



June 2023

DIocese of SULTANPET NEWS BULLETIN

Bishop's House, Matha Kovil Street, Sultanpet, Palakkad- 678001, Kerala, India.

Phone: 0491-2803420 | Cell: 09645279101

Email: sultanpetdiocese@gmail.com / peterabir@gmail.com | Web : sultanpetdiocese.org



No. 112

Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay faithful,



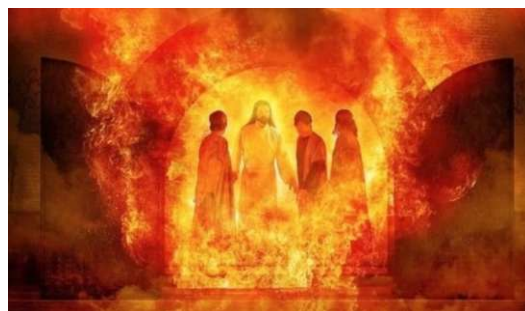
“Even if God Abandons Me”

In the series of his lectures on “*Why I am not a Christian*,” at Battersea Town Hall, London, in 1927, Bertrand Russell opines that fear is the foundation of religion. He continues to say that “it is partly the terror of the unknown and partly the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing - fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death.”

His idea seems to be partly and popularly valid. But the radical faith in God, the Almighty, as we see in the biblical traditions, is the basis of all religious convictions. When Abraham was ready to sacrifice his only son (Gen 22) even though it would be detrimental to the early promise of God (Gen 17:6), when Job endured his bitter sufferings yet remained faithful to God (Job 1:21), and when David with all his conflicts with Saul could sing “God is my Shepherd” (Ps 23), it is not fear that motivated them. Much more so with Daniel who declared his deep faith in God with a sweeping statement: ‘even if God abandons him’ he would not shy away from his faith (Dan 3:18).

Significance of Daniel's Conviction!

Daniel with two of his companions, all being Jews, were compelled by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar to worship the idol. When they firmly refused to do so, they were threatened to be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. Daniel replied to this saying that their God would surely deliver them. But he makes here a radical twist saying, “if he cannot rescue/he does not exist that would make no difference to their stance”. This is a statement of faith against the appearance of defeat. The most infuriating aspect of radical faith is its adamant refusal to be impressed with the obvious- namely, the subordinated status and powerlessness of the Jews before the mighty emperor- and their steadfast adherence to an alternative reality’ (*The New Interpreter's Bible*). This declaration is one of the biblical jewels which affirms whether God is *able/willing* to save Daniel or not, his fidelity to God would remain the same. He expects no reward (cf. Job 1:9; 13:15). Here, his love of God surpasses the fear of dying (cf. Rev 12:11).



The Cry of Suffering Jesus!

Mark's Gospel notes the cry of Jesus hanging on the Cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mk 15:34). It is the same Jesus who said, “I and the Father are one” (Jn 10:30), who declared three times about his suffering on the Cross (Mt 16:21; 17:22; 20:17) and who desired to give his life for his sheep (Jn 10: 15). As such his ‘hopeless cry’ on the Cross looks confusing. This is attributed to Jesus by Mark taking the quotation from Psalm 22:1. Jesus, as a human being, feels the burden of death on the cross and so, using the words of the Psalmist he prays to God; incidentally, Mark quotes only the first verse, while Jesus would have kept in mind the whole Psalm which ends with a positive note of God's salvation (“*you have rescued me:*” v. 21). While Jesus feels utterly abandoned, he has not lost his faith in God, as the two-fold address,

“My God my God” implies. In fact, this is a prayer of the righteous sufferer that ends with an act of trust in God. The fear of death did not take him away from God.

We want Signs!

People often expect miracle/signs to ratify their faith and to confirm that God loves them. Even the Jews and the bystanders at Calvary demanded the same from Jesus (1 Cor 1:22; Mk 15:32). True, many of us observe mortifications, take up pilgrimages and pray various novenas, expecting that God would do wonders in our life or give immediate remedy from our misfortunes and sufferings. Even the Psalmist prays: “Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors” (Ps 31:15; cf. Ps 42). But in a sincere devotion to God, it is love and trust, and not fear of God that affirms one's faith. Paul declares: “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword” (Rom 8:35)? Even the suffering Church of the early period “did not cling to life even in the face of death” (Rev 12:11), but “washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb” (Rev 7:14).

This is the faith of the martyrs, foreshadowed by Daniel, who without expectation of any favour or signs from the God-head, were abiding with Him. In the same tone, Paul would say: “I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:19-20). It is human weakness to abandon God by our sins as in the case of the prodigal son (Lk 15). But we shall take to heart the words of Paul: “If we are faithless, Jesus Christ remains faithful; he cannot deny himself” (2 Tim 2:13). Will my faith be deep even if I feel that my prayers are not heard?

