



# SRILANKA JESUITS

## NEWSLETTER

Number 705

June 2018

### FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

#### Nirmala Property

Fr. General has given the Province green light to move ahead with the alienation of the property of Nirmala after having studied the proposal sent by the Province together with his advisers and then having presented the petition to the Holy See for its approval. The Nirmala chapel will be retained.

#### The New Novitiate

Fr. General has given the Province the required permissions to relocate the novitiate in Heraliyawela. However the plan and the budget are yet to be approved by Fr. General.

#### St. Michell's College-Negombo

Fr. General has asked for an independent audit report of the college before he gives any approval for administration or purchase of the college. The report is being prepared by R & J Associates, a leading Audit Company in Colombo.

#### Appointments

Fr. Sanjeeva Fernando returned to Sri Lanka on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June after his tertianship in Ireland. His will be assigned to the Daham Sihila Community, Kelaniya as juniorate master.

### Scholastics Placement and Studies for the Academic Year 2018-2019

	Name	Mission	Place
1	S. Croos Niroshan M	Juniorate Studies	Daham Shila, Kelaniya
2	S. Joseph Maxwell	Juniorate Studies	Daham Shila, Kelaniya
3	S. Jayamaha Randil G	Juniorate Studies	Daham Shila, Kelaniya
4	S. Hettiarachige Udara (Bsc) (Year I)	University Studies	St. Aloysius - Mangaluru
5	S. Savarimuthu A. Pradeep (Bcom) (Year I)	University Studies	St. Aloysius - Mangaluru
6	S. Delima Ladison Rexman (BCA) (Year I)	University Studies	St. Aloysius - Mangaluru
7	S. Amalanathan Kingsley II Year	University Studies	Loyola College - Chennai
8	S. Manoharan Arulseelan	Philosophy I Year	Satya Nilayam-Chennai
9	S. Mark Dinoshan I Year	Philosophy I Year	Satya Nilayam-Chennai
<b>Scholastics Placement and Studies for the Academic Year 2018-2019 (cont'd)</b>			
10	S. Fonseka Sithum Chinthaka I Year	Philosophy I Year	Satya Nilayam-Chennai
11	S. Masilama Salamanraj I Year	Philosophy I Year	Satya Nilayam-Chennai
12	S. George Mash Patras	Philosophy II Year	Arrupe College-Zimbabwe
13	S. Fernando Priyan Randika	Philosophy II Year	Ampitiya Seminary-Kandy
14	S. Fernando Shiran Felix	Regency II Year	Batticaloa
15	S. Perera Janith Lakmal	Regency II Year	Galle
16	S. Chamika Nipun	Regency II Year	Pakistan
17	S. Kathiravel Jude Deluxion	Theology II Year	Gregorian-Rome
18	S. Wass Rajitha Sudarshan	Theology II Year	Hekima-Kenya
19	S. Sahayanathan J. Atputharaj	Theology II Year	Hekima-Kenya
20	S. Fernando, Risi la Sachintha	Theology I Year	Manila-Philippines
21	S. Shaukat Asim	BA Studies II Year	Pakistan
22	S. Yaqoob Amir	BA Studies II Year	Pakistan

## **Colombo District**

### **Daham Sihila - Novitiate**

From the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April to the 4<sup>th</sup> of May some of our novices were at Hingurakgoda for an exposure program while others were at Lilies of the Field in Batticaloa for a work experiment. In Batticaloa Fr. Sahayanathan was in charge of them directing them in their work, while at Hingurakgoda Fr. Rashmi arranged a programme for them to work along with different communities of the parish. This experiment helped us a great deal to deepen our vocation and to strengthen our spiritual life. We are grateful to Fr. Rashmi and Fr. Sahayanathan.

After returning from the experiment we resumed our usual novitiate program. We had a few days of Charity class to help one another in fraternal correction. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May we celebrated the anniversary of the priesthood of Fr. Vanderwall our Fr. Socius. It was his 40<sup>th</sup> year after ordination. We also celebrated novice Randil's birthday on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

We had a visitor from Pakistan, Ashar, an ex-Jesuit novice who had been at Daham Sihila novitiate some time back. He was on a visit to Sri Lanka to attend a conference. He stayed a couple of days with us before he left for Pakistan.

