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KARUNĀDA SAURABHA  
KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE NEWSLETTER



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KARNATAKA JESUIT PROVINCE

April 2026

## PROVINCIAL'S MUSINGS

The past few weeks have been very hectic for me, and at the same time marked by moments of deep consolation and quiet concern, gently inviting me to reflect more attentively on our companionship and our call as men on a mission of the Master.

The sudden death of Fr. Melwin J. Pinto has deeply saddened us as a Province. Despite our prayers and hopes for his recovery, the Lord called him to Himself on April 10 at 4.00 pm, leaving us with a profound sense of loss and sorrow. It has been the most painful farewell to my classmate in school, batchmate in the Society, and a dearest friend. Melwin's passing reminds us of the fragility of life and the responsibility we bear for our own health. Our vocation calls us not only to serve but also to sustain ourselves and to care for one another in true companionship in our communities.

We are grateful that the RRSJSA Post-Process was very fruitful. The responsibility now rests with each of us and the commission coordinators to carry forward the outcomes. Renewal is achieved through steady commitment, patient collaboration, and a willingness to remain open to the Spirit's ongoing invitation.

My recent visit to Nairobi and the missions in Africa, though cut short, was a deeply enriching and humbling experience. Meeting our men in their mission contexts, Schs. Ovin Rodrigues and Princen Michael, doing their theology in Hekima, Fr. Jeevan James working in JRS, Kakuma, and engaging with Jesuit leadership broadened my sense of the universal mission we share. The resilience of the people, the generosity of our companions, and the vibrancy of the mission were truly consoling. Such experiences quietly but powerfully remind us that our call is always larger than ourselves, inviting us to a deeper availability for service wherever the need is greater.

We have entered the season of transfers—a time that often brings a mix of emotions. Change is never easy, yet it is intrinsic to our way of proceeding. Each transfer is, in its own way, a renewed "yes" to the Lord's call. I invite each one of you to embrace this moment with interior freedom—with the grace to let go, the courage to begin anew, and the generosity to give your best wherever you are sent. Our availability is not merely functional; it is a deeply spiritual expression of our trust in God's leading.

As we continue to live the Easter season, we are reminded that the Risen Lord comes to us with a simple yet profound gift: peace. We need that peace today where the world is ridden by war and hatred, hunger and poverty. From that peace flows hope—a hope that is not superficial, but one that sustains, renews, and sends us forth to be passionately fruitful in our Jesuit ministry. May our communities become places where this Easter peace is experienced in companionship, where hope is nurtured through our spiritual depth, and mission is lived with renewed zeal. As we welcome new members and continue our shared journey, may everything we do be for the greater glory of God as true sons of Ignatius.

Wishing you all grace and strength as we move forward together toward Renewal, Reimagination, and Restructuring with spiritual, emotional, and intellectual depth.



