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KARUNĀḌA SAURABHA
KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE NEWSLETTER



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KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE

May-June 2026

PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

As we begin a new academic year 2026-27, we do so with gratitude, hope, and right earnestness. Every beginning is a gift, and every beginning also carries a responsibility. The classrooms, offices, hostels, parishes, social works, retreat houses, formation houses, and communities where we serve are not merely places of work; they are places of mission. We are called to accompany people from all walks of life, to animate our institutions and communities, and to renew our commitment to the Jesuit vision of forming men and women for and with others. This formation is never limited to intellectual or financial success alone. It embraces character and conscience, competence and compassion, commitment and integrity, until human excellence is seen not as a trophy to be displayed but as the overall development of the whole person (*cura personalis*) in service of God and the neediest neighbour.

At the threshold of this year, the Church has given us a fresh light through the Encyclical Letter *Magnifica Humanitas* of Pope Leo XIV on safeguarding the human person in the age of artificial intelligence. The Holy Father reminds us that the human person is never to be reduced to data, efficiency, or utility, and that the common good, justice, solidarity, and the dignity of every person must remain at the heart of our daily discernment. The encyclical places the human person, created in the image of God, at the centre of all reflection and insists that technology must remain under the guidance of human intelligence, conscience, and freedom. It also highlights the central role of schools as places where new generations learn the truth, critical thinking, and respect for human dignity, and where teachers themselves must be continually formed so that new technologies serve education rather than dominate it. These are timely reminders for all our apostolates as we accompany the people, especially young people, in an increasingly digital world.

In the same spirit, safeguarding must remain a concrete and visible expression of our faith and apostolic responsibility. Fr. Hans Zollner, SJ, who recently addressed the staff and Jesuits in Bengaluru, reminded us that safeguarding is not a peripheral concern but an integral part of the Church's mission and culture. His emphasis on safe spaces, safe relationships, and safe processes challenges us to make our communities and ministry places true life-safe places, especially for minors and vulnerable adults. Therefore, may all our apostolic and community spaces be places where people are always protected, respected, heard, and accompanied.

Our Province is also at a moment of discernment as we search for a new Provincial. Such a process is not merely an administrative exercise. It is spiritual, ecclesial, and deeply Ignatian. St. Ignatius sought in a Jesuit superior a man of God, rooted in prayer, capable of discernment, free from self-interest, and committed to the mission with humility and courage. He should be prudent in judgment, patient with people, charitable in manner, generous in spirit, and able to unite minds and hearts. Above all, he must seek the greater glory of God and the greater service of souls. Let us pray for a leader after the heart of Christ who can guide the Province with wisdom, serenity, and fidelity.



- FR DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ

As June unfolds, our hearts naturally turn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a devotion deeply nourished and cherished by the Society of Jesus since the time of St. Claude de la Colombière. The Heart of Jesus reveals a love that is personal, self-giving, merciful, and steadfast. May the Sacred Heart renew our Province right at the beginning of this academic year, strengthen the union of hearts and minds in our communities, deepen our apostolic commitment, and inspire us to be and to form persons of character and conscience, competence and compassion, commitment and excellence with spiritual, emotional and intellectual depth. May it also teach us to safeguard every person entrusted to our care and help us walk together in hope as true friends and followers of Jesus.

Wish you all a fruitful academic year.

APPOINTED/APPROVED BY FR GENERAL

- Fr. Bernhard Bürgler:** Regional Assistant for Central and Eastern Europe and General Councilor
Fr. Tomasz Kot: Delegate for the Interprovincial Houses and Works of Rome (DIR)
Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess (RAN): President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia (POSA)
Fr. Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ): New Provincial of Gujarat Jesuit Province
Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj L (CEN): Deputy Secretary of the Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, General Curia, Rome
Fr. Jerome Cutinha (JAM): Rector, De Nobili College (DNC), Pune
Fr. Joseph Cardozo (GOA): Regional Secretary for South Asia, General Curia, Rome
Fr. Nelson D'Silva (DEL): Provincial, Delhi Province
Fr. Sunny Jacob (JAM): Provincial, Jamshedpur Province

Fr. General has approved **Fr. Ryan Savio Rodrigues** for the profession of Final Vows in the Society of Jesus

APPOINTED BY FR PROVINCIAL

NAME	DESIGNATION	PLACE
Fr. Anthony Lawrence	Asst. Director, Skill Academy	Nelamangala, Bengaluru
Fr. Arvin Jeevan Pais	House Minister	AK, Mangaluru
Fr. Avinash D'Souza	House Minister	Sadhana, Mundgod
Fr. Brian Pereira	Pro Chancellor, SADU	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr. Daniel Fernandes	Coordinator, PCAA	JN, Bengaluru
Fr. Don Lobo	PhD, Glasgow University	Scotland
Fr. Francis Noronha	Manager & Correspondent	Maria Niketan, Bengaluru
Fr. Francis Pinto	PhD, Mumbai University	Ashirvad, Bengaluru
Fr. Gerald Furtado	Director, LCPUC	MSJ, Bengaluru
Fr. Jeevan Prabhu	Staff	Xavier Sadan, Mandya
Fr. Johnson R	House Minister	Jnana Jyothi, Anekal
Fr. Johnson R	MA, Azim Premji University	Jnana Jyothi, Anekal
Fr. Joyson Vas	Finance Officer	FRH, Mangaluru
Fr. Lumnesh Kumar	Coordinator, PCE	AN, Bengaluru
Fr. Maxim M. D'Souza	House Treasurer	AK, Mangaluru
Fr. Merwyn Fernandes	Assisting in HRDC (Additional)	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr. Nithin Machado	PhD, PUG	Bellarmino, Rome
Fr. Pradeep R S	Teaching, Loyola Institutions	Sadhana, Mundgod
Fr. Prashanth Sequeira	House Treasurer	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr. Preetesh V. Misquith	MA, Azim Premji University	Jnana Jyothi, Anekal
Fr. Pruthvi R. Rodrigues	LLB, Manipal University	Ashirvad, Bengaluru
Fr. Sandeep Gonsalves	House Treasurer	MS, Vijayapura
Fr. Shantharaj A	Social Work, Manvi	Hombelaku, Manvi
Fr. Sujay Daniel	Teaching, SADU	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr. Sunil Fernandes	Coordinator, PCSE	MS, Vijayapura
Fr. Teyol P. Machado	Director, Skill Academy	Nelamangala, Bengaluru
Fr. Vishwas Misquith	House Treasurer	LM, Bengaluru
Fr. Wilson K. Bennis	House Minister	Hombelaku, Manvi