### **Nirmala Jesuit Chapel**

Fr Theodore, in spite of his busy schedule of work at the Open University, put in much thought and effort to make the Nirmala Chapel congregation into a vibrant community.

He brought in many innovative and creative ideas to make the Gospel message and liturgy very meaningful and inspiring to us and even more especially to the youth. The result is a congregation bound into a warm family group. Many new faces attend the services and more youth came in who willingly participated in whatever was required, be it as altar servers, readers or acting out scripts on the readings prepared by Fr. Theodore.

As a preparation for Christmas 2017 we had daily masses at 5.30 a.m. [dawn Mass] which was well attended; we were invited to a very welcome cup of coffee after Mass. After the midnight service the whole congregation was invited to dinner sponsored by two members of the congregation.

On the Feast of St. Ignatius, the youth, at very short notice, acted out the highlights of the

life of the Saint which was not well known to the congregation and was much appreciated by all.

During the Lenten Season 2018, we had daily Mass and every Saturday Evening we had a reflection followed by Benediction by different priests invited by Fr. Theodore, which gave us a deeper awareness and preparation for the Season. On Palm Sunday, the Passion was enacted by the youth in a very moving manner which brought before us the reality of the crucifixion.

Fr Theodore made the services come alive by animating the liturgy and by thought provoking introductions and reflections. In turn, the appreciation of the community was always shown by their active participation, attention to detail and attendance at all the services and the ready and supportive hard work by the core group. Even the visiting priests commented on the orderly services and active responses from the congregation

Thank you warmly Fr. Theodore for guiding us with untiring effort and walking with us in being closer to the way and word of the Lord in a friendly and unassuming manner. We hope that with Fr. Lasantha's experience and your creativity, we will continue to grow as a community at Nirmala.

The worshipping community at Nirmala Jesuit Chapel

## **Kandy District**

### **Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC)**

As in many parts of the Country, these days, Cholankande area too is experiencing heavy rains, accompanied by gusty winds, thunder and lightning. A twenty year old young man was killed due to an earth slip.

A group of seminarians from the Theological Seminary, at Pilimathalawa, Kandy visited the Cholankande Youth Training Centre (CYTC) on 4<sup>th</sup> May as part of an observation and study tour, under the guidance of Ven. Bulumulle Sumanarathana Thero. The Ven. Thero, an ardent admirer of the programs and activities of CYTC, with Fr. Peter Kurukula Aratchi, explained to the group the significance of inter-religious dialogue and also of environmental awareness and involvement. The seminarians were to stay for two weeks in the Buddhist Temple.



On the heels of the seminarians were nine Jesuit Scholastics of our Province who came to make their Annual Retreat. The Retreat based on Ignatian Spirituality and Eco-Spirituality was directed by Fr. Peter. One part of the last Contemplation was done as they climbed the majestic Kabaragala Mountain, in the vicinity of Cholankande.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, interviews were conducted to admit freshers to Motor Mechanic and Computer Sections. So far, 17 students have been admitted to the two sections. Fr. Ranjan Jayamanne continues to promote the CYTC Programs by visiting Schools and areas around Nawalapitiya, Kurunduwatte & Gampola.

All the four students of the Motor Mechanic Section who obtained passes in NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) Level 3 were selected by the Wasana Trading Company, Kandana for further training.

23<sup>rd</sup> May, was a red-letter day for CYTC. For the first time in the history of CYTC twenty five A/L students (boys and girls) from several schools from Nawalapitiya, Gampola, Kurunduwatte, Ginigathena, Lakshapana & Hatton joined CYTC to complete their practicals in Motor Mechanic, Electrical, Refrigeration & Air Condition and Computer fields. They were accompanied by Mr. Amila Ruwan Balasuriya, a staff member of Anuruddha Kumara National College, Nawalapitiya. Fr. Ranajn Jayamanne, the Principal of CYTC warmly welcomed the group and initiated them to CYTC programs and campus life.