- FR DIONYSIUS VAZ, SJ

## APPOINTED BY FR GENERAL

**Fr Brian Pereira** as the Rector of St Aloysius College, Mangaluru

## APPOINTED BY FR PROVINCIAL

NAME	DESIGNATION	PLACE
Fr Ajay N. D'Silva	Asst. Archivist, Treasurer of SJS-CBSE	LM, Bengaluru
Fr Alwyn P. D'Souza	Director, Viveka Pragati	Halilyal
Fr Anthony Pais	Finance Officer, SADU	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr Aravind Royce J.	SJC, Hassan	JN, Hassan
Fr Avinash D'Souza	Secretary & Treasurer, NKJECS	Sadhana, Mundgod
Fr Brian Pereira	Rector, SAC	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr Daniel Fernandes	Director, SJCL	JN, Bengaluru
Fr Elvis Lewis	Loyola Mandir	LM, Bengaluru
Fr Eric Mathias	Principal, St Paul's High School	Belagavi
Fr George J. Pinto	PP, St Peter's Church, Jagir Pannur	Pannur
Fr Jeevan Gomes	Principal, St Aloysius International School	SAC, Harihar
Fr Jerald D'Souza	Conference Secretary, Ecology and Justice	Jor Bagh, Delhi
Fr Jerald M. D'Souza	Director, CIRW, Anekal	JJ, Anekal
Fr John Baptist C.	Director, Loyola ITI & Teaching at LPUC	MS, Vijayapura
Fr John Thomas	Secretary & Treasurer, AJECS	JJ, Bengaluru
Fr Joseph I. Rodrigues	Staff, Dhyanaashrama	MSJ, Bengaluru
Fr Joyson Vas	Fatima Retreat House	FRH, Mangaluru
Fr Kanikiaraju M.	Principal, Loyola School, Vijayapura	MS, Vijayapura
Fr Kiran Joseph Pashan	Treasurer and Asst Director CSC	Ashirvad, Bengaluru
Fr Lumnesh S. Kumar	Staff, St Joseph's University	AN, Bengaluru
Fr Nishanth Noronha	Socius, MSJ Novitiate	MSJ, Bengaluru
Fr Olvin Veigas	Finance Officer, St Joseph's Institutions	JN, Hassan
Fr Prashant V Madtha	SAC, Mangaluru	SAC, Mangaluru
Fr Praveen Kumar	Principal, Loyola PUC	MS, Vijayapura
Fr Rayan Joel Lobo	Teaching, JD, Pune	Papal Seminary, Pune
Fr Rayan John Pereira	Principal, SJPU, Hassan	JN, Hassan
Fr Rayappa M.	Principal, Loyola PUC, Mundgod	Sadhana, Mundgod
Fr Richard Mascarenhas	Staff, Dhyanaashrama	MSJ, Bengaluru
Fr Roshan Pinto	Staff, SAPUC, Harihar	SAC, Harihar
Fr Roydon Misquith	Director, Loyola Pre-Novitiate	Loyola, Mangaluru
Fr Sandeep Gonsalves	Treasurer, BJECS	MS, Vijayapura
Fr Sharun R. D'Souza	Finance Officer, Teaching at LS-CBSE	Sindagi
Fr Wilson J. Moras	Finance Officer, SJII & Teaching in SJICPUC	IS, Bengaluru
Fr Yesunath Karlekar	Director, LKPS & Arrupe Hostel	Jagir Pannur
Fr Arvin Pais	MSW - Roshini Nilaya	AK, Mangaluru
Fr Godwin Serrao	Diploma in Ignatian Spirituality - PUG	Bellarmino, Rome
Fr Nithin Machado	PhD, Pontifical Gregorian University	Bellarmino, Rome
Fr Royston Pinto	PhD, Pontifical Gregorian University	Bellarmino, Rome
Fr Vishal M. Pinto	PhD, Namur, Belgium	Namur, Belgium
Fr Vishwas J. Misquith	PhD, Manipal University – B'loru Campus	LM, Bengaluru
Fr Arul Anthony	Tertianship	Sitagarha
Fr Bartholome J.	Tertianship	Kandy
Fr Jeevan D'Souza	Tertianship	Sitagarha
Fr Leo Florence	Tertianship	Sitagarha
Fr Pradeep Crasta	Tertianship	Shembaganur
Fr Ronald Serrao	Tertianship	Kandy
Fr Vinod A.J.	Tertianship	Shembaganur

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### April 2026

07: Hekima: Meet Schs Princen Michael, Ovin Rodrigues and staff  
08-09: Kakuma JRS Camp – Meet Fr Jeevan James  
10: Nairobi: Visit the offices of JRS, JCAM President & Provincial of AOR  
11: Return to Bengaluru  
13: Funeral of Fr Melwin J. Pinto: FRH (Mangaluru)  
14: Pre-Regents Program: Ashirvad (Bengaluru)  
15-17: Religious Leadership: Prerana (Bengaluru)  
19: Visitation: Loyola Pre-Novitiate  
20: Consecration of Most Rev Leslie D'Souza as Bishop of Udupi  
21: Site meeting: SADU (Mangaluru)  
22: Province Consult: LM (Bengaluru)  
23: Convocation: SJIM (Bengaluru)