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

June 2026

- 01: Meeting with Mr Michael D'Souza: SAC (M'luru)
- 05: Meeting of Bangalore Jesuits: Address by Fr. Hans Zollner
- 06: Address to AICUF State Advisors: Ashirvad (B'luru)
- 08-09: Programme for Deacons: Xavier Sadan (Mysuru)
- 18-20: Religious Leadership: Prerana (Bengaluru)
- 21: First Vows: MSJ (Bengaluru)
- 22: Province Consult: LM (Bengaluru)
- 23: Visit: SAC (Harihar)
- 24: Visit: Vidya Niketan (Dharwad)
- 25: Investiture Ceremony of Students Council: SJCC (Bengaluru)
- 26: Meeting of the Media Commission
- 27: Meeting of Social Action Commission: Ashirvad (Bengaluru)
- 27: Meeting of the Youth Commission: Ashirvad (Bengaluru)
- 28: Meeting of Formation and Vocation Promotion Commission

July 2026

- 01: AGM, CNFCE (Manvi)
- 02: AGM, BJECS (Vijayapur)

- 04: Meeting of the Secondary Education Commission
- 04: Meeting of the Service of Faith Commission
- 07: Visit: SAC (Mangaluru)
- 08: Visit: Loyola (Mangaluru)
- 08: AGM, MJES (Mangaluru)
- 09: AGM, Ashirvad Trust (Bengaluru)
- 10: Visit: Inigo Sadan (Bengaluru)
- 11-12: Meeting of LS, DoWs, CCMs: Prerana (B'luru)
- 12: AGM, KJES (Bengaluru)
- 13: Province Consult: LM (Bengaluru)
- 14: Visit: Joseph Nivas (Hassan); AGM, HJES
- 15: Training of new DoWs, Treasurers and Finance Officers
- 16: Visit: Arrupe Nivas (Bengaluru)
- 17-19: KRRCR Assembly: St John's Medical College, Annexe (Bengaluru)
- 19: Meeting of the Building and Finance Commission (LM, Bengaluru)
- 20: Visit: Jesuit Nivas (Bengaluru)
- 21: AGM, BJES (Bengaluru)
- 22: Visit: Jnana Jyothi (Anekal); AGM, AJECS
- 23-30: Programme for CJ Sisters (Kathmandu)
- 25: Meeting of the Alumni Association Commission
- 29: AGM, NKJECS (Mundgod)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

21 June: First Vows: MSJ (Bengaluru)

11-12 July: Meeting of LS, DoWs, CCMs: Prerana (Bengaluru)

Sch. Robert C. left the Society of Jesus on 28 April 2026.

Sch. A. Abraham Clinton left the Society of Jesus on 29 May 2026.

We wish them God's abundant blessings as they begin a new phase in their lives.

Prerana is hosting a Special Retreat from **25th Nov. to 3rd Dec. 2026**, by Fr. Tony J. D'Souza SJ (BOM)

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWP): JUNE 2026

For the values of sports: Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity and personal growth.



SAHODAYA 2026, Pandithahalli



Sahodaya 2026, the annual gathering of scholastics, was held at St. Joseph School, Pandithahalli, from 19–23 May, with over 60 scholastics in attendance, including four from the Sri Lanka Province. The theme of the gathering was: ಸಂಘರ್ಷಗಳ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಂತಿಯ ದೂತರು, "Messengers of Peace in an Age of Conflicts." The programme was inaugurated by Fr. Pratap Chandru SJ, PCF, along with Fr. Pradeep Anthony SJ and Fr. Alwyn D'Souza SJ.

The gathering featured enriching sessions by Fr. Pradeep RS SJ, Fr. Nithin Monteiro SJ, and social activist Mr. Shivasundar on inter-generational conflict, peace, justice, and reconciliation in a polarised world. Fr. Dionysius Vaz SJ, Provincial, shared the findings of the JCSA ethnicity survey and encouraged the scholastics to move from being merely multicultural to truly intercultural, while deepening one's Jesuit identity and companionship.

A major highlight was the release of the 28th annual issue of *Prajwalana*, titled *New India: Shadows of Despair and Sparks of Hope*. The gathering also included an outing to GRS Fantasy Park, fostering joy and fraternity among the scholastics.



This year, the scholastic body welcomed six juniors and bid farewell to eight newly ordained priests. Gratitude was expressed to Swamy Rajendra Nilaya community, Mount St. Joseph, and St. Joseph's University for their generous support and hospitality.

- Sch. Maria Divij

INTERACTION WITH FR HANS ZOLLNER ON SAFEGUARDING, B'luru

On 05 June 2026, St Joseph's University, Bengaluru hosted an interaction with Fr. Hans Zollner, SJ, Director, IADC-PUG, on the theme "Safeguarding Students and Nurturing Safe Educational Communities." Around 90 participants attended the programme. They included counsellors, class mentors, Internal Complaints Committee members, selected staff involved in student accompaniment and safeguarding, and Jesuit Volunteers engaged in pastoral care. The session began with the welcome and introduction by Fr. Lumnesh Kumar.

safeguarding and highlighted the responsibility of institutions to create safe, respectful, and life-giving spaces for students. The interactive Q&A session, moderated by Fr. Bala Kiran, was engaging and lively. Participants raised practical and experience-based questions and openly shared the challenges they encounter in their institutions. Fr. Melwyn Sunny Pinto proposed the vote of thanks.

Later in the evening, around 70 Bangalore Jesuits gathered at Arrupe Hall, SJBHS, Bengaluru, for a second session with Fr. Hans Zollner on



In his keynote address, Fr. Zollner offered an insightful reflection on safeguarding. He emphasized accompaniment, emotional well-being, responsible digital engagement, and building a culture of care in Jesuit educational institutions. He explained the meaning and importance of

safeguarding in Jesuit life and formation. Fr. Shanthraj A. was the MC and began the session with prayer. Fr. Dionysius Vaz, Provincial, welcomed everyone and introduced Fr. Hans to the gathering. Reflecting on Jesuit identity, spirituality, companionship, and apostolic integrity in the context of AI, digital distraction, loneliness, burnout, and emotional fragmentation, Fr. Hans invited Jesuits to deeper personal and institutional reflection. The session concluded with a lively and meaningful interaction moderated by Fr. Lumnesh.

- Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar

TRAINING OF SCHOOL TEACHERS, Beschi

The School Education Commission of the Jesuit Conference of South Asia organized a 10-day residential Capacity Building Programme for newly recruited teachers of Jesuit schools from the Southern Provinces at Beschi College, Dindigul. Teachers from St Joseph's School, Jnana Jyothi, Anekal, and the Pannur-Manvi Mission

participated in the programme.

The sessions introduced participants to Jesuit education and Ignatian Pedagogy. Fr. John Kennedy SJ (MDU) and Fr. Pavulraj SJ (MDU) highlighted the Jesuit vision of "Education for Transformation" and the Ignatian ideal of MAGIS.

Fr. Rohan D'Almeida SJ conducted sessions on best practices in Jesuit schools, emphasizing academic excellence, character formation, and social concern. Fr. Henry Jerome SJ (MDU) led sessions on Cyber Wisdom, while Prof. A. Vimal introduced AI-powered educational tools for creating games, websites, posters, and learning materials. The concluding valedictory ceremony

was led by Fr. Britto Vincent SJ, Provincial of the Chennai Jesuit Province.

The participants departed with renewed professional commitment, spiritual depth, and a stronger dedication to the Jesuit mission of forming compassionate and future-ready learners.

- Sch. Avin A

ARRUPE NIVAS, Bengaluru



Fr. Melwyn S. Pinto assumed charge as the Superior of Arrupe Nivas and Pro Chancellor of SJU. The community also welcomed several new members this year. Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop joined the community and took charge as the Director of the Gents' Hostel. Fr. Bala Kiran became the Director of Shift 3, succeeding Fr. Francis Pinto, who has moved to Ashirvad to pursue his PhD studies. Sch. Vivian Saldanha joined the community to pursue his MSc in Physics. In addition, three Jesuits from Kohima, Jamshedpur, and Hazaribagh Provinces have joined the community for higher studies.

Some of our community members were actively engaged in spiritual ministries. Frs Bala Kiran and Lumnesh Swaroop conducted province retreats for Jesuits, while Fr. Richard Rego creatively integrated his expertise in film studies into retreat preaching through films, which was widely appreciated.

The community also had the joy of hosting attached members from the diaspora during their holidays. Fr. Lancy Monteiro from DNC-Pune and Fr. Lawrence Fernandes from SN-Chennai spent a few days with the community. Fr. Seva Ratinam also visited us from Philippines as part of the international diaspora.

Adding to the community's achievements, Dr Ronald J. Mascarenhas of SJU was conferred the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), London, UK, one of the highest recognitions in the field of Chemical Sciences. Bem-bala successfully organised a seven-day Summer Camp on Basic English Communication Skills at Nelamangala Outreach Centre, with over 70 children from 8 to 10 villages actively participating. Our university team also attended a review meeting of the Siddi Development Project at Mundgod.

- Fr. Melwyn S Pinto

ASHIRVAD, Bengaluru



The Ashirvad community witnessed significant transitions during April and May as Fr. Amal Bosco (MDU), Sch. Akhilan (MDU), Fr. Brian Pereira, Fr. Prashanth Madtha, and Fr. Antony Arul moved to their new assignments. We warmly welcomed Fr. Francis Pinto, Fr. Pruthvi Rodrigues, and Fr. Joseph Kiran Pashan to the community. Fr. Francis Noronha also joined as an attached member and will serve at Maria Niketan School in the Archdiocese of Bangalore.

Fr. Joseph Lobo conducted the RRSJA programme for Madurai Province and later served as a resource person for the POP (Pre-Ordination Programme) in Wayanad. Important community events during these months include the Pre-Regency Meet, Community Picnic, and Staff Picnic. Ashirvad also hosted several young Jesuits who stayed here while appearing for their B.Ed. examinations in various universities across Bengaluru.

Seventeen students from our missions, as part of the Sahaya Programme, appeared for the Apti-

tude Test in April, and those selected underwent a month-long English Training Programme at Ashirvad in May. Another group of nearly 30 students participated in a 15-day Social Analysis Course during the second half of May.

The IRHM Unit of Ashirvad celebrated Easter with Fr. Bala Kiran Kumar SJ as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker. Arunya Classes for volunteers of Spandana Study Centres and teachers from mission schools proved fruitful, while Spandana Study Centres organised a Summer Camp for around 65 students.

Under the leadership of Fr. Suman Balu, a one-day seminar on "Legal Compliances, Safeguarding, and Responsible Governance" was conducted and highly appreciated. Fr. Arul Antony also led a seven-day workshop on "Media and Communication" for 11 participants from various provinces.

- Fr. Joseph Kiran Pashan

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Mangaluru



The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima was celebrated with great devotion, preceded by a meaningful triduum and animated on the concluding day by the Maria Prarthana Retreat Team under the guidance of Fr. Mukti Prakash. The community witnessed several transitions during the season. Fr. Ajay D'Silva moved to Loyola Mandir for his new mission, while Fr. Joseph Monteiro left for Spain *ad tempus* for a programme in Ignatian Spirituality. Fr. Joyson Vas joined the community and quickly took up his responsibilities, including conducting a programme on psycho-sexual and spiritual integration for would-be novices at Loyola Pre-Novitiate.

Frs Ivan Mendonca, Fredrick D'Silva, Joyson Vas, and Edward Rodrigues were actively engaged in retreats and formation programmes. Fr. Joseph Rodrigues offered a course on Spiritual Direction

in Secunderabad, while Fr. Fredrick and Fr. Edward conducted orientation and formation programmes in various Jesuit institutions.

The birthdays of Frs Norbert Fernandes, Francis Almeida, Ajay D'Silva, Terence Farias and Ivan Mendonca were celebrated in a simple yet meaningful manner, marking the golden jubilee of priesthood and the diamond jubilee in the Society of Jesus of Fr. Norbert Fernandes at Mount St Joseph. Frs Oswald Mascarenhas and Denis Rasquinha quietly celebrated sixty years of priesthood and final vows within the community - reminding us that some jubilees speak loudest in silence. The community was deeply saddened by the demise of Fr. Ravi Santhosh Kamath, remembered for his dedicated, compassionate, and tireless priestly ministry that touched countless lives.

