



MST WORLD

News Bulletin 03/2024

Mission Sunday

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Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle

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MISSION SUNDAY 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Your Excellencies, Rev Fathers and brothers in Jesus Christ,



This year the World Mission Day is celebrated on 20th October. Our Society being a Missionary Society of Apostolic life with the thrust on the mission *ad gentes*, the World Mission Day is once again an occasion to reflect on the missionary command of Jesus and to pray for the mission of the Church. Pope

Francis has taken the theme “Go and invite everyone to the banquet” (cf. Mt 22:9) for his message on Mission Sunday 2024. Pope has chosen this from the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet found in the gospel according to St Mathew (22:1-14). After the guests refused his invitation, the king, the main character in the story, tells his servants: “Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find” (v. 9). Pope gives following three points for our reflections: ‘to go and invite’, ‘to participate in the marriage feast’, and ‘invite everyone’.

The Pope in his message says, “Mission, we see, is a tireless going out to all men and women, in order to invite them to encounter God and enter into communion with him”. The Pope highlighting the eschatological character of the Church’s missionary outreach cites: “The time for missionary activity extends between the first coming of the Lord and the second..., for the Gospel must be preached to all nations before the Lord shall come (cf. Mk 13:10)” (AG9). As members of a missionary Society, we need to go out ‘in season and out of season’ to invite the people. We are called to call others to experience the Salvation brought by Jesus, the Son of God. Seeing the present political scenario and the problems of the modern world the Society should not stop inviting people to have faith in Jesus Christ.

Mission work begins from Eucharistic celebration and the culmination of the mission work is to form Eucharistic communities (SC 10). Citing Pope Benedict XVI, Pope Francis says: “Every Eucharistic celebration sacramentally accomplishes the eschatological gathering of the People of God. For us, the Eucharistic banquet is a real foretaste of the final banquet foretold by the prophets (cf. Is 25:6-9) and described by the New Testament as ‘the marriage-feast of the Lamb’ (Rev 19:9), to be celebrated in the joy of the communion of the saints” (Sacramentum Caritatis, 31).

Pope Francis in the message says, “The invitation to the eschatological banquet that we bring to everyone in our mission of evangelization is intrinsically linked to the invitation to the Eucharistic table, where the Lord feeds us with his word and with his Body and Blood”. The purpose of the establishment of our Society is also to go to the entire world and invite the people to this banquet. All our work should be oriented to form Eucharistic communities. Our *Constitution & Directives* clearly states the goal of the Society. “The goal of the missionary activities of MST is to establish Christian communities and develop Churches to their full maturity (cf. RM 48)” (C43). The spirituality of the Society is missionary in nature to invite all the people around the altar.

On this occasion I would like to appreciate all our priests who are at present in the mission field doing wonderful apostolates to witness Christ. Let us pray for the mission of the entire Church. Wishing you a fruitful missionary life and sharing with you the warmest greetings of World Mission Day!

Fr. Vincent Kadalikkattilputhenpura

Director General

CHANGE OF ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBERS

1. Fr Arackkaputhenveetil Lijo, is relieved Vicar Jai Matha Church Bedshi and appointed as Vicar Infant Jesus Church & Manager Divya Jyoti School, Banda.
2. Fr Azakathu Siju is appointed Principal, Alphonsa School Miraj, Sangli
3. Fr Chakiriamthadam Joseph is appointed at 6, Greenock Court, Greenvale VIC 3059, Australia, Ph: +61420418132
4. Fr Karickamukalel Benny is appointed Priest in Charge at St Paul Catholic Church, Lasuldiya- Kelwa, Nalkheda P.O. Agar-Malwa Dt. M.P. 465 445
5. Fr Kizhakkarakatt John is appointed as Director of Alphonsa Parents' Care Home, Lanja
6. Fr Kolthambrayil Siju is relieved as Assistant Director Jeevadan Zarap and appointed as Director Vishwadeepthi Kolhapur.
7. Fr Koorumundayil Anish is appointed as Associate Director Social Action,
8. Fr Koottarappallil Chackochan: 1003 Gurukul Tower 'A' wing, Near SBI Dahisar West branch, Jaywant Sawant Marg Borivali West Mumbai 400 068
9. Fr Kuppayil Johnson: St Joseph's Convent Akaparambu, Vappalaserry P.O., Angamaly – 68357. +393508152045
10. Fr Matthaseril Alan, is relieved from Sangli Mission
11. Fr Naduvilekizakkal Bennet: relieved from Sangli Mission
12. Fr Mundaplackel Sijo: Director, Snheabavan, Anadhalayam, Kali Piyau, 72 Surya Kunj, Dichaon Moud, Najafgarh, New Delhi,

110043.

13. Fr Panackavayaalil Lijesh: Director, Suvatha Printers, Halandi, Kolhapur.
14. Fr Pattasseriyl Abhilash: Istituto San Giovanni Damasceno, Via di Boccea 480, 00166 Roma, Italy.
15. Fr Thaiparambil Robin: Principal Divya Jyoti School, Banda.
16. Fr Tharapputhottiyil Josin: Assistant Director Deepti Gardans, Mulas.
17. Fr Thazhathuveetil Devasia: Aaram Melampara-686578, Kottayam Dt, Kerala
18. Fr Vadakeputhenpura Siby, is relieved from Alphonsa Parents' Care Home, Lanja & appointed as the Assistant priest in charge at Shanti Nivas, Khutalwadi
19. Fr Vadakkemuri Neyoor Lijo, is relieved Principal, Alphonsa School Miraj
20. Fr Vedikkunnel Arun: Vicar Jai Matha Church, Bedshi.

1. NEWS FROM THE GENERALATE

1.1. St Thomas Day Celebrations

St Thomas Day was celebrated in advance on the 1st of July at the Generalate. Priests and Religious sisters from the neighbouring institutions, parishes and convents were invited for the celebration. The chief guest was Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil who was accorded a warm welcome at 4.45 pm on the day. At 5.00 pm Mar Raphael Thattil celebrated Holy Qurbana, concelebrated by the Director General, Councillors and other priests as well as invited guests and seminarians. Holy Qurbana was followed by Feast celebration and felicitation to Mar Raphael Thattil who made his formal visit to Deepti after becoming the Major Archbishop. The celebrations ended with dinner shared by all the guests.

1.2. Meeting of the General-Regional Administration

The second annual meeting of the members of the General Administration with the members of the Regional Administration was held from August 4 to 8, 2024. The Director General and the Regional Directors presented a brief report of the acts of General and Regional Councils respectively. It was followed by evaluation, planning future programmes and fixing priorities. The General Administration met the Regional Teams separately to discuss and listen to their concerns and priorities.

1.3. Financial Council Meeting

The financial Council was held on the 8th of August 2024 to discuss and recommend the budget proposals of the Regions and Centres to the General Council for approval.

1.4. Gathering of the 6th batch of Deepti

A special gathering of all those who studied at Deepti Minor Seminary in the 6th batch was organized from 21 to 22 August, 2024 at the Generalate by Fr G. Panjikaran on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of their admission to Deepti in 1974. On the 22nd the group had Qurbana at the Minor seminary and lunch at the Generalate. Fourteen priests and 11 lay people came together on the occasion.

1.5. Major Archi-Eparchial Assembly

The 5th major Arciepiscopal Assembly was held from August 22 to 25 at Alphonsian Pastoral Institute, Arunapuram, Palai. The Director General, Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, participated in the Assembly. Rev.Fr Jomon Ayyankanal presented on 23 August a paper in the Assembly on the role of the laity in the mission of the Church.

1.6. Visitors from Sagar and Mundur

A group of priests and lay people from the eparchy of Sagar visited Deepti Generalate on August 26. Another group from the neighbourhood of Santhome MST house, Mundur, visited Generalate under the leadership of Fr Cheeramvelil.

1.7. September 16-17: General Team with MQM Region

The entire Central team, except Fr Jomon Ayyankanal, visited MQM Region Delhi on 16th and 17th of September and met the missionary personnel of Mary Queen of the Missions Region Delhi. The team reached Delhi in the evening. On the 17th morning, the Holy Qurbana was presided over by the Director General and was concelebrated by the General Councillors and Treasurer General. The Central team spent the time with the missionary personnel of the Region from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. After tea the Central team visited the newly purchased Seva Sadan and on the way back visited the Vincentian provincial house.

1.8. Sept. 16, 2024: Return of Fr Thazhathuveettil

Rev.Fr Binoy Thazathuveettil was flown to Kerala on the 16th of September, accompanied by Fr Baiju Nellikunnel and Fr Jiji Ettaniyil and was admitted at Caritas Hospital, Thellakom. At present he is recuperating and taking rest at *Aaraam*.

1.9. Sept. 18, 2024: Visit of General Team to Ujjain

The Central team landed in Ujjain on the 18th of September, 2024 and met the missionary personnel of St Paul's Mission Region, Ujjain. The meeting with the MST missionaries of Ujjain Region was organised at Pawasa School from 5.00 pm to 8.30 pm. In the meeting, various points of common concern were discussed and observation made. The meeting ended with dinner. Bishop Sebastian

Vadakel and Bishop Ephrem Kurisummoottil, the auxiliary of Kottayam joined the missionaries for dinner.

1.10. Sept. 19-21, 2024: General Team in Ruhhalaya

The Director General, the Formation secretary and the Treasurer General met the staff and students of both Philosophy and Theology sections separately. They also met all the members of the staff in common and listened to their concerns and suggestions.

1.11. General Team visits Karondia & Chandessary

The Director General Fr Vincent along with Fr Thekkekarot, and Fr Lonappan Arangassery visited Fr Abraham Pandampadam at Karondia and Fr Thomas Kalarickal, Fr Thalanany, and other Fathers at Chandessary on Sept. 21, 2024 in the evening. They had supper at bishop's house and met Bishop Vadakel and discussed matters of common interest with him.