24-26: Wedding of niece: Mumbai

30- 02 May: Retreat Directors Course: Prerana (B'luru)

### May 2026

04: Meeting with officials of SADU (Mangaluru)  
12: Province Jubilee Celebration at MSJ (B'luru)  
13: Tempo Forte: Loyola Mandir (Bengaluru)  
14-17: Visiting would-be novices  
19: Programme for Sisters of the Precious Blood: (Bengaluru)  
21: Sahodaya: SRN (Pandithahalli)  
24: Programme for Congregation of OSFS: Prerana (Bengaluru)  
26: Meeting would-be Tertiaries  
30: Convocation: SAC (Mangaluru)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**22-30 April:** Retreat for Jesuits by Fr Bala Kiran Kumar, SJ at Dhyanaashrama (MSJ)

**02-10 May:** Retreat for Religious & Jesuits by Fr Arockiasamy, SJ at Dhyanaashrama (MSJ)

**12 May:** Province Jubilee Celebration at MSJ (Bengaluru)

**12-20 May:** Retreat for Jesuits by Fr Lumnesh Kumar, SJ at Dhyanaashrama (MSJ)

**Nov. Anthony Manasseh Phillips** left the Society of Jesus on 19 March 2026. We wish him God's abundant blessings as he begins a new phase in his life.

Change of email ID of **Sch Noel Prabhu A B:** [ab.nprabhusj@jesuits.net](mailto:ab.nprabhusj@jesuits.net)

## POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWPN): APRIL 2026

**For Priests in crisis:** Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



## RRSJSJA POST-PROCESS, Prerana–Bengaluru



The three-day RRSJSJA Post-Process held at Prerana, Bengaluru (March 20-22), brought together 55 Jesuits on the first day and 20 more of our mission partners on the second day. Centred on the themes of Renewal, Reimagination, and Restructuring, the gathering emphasized holistic growth in the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual depth dimensions of Jesuit life and mission.

A key strength of the process was the meaningful interaction with mission partners, who offered valuable perspectives on collaboration, youth engagement, Ignatian pedagogy, and the need to remain rooted in Jesuit ethos. Their presence highlighted the importance of shared mission, co-responsibility, and inclusive leadership in today's apostolic work.



Several priorities emerged: strengthening inter-unit collaboration, promoting self-care and ongoing formation, enhancing leadership and administrative skills, expanding the Jesuit Volunteers movement, and engaging in state-level advocacy. The process underscored the need to move beyond existing structures towards a more

dynamic, discerning, and mission-oriented approach.

Overall, the post-process proved to be a grace-filled journey that renewed commitment to Jesuit identity and mission.

- Fr. Rayappa M

### ORDAINED DEACON, Tokyo-Japan



Sch Nithin Lisbon Coelho was ordained to the diaconate by Auxiliary Bishop of Tokyo, Andrea Lembo, at St Mary's Chapel of St Ignatius Church on 14 March, with many Jesuits and others celebrating. Among the faithful in attendance were friends from his regular ministry at Kôenji Parish in Tokyo and Kôbe, and Fr Pratap Chandru, who represented the province. Fr Pratap also visited important places and returned fully rejuvenated.

- Fr. Pratap Chandru



### ARRUPE NIVAS, Bengaluru



A delegation from the Jesuits and lay partners in Higher Education, visited Jindal Global University to study its best practices. Shri. Priyank Kharge attended the HR Business Conclave and Startup Mela 5.0, which attracted over 5,000 visitors with 22 startups showcasing their innovations.

Prabhu held a workshop on career guidance for differently-abled students. An informative session on Postpartum Depression was held in collaboration with the Women's Cell.

