congress Government gave no encouragement. They saw the blending of the Red and the Pink. I attended the conference. It was a feeble attempt to get the support of the Youth of India to the Red way of thinking. 'Down with Imperialism' was shouted off and on. There is no Imperialism to crush in India. It is long dead. There is no room for Communism either. The Congress has forestalled even the Socialists. By striking a via media the Congress has strengthened its position."

# Mary's Mission Processional Calendar

Thursday	1st	April	Vavuniya
Friday	2nd	"	Mullaitivu
Saturday	3rd	"	Puthukudyiruppu
Sunday	4th	"	Thalaiady
Monday	5th	"	Mirusuvil
Tuesday	6th	"	Vadiri
Wednesday	7th	"	Point Pedro
Thursday	8th	"	Atchuvely
Friday	9th	"	Myliddy
Saturday	10th	"	Urany
Sunday	11th	"	Earlahi
Monday	12th	"	Chunnakam
Tuesday	13th	"	Ilavilai
Wednesday	14th	"	Fatima Pandateruppu
Thursday	15th	"	Mathagal
Friday	16th	"	Sillalai
Saturday	17th	"	Delft
Sunday	18th	"	Kayts
Monday	19th	"	Karampon
Tuesday	20th	"	Naranthana
Wednesday	21st	"	Punguduthivu
Thursday	22nd	"	Mandaithivu
Friday	23rd	"	Navanthurai
Saturday	24th	"	Urumpiray
Sunday	25th	"	Kopay
Monday	26th	"	Pandianthalvu
Tuesday	27th	"	Passayoor
Wednesday	28th	"	Colombogam
Thursday	29th	"	Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna
Friday	30th	"	St. James's, Jaffna
Saturday	1st	May	Cathedral
Sunday	2nd	"	Final day
Monday	3rd	"	Anuradhapura
Tuesday	4th	"	Madhu

## Progress of St. Patrick's College Ten-Year-Plan Collections

Began—6th February 1948.

Target for 1948—Rs. 30,000-00

How the Fund grew:

10th February	...	320-00
20th	"	935-00
29th	"	1,020-00
10th March	...	1,375-00
20th	"	1,939-00
23-3-48 To-day	...	2,154-00

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## TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.

The Chairman, Way and Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana tenders up to 12 noon on 30-4-48 (Friday) for the construction of a Bungalow at Trincomalee for the Assistant District Engineer, Railway Department.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 2nd April, 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana, 22-3-48.

## NOTICE

THE JAFFNA URBAN COUNCIL

Schedule of rates are hereby invited for the following works: Schedule of rates must be submitted in forms obtained from the Inspector of Works on a deposit of Rs. 10 and forwarded in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, Urban Council, Jaffna and endorsed on the outside of the envelope "Schedule of rates for—"

Schedule of rates should reach this office on or before 12 noon on Saturday the 3rd of April 1948.

Further particulars can be obtained at this office.

List of Works:—

1. Converting the wooden bridge over Nedunkulam Channel, at Kodladi Road into a concrete bridge.
2. Converting the wooden bridge at Arialai Road into a concrete bridge.
3. Earth work at Somasundaram lane.
4. Sinking a well at Vannakulam in Temple ward.

C. FONNAMBALAN,  
Chairman, U. C. Jaffna.



(Continued from Page 2.)

ditional readiness from the head and members of Christianity.

"The great hour of Christian conscience has struck. This conscience will either become fully aware of its mission to a mankind whose spiritual values are in danger, and save it, or if it is but half awake and does not give itself to Christ, then his terrible verdict, who is not with me is against me, will become operative."

Prolonged cheers greeted this passage.

"There is no place for half-heartedness and for the irresolution of those who believe they can serve two masters. You know the realization of social justice and peace can never be firmly established if eyes are being closed to the light of Christ and ears opened to the erroneous world of agitators."

"Be vigilant and pray," is the cry we address to all the faithful in the world in the name of the risen Saviour.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**O.M.I. Centenary Celebrations to start on June 24.**—Fifty thousand people are expected to attend the Marian Congress that will be held at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, in June, to commemorate the centenary of the coming of the Oblate Fathers to Ceylon. The Congress will coincide with the visit of the Very Rev. Fr. Bockenfoeber, Assistant Superior-General of the Order, who will leave Ceylon shortly after the celebrations.

The following programme has been drawn up: Thursday 24: Ceremonial opening, Friday 25: Spiritual devotions, primarily for the clergy; Saturday 26: Religious devotions, primarily for the public, followed by Pontifical Vespers; Sunday 27: Procession and religious devotions of children, followed by formal closing.

