



Volume 7, Issue 12

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Happy New Year

Dear Sisters and Brothers,



Greetings from Bangalore! Trust all of you are keeping well and safe.

Happy New Year! Usually, a formal greeting to usher in the new year...but not anymore. It is a sincere wish and prayer that the new year will bring much of the joy and happiness robbed by the pandemic.

Certainly, the year that is drawing to a close will remain engraved in our memories and those of humanity the world over. Our certainties have been shaken. Our fragility has been exposed, we have come to experience the profound vulnerability both in ourselves and in our society. We have tried or are still trying to make sense of it all. For some the pandemic is a sign of the end days. 'It is all predicted in the book of Revelation', they say; 'it is a call to repent. God is judging and punishing us for the sins of humanity. He is telling us to change, others say;' or 'it is the fault of the Chinese, the governments', etc...etc. But at a closer examination we will find these explanations wanting.

So, whether we succeed or not in finding an answer is not the main concern because it is not the question of 'why' but of 'what'... 'what can we do' in this situation. I think it is where the response of Jesus to a particular human need becomes a model for us. We see this in the story of the man born blind in the gospel of John. Responding to the question of 'who sinned' Jesus says: "*Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day...*"

In the face of gloom and doom brought on by the pandemic, we must do the works of Him. We have seen faces appearing, of compassion, solidarity and love. I am sure many of us have come across stories of genuine compassion and whole-hearted generosity where people have reached out to the needy around them and continue to do so still. Indeed, our own communities have reached out in so many ways bringing succour in a desperate situation. I hope we can continue to do so into the coming year. But hopefully, in due course, we would have learned also some lessons from this pandemic including, may be, the question of 'why'.

As we wave goodbye to the old and embrace the new year, we have several things to look forward to in the Vice Province. In the month of January, we will have the priestly ordination of our confrere Antony Thomas, the final profession and diaconate ordination of confreres Binod and Devaraj in March, General Visitation and Pre-Congress in February-March and the Congress itself in the month of May. There will be events associated with the ongoing Jubilee celebrations of our Congregation. So, as we welcome the new year, we have a lot of things to look forward to bringing us a sense of hope and cheer.

Wishing you all health, happiness, and peace in the New Year ahead, I remain

Fraternally,

Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.
Vice Provincial (THOM)

UPDATES

January

Birthdays

Mejo	04
Antony X	11
Xavier USA	19
Jerald	26
Wilson	26

Feast Days

Mary Mother of God	01
St. Charles Houben	05

Ordination

Jithin	04
Jerald	05
Muthappan	05
Jackson	06

Profession

George	09
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**Christmas
Celebration at
Ashram JXP, Kochi
(above & left)**

Christmas at Gyananilaya Community, Bophal.(below)

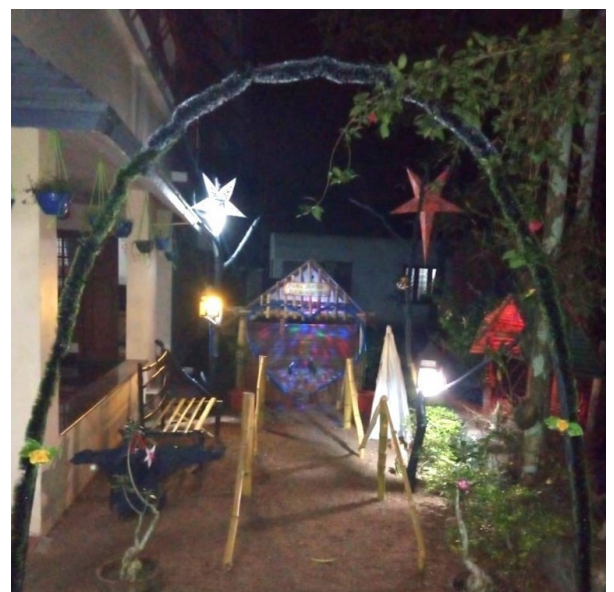




Christmas celebration at Jyothir Bhavan community with FSM sisters and Philosophy students. (left and below)



Christmas celebration at St. Gemma Novitiate, Nilambur. (below)





Christmas celebration at Jeevadhama along with the Rosary family and neighbors. (left)

Fr. Kulandai Yesu, Procurator of the Diocese of Vellore presided over the Christmas celebration in Randham. (right)



Christmas carols in Randham initiated by the elders. (left)

Christmas gifts given in Randham with the help of donors; cloths to the widows, and elders (left)
Free cow feed distributed to 80 families of the Milk society(right)





Third Centenary Jubilee inauguration at Palliport. Bp. Joseph of Kottapuram Diocese presided over the ceremony.



JPIC Covid relief, Supply of chicks to the families at Palliport. (Far left) Fr. Louis preached the Advent retreat at Randham. (left)



**Randham church construction progresses... (above)
Family visit and counselling by CFC members from Bangalore at Randham mission in preparation for Christmas. (right)**

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