The School of Social Work hosted a seminar on "Inclusion and Disability." Bembala Outreach Centre, in partnership with Project Vision, organised the Blind Walk 2026, attracting over 450 participants and 100 volunteers to promote eye donation and support for the visually impaired. Bembala also celebrated International Women's Day, hosting a program at Nelamangala with over 150 women from more than 10 villages. Paralympic tennis champion Dr Harry Boniface

St Joseph's University Gents Hostel celebrated its annual hostel day, 'CONCORDIA.' The stage was ablaze with dazzling student performances. Prof. Dr Melwin Colaco, former SJUH hostelite, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The Arrupe Nivas Jesuit community visited the open-air jail near Devanahalli, Bengaluru, as part of our Lenten outreach, sharing lunch, games, and gifts with inmates. The Jesuits found their pilgrimage to the Shrine of Servant of God, Rajendra Swami, Mysuru a spiritually enriching experience.

- Fr. Aravind Royce

### ASHA KIRAN, Mangaluru



On March 7, Fr. Shajumon Chakkalalal, Provincial of the Darjeeling Province, visited our community. Our Superior, Fr. Henry Saldanha was in Bangalore for the RRSJSA meeting and thereafter to guide a retreat.

As part of our Lenten outreach, we visited the senior citizens' home run by the Little Sisters of the Poor on March 14. That evening, we began our monthly recollection guided by Fr. Vincent Sequeira.

The following week included the University's Annual Day and Degree Day celebrations on



March 17 and 18, when some of our brothers received awards for their academic achievements. We also spent quality time in recreation, enjoying friendly cricket and basketball matches. Fr. Maxim D'Souza directed a street play on drug abuse, which was performed at six locations in Mangalore city. We were glad to receive Fr. Vimal Kishore, the Provincial of the Patna Province, who

was with us on a visit from March 29 to April 1.

We concluded the month with the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 31 in preparation for Easter. We celebrated Easter with the migrants and joined them for lunch. Fr. Maxim was at Mundgod for Easter ministry.

- Sch. Avin Fernandes

## ASHIRVAD, Bengaluru



Fr. Brian Pereira undertook a visit to the North East, focusing on mission exposure and strengthening mission partnership. A three-day meeting of the Province Coordinators for Mission Partner Formation in South Asia was held partly at Ashirvad and partly at St. Joseph's University (SJU). Fr. Arun Luis visited the North East for the inauguration of the Kohima province. He spent a few days animating the priests and religious communities in Assam. Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru, honoured Fr. Prashant Madtha on his valuable contribution to Kannada literature. Adding to his scholarly achievements, his fourth dictionary titled Treasury of Konkani Words (500 pages, A4 size), published by the Karnataka Konkani Sahitya Parishad, and his fifth work, Konkani Proverbs, are scheduled to go to press shortly. In collaboration with the Archdiocese, Ashirvad or-

ganized two one-day sessions on Leadership and SIR for Women's Commission, Laity Commission, Youth Commission and United Forum of Christians. Fr. Antony Arul participated in a five-day priests' retreat at Sehion Retreat Centre, Attapadi, Kerala.

Ashirvad Centre for Social Concern was active in the Spandana Study Centres, preparing students for their final examinations and for the upcoming Summer Camp 2026. The Migrant Assistance and Information Network (MAIN) continued its dedicated service, ensuring dignity and respect in transferring the bodies of the deceased migrants. The initiative remains a vital expression of compassionate outreach to families in times of grief.

- Fr. Anthony Arul

## FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Mangaluru



On Fridays of Lent, the Way of the Cross was prayerfully led by priests, religious, and the faithful. Easter Triduum was presided over by Frs. Fredrick D'Silva, Henry Saldanha, and Leo Lasrado (Mangalore Diocese). Fr. Ivan Mendonca, ever the tireless superior, directed two retreats in the vicinity - one for the Ursuline Sisters and another for their novices; and also found time to address the diocesan clergy of Mangalore prior to the Chrism Mass. Frs. Edward Rodrigues, Ajay D'Silva, Joseph Monteiro, Joseph Rodrigues and Fredrick D'Silva enriched many hearts through their Lenten retreats and spiritual ministries. Not to be outdone, Frs. Freddie D'Silva and Edward Rodrigues extended their apostolic zeal to Ban-

galore and Mangalore through various courses to the religious. FRH became vibrant during the three-day MAGIS Youth Retreat for twenty enthusiastic participants. On Easter Sunday, we had the anticipated celebration of Fr. Celestine Sera's birthday. We are happy that Fr. Santosh Kamath, after a brief stay in the hospital, has returned to us and is slowly regaining his health. FRH Community embarked on a day's Lenten pilgrimage to Vilakannur, a place graced by a Eucharistic miracle. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Vanitha Naik, our dedicated nurse, on the passing of her beloved father.