- Fr. Edward Rodrigues

HOMBELAKU, Manvi



The Hombelaku community warmly welcomed its new members, Fr. Yesunath Karlekar and Sch. Joshua Lobo. Fr. Wilson Bennis has been appointed as the new House Minister. Loyola College, Manvi, conducted various academic and co-curricular activities during May to promote holistic students' development. The 14th Annual Day was celebrated on May 9, highlighting students' achievements in academics, sports, and cultural activities. Various departments also organized poster and dissertation presentations to encourage research, creativity, and experiential learning. The students of Loyola Degree College are presently writing their semester examinations. Loyola School and Xavier CBSE School secured 100%

results in the board examinations. The academic year 2026-27 has begun, and admissions to the schools, college, and hostels are in progress. Fr. George Pinto was installed as the new Parish Priest of St. Peter's Church, Pannur, on May 24. The parishioners gave a heartfelt farewell to Fr. Rayappa M, appreciating his dedicated service in building unity. Fr. Yesu Karlekar has taken charge as the Director of Loyola Kapepaladi School and Arrupe Hostel. The Loyola Social Work Centre organized an Employability Skills Training Camp from April 26 to May 8, with 25 youth participating. The ESP National Team visited the centre on May 10 and 11.

- Fr. Maxim Rasquinha

JESUIT NIVAS, Bengaluru



SJBHS brought pride to the institution by securing an outstanding 100% pass result in the ICSE and ISC Examinations 2026. The achievement of the students and school toppers was celebrated with great joy. The school also organised a two-day seminar for the teaching and non-teaching staff in collaboration with the Shlokha Deviah Trust on the theme "EMO Campus: Nurturing Resilience Together," focusing on empathy and resilience building.

SJPUC began the new academic year on a positive note with excellent II PUC Board Examination results. Admissions to I PUC were successfully completed, and orientation and faculty development programmes were conducted before the

commencement of regular classes. SJEPUC also commenced the academic year with renewed enthusiasm following commendable II PU Board results. Orientation programmes were organised for students, and regular classes began in a disciplined manner.

SJIM celebrated its grand convocation ceremony on 23 April in the presence of Mr G. V. Rao, CSR Director of Volvo India. Fr. Roshan Pereira visited Jesuit universities in the United States, signed key MOUs for academic collaboration, and represented SJIM at the AACSB Annual Meeting in Seattle. SJIM also organised a three-day Faculty Development Programme for its faculty members. SJCC marked the academic year with significant

initiatives, including the participation of two students in the Semester Exchange Programme at Kobe College, successful admissions to undergraduate programmes, and faculty development programmes focusing on well-being and professional growth. The institution also inaugurated

the First-Year B'Com (Accounting and Taxation) programme and organised the National Financial Literacy Quiz in collaboration with NISM-SEBI.

- Fr. Shanthraj A.

JNANA JYOTHI, Anekal



The Jnana Jyothi community witnessed several transitions during April and May, bidding farewell to Frs Arvin Pais, Kiran Pashan, and Yesunath Karlekar and Sch. Macwin D'Souza, the regent of Navasadhana, while warmly welcoming Frs Johnson R., John Thomas, and Preethesh Misquith, Sch Arun Raj and Sch Harish Kumar as new regents. Fr. Jerome D'Souza conducted Kannada classes for would-be theology students.

St Joseph's PU College achieved an excellent overall PUC result of 96.13%. Several high-achieving students were honoured at their homes in the presence of their parents. St Joseph's School began the new academic year on 1 June, and the teachers warmly welcomed the students with

creative programmes. Fr. Edward Rodrigues SJ conducted staff orientation programmes for both the school and PU teaching faculty. Navasadhana pre-novitiate organized vocation camps in Anekal and in parishes of Mysore Diocese with the support of Jesuits and scholastics. The new academic year commenced with 17 pre-novices, including eight newcomers. The CIRW celebrated Ambedkar Jayanthi, and Fr. Jerald D'Souza assumed charge as Director, succeeding Fr. Arvin Pais. At St Joseph's Church, a summer camp was organized for catechism children, and the parish feast of St Joseph was celebrated with First Holy Communion and Confirmation ceremonies for the children of the parish.

- Sch. Arun Raj

JOSEPH NIVAS, Hassan



At St. Joseph's English Medium School, a five-day capacity-building programme for the staff was organised with Fr. Dheeraj D'Souza, Fr. Richard D'Almeida (SVD), Mrs Vanita, and Mr Sohan as resource persons. The High School staff had a separate programme led by Fr. Freddie D'Silva.

St. Joseph's College hosted EXPLORICA-2026, a state-level undergraduate fest with participation from 24 colleges. The Car Expo and Royal Enfield bike stunts drew large crowds and generated significant social media attention. A series of expert talks enriched students' knowledge in digital marketing, artificial intelligence, machine learning, government career services, and international immersion programmes. Akashavani Hassan conducted a quiz programme in our campus as part of AIR's 90th anniversary celebrations, which was later aired on the radio. The

college also organised a blood donation camp in collaboration with HIMS Hospital, Hassan, and hosted "Threads of Traditions," a four-day cultural celebration. Students excelled in Hassan University sports events, winning several medals. The annual day was celebrated with a farewell to the outgoing students and to Fr. Rayan Pereira for his dedicated service as Finance Officer and Assistant Professor of Mathematics. A 10-day Spoken English course was conducted for newly admitted students, and three Bengaluru-based companies recruited 16 students through campus placements. The college community deeply mourned the tragic demise of Mr Gautam, a first-year BCom student, in a bike accident near Hassan railway station. A meaningful requiem prayer service was held in his memory with the entire student community in attendance.

- Fr. Olvin Veigas

LOYOLA MANDIR, Bengaluru



Fr. Royston Pinto participated in an online webinar on "Sponsorship: Canonical Responsibilities for the Apostolic Works of Religious Institutes" conducted by Prof. Kelly Connors, PM. His abstract titled "Canonical Perspectives on Authority: From a Juridical to a Pastoral-Missionary Church" was also accepted for presentation at an international conference to be held at Saint Paul University,

Ottawa, Canada, in October 2026.

Fr. Nithin Machado returned safely from Rome and underwent successful surgery for kidney stone removal at St. Philomena's Hospital. Fr. Jeevan Prabhu was engaged in proofreading and revising his forthcoming book, *Sowers of Hope: The Jesuit Footprints in Karnataka*. Fr. Jeevan Gomes

also concluded a retreat for the novices of St. Charles Borromeo at Premanjali before assuming office as Principal of St. Aloysius International School, Harihar. Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar participated in an Ecological Conference in Darjeeling, while Fr. Royston Pinto conducted a course for pre-regents at Ashirvad on Regents in the Church. The Loyola Mandir community bid farewell to Fr. Vishal Pinto and to the Scholastics Rahul, Elias, and Denvar Pushpam, and welcomed Fr. Ajay D'Silva, to whom the responsibilities for the Archives, Library, and Publications

were entrusted. Fr. Vishwas Joy Misquith has taken charge as the House Treasurer besides his full time PhD studies in Manipal University.