**The Jaffna Diocesan Union.**—The Executive Committee of the Jaffna Diocesan Union will hold a meeting on Sunday the 4th inst. at 5.30 p.m. in the Catholic Club.

**Rice Position for May 1948.**—According to Mr. K. Alvapillai, Food Commissioner (Supplies) Ceylon expects to get an allocation of 20,000 tons of rice from Burma for May this year. There is little possibility of failure to obtain this quantity.

Meanwhile Mr. A. Ratnayake, Minister for Food and Co-operative Undertakings has made representations to the Food Ministry, London regarding "frequent and prolonged delays" in the transport of rice from Egypt to Ceylon.

### Premier on Foreign "Experts."

—Speaking at the Irrigation Department Association Lunch at the Hydraulic Laboratory premises, Colombo, Mr. D. S. Senanayake, the Prime Minister said: "It, however, foreigners are employed it is because the Government wanted them to do a job for Ceylon. A certain amount of knowledge and experience has still to be imported into the country to enable the people of Ceylon to become as competent and efficient as others. Let us utilise the foreigner until our people gain the necessary experience."

### Urban Council's Record Revenue.

—The Administration Report of the Jaffna Urban Council for 1947 reveals a record revenue of Rs. 847,000. The Council has spent more than a third of this revenue in health services. The report also discloses the decision of the Government to shift the Infectious Diseases Hospital from the town to Navatkuli.

### Pope Dispenses in Royal Marriage.

—The Holy Father has granted a dispensation for the marriage of King Michael and Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma. His Holiness handed the dispensation to Queen Helen and Princess Renee of Bourbon-Parma, mothers of the young couple, at a private audience on Feb. 23rd. King Michael belongs to the Orthodox Church and Princess Anne

is a Catholic. The customary condition was attached that any children born of the union should be reared in the Catholic faith.

**Catholic Judge.**—New Chief Justice of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia—second highest court in the country—is Justice Harold Stephens, a convert to the Church in 1928.

**Killed for the Faith.**—Two nuns and one catechist, two laymen and the wife of one of them were condemned to death by the Yugoslav Communists who offered to spare their lives on one condition—that they denied their Faith. All six refused. The six were then put to death. They died a savage death by torture. A stick was passed behind the knees of each of them, the elbows were then tied to the same stick, so that the chin was resting on the knees, then each person was tied to a mule, which the Reds by lashing made to gallop until the person behind it was dead.

**Statistics for England.**—Conversions in England and Wales are on the up-grade. Figures given in the new *Catholic Directory* show that during 1946 converts numbered 10,363. In 1934 the number was over 12,000. Then the figure began to drop, until in 1944 it had fallen to 8,722. Two years later the total had risen to 9,767, and now it has reached five figures again.

Three dioceses had more than 1,000 converts—Westminster (1,119), Liverpool (1,171) and Southwark (1,071). The biggest increase was in the Salford diocese—from 663 to 893. The total Catholic population of England and Wales is estimated at 2,528,200. There are now 6,552 priests, regular and diocesan. Public churches and chapels total 2,753. Marriages in 1946 numbered 36,553 and children's baptisms 73,410.

**Ex-Emperor at Lourdes.**—With his Catholic wife and two of their children, the former Annamese Emperor Bao Dai of Indo-China, visited Lourdes during ceremonies marking the 90th anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance to St. Bernadette. The former emperor was in France to carry on negotiations to restore peace in Indo-China, where fighting is still going on.

**Priest Blesses North Pole.**—Fr. Albinus Lesch, C.P., American army chaplain accompanying a scientific trip, raised his hand in blessing as the party flew over the North Pole. He is believed to be the first Catholic priest ever to see the area.

**Indian Catholic's Achievement in Africa.**—Mr. G. M. Pillai, hailing from the Tinnevely District of South India, is the first Catholic of Tanganyika to be called to the Bar in England. Having served the Government for over twenty-five years, he qualified at the Hilary Hall in January this year. Mr. Pillai now holds the appointment of Legal Assistant to the Attorney General of Tanganyika.

**"Communalism Alien to Indian Life."**—Speaking at an afternoon party given in honour of His Excellency Lord Louis Mountbatten and Lady Mountbatten by the Sheriff of Calcutta Mr. D. N. Sen, His Excellency the Governor-General of the Dominion of India said: "Communalism with its spirit of intolerance, is foreign to the Indian way of life. Mahatma Gandhi whose death we are still mourning and whom we miss more and more each day saw this entirely. Calcutta, the scene of his magnificent efforts and fast last August, is setting a splendid example to the rest of India by the peaceful conditions existing among the various communities here."