### Satyodaya Centre, Kandy

#### Fr Paul Caspersz Memorial Programme:

The Satyodaya Centre and the Jesuit Plantation Mission Development Team organized a special programme to commemorate the first death anniversary of Rev. Fr Paul Caspersz, sj., the founder of the Centre. Among the many invitees, Ven. Bahirawakande DammawansaT hero represented the Buddhist clergy being a forefront well-wisher of the Satyodaya Centre. Fr Anton Pieris, sj representing the Provincial, Fr Benedict Savarimuthu, sj, Fr Kamal Andradi, sj, Brother Lalith Fernando Pulle and Scholastic Udara Hettiarccchige gathered with Fr Christian Perera, sj, to make the event truly meaningful.

Dr. Lakmini Illangasinghe and Ms. Pushpakokila Balakrishnan were also there as representatives of the Satyodaya Trust. Other participants were from different organizations including beneficiary families of Satyodaya from various places. The memorial programme included several significant events such as naming the Satyodaya main library as "Fr Paul Caspersz Memorial Library". The whole crowd paid homage to late Rev. Fr Caspersz garlanding his picture. A book was launched in memory of Fr Caspersz with articles written by his friends, the Provincial and other associates. A distribution of certificates to the participants of the recent Leadership Training Course of Satyodaya also took place.

#### Opening of the Community Building at Pattiyaagama :

The ceremonial opening of the Community Hall at Pattiyaagama, built with the support of Satyodaya, was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 . The Early Childhood Development Centre at the same village was also shifted to this place. The teachers, parents and children were happy since this Community Hall would play a crucial role in the development of their locality in time to come. Ms S. Ganeshwary and Ms Amarapathidevi of Satyodaya staff played a very important role in the entire process.

#### Motivation Programme for School Children:

Satyodaya had organized two

programmers to motivate plantation children of grade 9 to 11 in their formal education. K/Wariyagala Tamil School, Nillambe and K/Kalaivani Tamil School, Pupuressa were the two schools where the programme was held. Mr M. Thangaraj who serves as an experienced Counselor and Personality Development Trainer conducted the programme. The purpose of the programme was to help disadvantaged students to be better motivated regarding the value of formal education. The Principals and Teachers from the two schools extended their full support in organizing the programme.

**Public Utilities Commission meeting with the People in Kandy :** Receiving an invitation from the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka, a representative from Satyodaya participated in a meeting to create awareness in the general public of their rights as consumers of Electricity, Water and Fuel. The meeting was held at the District Secretariat, Kandy and was found useful since many important areas still unknown to the public were explained. The officials of the Public Utilities Commission carefully listened to the issues raised by the participants and responded to them well. Some publications with regard to safety and consumers' rights were also distributed among the participants.

**Programme on Inter-Religious Dialogue and Coexistence:** Fr Christian Perera,s.j., as Director of Satyodaya and one of his staff members attended a programme organized by Caritas Kandy-SETIK, at its Conference Hall. The Religious leaders (Buddhist, Hindu, Islam and Christian) of Mahaiyawa area were present and contributed their experiences on how to strengthen the inter-religious dialogue and promote peace and co-existence among people. Government officials, representatives from civil society organizations and community based organizations were also present and shared their work experiences related to inter-religious dialogue.

**Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Doluwa Divisional Secretariat:**The Coordinating Committee Meeting of the Doluwa Divisional Secretariat was held at its Auditorium and it was presided over by Mr Rauff Hakeem, the Minister of City Planning and Water Management. Ms Malkanthi Kahanda represented Satyodaya at the meeting. The outcome of the meeting was, as proposed, that the Civil Society Organizations could make their contributions in the development activities of the area.

Satyodaya implements community development programmes on behalf of the disadvantaged people in several locations in the same Divisional Secretariat.