Frs Jason Furtado and Royston Pinto attended their annual retreat at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal. Fr. Pradeep R.S. participated in Sahodaya 2026 at Pandithahalli. Scholastics Deslon Vas, Pradeep D'Souza and Steven Joseph are assisting in the province archives.

- Fr. Royston Pinto

LOYOLA PRE-NOVITIATE, Mangaluru



The month of May was marked by preparation, transition, and new beginnings. From May 1–11, the outgoing batch of would-be novices attended intensive classes on sacraments and liturgy conducted by Fr. Anush D'Cunha, culminating in a solemn Triduum. From May 14–17, the Provincial, the Novice Director, and Fr. Leston Lobo visited the candidates' families in preparation for their entry into the Novitiate, strengthening the bond between the families and the Society. A wave of fresh energy hit Loyola on May 24th as we joyfully welcomed a vibrant group of 11 first-year prenovices into our community. The new entrants include: Daniel (Bombay) Einstein (Thalapady) Ethan (Bejai) Melrick (Panir) Melrin (Panir) Neethan (Kudupu) Preetham (Teresapura) Royston

(Sagar) Russel (Bejai), Wilton Monis (Naravi) Wilton Pinto (Jog Falls). A farewell and welcome programme was held on May 25 to express gratitude to Fr. Leston Lobo and Sch. Rudolf D'Souza for their dedicated service, while welcoming Fr. Brian Pereira, Fr. Roydon Misquith, and Sch. Melvyn Govias to the community. The programme was enriched with musical performances by the prenovices. To help the new batch settle into community life, an orientation programme was conducted on May 27. Fr. Roydon Misquith and Sch. Melvyn Govias introduced the daily routine and Jesuit way of life, encouraging the prenovices to grow in prayer, discipline, and community living as they begin their formation journey.

- Sch. Melvyn Govias

LOYOLA SADAN, Kalaburagi



The Kalaburagi mission witnessed several significant events as it prepared for the new academic year. The community bid farewell to Fr. Roshan Pinto, expressing gratitude for his dedicated service, and warmly welcomed Sch. Denver A. Pushpam for his regency. He will be serving as a lecturer at St Xavier's PU College.

making the camp lively, engaging, and fruitful for the children. The staff orientation programme for the school and college staff was held from 22 to 26 May, with enriching sessions conducted by Frs Anthony Dass, Lawrence, and Johnson. The institutions also witnessed a positive increase in admissions, with St Xavier's PU College recording an encouraging upward trend after four years. The school and college reopened on 29 May, marking the beginning of a promising academic year.

- Fr. Joseph Jerald A

MAITRI SADHANA, Vijayapura



The month of May witnessed several transitions and vibrant activities across the ministries of Maitri Sadhana. Fr. Sunil Fernandes conducted a two-day orientation programme for staff in Harihar and directed a retreat for the JMJ Sisters. The community also welcomed Fr. Henry Saldanha for a short visit.

while Fr. Sandeep Gonsalves assumed charge as the Secretary and Treasurer. CNFE continued its outreach through a jewellery-making course, a summer camp for children, and a seminar on Dr B. R. Ambedkar and Sri Basavanna. The Pragati Skill Training Centre celebrated the successful completion of a tailoring course by over 25 students. LEMS conducted a summer programme benefiting over 80 students and welcomed

At BJECS, Fr. Wilson Moras was bid farewell,

Fr. Kanikiaraju as the new Principal. Staff orientation programmes on Artificial Intelligence and Communicative English were also organized.

LITI thanked Fr. Anthony Lawrence for his dedicated service and welcomed Fr. John Baptist as the new Director. At LPUC, Fr. Praveen Kumar assumed office as Principal, succeeding Fr. Ronald Serrao. He also conducted orientation programmes for the staff of LPUC and Sneha Sadan School, Kanakal. Loyola School, Sindagi, began the academic year with Capacity Building Programmes on Jesuit History and the Reflective

Educator. Students participated actively in the DIKSUCHI Summer Camp and the Talent Search Examination. Fr. Sharun D'Souza joined as Finance Officer and a member of the Loyola Nivas community. Sangama CIRD organized summer camps in ten villages, observed Labour Day with construction workers, and promoted inter-religious harmony through a Bakrid celebration. Distribution of school bags and preparations of annual action plans and training modules also marked the month's activities.

- Fr. Sharun D'Souza

MOUNT ST JOSEPH, Bengaluru



The community warmly bid farewell to Fr. Kanikiaraju, Fr. Pradeep Crasta, and Sch. Divij as they left for their new missions, and welcomed Fr. Nishanth Noronha as the new Socius to the Novice Director.

The Novices prepared for the Sacred Triduum through prayer, reflection, liturgical participation, and chapel decoration. Easter brought joy and vibrancy to the community. They also enjoyed a community screening of *Project Hail Mary* and attended a course on the Social Teaching of the Church by Fr. Bala Kiran, which deepened their understanding of justice, equality, and social responsibility. A major highlight was the first-year parents' get-together, marked by the Eucharist and a cultural programme by the Novices. First-year novices gained work experience in Hangal and Mundgod, learning the values of service and responsibility through ordinary tasks. Meanwhile, second-year novices prepared intensively for their First Vows through courses on Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience conducted by Fr. Ronald Pais, the novice director, while continuing their regular duties. As part of Vocation Promotion, the second-year novices organized "One Day with Christ," bringing together 80 children from four parishes of the Begur Deanery for prayer, activities, sharing, and fellowship.

In May, the Novices enjoyed an outing to Biccodu, strengthening community bonds through time in nature. They actively contributed to the Province Jubilee by assisting with liturgy and choir services. Fr. William Sequeira conducted sessions on the spiritual diary of St. Ignatius.

At Prerana, a 10-day Religious Leadership Course with 29 participants from various congregations and a month-long Retreat Direction Course with

24 participants, mostly Jesuits, were successfully conducted. Six modules on leadership and discernment were completed for 201 Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel. From 21–31 May, 45 members of the Congregation of Oblates of St. Francis De Sales (39 priests and 6 scholastics) participated in a renewal programme comprising personal and communal discernment, a Regional Assembly, and a directed retreat. Fr. Joe Mathias moderated the programme with the assistance of Fr. Dionysius Vaz, Fr. Bala Kiran Kumar, and seven retreat guides from Mount St. Joseph. Fr. Joe Mathias also conducted a workshop on Basic Skills in Counselling for 21 formators at Asirvanam Monastery, Kengeri.