**Year of Records.**—1947 has been a year of "records." There was a record number of canonization. The series went on all through the summer. The Holy Father issued an encyclical that is the longest for 200 years. In addition His Holiness was the first Pope to be televised and for the first time took part in a film.

## Our Lady's Mission

(Air: I'll sing a hymn to Mary)

1  
She comes from her sylvan sanctum,  
She comes from her forest shrine,  
She comes, the Pilgrim's Virgin,  
She comes, O, Mother mine!  
She comes to our towns and hamlets,  
Let's heed her loving call,  
"To prayer and penance, children,  
My love will save you all."

2  
The pride of pelf and power  
Has blinded men to-day,  
We see them groping onwards,  
Poor mortals, led astray,  
But like a blazing beacon,  
Upon the hill you stand,  
To guide your wayward children  
To Heaven the promised land.

3  
The lessons that the Saviour  
Once learnt upon thy knee,  
The lessons of obedience  
Of love and charity;  
The world again these lessons  
Must learn at thy dear feet  
Come, teach thy erring children,  
Dear mother, we entreat.

4  
Where'er the world was groaning  
In trouble and in care,  
The only consolation,  
For hearts in deep despair  
Was that great message, mother,  
You gave the children three,  
Who saw you at Fatima,  
To say the rosary.

5  
We are thy children, mother,  
Thy aid we e'er implored,  
To you we have been loyal  
In spite of fire and sword;  
Come, bless this land, dear mother,  
Our joys and sorrows share;  
And help us gain our garden,  
In heavenly mansions fair.

COSMAS W. D. ALWINES.

## Month of March At St. Joseph's Church Kayts

On account of the Holy Season of Lent the month of March Devotions were advanced to the 17th ultimo. They were as usual celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Kayts with all fervour and enthusiasm. The Church put on a festive garb. It was decorated very artistically with festoons, flags, bunting and multi coloured pieces. The altar was in keeping with the rest of the church which presented an attractive appearance with its uncountried flowers, pot palms and electric jets. A large congregation assembled every day morning and evening to offer special prayers and solicit particular favours from the Great Saint. In the course of the early part of the month the devotions were preceded by the holy Rosary and ended with the Litany of St. Joseph. As the days advanced the number of worshippers increased evincing great love for our beloved saint. The brief but practical advice given time and again by the Parish Priest did not fail to do its work in urging the faithful to approach the Holy Table in ever increasing numbers, up to the very end of the month. The climax of the devotions was reached in the last week, Vespers, Benediction and other ceremonies followed the usual daily round of prayers. The very last day itself, deserves special mention. That day the church presented a unique appearance. The number of the faithful at mass surpassed any of the previous days. Like wise was the number of communicants. A High Mass was sung and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Revd. Fr. P. Nicholas, O.M.I. who took as his text "He was a Just Man". In the evening after the Rosary the usual procession started from

the church with the statue of St. Joseph, borne aloft on the shoulders of four senior boys of St. Anthony's College, along a decorated route. After the procession the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was imparted. It is not in our power adequately to make returns to our benefactors for the help they have rendered us in the shape of cash and kind to meet the various expenses in connection with the devotions. Our grateful thanks are also due to our beloved Parish Priest, and the Brothers of St. Joseph, Kayts, who have been helpful in these devotions.

"A Client of St. Joseph."

## 'RED ITALY IN SIXTY DAYS'

### Secret 'Government' Being Formed

Italy's Communists, led by men who fought and planned in the Spanish civil war, are believed to be plotting to seize control of the country by an armed rebellion within 60 days—before the April elections. Thousands of guerillas are already being trained and equipped.

According to usually reliable Catholic sources which for years have smuggled information out of enslaved nations, plans for forming a "Free Italian" government, similar to that recently announced by the Greek rebel Markos, were laid at a secret meeting of the Communist central executive on December 27.

Italy's present government is a Christian Democrat-Socialist-Republican coalition.

Weight is added to these reports by the Rome correspondent of *The Times*, who says that in preparation for the elections, provisionally fixed for April 18, the Italian Government published a decree authorising a temporary increase in the strength of the police force by over 20,000 officers and men.

The Council of Ministers has also discussed a measure designed to check the formation of a semi-military bodies.

### GET BOUNTIES

The correspondent added: "One newspaper reports that the National Partisan Association and the former 'Garibaldi' Brigade of Communist Partisans are already being supplied with khaki uniforms and caps of military type."

"And that the Communist Party is organising 'Brigades for Freedom, Peace and Work,' the members of which will wear distinctive shirts and badges and receive enrolment bounties up to 20,000 lire each."

"The Government is understood to have evidence that the reports are not unfounded."