1.12. General Team visits Khachrod, Mandasaur & Ratlam

The Director General Fr Vincent, Fr Thekkekarot, Fr Lonappan and Fr Santhosh visited the MST priests in the mission centres at Khachrod, Mandasaur, and Ratlam on 22nd September 2024.

1.13. Demise of Fr Peter Kavumpuram

Fr Peter Kavumpuram (69) MST who was serving at Dilasa Bhavan,



Miraj in St Alphonsa Mission Region was called by the Lord suddenly and unexpectedly for his eternal reward at 7.55 pm on September 24, 2024 at Bharathi Medical College Hospital, Miraj, Sangli Dt, Maharastra. After completing the formalities at Bharathi Vidyapith Medical College, Miraj, the body of Rev. Fr Peter

Kavumpuram was brought to St Alphonsa Forane Church to bid farewell to the parishioners of Miraj parish and the missionary personnel of St Alphonsa Mission Region, Sangli. Fr Peter was one of the former parish priests at St Alphonsa Forane Church Miraj and Manager of the School. After the prayers officiated by the Regional Director Very Rev. Fr Thomas Mangaltil, the Regional Councillors, the parish priest, the priests and sisters of Sangli Mission, the teachers, parishioners and the inmates of Dilasa Bhavan, Miraj,

the body was taken to Bangalore at 11.30 pm, accompanied by Rev. Fr Lijo Kavunnukattil, Fr Shaji Parayankuzhyil, Fr Biji Kudukkamthadam and Fr Justin Kanat. The body was embalmed at St John's Medical College in Bangalore.

1.14. Last Rites and Funeral of Fr Peter

After embalming the body, the MST priests in Bangalore prayed the office of the Dead at 2.00 pm in the presence of a few relatives



of Fr Peter. The body was, then, taken to Dharmagiri Hospital, Kothamangalam. Fr Jomon was present at the Hospital to receive the body at

Dharmagiri Hospital, Kothamangalam at 0.50 am on 26th Thursday, 2024. The mortal remains of Fr Peter were brought home at Karakunnam on 26/09/24 at 5.00 pm and kept in St Marys Parish hall Karakunnam at 6.00 pm.



The first part of the funeral liturgy was officiated by Mar George Madathikandathil, the bishop of Kothamangalam at 7.15 am on 27/09/2024 in the parish at Karakunnam. The body was then brought



to Deepthi Aaram at 9.30 am on 27/09/2024. The body was kept for public viewing in the



Hall near Deepti Public chapel. The Director General and the members of the General Council prayed the office of the Dead

before commencing the public viewing.

Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the bishop of Palai, offered respects to deceased Fr Peter and prayed the office of the dead. Rt Rev. Dr Silvester Ponnumuthan, the bishop of Punaloor and classmate of Fr Peter, shared his experiences with Fr Peter and prayed for the deceased with the other classmates who were present.



The second part of the funeral Liturgy began at 1.30 pm and it was led by the Director General. The body was then shifted to the public chapel where very Rev. Fr Director General spoke on the life and apostolate of Fr Peter Kavumpuram. It was followed by Holy Qurbana presided over by Mar Thomas Eleanal. Mar Sebastian Vadakel, Rt Rev. Dr Silvester Ponnumuthan and Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura concelebrated. A good number MST and other priests especially the friends and class mates of Fr Peter also concelebrated. Besides, there were many, relatives, religious and

lay faithful who participated in the celebration. Mar Bosco Puthoor preached the homily after the Gospel. After the Qurbana and farewell services, the body was taken to the cemetery for the final phase of funeral Rites which was presided over by Mar Sebastian Vadakel. The MST remembers with gratitude all those who send condolences messages, the bishops, priests, religious, relatives, political leaders, neighbours, well-wishers, and lay faithful who came and paid respects to the departed.

1.15. Young Priests' Meet 2024

The Ongoing Formation programme for Young Priests (Ordination Batches: 2019-20 to 2023-24) was held from 9 to 11 October



2024 at Deepti Bhavan. A total of 30 young priests participated in this 4-day programme. Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General, inaugurated the

gathering at 6.30 p.m. on 9 October.

In his inaugural address, the Director General reminded the participants of their identity as missionary priests called to witness to Christ in all circumstances. He emphasized that, as time passes, an apostle of Christ may face turbulence in identity and faith, and the way to avoid such dangers is to safeguard priestly life through the Word of God, together with an unwavering commitment to their apostolates. Rev. Fr Joseph Thekkekarott exhorted the young priests to cultivate a missionary spirituality grounded in the Word of God and the Eucharist. In his welcome speech, Fr Ivan Muthanatt encouraged the participants to reorient their identity from mere activists to apostles of the



Gospel. Rev. Fr Jomon Ayyankanal urged that, as missionaries, priests must adopt a lifestyle capable of bearing fruit both in season and off-season. Rev. Fr Lonappan Arangassery addressed the group on the importance of writing and keeping personal accounts as well as the accounts of the office held by them as well as the need for personal integrity and honesty in keeping common accounts linking it with their spiritual lives.

On the second day in the morning session, Mr Siju Thomas Alenchery gave inputs on “Catholic Leadership Skills.” He emphasized that professional life skills must be aligned with the Word of God—seen as a miraculous and powerful tool—to become great leaders. On the third day, Rev. Fr. Jose Suresh, OFM Cap., guided



a session titled “The Non-Priesthood,” exploring a model of the priesthood after the example of Jesus, a non-Jew. He stressed that today’s priests must rise from their prophetic role to a messianic one, not only identifying problems but also working to heal them. Dr Susan George, Principal and National Trainer of JCI, gave an insightful presentation on cyber security and cybercrimes, highlighting the permanence of digital footprints. She urged that the priests who are apostles of Christ must exercise caution in their digital behaviour. The final day was dedicated to batch gatherings to facilitate interaction between the priests of the same batch to enhance unity among themselves, motivation and commitment to priestly ministry. The ongoing formation programme for young priests was organized by Fr Ivan Muthanatt, the Councillor in Charge assisted by Fr Roby Adapoor the coordinator. The programme concluded on 11 October 2024.

1.16. TIESS Conference on Education

Fr. Vipin Vanmelil, Fr. Subin Puthuppalil and Fr. Lithosh Karingadayil attended the *TIESS*, the *International Education and Skill Summit*, from 18 to 20 September 2024, in Delhi. The *International Education & Skill Summit* (TIESS) is held currently with *Didac India Exhibition* every year. TIESS is the global education and skills dialogue emphasizing on various advancements



and developments in the international education scenario with a special focus on India. It offers a platform to government and private organizations, institutions and individuals to network, learn, and share their experiences in the field of education and skill development. It is a network to bring together the passionate educators, leaders and experts on one platform. The key topics discussed in this conference are the challenges and opportunities in education and skills globally and recognizes the importance of knowledge-based societies. This platform gave an opportunity to learn and experience the growing demand for development and growth in the education and skills sector worldwide with a special focus on India.

2. NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS

A. St Paul Region, Ujjain

2A.1. Gathering with Director General and Central Team



A gathering of all MST fathers working within St Paul's Region, Ujjain was organized with the Director General, General Councillors and the Treasurer General on 18th September 2024. The Director General and his team interacted with the members of the Society. The DG presented briefly the activities of the General Administration during the past one year and the action plan of the general administration for the coming years. The Regional Director also shared a summary of the various activities of St Paul's Mission Region,



Ujjain. The members interacted with the Administrative team on various points of common interest. The gathering was concluded with an Agape in which Bishops Sebastian Vadakel and Geevarghese Mar Aprem, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Kottayam also participated.

2A.2. Exposure Programme: Deacons from Mary Matha

Twenty five Deacons, from Mary Matha Major Seminary, Thrissur, had their Missionary exposure programme in Ujjain which was organized at the Regional House, Ujjain from 16th Sept. 16th to 28th



September 2024. They had Missiology classes, orientation for Hindi liturgical services, village exposure programmes, sharing sessions



by Missionaries of Ujjain on various apostolates and in a special way on challenges and opportunities of village ministry,

cultural and religious context of Ujjain Mission etc. On 28th September two deacons each were sent to various mission centres of Ujjain Mission for direct live-in experience of our Missions.

2A.3. MST Renewal Programme in Ujjain Region

The first phase of the Missionary R e n e w a l Programme initiated by the Generalate was conducted in small groups in 10 Centres in Ujjain

Region from 3rd to 12th October 2024 under the leadership of Rev. Frs James Kurukilamkatt, Saju Thuppalanjyil and Scaria Thamarakkatt.

B. St Thomas Region, Mandya

2. B.1. Dukrana Celebration

The feast of St Thomas the Apostle was celebrated very solemnly and Mar Sebastian Adayantharath was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana. Bishop gave an inspiring and spiritually nourishing homily during the Holy Qurbana. After the Holy Qurbana all the missionaries of Mandya region gathered together in the auditorium for the celebration.

2B.2. Major Transfers within the Region

Rev. Fr George Olickal took charge as the manager and Director of Sevasadana and Divya Jyothi School Halagur. Fr. Jayaprasad Kallupuraparampil took charge as the principal of Santhome Public School, Mandya. Fr Binoy Kadankavil is appointed as the principal of Divya Jyoti School, Koppa and Fr Pradeepan Punnakuzhy as the principal of Santhome P.U. College, Mandya. They will take charge in the first week of November 2024.

2B.3.Missionary Meet in the Region

A missionary meet was conducted on 9th September for those who work within the region. The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm. During the meeting all the missionaries shared the progress of their work in their respective mission stations. It got over by 8.00 in the evening.

2B.4.Visit of Renewal Team



The MST Renewal team visited Mandya mission from 24th to 30th August, 2024. They visited all the missionaries working within the Region. The team visited the



missionary personals in different groups. They divided the missionaries to five groups and the missionaries in each group shared their views, concerns and experiences in different

ways. The team created a prayerful atmosphere in the group and shared their views also. All the fathers of the Region welcomed them and cooperated with the team.