New Division of the Vicariates

In consultation with the senate and consultors of priests the diocese is divided into four vicariates as follows:

Palakkad:

Sultanpet, Attapallam, Kanjikode, Kovilpayam, Chittur, Olavacode, Malampuzha (7) **VF: Fr. Lorance**

Sorappara:

Sorappara, Walayar, Athupathy, Pampupara, Erumaikaranur, Kanakankalam, Sayathurai, Kirampara, (8) **VF: Fr. Louis Maria Pappu**

Palaniarpalayam

Palaniarpalayam, Menonpara, Athicode, Kularanyanpalayam, Kulamadachellai, Manalkadu, Eruthenpathy, Villoonni (8). **VF: Fr. Charles Ceasar**

Mannarkad

Mannarkad, Mukkali, Nellipathy, Shornur, Ottapalam, Vadakencherry, Nemmara, Padagiri (8). **VF: Fr. Sylvester.**

Note: This comes to effect from 1st June 2023.

Transfers and Appointments - June 2023

S.No	Name	Ministry
1.	Fr. A. S. Madalimuthu	Retired
2.	Fr. Antony Xavier Pious	Procurator, In charge of Holy Childhood, PMS, Project Coordinator.
3.	Fr. C. Maria Joseph	PP, Sayathurai; Additional charge: Director, SMSSS
4.	Fr. Sylvester D'Cruz	Parish Priest, Sorappara & VF., Mannarkad Vicariate
5.	Fr. Charles Ceasar	Parish Priest, Menonpara & VF., Palaniarpalayam vicariate

S.No	Name	Ministry
6.	Fr. Antony Sagayanathan	Parish Priest, Palaniarpalayam & Rector, Seminarians
7.	Fr. Arularasan	Parish Priest, Kovilpalayam
8.	Fr. Paul Vincent	Parish Priest, Kulamadachellai & Manager, Christ the King School, Sorappara
9.	Fr. Amal Charles	Parish Priest, Vadakencherry
10.	Fr. D. Sheen Prisel Singh, msfs	Parish Priest, Kularayanpalayam
11.	Fr. Suji John Adichilil, ocd	Parish Priest, Mannarkad
12.	Fr. Muthappan Silvasadan, cp.,	Parish Priest, Athupathy
13.	Fr. Antonysamy Jacob, omi	Parish Priest, Kirampara
14.	Fr. Antony Davidraj, omi	Assistant PP., Kirampara
15.	Fr. Vipin Varghese	Assistant PP, Sayathurai
16.	Fr. Francis Xavier, OdeM	Assistant PP, Sorappara
16.	Fr. Michael Raja, msfs	Assistant PP, Kularayanpalayam

Yours fraternally in Christ,



+ Antonysamy Peter Abir
Bishop of Sultanpet

From Vicar General's Desk



Feast Day of Our Bishop

Your Excellency, we the diocesan family, at the occasion of the feast of St. Peter and Paul on 29th June, wish and pray that through the intercession of St. Peter the Apostle, your patron saint, God's choicest blessings may shower upon you so that you will be further enriched with good health and peace of mind. We all pray for your intensions. *Ad Multos Annos!*

➤ Dear Fathers, Priests' Recollection will not be held in this month.

Rev. Msgr. Alese Sundara Raj
Vicar General

From the Chancellor's Desk

- Msgr. Sundar is relieved from *Palaniarpalayam* as PP and will reside in the bishop's house to continue as Head master of St. Paul's high school.
- Rent of *Mandapam* and shops: Fr. Nelson and Fr. Mejo will help the Procurator to collect and sent to the Procurator.
- Keep all the movable equipment for the use of your successor. You shall take only your books and clothes.
- Kindly prepare an inventory of the movable and immovable properties of the parish/presbytery. The incoming parish priest will see to it that you file this inventory in the parish file.
- You shall submit a copy of inventory to Curia as early as possible.
- All the bank pass books should be in the name of Parish Priest and not in the individual name.
- You shall also submit to the procurator the balance sheet of the accounts you received from your predecessor.

Rev. Fr. Vimal Arokiaraj
Chancellor

From the Procurator's Desk

Dear Rev. Fathers and Sisters, I am transferred from being the procurator of the diocese and Fr Antony Xavier Pious is appointed as the new Procurator. The official contact number of the procurator is 8547639102. Thanks to all of you for your kind cooperation and cordiality.

Medical help

Kanakkankalam - 5000/-

*Rev. Fr. Lorence L.,
Procurator*

SMSSS News

Sajeevam Anti-Drug Campaign:

Sultanpet Multipurpose Social Service Society in association with Caritas India organized an awareness program for SHG members on behalf of *Sajeevam* programme in *sayathurai* on 11th may 2023 around 55 members were participated on the program. On 25th May 2023 a Parental monitoring training was organized in *Kanjikode* around 30 members were participated.

JLG Loan:

Sultanpet Multipurpose Social Service Society in cooperation with Canara bank, provided JLG loan amount of Rs.6,00,000 for 2 JLG groups of *Walayar* and *Sayathurai*. Eight members were benefited through this loan.

Kolping:

Sultanpet multipurpose social service society provided in association with Kolping India supported 5 members by providing Housing Support Program of Rs.2,50,000. Ten members were supported with Milch animal loan amount of Rs.1,50,000. 30 members were supported by providing IGP loan of Rs.3,10,000.