**Plantation Mission Meeting at Deraniyagala:**Fr Kamal Andradi,sj and Fr Christian Perera,sj, from Satyodaya Centre attended the meeting organized by the Coordinator of Plantation Mission, Fr Benedict Savarimuthu,sj., at Kolping Centre, Deraniyagala. Fr Stanislaus Jebamalai, Secretary, of JESA, Fr James Suresh, the Parish Priest of Deraniyagala and, Fr Alexis Premkumar, Director- Centre for Social Concern, Hatton also attended the meeting. The purpose was to evaluate the work among the plantation community in different areas.

### **St Anne's Church, Maliboda Parish, Deraniyagala**

On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, people of Digala celebrated the feast of their patron St. Joseph, the worker and began the month traditionally dedicated to our Lady. The preacher Fr. Saveriyar, OCD, from Kegalle focused on these two figures, so important in the life of Jesus, the church and in the lives of plantation workers. People from other villages, neighbouring parishes and people from other faiths took part in large numbers. After the car procession around the village, a common meal (Samabanthi) was served to all the villagers and the participants. Fr. James, the Parish Priest and the entire village community applauded the youth for their active participation and enthusiastic involvement to make the celebration successful and for their tireless effort to carry out the year long renovation work of the Church. The feast was very fitting to be celebrated after completing the renovation works.

On 23 May 2018, Maliboda-Deraniyagala parish was blessed to have the plantation mission Development team meeting for the first time in Kolping centre, Deraniyagala with the presence of Fr Stanislaus Jebamalai (JESA) Secretary. Frs. Benny, Kamal Andradi, Premkumar, Christian and James Suresh actively took part in it. The meeting was started with a short prayer and a welcome address by Fr James, the Parish Priest and Fr Benny thanked the participants for their valuable sharing. The meeting began at 9.30AM and it went on till 2.00PM. The meeting was soul-stirring for restoring the dignity of the plantation community. Thanks to Fr. Benny for his meticulous planning and systematically organizing it in Deraniyagala, an appropriate location for the plantation team meeting.

## Pakistan Mission



Our prayers are with Fr. Maria Anthony's brother, Paul, who had a severe heart attack and is recovering.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May Fr. Maria Anthony left for Sri Lanka to be with his brother and his family.

Our schools closed in mid-May just when the Islamic month of Ramadan began for summer holidays. The schools will reopen on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August. It is customary to have a month's summer camp for children in pre-ninth to tenth class. The subjects taught are English, Maths and Science. The teachers not involved in the summer camps are following a program to improve their teaching ability.

At the smaller school a music camp was organized where children had the opportunity to learn how to play guitar, flute and electric organ. Yoga and Aerobic classes were being offered until the 11<sup>th</sup> of June. Mothers of the children were given the opportunity to enrol for these classes as well. However, the response was poor.

At the bigger school, Fr Imran constructed an outdoor playground so that children could enjoy watching outdoor games and play.

Loyola Hall was busy with two 6-day-directed retreats; one for three Presentation Sisters guided by Juan Carlos, and the other for Franciscan Sisters of the Heart of Jesus accompanied by Fr. Renato. The Franciscan Sisters came to prepare for their Silver Jubilee celebrations. This month the On Going Formation Program for Religious ended with evaluating the topics presented on the theme "Walking with Jesus on Mission" by Fr. Renato. The mass was celebrated by Fr. Jeyaraj, followed by a meal together. Fr. Jeyaraj conducted the last of the monthly one-day sessions on Scripture and Spirituality. The topic was "The Mission of God; the

Mission of the Church." The Justice and Peace committee of the Pakistan Major Religious Leadership Conference had a two-day meeting.

Fr. Jeyaraj and Scholastic Chamika have been creating with their imagination and creativity the much needed new environment at Loyola Hall, in the garden, rooms, in the dining room and outdoor areas. Our two University students Amir and Asim have been busy with assignments and preparing for exams. Scholastic Chamika continues his study of Urdu and is progressing well. He is helping Fr. Jeyaraj with the Minister's work at Loyola Hall. He continues to conduct Yoga classes for children and teachers at our smaller school. He has also started English classes for our Candidates.

Our candidates have been busy with their College exams and those who finished exams helped in the library, cleaning bookshelves and storing old books. Scholastic Chamika has been working and guiding the candidates to prepare land to grow vegetables.