Sadhana from SJPUJ conducted a Kairos Gratitude Session for outgoing LDC students. Admissions commenced for SJU B Block, and a Parent-Teacher Meeting reviewed preparatory examination performance. SJCL organized a Legal Awareness Programme, celebrated Gloriam Graduation Day with Prof. B.K. Ravi, Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore North University, as the chief guest, and conducted environmental awareness talks through the Eco Club. The alumni gathering "Milana" was successfully held. AICUF celebrated International Labour Day by honouring domestic staff, while Team TNS provided placement support for final-year students. The college also hosted seminars on Poornachandra Tejasvi and the New Income Tax 2025.

Loyola ITI awarded certificates to the fifth batch of the Beauty and Wellness Course. In collaboration with Hope Foundation, students completed a Power BI programme. Ambedkar Jayanti was observed with Dr. M. Ramakrishna emphasizing education, equality, and social justice, followed by a collective pledge. Financial literacy was

promoted through sessions on Smart Savings and Financial Literacy. Mr. Shashank from SKIP visited the campus to explore collaboration under the NASSCOM project. In partnership with Sada Sahai Foundation, Loyola ITI launched the Summer Accelerator Cohort 2026, a four-week programme fostering innovation and future-ready skills. Jesuit scholastics Vimal, Stevan Joseph, Anish, Anvil, and Edmund conducted a

two-week Personality Development and Life Skills Training Programme. World Endangered Species Day was observed on 15 May to promote wildlife conservation and environmental responsibility. The institute also hosted "Loyola Reconnect 2026 & Alumni Homecoming Meet" and inaugurated the Alumni Charity Box to encourage a spirit of service.

- Fr. Clarence D'Souza

SADHANA, Mundgod



Loyola Kendriya Vidyalaya achieved an outstanding milestone by securing a 100% result in the CBSE board examinations. Ms Rida Nadaf brought laurels to the institution by scoring a centum in Science, securing 97% overall, and achieving the 8th rank in Hubballi-Dharwad Sahodaya. Fr. Wilson Saldanha was recognized as the Best Science Teacher of the Year for his dedicated service and academic excellence. The new academic year began with orientation programmes for staff, including sessions on the vision of a teacher, the Ignatian worldview, and teacher empowerment conducted by Dr Isabella Xavier, Ms Renuka Zachariah, and Fr. Anthony Dass, respectively. The annual International Women's Day celebration, held on April 18, gathered around 600 women. Ms Parimala Jain and Ms Pramela Naidu inspired the participants through their addresses. A summer camp at Hangal engaged 55 children in creative activities under the guidance of Schs. Royster, Melwil and Srs. Sindu OSS and Shilpa

OSS. The novices also participated in their annual work camp at Hangal under Fr. Pradeep Crasta. A significant achievement was the official registration of the construction workers' union, enabling LVK Hangal to issue workers' cards and strengthen welfare initiatives. A National Lokmanch delegation also visited Hangal to review grassroots initiatives. Loyola Children's Home achieved 100% results in SSLC, CBSE, and PUC examinations, with many students securing distinctions. A summer camp benefited 45 students, during which Sch Sanson D'Souza was bid farewell. The institution also inaugurated a newly furnished office in the new block. The community warmly welcomed Fr. Avinash D'Souza as the new Secretary of NKJE&CS, Fr. Rayappa M as Principal of Loyola PUC, and the regents, Schs Shaun D'Silva and Sujay Paul. Fr. Leo Florence was sincerely thanked and bid farewell for his dedicated service as the Secretary, as he left for tertianship.

- Fr. Rayappa M

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Harihar



The months of April and May witnessed heartfelt transitions as the community bid farewell to Fr. Vinod A J and Fr. John Baptist. Meanwhile, the school crossed the milestone of 500+ students, and the college surpassed 200+ admissions. Fr. Balaraju R led an Induction Programme for the

new staff. In key leadership changes, Fr. Jeevan Gomes took charge as Principal of St. Aloysius International School, while Fr. Roshan Pinto assumed office as the Finance Officer of the Institutions.

- Fr. Jeevan Gomes

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru



The Aloysian community paid a heartfelt farewell to Fr. Melwin Joseph Pinto, former Rector of the St Aloysius institutions. Hundreds gathered to honour his life and ministry, while the funeral arrangements were carefully coordinated by the community and Fatima Retreat House.

The institutions achieved a 100 percent pass result across all streams, with several PUC students securing top ranks. The community also participated in the episcopal ordination celebrations of Most Rev. Leslie C. D'Souza as Bishop of Udupi.



Fr. Brian Pereira was welcomed as the new Rector, succeeding Interim Vice-Rector Fr. Melwyn D'Cunha. He celebrated the Month's Mind Mass for Fr. Melwin J. Pinto and launched an Endowment Fund in his memory to support deserving

students from economically challenged backgrounds.

The university created a national record with 116 ACCA Affiliates and received the “Exemplary Researcher of the Year” Award in the Education World India Higher Education Rankings under the leadership of Fr. Praveen Martis.

Fr. Royston Madtha presented his research at an international Elsevier conference in Shenzhen, China. Fr. Rohan D’Almeida participated in an

international student exchange programme in Italy and was honoured with the Bharat Vidya Vibhushan Award.

Fr. John D’Souza and his ITI team continued their skill-based training programmes for pre-novices and engineering students, while the campus came alive again as Fr. Clifford Sequeira and his staff began the new academic year for PU students.

- Fr. William M. Rodrigues

VIDYA NIKETAN, Dharwad



The Easter season was a vibrant and meaningful time for the Vidya Niketan community. During Holy Week, the scholastics assisted the parishes for liturgical celebrations, while also taking responsibility for household duties in the absence of the community cook, fostering deeper community living and cooperation. A unique highlight of the season was the observance of “Solidarity Day” in place of the usual interreligious Ramzan celebration. The programme expressed solidarity

with victims of war through poems, harmony songs, and a candlelight gathering promoting peace, unity, and harmony.

The scholastics also participated in academic and cultural activities, including presentations on Kannada novels and the Sahitya Mela at Hubballi. Throughout May, they joined the daily Rosary in the parish, deepening their Marian devotion and spiritual preparation.



Fr. Tom D’Souza had been to Mangalore for his medical checkup. Fr. Dheeraj conducted a discernment retreat for youth in Bengaluru and a counselling programme for teachers in Hassan, while Fr. Pratap engaged himself in various formation-related responsibilities and recollections.