- Fr. Edward Rodrigues

## INIGO SADAN, Bengaluru



As part of our Lenten outreach, we hosted the members of the transgender community, accompanied by the activist and motivational speaker, Ms. Akkai Padmashali. She led an insightful session shedding light on the challenges faced by the transgender individuals in India.

Even as each DoW is actively engaged in the

admissions process, we found time to celebrate International Women's Day across all units, acknowledging the vital role women play in society. St. Joseph's School marked its Institution Day with a vibrant retro-themed programme, fostering fellowship and enthusiastic staff participation through a variety of cultural activities.

- Sch. Denver A. Pushpam

## JESUIT NIVAS, Bengaluru



In the month of March St. Joseph's College of Commerce (SJCC) witnessed the successful conduct of the Council Valedictory, the 54th Annual College Day, and a Thanksgiving Ceremony. Demonstrating excellence beyond academics, the Men's Basketball Team brought laurels to the college by qualifying for the quarterfinals of the All-India University Competitions. SJCC continued to advance its *Mission Magis* empowering students from marginalized communities by enhancing their access to meaningful career and employment opportunities.

St. Joseph's Boys' High School (SJBHS) marked important occasions with much fervour: International Women's Day; the Feast of St. Joseph, its

Patron; the visit of AICUF students to the open-air prison at Devanahalili.

St. Joseph's College of Law (SJCL), in collaboration with Loyola Vikasa Kendra, conducted a workshop on Child Protection and Safeguarding. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) organized a Faculty Development Programme on "PACT: Constitutional History and Education Workshop." The AICUF committee, in partnership with St. Martha's Hospital and BIRDS, celebrated International Women's Day with women migrant labourers. Campus Ministry organised a spiritual pilgrimage of Christian students to Dornahalli Church.

- Fr. Shanthraj A.

## JNANA JYOTHI, Anekal



The routine activities that dotted the month of March at St Joseph's School were: the FA-4 examinations, Parents-Teachers Meeting, and Graduation Day for the UKG students. A study team sent by Fr Provincial helped us reflect and plan for the future of the Anekal institutions and mission. Nearly 200 alumni attended the Alumni Meet organized by the institution. Efforts are on to enhance publicity for and increase enrollment in the institutions - school, college and hostels.

At Navasadhana, the second-year Pre-Novices have completed their four-sheet exams and are awaiting the results. The first-year Pre-Novices,

having completed their annual examinations, had their home-visit and are presently engaged in a 20-day Work Camp at Mundgod and its substations Mainhalli, Ugginkeri, and Hangal.

We were privileged to have, for a few days, Fr Edward Philip who conducted the psychological assessment of the second-year Pre-Novices, and Fr Dheeraj D'Souza, Province Vocation Promoter. Fr Provincial was our welcome guest on his visitation during which he made the final selection of the would-be Novices. Schs Melvin, Nikhil, and Harish assisted in taking classes in English.

- Sch. Macwin D'Souza

## JOSEPH NIVAS, Hassan



The final year degree students of St Joseph's College had a two-day programme on education and skill development, conducted by three faculty members of AIMIT, Beeri. SJC students participated in various academic, cultural, and sports competitions held at Vidyavardhaka College, Mysore, AIMIT, Mangalore, and Hassan University, bringing home medals and trophies. Distinguished among the winners is Thejesh KS (I BBA) who, having won a Gold in 800 meters at the International Athletics Series held in Nepal,

has qualified himself for World Youth Games.