Togliatti, boss of Italy's Communists, who went there from Moscow in 1944, is to head the "government."

It will also include the leftist Socialist leader, Pietro Nenni, who was commissar of the Garibaldi brigade in Spain.

### AID FROM TITO

Moscow-trained Luigi Longo is named as the organiser of the "partisans," who would be reinforced by guerillas from Yugoslavia—with its huge conscript army—like those now operating in Greece.

Smuggling of arms across the border into Italy has been going on for months and many terrorist agents, including Russians, have filtered through.

Meanwhile, Communist and Socialist newspapers are pouring out a steady stream of abuse against the Church, the clergy and Catholic organisations, even comparing the Children of Mary with "Man". In the evening after the Rosary the usual procession started from



# THE LOVE OF MARY

(By F. N. C. S.)

It is impossible for the human heart not to love; it must feel some affection; but its love is often thrown away and lost on an unworthy object. What misery is theirs who set their hearts on wealth, and live and labour only to acquire it! But however low the love of abominable or unworthy objects may sink us, the love of a worthy, a noble object elevates us above our present condition. It is, then, a matter of the greatest moment, that we select wisely the object on which we bestow our love. Such an object is Mary, most worthy of the love of all men.

The precise will of God is, that we serve, honour and tenderly love Mary. There are two intrinsic reasons which make us resolve to dedicate ourselves to the love of the Mother of God. The first is the honour and glory of God. In as much as the devotion to the Saints does not terminate in them, but passes to God, all the honour bestowed on the mother redounds to the Son. The second reason is our own profit and advantage. The Most Holy Virgin is not one of those creatures that 'Separate us from God'. She is a creature who draws, allures and constrains our love, to make thereof a most pleasing gift to God. Let us then serve, praise, honour and love Mary without measure, because, the more we love her, the more shall we love God Himself. One phase of this remarkable devotion to the Virgin Mother is evidenced by the prominence Mary has enjoyed in the Literature of all times. It has been well declared that half the love-poetry in English literature was channelled into the service of Our Lady. During all the centuries of song, she had been the most abiding influence in Christian poetry. Particularly in the middle ages, let alone the realm of prose literature, great was the spell of Mary's name in England. Her shrines were innumerable, her suppliants intense. The poets hailed her as the Janitress of Heaven, the Portress of Purgatory. AVE and EVE were names that interchanged in man's redemption. Even Little Robin Hood was a devotee of God's mother. The little chorister in Chaucer's tale of the Prioress, whenever he saw the image of God's Mother, knelt down and said the Hail Mary. His mother had taught him about "Our blissful lady, Christ's mother dear."

Henry Constable and Richard Rowlands in the sixteenth century, Henry Hawkins and Sir John Beaumont in the seventeenth century, Fathers Faber and Hopkins, Francis Thompson and Cardinal Newman later, have all eloquently sung in verse the praises of the Immaculate Queen. Would it sound anti-climax to state that even poor Oscar Wilde rose from the altitudes of this world to chant her praises in a graceful sonnet entitled "Ave Maria Gratia Plena"? Mr. Chesterton, in the midst of England's paganism, never failed to glory in her praises and to extol her in ballad, in hymn and in sonnet as the ideal to which a lost world must turn for imitation, the fair mother in an age when motherhood has been assailed, the shining example of the Holy Family at a moment when the world is delirious in its assaults upon the home. The Latin hymns in Mary's honour are unrivalled. Every country's literature has been immortalised by references to Mary. Thus far, objectively.....

.....Subjectively speaking, who shall tell the love Mary has for us? Does a mother love her children? If so, Mary loves us. She loves us incomparably more than ever earthly mother loved her child. The least service we render her fills her heart with joy, and a hundred and a thousand fold does she repay it, in this life and in the other. She loves us although ungrateful, faithless and sinful. How much more would she love us, if we corres-

ponded to her love and gave her our whole confidence, our whole heart. St. Anselm fervently observes, "*Virgo beatissima, sicut impossibile est ut a te despectus salvetur, ita ad te conversus et a te respectus impossibile est ut pereat.*" "O Most Blessed Virgin, as it is impossible for anyone to be saved abandoned by thee, so it is impossible for him to perish who turns to thee and is regarded by thee." She is Queen of Heaven and Earth and even rebellious spirits tremble and bow before her. Where Mary is not loved and honoured, Christ is not worshipped; and where Christ is not worshipped, the devils have the field all to themselves. We cannot doubt the propriety of worshipping Mary till we have doubted her relation as mother of God, and to doubt that is to doubt the whole mystery of the Incarnation. Devotion to Mary is at the time the best preservative against the moral dangers of our age. The predominating sin of our times is that of impurity, at once the cause and the effect of the modern sentimental philosophy. Marriage is denounced as slavery; Catholic morality is scouted as impossible and absurd; law is regarded as fallen into desuetude; intellect is derided; reason is looked upon as superfluous, if not tyrannical and the heart is extolled as the representative of God on earth. The only remedy for this fearful state of things, is to be sought in promoting and extending the worship of Mary.