Re-orientation about Kolping project was given on *Kolamadachalla*, *Nallur* and *Kanakkankalam*. On 28th may 2023 leadership training was conducted on *Eruthenpathy* and *Kanakkankalam*. Around 40 members were participated in each programs.



*Rev. Fr. Antony Xavier Pius,
Director, SMSSS*

Laity Commission



A Unit of, Laity Commission, CSS (Christian Service Society, KLM (Kerala Labour Movement) was formed at St. Antony's Church, Chittur. Thanks to Fr Lazer, the parish Priest, and the Parisioners

*Mr. R. Dennis,
Secretary, Liturgy commission*

Catechetical Commission

1. State Level Meeting for Catechism Directors and secretaries programme by KRLCC Regional Secretariat was held on May 2nd and 3rd. Fr. Benzigar and Mr. Nirmal Kumar from St. Theresas Church, Kanakankalam represented the diocese for the meeting.



2. The Catechism Scholarship Exam was conducted on May 5th 2023. Seventy-five Children from Eight parishes appeared for the Exam. From each classes from 5th to 12th Standard three students were selected for the Scholarship.

3. Inauguration of Catechetical Year 2023-2024 was held on May 27th at St. Sebastian Cathedral. Rev. Msgr. Alese Sundara Raj presided over the mass and Fr.

Mejo delivered the homily. The Chief Guest Mr. Jose N.V, the secretary of Catechism and Family Commission of Archdiocese Verapoly inaugurated the year. Prize distribution of Mamma Maria 2022, *Christu Sampoorana Charitram* 2022 and the Scholarship to the Children was done. Thanks to His Excellency for the care and concern for the Catechism Children. Thanks to all the teachers and students.



4. Every Parish may begin the Catechism on June 4th Sunday. There shall be solemn Eucharist celebration and let us receive the KG children and 1st Std kids with warm and creative welcome.

Rev. Fr Benzigar Silvadasan OdeM.,
Secretary, Catechetical Commission

Family Commission

The marriage preparation classes of this month will be held on June 10 and 11 at Holy Cross Church, Menonpara

Rev. Fr. Jesudass
Secretary, Family Commission

Women Commission



A biblical quiz competition for women in connection with International women's Day was conducted at cathedral. Mrs. Sheela Wilfred from Chittur won the first prize and was awarded in 3rd KRLCBC state gathering on 25th April.



Mrs. Theresa
Secretary, Women commission

Youth Commission News

1. Online Youth Leaders meet was conducted and discussed about the Bike Rally and Mega Job Fair 2023 on 13th May. Youth leaders from different Parishes participated for this Online meeting.
2. KCYM Diocese of Sultanpet Youth members, SMSSS Sultanpet and Good Samaritan Village jointly conducted Bike Rally, that is to create awareness about Drug abuse on 23rd May. Youth from different Parishes participated for this Bike Rally.
3. KCYM Diocese of Sultanpet conducted **Mega Level Job Fair 2023** was conducted at St. Mary's Public School, Kanjikode on 27th May. For this job fair 15 Companies came and more than 200 young people attended and around 150 young people got job placement. Thanks to Don Bosco Vazhikaatti, Tirichy.
4. Youth meeting was conducted on 28th May at St. James Church, Kunnukkad and elected new leaders for that youth group. Thanks to Fr. Madalaimuthu and Fr. Arularasan for all the arrangements.



Rev. Fr. Prabin Soosadimai, SDB
Secretary, Youth Commission

Other News

Diaconate Ordination

Bro. Praveen Kumar was ordained a deacon by our Bishop Most Rev. Dr Antonysamy Peter Abir on 1st May 2023 at our cathedral.



Blessing of New Convent and Social Service Society

A new Presentation convent and social service society were blessed at chullimada on 24th May 2023 by our Bishop Most Rev. Dr Antonysamy Peter Abir and opened by Rev. Sr Fabi Lynnet, Superior General of FSPM in the presence of Sr Octavia, Valan Regional Superior and other Sisters and Fathers.



Rev. Fr. Vijeesh P. Dennis
Secretary to the Bishop

BIRTH DAY

1st Fr S. Arockia Justin MC
14th Fr. Arularasan
24th Fr. Francis Xavier Kavalakkal

21st Fr. George Arackal OCD
16th Fr. M. Prince Robert

**S.N.L wishes you
a Happy Birth Day**

ORDINATION DAY

09th Fr. Nelson Joy Antony
11th Fr. Chinnapparaj
13th Fr Antony Maniyenkerykalam

15th Fr. Bosco Aruldoss MF
24th Fr Vijeesh P. Dennis

**S.N.L wishes you a
Happy Ordination Day**

FEAST DAY

13th Fr. A. Antonysamy
13th Fr. Antony Sahayanathan
13th Fr. Nelson Joy Antony
13th Fr Anthony Samy Jacob OMI
13th Fr Antony David OMI

29th His Excellency
29th Fr. M. Paul
29th Fr. J. Paul Vincent
29th Fr. Chinnapparaj

S.N.L wishes you a Happy Feast Day