The staff of St Joseph's Eng. Med. School have been busy with their weekly visits to the city with two promotional videos and creative brochures aimed at enhancing enrollment. The upgraded facilities and amenities in the school include a Maths Lab, an Art & Craft room, and a Music & Activity Room.

- Fr. Olvin Veigas

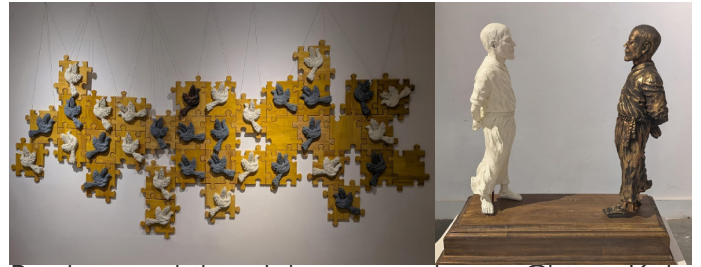
## LOYOLA MANDIR, Bengaluru



On the invitation of the Rector of Mount St. Joseph, Fr. Royston Pinto spent a few days at MSJ to help revamp the archives and to reorganize the library. Fr. Rayan Lobo has arrived safely from Lebanon, a country currently affected by conflict. He is continuing his tertianship programme online while residing at Loyola Mandir. After completing their

tertianship Frs. Teyol Machado and Anthony Pais have joined the LM community and are awaiting their assignments. Fr. Lumnesh Swaroop Kumar attended an ecology conference in Mangaluru and is currently busy planning for the Provincial Ecology Commission. Fr. Pramod Dhabhi (DAN), accompanied by Br. Clarence (DAN), successfully

underwent angioplasty at Vydehi Hospital. Fr. Elvis Lewis has joined the LM community. The Province Archives are richer thanks to awards donated by Fr. Prashant Madtha – awards he received in recognition of his valuable contributions to Kannada and Konkani literature. Fr. Nithin Machado has returned to India to undergo medical treatment after being diagnosed with kidney stones accompanied by hydroureteronephrosis. He is currently receiving care at St. Philomena’s Hospital, with Fr. Don Lobo accompanying him. Fr. R. S.



Pradeep exhibited his artworks at Chitra Kala Parishad, which was visited and appreciated by the LM community.

- Fr. Royston Pinto

### LOYOLA PRE-NOVITIATE, Mangaluru



The first-year pre-novices, along with their Regent and their counterparts from Navasadhana, spent three memorable weeks in the villages of Mundgod for their annual work camp. Alongside manual work, they organised awareness programmes on the importance of education and the harmful effects of excessive mobile usage. Many of the pre-novices described the experience as life-changing and personally enriching.

Meanwhile, the second-year pre-novices, having finished their Board Exams, focused on their preparations for the standardised English test, with special coaching sessions conducted by Fr. Edward Rodrigues. After completing the test, the pre-novices dispersed for the holidays, bringing the academic year to a close.

- Sch. Rudolf D’Souza

### MAITRI SADHANA, Vijayapura



Women’s Day, organized and celebrated by Sangama-CIRD at Byakod village on March 3, had 250 women participants, whereas a similar celebration held two days later at Sindagi on March 5 brought together 500 women from the urban and rural SHGs. The Yuva Sangama programme, conducted on March 7, provided valuable insights to youth, focusing on leadership skills and personal development. The month concluded with a Nutrition Support Group Meeting on 28th emphasizing the importance of health, nutrition, and community well-being.

Loyola English Medium School went into mourning at the sad news of the demise of Mrs Ashwini, an alumna and former staff member of the school. The International Women’s Day celebrated in the school had Mrs. Basamma, President of the Children’s Welfare Group, as the chief guest.

The staff returned refreshed and renewed after a three-day excursion to Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar, and Mumbai.