### Fr. Sanjeeva Fernando, S.J., about his Tertianship experience in Ireland

I have come to the completion of the Tertianship programme here in Cardoner house, Dublin. Thanks to my Irish bucket list, by now, I have been able to cover most of the parts of the lush green counties of the Republic of Ireland. The Northern Ireland remained forbidden territory to traverse. I managed to sneak a peek to Northern Ireland not once, but a couple of occasions.



Out of the whole gamut of experiences, I am particularly enriched by the culture *par excellence* and the spirit of resilience among the Irish people. Despite the problems (both physical and mental) that might affect individuals and families, they try their best not

to lose hope that easily. The Irish are, by nature, open, sociable and curious, especially with foreigners. I discovered the Irish people are fond of tea; indeed, so much so they have this expression, a cup of tea and a scone to keep you alive. The undying faith in God, in my perception, has led the people of this country to wade through the rough waters and sail beyond hard times.

Anyone who walks on the Irish soil would invariably profit by some salient Gaelic expressions which are quite unique to the Republic. You will get to hear terms like '*grand*', '*no bother, very welcome* and '*thanks a million*' from everyone. Being here for almost a year, like I was, you would also tend to pick up a few Gaelic words such as *slainte* (Cheers), *failte* (welcome), *go raibh maith agat* (Thank you).

In this unique milieu, tertianship has truly contributed immensely to my personal growth, answering some of the pressing and daunting questions of what it is to be a Jesuit in the modern world. Father Ignatius, when he was in search of God, found that Oasis at the river Cardoner, Manresa, and I was confident that it was freely available to me here on this holy ground at Cardoner House, Dublin. So, you might ask, have you found Him? My reply is not to say, '*the answer my friend is blowing in the wind*', rather that I am being found.

Time flies, yes, it is true, nonetheless, never forget that you are the navigator of your life. As this privileged and graced period comes to an end, the lay over at one airport begins to expire, the Pilot must buckle up and plunge into the unprecedented flux firmament with total confidence in Him. Well, my dear readers, allow me to sing aloud my **Swan song**, from the bottom of my heart. In order to actualize my heart's desire, I wish to borrow a couple of lines from **Alfred Lord Tennyson** who expressed similar sentiments in his masterpiece, "*Crossing the Bar*".

*“Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell,  
When I embark.....”*

### **Fr Tyrone from Naples**

Preparations for a first Holy Communion Service was started way back in January,2018.But only after Easter Sunday, regular Saturday classes were held from 4 pm to 7.30 pm. Children were made to memorize 27 prayers by the Teacher Mrs.Priya. Practically all of them were successful memorizing the prayers. All the Daham Pasala (Religion Classes) teachers were of valuable help to Priya Teacher who dedicated lots of her time to train the children.

Rev. Fr.Anthony Fernando SDB from Rome was invited by Priya Teacher to conduct a three day workshop for the children and their parents. Many parents were very happy with the programme.

Fr.Anthony conducted one session for the boys and girls who were preparing to receive Confirmation on June 3rd.

We were fortunate to get Rt.Rev.Bishop Valence Mendis of Chilaw Diocese to preside over the first Holy Communion Service on May 13th. Bishop Valence was in Napoli to attend the Confirmation Service of Rev. Fr. Suranga Asiri (a Diocesan Priest from Chilaw) at Kaulu Paliya, a church which is about 2 km from Gesu Nuovo.

The entire service, the flower arrangements, food for the Jesuit Community and transport for the Bishop from Avellino was arranged by the parents. The parents of the well to do children took care of the needs of the poorer children. Both girls and boys wore a long dress that looked like a cassock.

The Gesu Nuovo Church was packed with Sri Lankans as well as a few Italians. The church was very beautifully decorated by a Sri Lankan. Rev.Fr. Vincenzo Sibilio, S.J, the Parish Priest of Gesu Nuovo, Frs. Don Giuseppe, Asiri and Tyrone concelebrated with the Bishop.

Bishop Valence who was very pleased with all the arrangements sent me an email thanking me for inviting him to preside over the service.