2B.5. Visit to Adilabad Mission

Very Rev. Fr. Sojan Aikkarakunnel, the Regional Director and Fr Shijo Thettalickal, the Regional Procurator visited Adilabad mission. The Mission is growing fast and the school building of Ichoda school is in progress under the leadership of Fr Sunny Tharapputhottiyil, the mission Co-ordinator and Fr Sherit Kappiyarumalayil, the manager of the school.

C. St. Alphonsa Region, Sangli

2C1. Celebration of Dukrana

The missionary personnel of St. Alphonsa Region, Sangli came together on July 2nd at 6 pm to celebrate the Feast of Dukhrana of St. Thomas the Apostle at Vishwadeepthi, Kolhapur.



The Holy Qurbana in Marathi was solemnly celebrated by Fr. Joshy Michael Vazhakkattu as the main celebrant. Fr. Joseph Thekkekarottu, the Vice Director General of the MST, delivered the homily, shedding light on the significance of the martyrdom St. Thomas and its relevance to contemporary Christian life.



Following the Holy Qurbana, all assembled together to exchange festal greetings and wish those who bear the name 'Thomas'. The gathering also welcomed the new members to the Region fostering and strengthening the sense of the community and belongingness. Rev Fr George Kavukatt and Fr John Kizhakkarakatt who completed 75 years were felicitated on the occasion by cutting a cake and giving them a shawl. The festive celebration was concluded with dinner.

2C2. Education Meeting

The Sangli Mission Society's education meeting took place at Santhome School, Sangli, on July 17th 2024. The managers, principals, and vice-principals of the schools of the society were the participants. Mr. Bahubali Rai, member of Zilla Panchayat Education



Office and a renowned resource person, conducted a session on effective office documentation and administration. After lunch the participants engaged themselves in a collaborative planning session for the upcoming academic year. The following were the key decisions:

- Implementation of common question papers for terminal examinations
- Hosting the SANFO Football Tournament at Santhome School, Sangli
- Adoption of common software across schools

The meeting was aimed at fostering unity, standardization, and excellence in education within the Sangli Mission Society's institutions. The participants appreciated very much the informative session and fruitful discussions, looking forward to a productive academic year.

2C3. Gatherings for Spiritual Rejuvenation

The priests of the Alphonsa Region, Sangli, regularly come together for monthly recollection, seeking spiritual rejuvenation and renewal. In the August gathering, held in Alphonsa School, Yadrav, Fr. Jobin Edamanasseril shared a thought-provoking reflection, inspiring the priests to deepen their faith and commitment. The September gathering for recollection was held at Santhome School, Belgavi, and Fr. Bijo Vadakkethalackal gave an insightful talk which helped the priests to re-examine their ministry and spiritual journey.

2C4. Mary Matha Church Celebrates Feast of Mary

The Parishioners and the Missionaries of the Region celebrated the feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary with Devotion and Joy at Mary Matha Church, Chiplun from August 31st to September 8, 2024. Rev. Fr. Tom Mangalathil MST, Syncellus of the Eparchy of Kalyan and Regional Director, graced the occasion and celebrated solemn Holy Qurbana. Fr. Vipin Vanmelil, Principal of Santhome School, Tasgaon, delivered homily, shedding light on the significance of the nativity of Mother Mary. The Holy Qurbana was followed by



procession and agape meal (*Sneha Virunnu*) enhancing unity and love in the community.

2C5. A Tribute to Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram

Our beloved Peter achan's sudden demise was a great shock to all of us in the mission and everyone whom he met during his earthly sojourn. He departed from us on Tuesday 24 September 2024 at 7.55 pm at Bharati Vidyapith Medical College hospital Miraj. Peterachan's death was a great loss to MST and to Sangli Mission.

A Smiling Face Faded

Fr Peter always appeared with a smiling Face. Everyone could find happiness in his presence. After hearing the news of his death, a friend of Fr Peter from the UK Deacon Joice wrote that Fr Peter has spread a smile on everyone's face. He is a very good and down to earth pastor. We all will miss Fr Peter. Let the Lord reward him for the prayers he offered and the Holy Qurbanas he celebrated on his behalf, our behalf and on behalf of the whole mankind. Although his days on earth have ended, the memories on Peterachan will remain always with us. He will always live in our hearts...

Peterachan was a Good Pastor and a Priest with full of Vibes

He was a good pastor who touched the hearts of everyone he met. He spent his life for the people of God. He was never tired of caring for the people he served. He was with the people, for the people and one among them who had the smell of the sheep. As we read in the epistle of St Paul to Timothy, "I have fought the good fight, I

have finished the race, I have kept the faith...the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day.." (Tim 4: 7). These words are fulfilled in him. He was always on the move running his race here on earth...in looking after the spiritual and pastoral needs of the people who were entrusted to his care by the Church. In his funeral message Bishop Bosco Puthur said that Fr Peter has run into the heaven.

Peterachan had a Fatherly and Motherly Heart

Fr Peter was really a caring, loving and a helping priest. He is well known for his hospitality and helping and caring nature. He was a very good cook and most of the people whom he came in contact with might have tasted his 'Pidiyum Kozhiyum' and his 'Fruit salad'. He was very generous in giving. When he was the director of Dilasa Bhavan where the HIV infected and affected children are taken care of, they were very close to his heart and he loved the Children like a Father or Mother.

Peterachan was a man of Positive Outlook

Fr Peter had always a positive outlook towards life. He celebrated his life wherever he was. He enjoyed his life. He was a person without any negative or ill feelings or bitterness. He was very innocent, a friend of all and a friend to all.

Peterachan was a Man of Faith and lived it

We read in the Letter of St James chapter 2: 14ff that Faith without works is dead. This was explicitly evident in the life of Fr Peter. "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead...faith apart from works is barren..." (James 2: 17ff). Fr Peter was very strong in his faith and he lived and practiced it. So too, he was a man of action moved by faith. Fr Peter could accommodate and live with anyone whether priest or seminarians. All were motivated and inspired by his life.

An Enthusiastic Missionary

When Fr Peter Kavumpuram was the Regional Director of St Alphonsa Region, the Fathers of Sangli Mission used to say that Fr Peter was always on the move like a true missionary. He was very much enthusiastic to start new apostolate in the mission and to start

new mission stations. He was a very hard working missionary who served the Mission as Regional Director and Priest-in-charge of the mission stations in Sangli Mission, namely Khed, Ratnagiri, Miraj, Dilasa etc. It is Fr Peter who started the Anugraha Special School at Khed in the year 2000.

We read a beautiful instance in the Gospel of Mark where a woman who came to Jesus with an alabaster jar of ointment to anoint him. And Jesus said: “wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her...” (Mk 14: 3ff) This saying of Jesus can also be applied to Fr Peter.

We will definitely miss Fr Peter Kavumpuram. There is a feeling of emptiness all around in the absence of Fr Peter. However, he will live in the hearts of many. Let his legacy be appropriated by all in their missionary journey and work for the greater glory of God by remaining faithful to our missionary vocation. Dear Peter Acha, may your soul rest in Peace! May the Good Lord grant you Eternal Bliss?

Regional Administration

Congratulations to
Rev. Fr Beneesh Kizhakeparampil
who successfully completed M. Phil.
in Social Work

D. MQMD Region Delhi

2D1. General News

i. Dukrana Celebration:

St Thomas day was celebrated in Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh on 7 July. Rev. Fathers from different parts of Delhi Region and the students from Spain gathered in Deepti Ashram for the celebration. Rev. Fr. M. D. Thomas Celebrated holy Qurbana and enriched everyone with his message.

ii. Visit of Students from Barcelona

Students from Barcelona visited Delhi Region for their internship. They had their one month internship in our institution under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Joby Kappiparambil. They visited



Deepti Ashram, Sneha bhavan and Gyan Sarovar Bhalaswa and had their practical experience for one month.

iii. Visit of General Team

Rev. Fr. Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, (D.G) and councillors made



their official visit to St Mary Queen of mission Region on 16-18 September 2024. The General Team had meeting with Priests in the Region on 17th. The meeting started with Holy Qurbana and public meeting thereafter. The visit of general team helped Priests to share their views and concerns about the Region.

2D2. Deepti Ashram, Najafgarh**i. Independence & Feast of Assumption**

Deepti Ashram celebrated Independence day and Feast of Assumption on 15th August. Rev. Fr. Justin Kaithottumkal was the chief guest of day and hoisted the flag Rev. Fr. Justin inspired the children with his message the children of Deepti Ashram performed cultural Programme and celebrated the day solemnly.

**ii. Raksha Bandhan**

Deepti Ashram celebrated Rakshabandan day solemnly. The children tied Rakhis on the hands of boys. It was an occasion to strengthen the relationship between the children.

iii. Onam Celebration

Onam was celebrated in Deepti Ashram on 15th September. The parishioners of Sacred heart

Parish Najafgarh visited Deepti Ashram and prepared food for everyone. They conducted cultural programme and everyone had lunch together. On 21 Saturday, the members of Deepti foundation gathered in Deepti Ashram and celebrated Onam. It was an occasion for the members of different projects to come together and strengthen the unity between the members of Deepti foundation.

iv. Medical Camp

Medical camp was conducted in Deepti Ashram by S. H Sisters under the guidance of Sr. Linet. Two Doctors (Dr Lyla



and Jeess) and three sisters were part of the team. They examined all the children both boys and girls and gave them medicine.

v. Independence Day Celebration

The 77th anniversary of Indian Independence was solemnly celebrated on August 15th. The Holy Qurbana was in the morning followed by flag hoisting in which most of the people participated.

vi. Nativity of Mother Mary

The Nativity of Mother Mary was celebrated on 8th September with solemn Holy Qurbana followed by cutting of cake. A chain rosary recitation was conducted on 8th September.