Another major event was the week-long Sahodaya at Pandithahalli, which brought together scholastics for prayer, learning, and fellowship. As the month concluded, the scholastics began preparing for their final examinations, while 3rd-year scholastics left for Chennai for their philosophy studies.

- Sch. Princeton D’Souza

XAVIER SADAN, Mandya



The months of April and May were marked by several programmes and activities at Xavier Sadan, along with visits from many guests and participants. Fr. Edward Philip conducted classes on Discernment for novices and carried out psychological assessments for the pre-novices of Kohima and Andhra Provinces. He was also involved in staff evaluation at Loyola School, Mundgod, organized vocation camps for the Mysore Diocese, conducted Faculty Enhancement Programmes at Alphonse Nagar and Pandithahalli, and directed retreats for priests and

religious at Xavier Sadan.

Fr. Steevan Gonsalves preached Holy Week retreats and later directed retreats for religious at Xavier Sadan, and also conducted an Ignatian Eight-Day Retreat for the Sisters of the Ursulas of Pune. Fr. Godwin Serrao guided a Thirty-Day Retreat for Silver Jubilarian Sisters. Fr. Antony Pais preached an Eight Day Retreat for religious as part of his Tertianship. Fr. Lumnesh also preached a Retreat for Jesuit Scholastics on Ecology.

- Fr. Steevan Gonsalves

ST PETER'S COMMUNITY, Paris



As the academic year draws to a close, the scholastics remain engaged with dissertations, end-of-year dossiers, and examinations. Meanwhile, Anson and Joel successfully attained the B1 level in French.

A joyful highlight of the season was the diaconate ordination of 17 Jesuits from around the world at Saint-Denis Cathedral on 11 April. The mass was followed by the grand apéritif and dinner. Since

two of the newly ordained deacons belonged to the community, a special felicitation programme and community lunch were organized in their honour.

Adding to the community's celebrations, Noel and Joel emerged winners in the pétanque competition organized by the Old Students' Association of St Louis Gonzaga School, Paris.

- Sch. Joyal D'Sa

HEKIMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Nairobi



It was a great joy to welcome Fr. Dionysius Vaz, our Provincial, to Kenya. Despite his packed four-day schedule, he remained energetic and cheerful throughout the visit. In Nairobi, he held fruitful meetings with the leadership of Hekima University College, the Jesuit Historical Institute in Africa (JHIA), and the Centre for Interfaith Studies in Africa (CISA). He also visited the JRS National Office, the JCAM President's Office, and the AOR Provincialate.

A major highlight of the visit was the trip to Kakuma Refugee Camp to visit Fr. Jeevan James. It was deeply moving to witness the dedicated efforts of

JRS and JWL, in collaboration with UN agencies and other NGOs, in alleviating human suffering in one of the world's largest refugee camps. We also appreciated the commendable service rendered by the Salesians and the FMM Sisters. Though brief, Fr. Dion's visit was truly meaningful for all of us.

Meanwhile, we successfully completed our first year of theology studies with the May examinations. We are currently in Same, Tanzania, spending six weeks at Kifarur Parish for our pastoral field experience.

- Sch. Ovin Rodrigues

OURS IN PUBLICATION

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Fr. Ajay D'Silva, ALOYSIUM (St Aloysius Museum), Mangaluru: The place where curiosity comes alive, *Daijiworld Network*, 28 May 2026.

Fr. Joseph Lobo, "From 'Exegesis and Theology' to Theological Exegesis': Implications of the Teaching of Dei Verbum and Verbum Domini", *Jnanadeepa: Pune Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 30/2, May– August 2026, pp. 135-165.

Fr. Kiran Cotha and Jena, A, "Insurance Inclusivity in Education: A Conceptual Framework for Student Well-Being, Security, and Access". *International Insurance Law Review (ABDC, A category Journal)* 34(S1), 2026, pp. 182-194.

Fr. Lancy Monteiro, 'Blessing' in the exercise of authority, *VJTR* 90/6 (June 2026), pp. 446-462.

Fr. Royston Pinto, Becoming What We Receive: Living the Eucharist in Daily Life, *Smart Companion*, Vol. 16, April (2026), pp. 30-33.

Fr. Royston Pinto, The 2026 Delimitation Pivot: Federalism, Representation and the Future of Indian Democracy, *Indian Currents*, Vol. 38, April (2026), pp. 06-08.

Fr. Royston Pinto, Dignity of Labour in India, *Smart Companion*, Vol. 16, May (2026), pp. 12-13.

Sch. Avin A., "ಶ್ರಮ ಜೀವಿಗಳ ಘನತೆಯ ಮಾದರಿ: ಸಂತ ಜೋಸೆಫರು", *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 16, Issue 05, May (2026), pp. 06-07.

Sch. Cannon A. Fernandes, Kumar, H.M., Lakshmaiah, V.V., Nagella, P. (2026). Physiological Processes for Uptake, Translocation, and Accumulation of Nanomaterials in Plants. In: Pudake, R.N., Jain, U., Al-Khayri, J.M. (eds) *Phyto Nanotoxicology. Nanotechnology in Plant Sciences*, Vol. 7, Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-24518-2_5

Sch. Denver A. Pushpam, "An Outcast in His Dreamland", *Jivan*, April 2026, p. 25.

Sch. Elson Lobo, "Clarity in Christian Muslim Relations: Reflecting with Christian W. Troll", *Salaam*, Vol. 47, April (2026), pp. 10-16.

Sch. Maria Divij, "Food Addiction: Can we call Food an Addiction?", *Addiction and the Human Condition*, *JD Philosophy Series*, 37, (2026), pp. 73-86.

REST IN PEACE

Fr. Robert Kindo, SJ, (RAN), 85/65, on 15 April 2026, in Ranchi.

Fr. Jose Kadankavil, SJ, (KER), 76/54, on 16 April 2026, in Kozhikode.

Fr. Arulanandam Arockiam, SJ, (MDU), 79/62, on 04 May 2026, in Dindigul.

Fr. Carvalho Aloysius Patrick, SJ, (CCU), 96/76, on 06 May 2026, in Kolkata.

Fr. George Varangalakudy, SJ, (KER), 80/60, on 06 May 2026, in Kozhikode.

Fr. Ravi Santosh Kamath, SJ, (KAR), 86/67, on 08 May 2026, in Mangaluru.

Br. Sebastian Lobo, SJ, (BOM), 93/68, on 28 May 2026, in Mumbai.

Fr. Seraphim John Lal, SJ, (PAT), 69/47, on 04 June 2026, in Patna.