- Fr. John Thomas

### MOUNT ST JOSEPH, Bengaluru



Fr Kanikaraju was the main celebrant and Fr William Sequeira the homilist at the solemn Eucharistic Celebration on the feast of St Joseph. The festive joy spilt over on March 21 when three Jesuits of our Province made their Final Profession: Frs. Harry Terry Noel, Arun D’Souza, and Fr Arun Sunil Lobo of our community. A short felicitation programme and a fellowship meal followed.

The Novitiate community had the annual Visitation of Fr Provincial. On this occasion, the Cassock Day was held, and the first-year Novices were conferred the ministries of Lector and Acolyte. The novices had a week-long transformative course, “Healing the Inner Child,” led by Fr. Alwin Mathan Raj, a diocesan priest from Kottar. Likewise, Fr. Jerome D’Souza’s sessions on General Congregations deepened their understanding of the Society of Jesus.

The Community went on a Lenten Pilgrimage to Anekal. We spent time in silent prayer and in the Way of the Cross in the Church, and visited the Vana Chinnappa Shrine and the tomb of Fr Manuel da Cunha. We thank Fr Shantharaj Thomas and the Jnana Jyothi community for their gracious hospitality and accompaniment.

Nearly 150 religious men and women attended Fr Joe Mathias’s talk on the spirituality of Lent at MSJ. The 19th Annotation Retreat (retreat in daily life), supervised by 7 spiritual directors from MSJ, had 14 Parishioners participating. It was a fruitful experience of accompaniment.

In Prerana, we completed a two-month course in preparation for the final profession for 36 religious sisters from 11 different congregations. In mid-January, we hosted the last programme in the series on mid-life transformation, led by Fr. Jose Parapully SDB, with 36 Jesuits participating. The Southern and Western Zone core team of RRSJSA held a two-day review meeting at Prerana. We were also glad to host the annual meeting of Jesuit counsellors of India.

The Graduation Day for UKG students was held with Ms Gracy Samuel, Principal of Loyola English Medium School, as the Chief Guest. It was enlivened by a delightful programme by the LKG students. On the same occasion, the school magazine 'ಉಜ್ವಲ' was released.

At LCPUC, two counsellors attended a day's pro-

gramme conducted by the Samagra team on the Embodied approach in wellbeing. The third-year students of Loyola Degree College completed their one-month internship and attended an industrial visit to Nandini Factory. SJU staff conducted a day-long orientation for college faculty on university procedures. The Women staff of our college were felicitated on the occasion of Women's Day.

The Loyola ITI celebrated the Graduation Day of the Digital Empowerment Program in collaboration with VIDYA. International Women's Day and a Life Skills Training session were held. A visit by the India-New Zealand Business Council and EDEX Group opened new opportunities for international collaboration. Loyola ITI won First Prize and a Special Prize at the Engineering Fair.

- Fr. Clarence D'Souza

### ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, Mangaluru



The Lenten talk - organized by Fr Melwyn D'Cunha for the students of the Gents' Hostel – had Fr Leo Lasrado as the resource person. Fr. John D'Souza, Director of SAITI, along with a few staff members, visited special schools in the town as part of their outreach initiatives. Fr. Melwin Joseph Pinto, rector, visited the bishop-elect of the Udupi Diocese, Rev. Dr Leslie Clifford D'Souza, and assured him of prayerful support in his leadership role. Fr. Derrick Anthony accompanied Fr Melwin to participate in the inauguration programme of the elevation of the Kohima Region into a Province.

St. Aloysius Deemed to be University celebrated its 146th Annual Day with a variety of programs and cultural events. Meanwhile, Fr. Johnson Pinto and Fr. Clifford Sequeira were engaged in conducting the SSLC and PUC board examinations.

Fr. Lumnesh Kumar visited the campus and delivered an insightful session to the staff and students of Life Sciences at St. Aloysius Deemed to be Uni-

versity (SADU), focusing on climate change and its impact on mountain grasslands.