2D3. St Joseph's Bhavan, Bathinda

i. St Thomas Convent School

a. The Independence Day Celebration



The students and the staff of the school celebrated Independence Day. Students from each class performed various programmes which started at 8:30 am in the school auditorium. Fr. Sojan, the principal,

presided over the function.

b. The Teacher's Day Celebration

The school celebrated the Teachers day in the auditorium with various cultural presentations such as music, dances, skits highlighting teacher-student relationship, etc. The



programmes provided an opportunity for students to express their gratitude and affection towards the teachers.

c. Sports day

The students of St Thomas convent school participated in different sports and games competitions organised at block level and obtained medals in individual and group items.

ii. Visit of Bishop Mar Jacob Mananthothathu



Mar Jacob Mananthothathu, Emiritus of the diocese of Palaghat, with the priests of the eparchy of Palakkad who work in Dabwali

visited the MST Mission on 24th September.

2D4. Christuraja Church, Barkandi

i. Dukhrana Celebration

Christuraja Church Barkandi celebrated the feast of St Thomas solemnly. The local Punjabi Catholic Christians added to the community were introduced to Syro Malabar traditions and practices and the celebration of Dukhrana helped them to understand more about St Thomas and Syro Malabar Church. The feasts of St Alphonsa and St John Maria Vianney were also celebrated praying for their intercession.

ii. Reopening of Tuition Centre in Barkandi

A tuition centre for the children for standard I to 10 was conducted in Barkandi village. This year the tuition centre was shifted to the church building and the classes started from July 4, 2024. There are around 25 students who regularly attend the tuition classes.

iii. Independence Day Celebrations

The Indian Independence day celebration in the tuition centre was an occasion to express our devotion and respect to the motherland. The students of the tuition centre performed various traditional and patriotic programmes which included speech, poem recitation, drama,

dance etc.

iv. Other activities

We conduct prayer services in houses; conduct Friday adoration in the Church and Holy Mass on Sundays in the village which are attended by a good number of faithful.

2D5. Garrison Cantonment Church, Bathinda



i. Celebration of Feasts

The feasts of the Dukhrana of St Thomas, St Alphonsa, St John Maria Vianey, Assumption of Mother Mary and Indian Independence Day were celebrated in the Garrison

Cantonment Church, Bathinda. Rev. Fr Shaljin Arackaparambil was the main Celebrant of the Dukhrana Celebration in the Cantonment Church. There was solemn procession around the Church proclaiming and professing our faith bequeathed to us by St Thomas, our Father in faith.



ii. New Church Committee



A new parish committee is constituted for the smooth functioning of the church. Three trustees and one procurator are elected to the committee.

iii. Onam Celebration



The garrison church members celebrated Onam on Sunday 22nd September after the

Eucharistic liturgy. There were a lot fun games and the celebration ended with Onasadhya.

2D6. Snehabavan News

i. New Director for Snehabavan

Fr Sijo Mundaplakel took charge as the new director of Snehabavan Home for the Aged on 1st July 2024. Fr Joseph Kaodan, the Regional Director along with Fr Joice Puliyannackal, the Regional Procurator handed over the documents to the new Director. At present there are eight inmates in Snehabavan and out of them three are from Kerala and others are from different parts of India.

ii. Visitors from abroad

Under the leadership of Frs Abin Kuruvannackal and Jubil Murickan a few students from Barcelona, Spain, visited Snehabavan in the last week of July 2024. Two days were set apart for these students who came in two groups. Each group comprised of eight to ten members. One group visited us on the first day and the second group came on the second day. It was a new experience for the



inmates. The students tried to teach the inmates some songs. They performed some dances too to make the inmates happy. They also helped to clean the dormitories and dining areas.

iii. Visit of Director General and his Team

On September 17, Very Rev Fr Vincent Kadhalikkatil-puthenpura, the Director General of MST and the members of the General council made a quick visit to Snehabaven. Some council members it was their first visit to the centre. All expressed satisfaction about this new ministry. They interacted with the inmates and enquired about them. The Director General and his team extended their support and we are thankful to the Director General and the Council members.

2D7. Institute of Harmony & Peace Studies (IHPS)



The IHPS organized the launch of the book authored by Dr M. D. Thomas and seminar on 'Mission Religious Harmony' at India Islamic Cultural Centre, on 27 July

2024, at 15.30 hours. Prof. Furqan Qamar, was the chief guest. The other speakers were B. S. Butola, and Dr Archana Kaushik. A lively interaction between the resource persons and audience followed. The session ended at 18.00 hours. Nearly 70 persons from different communities and sections of the society participated in the programme. The IHPS organized a round table conference at The Delhi Parsi Anjuman, on 31 August 2024 on 'Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds'. Many eminent persons spoke on the occasion.

2D8. Deepti Foundation, Dilshard Garden

A group of students from Barcelona, Spain visited Deepti Foundation and spent an entire month interacting with local communities and

children. The students engaged closely with children and families from the Bhalaswa dump yard, as well as the children residing in the Deepti Ashram. During their stay, the students engaged in a variety of activities aimed at fostering cross-cultural understanding and supporting the foundation's mission of improving the lives of marginalized individuals. They took part in educational workshops, recreational programs, and community-building efforts.

i. Priest In-Charge at Deepti Nivas



Fr. Monse took charge as the Priest in charge of Deepti Nivas and the Project In charge of the rag-picking project. Fr. Monse will oversee the activities guidance

provided at Deepti Nivas and the on-going efforts to support the rag-picking community through various social programmes. Best wishes to Fr. Monse!

ii. KNH Project for Rag-Picking Children

The KNH (Kindernothilfe) project, dedicated to the holistic development of rag-picking children in the Bhalaswa dump yard is renewed for another three and half years. The project focuses on empowering marginalized children through integral development, ensures that they have the opportunities and resources to overcome poverty.

iii. Medical Camps



In August and September, the Deepti Foundation organized three medical camps aimed at improving health care access

for marginalized communities. Two camps were held in Bhalaswa Dairy targeting the rag-picking community, while the third mega



camp was conducted for the beneficiaries of the Manos Unithas project. These camps provided crucial medical services, including general health check-ups and treatment for common illnesses, benefiting hundreds of individuals. The initiative reflects the foundation's on-going commitment to enhance the well-being of vulnerable population in the region.

iv. SHG Leaders Training Program

In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the leadership and financial skills of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Deepti Foundation



successfully conducted a training program for SHG leaders. The event saw the participation of approximately 100 leaders from

various SHG groups, all of whom gained valuable insights and practical knowledge. The key sessions were led by Mr Lalu Matthew, and Mr Febinson, who focused on the importance of SHGs and their role in community empowerment. They also provided in-depth guidance on financial management, equipping the participants with strategies to ensure better financial sustainability and growth within their groups. This initiative by Deepti Foundation marks a positive step towards empowering grassroots leaders, ensuring that SHG members not only contribute to their own economic well-being

but also foster community development. Leaders expressed their appreciation for the knowledge gained and its potential impact on their respective SHGs.

v. New Floor at CRC Centre in Balasuva

The CRC Centre at Balasuva, has a newly constructed floor with the support of Le Oriente from France.

Fr. Joseph Karodan the Regional Director blessed the building in the presence of Fr. Abin Kuruvanplakal, the director of the Deepti Foundation and Fr Cyril Regional Councillor as well as the children and teachers of the CRC Centre.

This new facility will provide children a place to hold their programs and participate in various activities. This new addition will greatly enhance the learning environment and foster the growth and development of the children at CRC. The Deepti Foundation is grateful to Le Oriente which supported the project financially.

2D9. Mother Teresa Mission Gurka, Dehlon, Punjab

i. St. Thomas Convent School

St. Thomas Convent School Gurka, Dehlon experienced vibrant months filled with enriching activities and celebrations such as the competitions that exhibited the talents of the students; the inauguration



of clubs, the celebration of Hindi Diwas etc. , Here's the summary of our key activities in August, September, and October.

a. Martial Arts Championship Success

Our karate team participated in the 32nd State Open Full Contact Martial Arts Championship at the Rotary Club, Saraba Nagar, Ludhiana and won several prizes and brought glory to our school.

b. Independence Day Celebrations

On August 15, 2024, the school celebrated Independence Day with patriotic song competition judged by Rev. Sisters from the Bethany congregation. The event was marked by the inspiring addresses by the Principal Rev. Fr. Sogin Chirayil and the Chief Guest S. Darshan Singh.



c. Club Inauguration Program

On August 20, 2024, the school inaugurated various clubs, emphasizing the importance of extra-curricular activities, with each club leader presenting their respective clubs.



d. Celebrating Excellence



The school introduced the “Star Sthominan Award” to honor top-performing students in each class. Class 4 received the “Best Class Award,” while Class 3 won the “Best Assembly Award.” The prestigious

“Best Star Sthominan Award” was awarded to Master Sagar from Class 7 for his outstanding achievements.

e. Hindi Diwas Celebration

On September 16, the school celebrated Hindi Diwas with speeches and competitions, showcasing students’ linguistic skills and

appreciation for the Hindi language.

f. Swachh Bharat Activities

The school conducted cleanliness drives and tree planting initiatives as part of the Swachh Bharat initiative, promoting environmental awareness and community responsibility.



g. Construction Milestone

On October 2, 2024, the concreting work of the first floor of St. Thomas Convent School was completed. We are very much indebted to the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle for the financial support.



Reported by Fr Sogin Chirayil

2D10. Kristjyoti Catholic Mission, Rorhu

July 17, 2024 was a day of great joy for Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Church which witnessed the administration of the sacraments of initiation to an aspirant who has undergone faith formation for long time. The presence of Fathers Lijo Arackalputhenveedu MST and Sijo Mookanthottathil MST doubled the joy.

Youth Camp and Children's Meet

The Kristjyoti Catholic Mission Church, Rohru, hosted a vibrant three-day Youth Camp and One day Children's Meet from 21st to 23rd July 2024. The camp was conducted by the Jesus Youth volunteers, Anu, Boban, Sumit, and Bundy. They brought fresh perspectives to the children making the program a memorable experience for all the children. The three-day meet which included prayer service, Eucharist adoration, spiritual classes etc left the children inspired and motivated to continue their journey of faith and learning.