Rev. Fr. Don Giuseppe, from Avellino brought gifts for all the 26 children who received First Holy Communion. He has been a good friend of the late Rev.Fr. Carmine Iannaccone.S.J. and also a great benefactor of Choloankande Youth Training Centre.

### **FROM ROME**

New statutes for **the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network** (Apostleship of Prayer)

With the encouragement of Father Adolfo Nicolás, the process of recreating the Apostleship of Prayer proceeded for several years. On April 18, 2018, Bishop Angelo Becciu, Substitute for General Affairs to the Vatican Secretary of State, informed Father General Arturo Sosa that on March 27, 2018, the Holy Father established the Pope's World Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) as a pontifical work, with its headquarters in the Vatican City State, and approved its new statutes. The various Provinces and Regions of the Society of Jesus will continue to support the "Pope's World Network of Prayer" so that the Gospel may grow in the lives of the men and women of our time.

Father General visited Canada from 18-31 May 2018. During the visit, he participated in the meeting of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and United States (JCU). He also made pastoral visits to the two Jesuit provinces, English Canada and French Canada. The two provinces are in the process of uniting to create one single Jesuit province on 31 July 2018, Feast of the Jesuit founder, Saint Ignatius Loyola.

## **JESUITICA**

**KENYA: Linking Africa and Europe in Nairobi**

On the occasion of the plenary meeting of the JESAM (April 26-28) - the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar - in Nairobi, Fr. Franck Janin (President JCEP) - the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials - and Fr. Johan Verschuere (ELC) participated on April 24 at the "Commissio mixta", the six monthly joint meeting of representatives of both Jesuit Conferences. Previous meeting was last October in Ludwigshafen (GER). Actually the "commissio mixta" is composed by the presidents of the Conferences, accompanied by one member of the Conferences.

There was also a meeting with some members of the International Solidarity Commission, a new initiative since General Congregation 36.  
FROM THE ASSISTANCY (ASM)

### **New Superior of Philosophers - DNC**

I am glad to inform you Fr. George Beck (DUM) is the new superior of Philosophers at DNC. Fr. Zacheus Dungdung has left DNC in the beginning of April after six years of wonderful service to the DNC Community and also to many other religious congregations in the city. He will be remembered also for

Greening the barren land behind the Philos' quarters and for an array of flower pots. WE wish him well in his next assignment.

Fr. Edward Mudavassery SJ  
Rector  
De Nobili College  
Pune

**JUNE 2018**

**REMEMBRANCES**

02/52	Fr. Michael McDonough	71/53
02/94	Br. Anthony Richard	70/51
09/49	Fr. Charles Reichard	78/57
09/62	Fr. Philip Joseph Mary	77/37
12/97	Fr. Joseph Mayer	82/65
13/65	Fr. Loius Spillebout	82/63
14/32	Fr. Maurice Boutry	42/24
14/72	Fr. Malachy Cutcliff	56/37
15/95	Fr. Godfrey Cook	94/78
19/52	Fr. Paul Baguet	62/43
19/67	Fr. Joseph Sommers	53/35
19/09	Fr. Claude Raymond Daly	93/78
20/98	Br. Turin Fernando	70/48
22/12	Fr. Rex Ockersz	79/57
25/82	Fr. Paul Peiris	76/54
28/04	Fr. Gabriel de Beaurepaire	64/45
28/82	Fr. O.P.S. Santhanam	66/24

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS**

**June 2018**

12/39	Weerasinghe Anton
16/74	Fernando Milroy
22/59	Fernando Patrick

**July 2018**

01/72	Mariyathas Thambiaiah
02/76	Elil Rajan Rajendram
09/58	Jeyaraj Rasiah
11/07	Rajitha Sudarshan Wass
23/96	Dilaxsan Pius (Novice)
26/59	Sebastian Thevarasa
27/61	Gabriel Alfreds
30/87	Masilamany Salamanraj

**NEXT EDITING**

Please send in your reports/pictures/photographs on or before Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, to the Editor, Sri Lanka Jesuits' NEWSLETTER,

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