The Grand Retour of Our Lady of Madhu is a wonderful opportunity afforded us of expiating these crimes and of securing for ourselves the necessary graces to live lives worthy of the faith we so nobly profess. Our expression of welcome genuine as it is and actuated by the spirit of penance and prayer can be outdone only by that reformation of heart and soul which such an event effectively inspires. We, as Catholics, are undoubtedly the privileged recipients of her love and favour. We are yet too apt to forget that the Church is in the world and that it is through her that society is redeemed—too apt to forget that the quiet and unobtrusive virtues of Catholics, living in the midst of a hostile world, are always powerful in their operations on that world. Let us then pray for ourselves and for others. Our Queen has left her sylvan shrine, what we really thought was her permanent habitat, to promenade in state our roads and our by-ways bestrewn her blessings over Jew and Gentile, over Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Mary, our "tainted nature's solitary boast" is our life, our sweetness, our hope, and we must suffer no sneers from without to deter us from giving our hearts to her. The world lieth in wickedness. Hardly has childhood blossomed into youth, before it withers into old age. We have no youth; we have only infancy and worn-out manhood. May we then solicit the love of our Divine Mother.

Our help is in thee, sweet Lady of Madhu, and we fly to thy protection. Protect us, thy children, with thy love and save us from the evil communications of this world, lost to virtue and enslaved to the enemy of our souls—you who are our Pride and our Joy. *Tu gloria Jerusalem, Tu lachitia Israel, Tu honorificentia populi mei*

## Our Lady of Madhu Visits Mannar

During the first World War Our Lady appeared to three little children at Fatima on 13th May 1917 and gave them a special message. The world cannot be saved without prayer and penance. She also recommended that it should be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. His Holiness the present

Pontiff gloriously reigning on the twenty-fifth anniversary of this apparition consecrated the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and recommended that every parish should be consecrated also. When His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna was recently in Europe the statue of Our Lady of Fatima was being taken round Europe. Seeing the great good that was being done His Lordship decided to do the same with the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Madhu.

It was over 150 years ago during the Dutch persecution that this statue which was enthroned in a large Portuguese church at Mantai was removed to the jungles to avoid the iconoclasts. A Burgher gentleman of Mannar, Mr. Moyse, built a small hut at Madhu to house the statue. It was therefore right that Our Lady in her "grand retour" should visit first the Mannar district. On March 22nd it was my privilege along with three priests from the Kandy diocese to be present at Mannar to receive Our Lady. The whole town wore a festive garb. At 5-30 p.m. all the Catholics of the town and several non-Catholics also awaited Our Lady at a pandal erected half a mile away from St. Mary's Church. As Our Lady was delayed at various villages it was 7-30 p.m. when the triumphant car of Our Lady arrived at the pandal accompanied by Rev. Fr. Brohan, the Administrator of Madhu and Rev. Frs. Peter and Rajanayagam. There was a large number of priests present, and among them were noticed the parish priests, Rev. Fr. Huctin and Rev. Fr. Mariampillai and Rev. Frs. Stanislaus, Gomez, Villavarsingam, Pomyool, Schurmanns, Salathiel, Singarayer, Blochi, Visentainer and Phillipupulle, the last three being visitors.

After a short address by Fr. Peter the statue was carried by the parishioners of St. Mary's in procession to the Church, where two sermons were delivered by Frs. Peter and Rajanayagam. The rosary was then recited with explanation of the mysteries given by the latter. All the priests heard confession and almost all present approached the sacraments. The parish priest Fr. Huctin said the midnight Mass. A running commentary on the Mass was made by Fr. Rajanayagam. Several persons made their Easter duties after many years. As a Retreat had been preached for three days prior to that day, all present felt that Our Lady had come there to give her message of Fatima, namely, Penance and Prayer.

In the morning the statue was carried in procession to the Church of St. Sebastian where Our Lady was enthroned till she left Mannar in the evening. The people followed her up to the bridge where they bade her farewell with tears in their eyes. Those of us who had cars followed Our Lady up to Mantai from where she had gone to Madhu so many years ago. Our Lady must have been really happy to be back at the scene of her labours. May the visit of Our Lady to the Mannar district bring blessing on it and may it soon be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart.

—C. W. M. SERIES.

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