2E. St. Joseph Mission Odisha

2E1. Visit of Mar Joseph Puthenveetil

Mar Joseph Puthenveetil, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Faridabad Diocese, visited St. Joseph's Mission in Odisha. He visited the mission stations, tuition centers, village churches, and the surrounding villages. His presence was a source of inspiration for the faithful and it strengthened the mission's outreach and fostered a deep sense of unity and faith in the community.



2E2. Consecration of St. Joseph's Church

The newly constructed St Joseph's church was consecrated and the Namaste Mariya Retreat centre was blessed on 20th June 2024



by Mar Kollamparambil the Eparch of Jagadulpur in the presence of Rev. Fr Santhosh CMI, the Provincial Superior of the Jagadulpur, Fr Abraham Palathinkal, the Syncellus of the Eparchy of Shamshabad, Rev. Fr Ivan Muthanattu, the Councillor of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, and Fr Jose Cheriampanattu, the Syncellus and Coordinator of Odisha Mission,

Fr Joseph Vadkumkara, Syncellus of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur and Sr Ann Mary, the Superior General of the Deen Bandhu Samaj (DBS). Following the Eucharistic celebration, the newly built Grotto of Mother Mary was blessed by Rev. Fr Ivan Muthanattu, the General Councillor of MST.

2E3. Welcome and Farewell to Missionaries

St. Joseph's Mission in Odisha welcomed four priests who joined the missionaries in the coordination. Rev. Fr. Joseph Venattumattam, Fr. Joshi Mullapallil, Fr. Bibin Madathiparambil, and Fr. Bino Kannamundayil who are entrusted with the spiritual and pastoral care of the faithful in various centres of Odisha Mission. We hope that their dedication and experience will greatly contribute to the growth and vitality of the mission.

We bade farewell to Rev. Fr. Sebastian Pezhumthottiyil, Fr. Josin Tharapputhottiyil, and Fr. Amborse Kollamattam, who have made significant contributions to the mission. Their dedication, service, and leadership have left a lasting impact on the mission and the people. As they move out with new responsibilities, we extend to them our sincere thanks and best wishes.

2E4. Health Camp By Jyothi Marg Trust

Jyothi Marg Educational and Charitable Trust organized a health



camp at JK Pur and Bissamcuttack in collaboration with the Sacred Heart Mission Centre, Laxmipur. The camp was intended to provide essential healthcare services to the local population. Dr. Deenabandhu Choudhary from Laxmipur and Fr. Bibin Madathiparambil, the Social Work Director of St. Joseph's Mission, conducted the camp, offering medical check-ups and consultations. Their efforts helped

significantly to improve the health and well-being of the residents of the locality.

2E5. Retreat for Catechists of Odisha Mission



A retreat for the catechists of the Odisha Mission was conducted in September from the 2nd to the 5th with approximately 46 participants. The retreat was led by Fr. Benny Arthanakunnel MST and his team from Amala Asharam, Talsande, Kolhapur Dt. The retreat helped the catechists deepen their faith convictions, remain connected to the Holy Spirit and

foster greater devotion to Mother Mary.

2E6. Completion Tailoring Training Programme

The Jyothi marg Educational and Charitable Trust, in partnership with the LF Social Action Center kundra, is pleased to announce



the successful completion of a four-month tailoring training program, which benefited 18 participants. This initiative reflects the trust's dedication to empowering individuals through education and skill development, enabling them to enhance their livelihoods.

2E7. Teachers' Meet

A Teachers' Meet was held to review the tuition classes run by Sanjo Social Action Centre in Bissamcuttack. Fifteen teachers from 14 villages shared their positive feedback about the improvement of students in their studies. The meeting began with a prayer song. Mr. Devraj Goradia, the co-ordinator of the tuition centers, welcomed everyone. Fr. Deleep Nalannadiyil gave an inspiring talk on leadership.

3. HOUSES OF FORMATION

3A. Deepti Seminary

i. Inauguration of the Academic Year 2024-25

The academic year 2024-25 of Deepti Minor Seminary was inaugurated on 18 July 2024. Rev Fr Jacob Njarolickal, the Rector welcomed the guests. Very Rev Dr. Vincent Kadalikkattil Puthenpura, the Director General of MST, presided over the meeting. Rev Dr. Mathew Punnathanathukunnel, the principal of Alphonsa College



Pala, was the Chief Guest. Rev Dr Joseph Thekkekarott, the vice director General felicitated the staff and brothers. The presence of Fathers from the

Deepti campus on the occasion added colour to the inaugural function.

ii. Visit of the Director General.

On 31 July 2024, The Director General of MST Very Rev Dr. Vincent Kadalikkattil Puthenpura celebrated Holy Qurbana in the Seminary chapel and met the brothers in the evening and talked to them on the importance of seminary formation.



iii. Friendly Match Between Fathers & Brothers

In connection with the Vianny Day celebrations, a friendly volleyball match



was held between Rev Fathers of Deepti Campus and the brothers on August 3, 2024. Both the teams played well although the fathers won the game.

iv. Fresher's Day



On 4th August 2024, Fresher's Day was celebrated at Deepti Seminary. Very Rev Fr Zacharias Attappatt, the Forane Vicar of

Bharanganam was the chief guest. Very Rev Fr Vincent Kadalikkattil Puthenpura, the Director General of MST, presided over the meeting. Rev Dr Joseph Thekkekarott, the Vice Director General, and Rev Fr Jacob Njarolickal, Rector of Deepti Seminary felicitated the new batch. There are 22 new admissions this year to the first year batch including one for the Eparchy of Sagar. The performance of the newcomers in four languages was very well appreciated by all.

v. Retreat for the Seminarians

A retreat was arranged for the seminarians at the Tabor retreat center at Kodumpidy from 18 to 22nd August. Rev Fr. Rinto Puthussery CMI preached the



retreat and many seminarians benefited greatly from the preaching, counselling, etc during the retreat.

vi. Visit of the Fourth Batch Fathers

On 22 August 2024, the seminarians welcomed the 5th batch of Deepti College alma mater. Among the 19 ordained, 14 were present with lot of nostalgic



memories. They had breakfast with the brothers. Each one of them shared briefly the resume of their life and mission which was very inspiring.

vii. Visit of the Regional Directors

Deepti Seminary was blessed by the visit of the Regional Directors on different days in August 2024. Rev Fr Sebastian Pullatt, the Regional Director of Ujjain on August, Rev Fr Thomas Mangalathil, the Regional Director of Sangli Mission on 7th August, Rev Fr Sojan Aikkarakunnel on 8th August, the Regional Director of Mandya, and Rev Fr Joseph Karodan, the Regional Director of Delhi on 13th August 2024. Everyone of them celebrated Eucharist in the seminary



Chapel and spent some time with the staff and students of Deepti Seminary.

viii. Visit of Mar James Athikalam

Mar James Athikalam, the Bishop of Sagar diocese visited Deepti Seminary on 1st September, 2024. After the celebration of the Holy Qurbana he met the brothers from the Diocese of Sagar.



ix. Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations

On October 2nd the brothers celebrated Gandhi Jayanthi by cleaning the public road from the Deepti Stop to the Melampara bus stop. All the members of the staff and seminarians actively participated in it.

**x. Birth Day Celebrations of Mar Sebastian Vadakkal**

On October 7th the fathers and brothers from the Deepti campus and the Generalate celebrated the birth day of Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel who celebrated Holy Qurbana in the seminary chapel along



with the Fathers from the Generalate, other houses and the minor seminary.

3B. MOC: Jeevan Jyoti

MOC was closed for this year as there were only a few students persevered to respond to their missionary vocation. The three students promoted to MOC this year were sent to the MOC of Ujjain diocese in Kotra. They will be brought back to Sri Ranga Patna in the last month of the academic year.

3C. Ruhalaya Major Seminary

i. *Dukhrana* Celebration



The feast of *Dukhrana* was celebrated on the 3rd of July both in theology and Philosophy sections with due fervour. His Excellency Bishop Augustine

Madathikunnel, the new Bishop of Khandwa, celebrated Solemn Holy Qurbana in the Philosophy chapel and His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vadakel celebrated Solemn *Raza* at the Theologate, inaugurating the new Hindi



Qurbana text on the 4th of July 2024.

ii. Inauguration of the Academic Year 2024-2025

The academic year 2024-2025, both of philosophy and theology,



was solemnly inaugurated at Ruhalaya Theologate by His Excellency Bishop Mar Augustine Madathikunnel, in the presence of Bishop Mar Sebastian Vadakel, who presided over the

function, on the 3rd of July 2024. Very Rev. Fr Manoj, the Rector, welcomed the guests and all the participants to the inaugural gathering. Both the bishops, Rt Rev. Dr Augustine and Mar Sebastian Vadakel highlighted the importance of academic excellence and contributions. Fr Joby Koottumkal presented the *schola brevis* and the brothers from both the Philosophate and the Theologate, staged a few cultural programmes.

iii. Rector's Birthday

The Ruhalaya community came together to celebrate the birthday of the Rector, Very Rev. Fr Manoj Parackal, on the 5th of July, with great joy and happiness. The celebration began with a Holy Qurbana at the Philosophate, where seminarians and the members of the faculty gathered to offer prayers and to express their heartfelt wishes. The occasion was marked by the sentiments of joy, reflecting the appreciation for Rector's leadership and guidance.

iv. Inauguration of the Village Apostolate-Philosophate

On July 7, the Ruhalaya philosophy section inaugurated the Village Apostolate. Rev. Sr Deepti, DST was the chief guest of the ceremony and she delivered an inspiring message, encouraging the brothers to embrace this mission with renewed love and dedication. The event marked the beginning of a committed outreach programme to support and uplift local village



communities. Very Rev. Fr Manoj, the Rector, inaugurated the Social Apostolate Programmes at the Theologate in the evening on the 9th of July 2024. Fr Joby Koottumkal gave the message. The brothers

shared their mission experiences of the previous year in their respective places of social apostolate.