Sr. Rose Gonsalves (SCCG) (99), beloved sister of Fr James Gonsalves, on 24 May 2026, in Secunderabad.

Mrs. Leena Prescilla D'Souza (92), beloved sister of Fr Pradeep Sequeira, on 31 May 2026, in Mumbai.

Mr. Agganna Rajappa (85), beloved Father of Fr Balaraju R, on 13 June 2026, in Anekal.

Fr. Ravi Santosh Kamath, SJ (86/67) **(05 October 1939 – 08 May 2026)**

Father Ravi Santosh Kamath was ailing and was confined to his room for some time. But generally, he kept good health. Then, just a couple of weeks ago, he had to be given a 10-day intensive care in the hospital, and from then on, he had to be on nasal feeding. Even then, he briefly seemed to be bouncing back to his old, hearty self, calling each one around his bed, loudly and clearly, by name. It was only a few days back that he slowly began to decline, and, shortly after midnight of Thursday, he showed the signs of the approaching end. In the early hours of Friday, 8 May 2026, he left us quietly, calmly and peacefully, like a flickering, fragile flame of a candle in the wind. He leaves behind the fragrance of fond memories all around. He was just five months short of 87.



Born on October 5, 1939, at Kuntal Kambla in Bajpe, Fr. Ravi Santhosh Kamath was born Ronald Pereira and was lovingly called "Ronnie" by his family and close friends. He was the eighth among twelve children in a deeply religious family, that later produced two priests and two nuns. After completing his early education at Bajpe Church School and PUC at St Aloysius College, Mangalore, he joined the Society in 1958, was ordained a priest in 1971, earned a Master's Degree and also earned a diploma in foreign languages from the Karnataka University, Dharwad, and a Doctorate in Theology from the Gregorian University, Rome. Most of his life was spent first teaching theology in St Joseph's Seminary, and then in Fatima Retreat House, Mangalore.

Santosh always came across as fully human, fully alive. One word that comes to mind is dynamo. He was a bundle of energy, vitality, dynamism, enthusiasm, creativity, innovation and action. Wherever Santosh went there was laughter, joy and a positive atmosphere. He was generous. He liked to spread a lavish table, and liked watching others enjoy themselves. He was also a man of compassion, easily moved by the troubles and trials of others and reached out to them in every way possible. The stories of his service to the poor are a legion. Space does not permit recounting them here. His facility with languages, his phenomenal memory for names and his flair for making friends are proverbial. Then there were his organizational capacity, administrative efficiency and intellectual acumen.

All these innate qualities blossomed and became richly fruitful in Santosh as a Jesuit. He excelled in academics. He was active in the community. He excelled in every mission entrusted to him. He loved the Society of Jesus. He was proud to be a Jesuit. He was a good friend and a loyal companion. He was very sensitive and helpful to those in need. It was due to his relentless struggle that the Province

received the gift of Loyola Pre-Novitiate in 1986 and, a decade later, that of Asha Kiran Juniorate.

Because of his apostolic zeal, natural enthusiasm, and innate creativity, it might sometimes have seemed that Fr. Santosh was too independent and went his own way. But when the Superiors made their mind clear, Santosh would obey. It was not a fake, fawning or fearful obedience, but the obedience of an adult Jesuit, mature and free. A case in point was his transfer from the St. Joseph's Seminary to Fatima Retreat House in 1990. He was reluctant to move. He represented the matters vigorously and even emotionally to the Provincial. But once the Provincial gave him a clear mandate, he accepted the shift without question. It was a wrench for him. But he put his heart and soul in his new assignment a hundred per cent. The result was a tremendous revival of an apostolic institution that had, till then, appeared to be on life support.

However, the best in Santosh shone forth in the way he lived and worked as a priest. Whether teaching theology, counselling couples, helping families, mentoring youth, visiting the elderly, or accompanying people in their spiritual lives, he was always deeply involved in pastoral ministry. He was much loved, greatly respected and widely sought after. He was truly a People's Priest. He was active and busy the whole day, constantly on the move, with weddings, funerals, engagements, first communions and catechism classes, here, there and everywhere. His fellow Jesuits used to tease him that he was like the Holy Spirit, because no one knew where he came from, where he was going, when, how, or why. For him, there were no such things as a bination and a trination. Pastoral needs were paramount. In his priestly zeal, he went beyond those limiting canonical confines and extended his pastoral outreach to anyone in need, anywhere and at any time, transcending bureaucratic blocks, barriers and boundaries, as well as the societal separation between the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, the urban and the rural, the genteel and the rough-hewn.

One of his dearest and most satisfying ministries was administering the sacraments to the ageing people of Mangalore city, attending funerals, and consoling bereaved families. Thanks to him, very many young people were able to find a partner in life, and not a few estranged couples were able to preserve their matrimonial bond. But when all remedies failed, he did not hesitate to help couples out of a suffocating trap by drafting petitions for annulment on their behalf. He often presided over the celebration of marriages with disparity of cult. He was also the campus minister at St Agnes College, Mangalore, for 40 years, a period of great fruitfulness.

Of course, some voices were heard saying that Santosh did all this for his own popularity, prestige and profit. But those who have known him closely and personally, will certainly vouch for the fact, that although he was not too averse to praise and pampering, still, it was his innate ebullience and enthusiasm, as well as vibrancy and volubility, that created such an unintended, unfortunate and undeserved impression. It was also whispered that he reached out only to the rich and the elite. That was because his ministry among the well healed and the famous easily caught the public eye, not the least on account of his own often florid accounts of his service to them, while his outreach to the unrecognized and the unknown, remained mainly unnoticed and unsung, even by himself. In truth, however, Santosh did not discriminate. He was known for his close bond with ordinary people. For instance, many a young person from a middle class or a poor family, having a marriage problem and approaching Santosh for help, has found him spending hours together, listening to both the parties separately, and, once convinced that one of the parties did not want that marriage even on the day of the wedding, setting out with all determination and dispatch, to untie the unbearable knot and getting dispensation within a few months, so that the aggrieved party could marry again within the next year or so. What is more, very often, knowing the financial straits of the parties, he did not even accept any payment for all his toils and troubles.

So, we have now bidden a fond farewell to a much-loved human being, a respected Jesuit and a popular priest, an accomplished theologian, a gifted teacher, a powerful preacher and a spiritual leader who has influenced so many people. We thank the Lord for the gift that he was and commend him to the loving mercy of our heavenly Father. May He rest in peace. RIP

- Fr. Frederick D'Silva, SJ