v. E-Library at Philosophate

Following certain renovations and the installation of up-to-date library software, the new E-Library at Ruhalaya was officially opened on July 9 by the Rector. With enhanced digital



resources and updated technology, the E-Library is now fully equipped to support the research and educational needs of students and faculty alike. Kudos to Fr Veenus Karamullil, who has taken the pain to upgrade the library bedecked with technological enhancements.

vi. Inauguration of RCLA at Ruhalaya Philosophate



The RCLA -Ruhalaya Cultural and Literary Academy- was inaugurated on July 11, 2024. Rev. Fr Biju Cherolil, the Principal of St Thomas School, Pawasa, was the Chief Guest. The event was designed to nurture the talents of each student and the students displayed an array of captivating performances.

vii. Blood Donation Drive to Support the Needy

Ruhalaya community came together on July 25 for a noble cause and participated in a blood donation drive to aid those in need. The gesture reflected the community's commitment to serving the sick and less fortunate, demonstrating a spirit of solidarity and generosity.

viii. Singing Competition at Atmadarshan TV, Indore

Selected choir members from both Philosophate and Theologate, participated in a music reality show, organized by *Atmadarshan TV*, Indore, on the 13th of July and gloriously entered the semi-finals to be held on the 1st of November 2024.

ix. New Priests' Day 2024

The New Priests' Day 2024 was gracefully conducted on July 17-



18, 2024. Thirteen new priests who studied either philosophy or theology at Ruhalaya came and participated in the Meet. A friendly basketball match was conducted between the new priests and the Deacons and brothers. Bp Thomas Mathew, the new Bishop of Indore, graced the occasion of the Convocation Ceremony on July 17 evening. Brothers staged cultural programmes, adding flavour to the Meet. The new priests celebrated Holy Qurbana on 18th in the morning.

x. Extension Lectures by Fr Bryan Lobo SJ (Rome)



Rev. Fr Bryan Lobo SJ, the Dean of the Faculty of Missiology at Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, led the extension lectures on *Christian Faith and Other Religions: A Missio-Theological Approach* at Ruhalaya Theologate on July 24, 2024. It was a relevant

topic in the multi-religious context of India where questions about the uniqueness of Christian faith and relevance of other religions are questioned. The lectures highlighted the need for on-going discussions on theological and missiological formation so that we are equipped to move forward with greater conviction in our apostolic ministry.

xi. Feast of St Alphonsa

Ruhalaya Philosophate celebrated the Feast of St Alphonsa with profound love and devotion on July 27, 2024. Rev. Fr Anoop Needukunnel, Ujjain, celebrated Holy Qurbana as the main celebrant. In the Theologate Rev. Fr Joseph Muthuplackal MST celebrated Holy Qurbana on the feast of St Alphonsa on the 27.



xii. Freshers' Day 2024

On the 28th of July, Ruhhalaya celebrated Freshers' Day at the Philosophate, warmly encouraging the new students from both the Theology and Philosophy sections. The Benjamins from both the



Philosophate and Theologate, exhibited their talents through a variety of performances, highlighting their creativity and vitality.

xiii. Feast of St John Maria Vianney

The Feast of St John Marie Vianney was observed with solemnity



and devotion at the Philosophate on the 3rd of August. Fr George Vadakel (Ujjain) was the main celebrant for the Holy Qurbana and was

followed by the inauguration of the Mission Fest Lottery. In the evening, the community gathered for sharing and celebrating the spirit of the day. The feast was celebrated at Theologate on July 3. Rev. Fr Anoop Neendukunnel, Ujjain, was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana in the morning. Rev. Fr Anoop cut the cake and shared the joy of the feast. A badminton match was organized and the third-year theologians won the game.

xiv. Extension Lecture by Rev. Fr C.D. Sebastian

Ruhhalaya Theologate organized an extension lecture by Rev. Fr C.D. Sebastian on the theme 'Was Nestorius really Nestorian?' on the 14th of August 2024. '



xv. Debate on Artificial Intelligence

Ruhalaya Philosophate hosted an insightful debate on the topic “Artificial Intelligence: A Boon or Bane” on August 14, 2024. The event was skillfully moderated by Rev. Fr Justin Vettukallel, who guided the discussions with expertise.

xvi. Feast of the Assumption & Indian Independence

On the 15th of August, Ruhalaya Philosophate commemorated the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with solemnity. Rev. Fr Sebastian Koottumkal was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana. It was



followed by the hoisting of the national flag with various programmes. Mr. Patel, the Sarpanch of Chakk-Kamed village, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In the Theologate, Rev. Fr Bebin Eettayankel MST was the main celebrant at the solemn Holy Qurbana. Mr Anil Purohit, a retired DYSP, hoisted the national flag and delivered Independence day message. The second-year theology brothers organized a badminton tournament. The deacons’ team

won the first prize and the fathers' team won the second prize.

Xvii. Extension Lecture by Adv. Jijil Joseph



After an intensive course to the Deacons on cyber security and current interreligious and socio-economic issues, Adv. Jijil Joseph offered an extension lecture for all at the Theologate on Cyber Security, lasting two and a half hours, on the 26th of August 2026. It was highly beneficial

for all and well-appreciated.

xviii. Community Day 2024

Ruhalya celebrated Community Day on September 5, bringing both sections together. The Rector was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana. A variety of group games were organised to foster community spirit. The celebrations continued in the evening at the Theologate, where every batch staged a range of cultural performances.



xix. Extension Lecture on Peace Education

On September 13th, an Extension Lecture on Peace Education was



organized by the Philosophy section. Rev. Dr. Dennis Abraham, Dean of Studies at St. Francis Xavier Regional Seminary, Agra, was the esteemed resource person. He spoke on the theme, "The Evolution of Peace Education: Historical Foundations, Contemporary Practice, and Indian Developments."



xx. Mission Experience Sharing

A Mission Sharing session was held at the Philosophate on September 16, 2024. Rev. Fr Patrick Joseph, an experienced missionary from the Diocese of Indore, shared his wealth of mission experiences, recounting stories of dedication and resilience.

Rev. Sr Ancy Jacob SH, one of the

pioneering missionaries in the diocese of Ujjain since 1972 shared her missionary experiences on the 16th of September 2024 in the Theologate.



xxi. Maliparambil Lectures

The *Maliparambil Lectures* in honour of Rev. Fr Joseph Maliparambil MST were conducted at Ruhelaya Theologate on the 18th of September 2024. His Excellency Bishop Mar Gheevarghese Aprem, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Kottayam spoke on 'the use of Icons in Oriental Christian Life'. His Excellency Bp Mar Sebastian Vadakel inaugurated the lectures. It was attended



by fathers and sisters from neighbouring missions and the Ruhhalaya community.

xxii. New Titles Hitting the Shelves

Bishop Mar Gheevarghese Aprem, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Kottayam and His Excellency Bp Mar Sebastian Vadakel released the books: *Religious Consciousness and God Talk* by Rev. Dr Paul Vadakeoram MST and *Prathidhwany: Vachanathin Maattolikal* in Malayalam by Rev. Dr John



Kudiyiruppil MST during the inaugural function of Maliparambil Lectures on the 18th of September 2024.

xxiii. Visit of the Director General and Councillors

The Director General Very Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, accompanied by members of the General Council and the Treasurer General visited Ruhhalaya from September 19th to 20th. They held meetings with both the staff and students individually and in groups..

xxiv. Visit of the Deacons of Mary Matha Seminary

The Deacons of Mary Matha Major Seminary, Thrissur, visited Ruhhalaya Theologate along with their Vice Rector Fr Freejo and Fr Davis Kavunkal on the 20th of September 2024. The Deacons played a friendly basketball match with the theology students of Ruhhalaya Major Seminary. Fr Lonappan Arangassery inaugurated the match.

xxv. Ruhhalaya Mission Mela

The Mission Fest a common endeavour of Philosophy and Theology

sections was conducted in the Philosophate on September 22, 2024 to promote mission awareness and raise fund for the mission activities of Ruhhalaya. The fest drew a large crowd from nearby areas, and the fest included Mission Exhibition, Cultural Show, Mission Lottery, Food Stalls, and various games to raise funds.

xxvi. Visits of Bishops/Archbishops



Ruhalaya Major Seminary was blessed by the visit of Bishops/Archbishops in the initial months of the new Academic year 2024-2025. Mar Sebastian Vadakel visited Ruhalaya on

a number of occasions. Mar Joseph Pamplany visited Ruhalaya on the 11th and 12th of September 2024. Mar Gheevarghese Aprem who came for Maliparampil Lectures, stayed in Ruhalaya from the 16th to 18th of September. Mar Joseph Kollamparambil, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Jagdalpur, visited Ruhalaya and celebrated the Holy Qurbana on the 28th of September. His Excellency Mar Thomas Thomas Tharayil, the Archbishop Elect of the Metropolitan Archeparchy of Changanacherry, paid visit to Ruhalaya on the 4th of October 2024. He met the fathers and brothers and addressed them in the evening. Mar Thomas Tharayil who celebrates his silver jubilee of priesthood and who is elevated as Metropolitan of Changanachery was felicitated.

4. OVERSEAS MISSIONS

4.1. Canada

Mission Sunday Celebration is an important event in every Canadian church. There is special homily and collection done in every church and the money is sent for mission work all over the world. At present there are six active MST priests working in three dioceses. All the members are in good health and doing well in their respective parishes and dioceses.

Fr. Thomas Kakkaniyil

4.2. Tanzania

4.2.1. Chengena Parish. Dukrana Day Celebration

The MST mission in Tanzania organized the celebration of Dukrana in chengena on 3 July. All the MST priests gathered at Chengena to celebrate the feast with other Indian Missionaries. We celebrated Syro Malabar Qurbana in Malayalam. There were around 22 priests from Songea and other parts of Tanzania who joined to celebrate the Feast.

We were very much delighted to have the visiting priests from India who led the celebration in our mother tongue. Rev Frs Thomas Karamel, Fr Thomas Vattukulam, Fr Thomas Kumbalamthanam, Fr Sunny Perumpuzha, and Fr Viju Muringassery came to visit our mission in Africa and to encourage us. We remember them with gratitude for their support to the mission in their possible way.

ii. Promise of Missionary Associate to MST

Mr Duurt Huisman, an Italian citizen who joined the MST Mission in Africa as a volunteer through GOCCE an Italian NGO, expressed his interest to work as a missionary Associate of MST. The General Council of MST approved his request and he took promise of Association on July 3, in front of Fr Biju Pullappallil, the mission coordinator of MST as the delegate of Director General. Fabio Pancaldi, a representative of Duurt Huisman was also present during the ceremony.

iii. Blessing of the renovated Presbytery

We were fortunate to have the Archbishop of Songea, HG Damian D Dallu to bless the renovated presbytery of MST Parish in Chengena on August 3. Archbishop thanked MST for its support for the renovation of the Presbytery. He appreciated MST fathers and the Tanzanian MST administration for the achievement.

iv. Confirmation

Thirty five children of the Chengena parish received the sacrament of confirmation on 3 August from the Archbishop of Songea. It was a solemn celebration of the parish with all the faithful from the 5 sub stations. We were glad to have Fr Saji Vandrakunnel MST who was visiting our Mission in Africa concelebrated with the Archbishop on this day. Fr Vandrakunnel spent a week with the missionaries here in Tanzania.

v. Youth Day program

The youth of the Chengena parish gathered in the parish church from all the substations for a one day seminar. They were around 70 youths from the Youth association called UVIKASO. They were given a one day seminar by Fr Charles from the Namtumbo parish. It was an enriching program for the youth members in the parish.

6. Visit of Superior General of OSF

The Superior General of the OSF congregation, Very Rev. Sr Debora along with her General Councillors from USA visited MST Mission in Chengena. The provincial team of OSF Bangalore also accompanied the General team. They had come to visit the construction of the new convent. They appreciated the progress in the construction work in the parish.



5. OTHER MINISTRIES

Santhome Fellowship

A new unit of Santhome Fellowship is inaugurated in Pariyaram, Kannur.

Financial Support to the Mission and the Poor

Santhome Fellowship supports financially the MST Missions through small projects. It supported Sneha Bhavan, Delhi and Rohru Mission in Himachal Pradesh to purchase an inverter. It provided religious articles to the Mission centres in Podagad and Bissam-Cuttack in Odisha Mission. A BDS student was partially helped by the Santhome Fellowship to finish her studies. Some Santhome Fellowship members sponsor boarding students in Odisha. Some members find out Sponsors for the seminarians and others promote vocations to MST.

Santhome *Preshithagni Dhyanam*

Santhome Preshithagni Dhyanam is conducted every third



Saturday of every Month at Deepti Public chapel. *Preshithagni Dhyanam* was conducted in Irritty in August and in Thamarassery in October.

‘*Preshitha Jwala*’

The E-magazine, *Preshitha Jwala*, is published regularly in the first week of every month with the news and reports of the activities of

the units sent by the secretaries.

Visit to Odisha:

Five Associate Missionaries visited the Odisha Mission and spent some days with the missionaries from September 2 to October 02. Sincere



thanks to the Mission Co-ordinator Fr Jose Cheriyanpanatt and the missionaries in Laxmipur, JK Pur, Bissam-Cuttuck, Baliguda and M. Rampur.

New Leadership to Associate Missionaries

Congratulations to the Mr Jose Abraham Kizhakkeunnippillil, and Rev. Sr Jyothi SABS, who are elected president and secretary of the Associate Missionaries respectively. Sincere thanks to Baby Joseph Varappadavil and Leelamma Joseph Mailady for their dedicated service!

Tribute to Fr Peter Kavumpuram

We remember with gratitude and pray for Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram who was one of the former Councillors In-charge of the Associate Missionaries and Santhome Fellowship. May his soul rest in peace!

Fr Joseph Pulavelil

NECROLOGY

28/05/2024: Reji Mathew (55) First cousin of Fr Aryankalayil Joseph

08-07-2024: Mr Wilson Vithayathil brother of Fr Varghese Vithayathil

09-07-2024: Mr Thomas Varkey (92) the paternal grandfather of Fr Bipin Vadayaparampil

06-08-2024: Sr. Mary Joseline FCC, the first Cousin of Fr Antony Cheeramvelil

10-08-2024: Marykutty Francis (77) Sister of Fr Zacharias Thudippara

12-08-2024: Kathrina Chacko (89) Mother of Fr Saji Thakadiyel

13-08-2024: Mr Jimmy Varkey (49) First Cousin of Fr Benny Puthenpurackal

14-08-2024: Mr KA Joseph Kodikulam (77) maternal grandfather of Fr Jose Perumanoor

26-08-2024: Elisabeth Joseph (93) Sister of Fr Joseph Kannathukuzhy

16-10-2024: Devasia John (94) paternal uncle of Fr Kurian Kochettonnil

****RIP****



OBITUARY



Birth: February 25, 1955

Ordination: December 23, 1982

Death: September 24, 2024

Funeral: September 27, 2024

“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Tim 4:7-8). These words of St Paul are verified in the life of Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram (69) MST who is a member of the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle, assigned to St Alphonsa Mission Region, Sangli. He is called for his eternal reward at 7.55 pm on September 24, 2024 at Bharathi Medical College Hospital, Miraj, Sangli Dt, Maharashtra.

Fr Peter Kavumpuram: A Pioneer Missionary

Fr Peter was a pioneering missionary from the beginning of his priestly ministry. Immediately after his ordination he was appointed assistant in the parishes at Gandipuram (January 1983) and Ramanathapuram, in the Coimbatore mission and parish priest at Olippara in the Eparchy of Palakad.

In 1985 he joined the Pioneer Syro-Malabar Chaplains, Fr George

Kavukattu and Fr Lonappan Arangassery, in the diocese of Pune, to organise and stabilise the Syro-Malabar Faithful. When the eparchy of Kalyan was erected in 1988 Pune Region was very well established as a community. Fr Peter who was chaplain then was appointed the first parish priest at Akurdi, Dehu Road and Aundh in Pune Region and later the first Syro-Malabar Parish priest in Nashik.

When his term as Regional Director was over in 1998, he ventured to start a new Mission at Malkapur. But he was transferred to Khed to fill the gap created by the demise of Fr Theruvanmoola who was then the priest in charge at Khed. The Malkapur project was eventually shifted to Shahuwadi. Fr Peter was also instrumental in developing the Mission Centres at Khed, Miraj and Ratnagiri. He rendered his services to Dilasa Bhavan, Miraj from 2023 till his last breath.

Pioneer Chaplain in Melbourne, Australia

Fr Peter was the first officially appointed Chaplain of the Syro-Malabar Catholics in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. Thanks to his foresight and hard work, the Syro-Malabar community in the Archdiocese of Melbourne was very well organised and established. Since the Syro-Malabar Chaplaincy in Archdiocese of Melbourne was a well-organised and established chaplaincy under the leadership of Fr Peter, with land, immovable and movable assets and well organised communities, when, the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle was established in 2014, the Holy See designated e Melbourne as the headquarters of the new Syro-Malabar Eparchy. Fr Peter was getting ready to go to Melbourne in the month of November 2024 at the invitation of the Eparchy to participate in the consecration of the new Cathedral of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy.

Episcopal Vicar (Syncellus)

Fr Peter Kavumpuram served the Church as the Episcopal Vicar (Syncellus) in the Eparchy of Kalyan in the Sangli Mission Region of the MST and the Episcopal Vicar of Queensland, in the Syro-

Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne, Australia. The contributions of Fr Peter as pioneer missionary and chaplain to the Syro-Malabar migrants in these two eparchies, prior to their establishment, are very much appreciated and esteemed by the Church and the people whom he served.

Regional Director and General Councillor of MST

In 1993 he was appointed the second Regional Director of St Alphonsa Region. As the Regional Director, he was instrumental in starting many new Mission centres with the financial support of the General Administration of the MST. As the Regional Director, he exhibited paternal and maternal care for the missionaries. Fr Peter Kavumpuram rendered his services to the Missionary Society two times (terms) as the General Councillor.

All the members of the Society cherish the memories of Fr Peter who was like a father and a mother to them especially when he was the General Councillor and Regional Director. Perhaps, there is no one in the Society who has not tasted the delicious food he has prepared and served. In spite of his health problems, he worked hard with full of energy and enthusiasm and he tirelessly carried out the responsibilities entrusted to him. He was a pioneering and committed missionary and was very jovial all through his life.

The Last Days of Fr Peter Kavumpuram

The Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle is very much saddened by the unexpected and sudden demise of Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram, who was very close and dear to all the members of the MST family as a genuine human person without guile. Due to cardiac issues Fr Peter underwent a surgery to insert pacemaker at Mar Sleeva Medicity Hospital, Pala in July 2024. After returning to the mission, on September 21, Fr Peter started feeling dizzy and sweating. After dinner, he informed the brother regent that he wasn't feeling well and went to bed early. In the midnight at 0:30 am on September 22, Fr Peter experienced extreme pain, fatigue, dizziness, and difficulty breathing. With the help of the Regent he contacted

Father Shaji Parayankuzhyil who guided him to Dr. Param Shetty in Miraj. Dr. Param Shetty examined Peter without allowing him to get out of the vehicle. He checked Peter's blood pressure and heart rate and immediately referred him to Dr Amit Joshi at Bharati Medical College in Miraj. On admission into the Cardiac ICU, his blood pressure was noted at 70/40, Oxygen levels varied between 80-85% and ejection fraction of the heart was at 38%. Immediately he was put on oxygen support and started medication.

On Monday (23/09/24) morning Fr Peter was restless and complained of stomach pains pointing to his lack of bowel movement for the past 3 days. Medication to assist the bowel movements was prescribed which was administered in the noon and at night. Considering the history of cancer, he was referred to the department of haematology. However the doctor clarified that the cancer issue was absent and had nothing to do with the haematology. Due to lack of urine output, catheter was inserted and after catheterization the urine output increased and difficulty in breathing was reduced. He was able to consume dinner while on the same medication and was able to sleep with infrequent interruptions.

On Tuesday (24/09/24) morning his condition slightly deteriorated. His oxygen administration had to be spiked up and the BP medication was unable to help him in the desired way any longer. Another echo was taken by Dr Joshi, reporting severe deterioration in the condition of his heart with ventricle failure. The creatinine level increased to 4.6, suggesting reduced kidney functions. Dialysis was not possible due to his low blood pressure. With additional difficulty in breathing, Fr Peter was taken to NIV Mask with the ventilator on 100% Oxygen supply at 12.30 pm. Despite medications for increasing his urine output, it had no effect. His body had started to accumulate water inside his lungs leading to an aggravated breathing difficulty. His oxygen levels showed some signs of improvement late in the afternoon and he was shifted from the NIV mask at 5p.m to a normal oxygen mask with 8 litres of oxygen per minute. He had snacks in the evening and limiting it to a cup of tea and two biscuits. During this period

father spoke of unbearable pain. At 6 pm father was taken back to the NIV Mask with the ventilator, as he was unable to maintain his oxygen levels. At around 7.30 pm father was increasingly agitated with his BP becoming undetectable and reductions in his oxygen levels. This led to his immediate intubation and was taken on to the ventilator. As told by the cardiologists, his BP medication was increased and kept his oxygen supply at 100 %.

Farewell to Fr Peter Kavumpuram

In spite of the efforts of the doctors to save the life of Fr Peter Kavumpuram, his health condition deteriorated on September 24. At 7:35 pm his heart rate started reducing leading to an immediate CPR, along with medication for increasing his heart rate. However there was no improvement after 20 minutes of effort by the healthcare workers and he succumbed to death at 7:55 PM on the 24th of September of 2024 at Bharathi Medical College Hospital. It is hard to believe that Fr Peter is no more with us. *God has Reasons which Reason cannot understand.* Let us bow before the mysterious ways of God.

The body of Rev. Fr Peter Kavumpuram was brought to St Alphonsa Forane Church after completing the formalities at Bharathi Vidyapith Medical College, Miraj. On his journey to the eternal abode, he was given a farewell from Sangli Mission at St Alphonsa Forane Church Miraj, where he was parish priest and the Manager of the School. The farewell prayers were officiated by the Regional Director Very Rev. Fr Thomas Mangaltil, the Regional Councillors, the parish priest, the priests and sisters of Sangli Mission, the teachers, parishioners and the inmates of Dilasa Bhavan, Miraj. After the prayers, at 11.30 pm the body was accompanied by Rev. Fr Lijo Kavunnukattil, Fr Shaji Parayankuzhyil, Fr Biji Kudukkamthadam and Fr Justin Kanat and taken to Bangalore St John's Medical College, Bangalore to be embalmed.

The body reached Bangalore at 11.30 am on 25 September 2024. The MST priests in Bangalore prayed the office of the Dead at 2.00 pm after embalming the body in the presence of a few relatives of Fr

Peter. The body was, then, taken to Dharmagiri Hospital, Kothamangalam. Fr Jomon was present at the Hospital to receive the body at 0.50 am on 26th Thursday, 2024.

The mortal remains of Fr Peter were brought home at Karakunnam on 26/09/24 at 5.00 pm and kept in St Marys Parish hall Karakunnam at 6.00 pm. The first part of the funeral liturgy was officiated by Mar George Madathikandathil, the bishop of Kothamangalam at 7.15 am on 27/09/2024 in the parish at Karakunnam. The body was then brought to Deepti Aaram at 9.30 am on 27/09/2024. The body was kept for public viewing in the Hall near Deepti Public chapel. The Director General and the members of the General Council prayed the office of the Dead before commencing the public viewing.

Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the bishop of Palai, offered respects to deceased Fr Peter and prayed the office of the dead. Rt Rev. Dr Silvester Ponnumuthan, the bishop of Punaloor and classmate of Fr Peter, shared his experiences with Fr Peter and prayed for the deceased with the other classmates who were present.

The second part of the funeral Liturgy began at 1.30 pm and it was led by very Rev Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General. The body was, then, shifted to the public chapel where the Director General spoke on the life and apostolate of Fr Peter Kavumpuram. It was followed by Holy Qurbana which was presided over by Mar Thomas Eleanal, the bishop of Kalyan, and concelebrated by Mar Sebastian Vadakel, the bishop of Ujjain, Rt Rev. Dr Silvester Ponnumuthan, class mate of Fr Peter, and Rev. Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura, the Director General. The Holy Qurbana was concelebrated by a good number MST and other priests especially the friends and class mates of Fr Peter. Besides, many relatives, religious and lay faithful joined the celebration. Mar Bosco Puthoor preached the homily after the Gospel. After the Qurbana and farewell services the body was taken to the cemetery for the final phase of funeral Rites presided over by Mar Sebastian Vadakel. The MST remembers with gratitude all those who send

condolences messages and the bishops, priests, religious, relatives, political leaders, neighbours, well-wishers, and lay faithful who paid respects to Fr Peter and participated in the funeral rites.

Curriculum Vitae of Fr Peter Kavumpuram

Rev.Fr Peter Kavumpuram MST (Peterkutty) was born on 25-02-1955 at Karakunnam to devoted Catholic parents Mr Kuriakose Kavumpurath and Mariakutty Arackal at Karakunnam, in the eparchy of Kothamangalam. He grew up as the fifth child of his parents with his siblings Annakutty Mani Thadathil, Jose (Ouseppachan), Joy (George), Chacko, Francis, Jessy Jose Panthalat, and Vincy Manuel Matheckal.

Fr Peter had his school education at Fr Joseph Memorial School, Puthuppady and passed SSLC in 1972. Thereafter he joined Deepti College, the MST Minor seminary of the MST, at Melampara in 1972. He did his philosophy studies at Carmelgiri Seminary, Aluva and secured the B.Ph. degree. He did his missionary training (Regency) at the Mission Centre in Barnagar in the eparchy of Ujjain. He had his theological formation at St Joseph's Seminary Mangalapuzha and secured from there the degree, B.Th, in 1982. He was ordained as a missionary priest to serve the Church in and through the Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle at Karakunnam on 23-12-1982 by Mar George Punnakottil, the then bishop of Kothamangalam. The details of the appointments of Fr Peter Kavumpuram, after his priestly ordination, are given below.

Year	Place	Diocese	Title
1983 Jan	Gandipuram (Coimbotore)	Palakad	Asst. Parish priest
1983-84	Ramanathapuram (Coimbotore)	Palakad	Asst. Parish priest
1984-1985	Olippara	Palakad	Parish Priest
1985 -1988	Pune	Pune	Chaplain to Syro-Malabar Catholics
1988-1989	Akurdi, Dehu Road, Aundh	Kalyan	Parish priest
1989-1993	Nashik	Kalyan	Parish priest
1993-1998	Kolhapur	Sangli Mission/ Kalyan	Regional Director/ Episcopal Vicar

1998-1999	Malkapur	Sangli Mission Kalyan	Pioneer Missionary
1999-2003	Khed	Sangli Mission Kalyan	Priest in Charge
2003-2008	MST Generalate	Generalate, Pala	General Councillor
2008-2010	Miraj	Sangli Mission Kalyan	Priest in Charge/ Manager
2011-2014	Melbourne	Archdiocese of Melbourne	Chaplain Syro-Malabar Catholics
2014-2016	Brisbane	Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas, Melbourne	Parish priest,
	Brisbane	Queensland, AUS	Episcopal Vicar
2016-2018	Ratnagiri	Sangli Mission Kalyan	Priest in Charge
2018-2023	MST Generalate	Generalate, Pala	General Councillor
2023-2024	Dilasa Bhavan, Miraj	Sangli Mission Kalyan	Priest in Charge

Fr Lonappan Arangassery,
Secretary General MST



APPENDIX

MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

CIRCULAR: XI/9/2023-2028

September 1, 2024

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

Warmest Greetings from MST Generalate!

Increment in the Allowance of the Priests

As per decision of the General Assembly XI: "The Assembly decided to have 5% increment of allowance every year", and I am happy to inform you that the General Council has decided to make 5% increment in the monthly allowance. The increment will amount to Rs 600/- and the total allowance of the MST priests from the month of July 2024 will be Rs12600.00. Ten per cent of the increased allowance Rs1260.00 (1200+60) will naturally go to the *MST Insurance Fund*.

Initiation of the Process of Erection of American Coordination

According to the *MST Constitutions and Directives*, D77.5, A "Coordination outside India with ten or more members shall have its Coordinator appointed by the Director General, from a panel of three proposed through election by the members of the Coordination. Such a Coordinator is an ex-officio member in the General Assembly". I am happy to announce that the General Council has decided to initiate the process of erecting Coordination in the USA for the members ministering in the United States of America.

Committee to Elect the Panel of Coordinator

As part of the process of erecting a Coordination in the USA, with the consent of the Council, I have appointed a committee of three MST priests, Fr Jacob Njarolil, as convener, Fr Siby Kochettathottu and Fr Ashish Keeranchira as members, to conduct the election for the panel of three eligible candidates from whom one will be appointed the Coordinator by the Director General. The Committee is asked to submit to me the list of three eligible candidates on the 31st of October, 2024.

Holy Qurbana for General Fund and Communion Fund

You are reminded to return the signed letters via email or by post indicating the number of Holy Qurbanas celebrated for the *General Fund* and the *Communion Fund* to the Treasurer General. It has been observed from the files that there are still a few members who have not yet given the Qurbana accounts in this regard. If anybody did not get the letter from the Treasurer General, please contact his office.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General, MST

Fr Lonappan Aranganseery
Secretary General, MST

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