The community was deeply concerned when Fr. Melwin J. Pinto, the Rector, underwent an angioplasty on March 31 at Fr Muller Hospital and subsequently suffered a brain hemorrhage. Sadly, he passed away on April 10 at 4:00 PM, bringing deep sorrow to the entire community. His recovery had been expected to take time, and his sudden demise has left many grieving. Fr. Dionysius Vaz, the Provincial, visited the community and appointed Fr. Melwyn D'Cunha as Vice-Rector until a new Rector is appointed by the Superior General.

The Holy Week celebrations were meaningfully organized by Fr. Johnson Pinto and his team. Fr. Praveen Martis participated in the four-day Global Research Alliance of Jesuit Universities, held at Manila.

- Fr. William M. Rodrigues

### VIDYA NIKETAN, Dharwad



At Vidya Niketan, we have resumed our college activities with renewed enthusiasm. The scholastics have returned to their parish ministries and are fully engaged in their academic pursuits as well as the college's extracurricular activities. Fr. Pratap participated in his Novitiate batch faith-sharing in Hassan and later travelled to Japan to attend the diaconate ordination of Dn. Nithin Coelho. Fr. Dheeraj directed a retreat



at Immaculate Conception Parish, Belgaum. He also conducted a day-long orientation for the students of Sacred Heart Convent, Hubli, and spent two days in Haliyal facilitating a parenting programme for Siddi couples. Sch. Akshay presented a paper on "AI and Global Governance" at Jain (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru. As

part of our Lenten observances, we spent an afternoon with special children at Mamta School, Dharwad. Along with Fr. Jerald M D'Souza, we also made a pilgrimage to the Mount Calvary Shrine in Hospet.

- Sch. Frewin D'Souza

## SATYA NILAYAM, Chennai



The months of March and the beginning of April were marked by celebrations and farewells at Satya Nilayam. Sch. Arun Raj received a gold medal at the Loyola College Day celebrations, having secured first rank in Philosophy. He also won the third prize in the Jivan short story competition. After serving as Registrar and Treasurer at Satya Nilayam for five years, Fr Francis D'Souza will move, on transfer, to Jnana Deepa, Pune, in the same capacity. Fr Lawrence Fernandes was appointed as an external examiner by the

University of Madras for a PhD viva in Philosophy at Madras Christian College. Fr Nithin Monteiro has returned to Satya Nilayam after submitting his PhD thesis at XIM, Bhubaneswar. Fr Anthony Joseph attended the Spiritual Guides' meeting held at St Francis Monastery, Mussoorie. Schols. Arun Raj and Austin Rodrigues secured distinction in their comprehensive exams here.

- Fr. Lawrence Fernandes

## VIDYANIKETAN, Thiruvananthapuram



The juniors had the experience of participating in the liturgical celebrations of Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara rites. The Academic Colloquium provided the juniors with a platform to present their minor research projects on topics of personal interest. They also had the rare opportunity to visit the VSSC on the ISRO campus and witness a rocket launch. The highlight of the academic year was the standardized English test (J-SET), conducted at the conference level, to qualify for further studies in the Jesuits scholasticates. It was conducted under the invigilation of Ms.

Jancy Thomas, lecturer at St. Xavier's College, Thumba. Ugadi was celebrated as the Andhra Province Day made memorable by the efforts of the juniors.

After receiving a warm farewell in the presence of the Jesuits of the campus, the juniors were given a warm farewell. They departed to their respective provinces from March 29 onwards. Although the house now feels empty, it eagerly awaits the arrival of the new batch in June.

- Fr. Anush D'Cunha

## VINAYALAYA, Mumbai



The month of March saw us engaged in two important activities of our juniorate formation: first, we had our Conference-level English test on March 13; second, we held our Annual Play and Cultural Events at the Holy Family High School Hall on March 21. Both were opportunities for us

to demonstrate what we had learnt in theory. The latter, was a play titled *A Dollar*, written by the Yiddish dramatist David Pinski. The programme which began with a prayer song and a welcome address by Fr. Learoy Rodrigues, was followed by the singing of three songs - *Do Re Mi*, *Rise Ye Children*, and *Chosen Family* - which set the tone for the rest of the evening. The dances which followed the songs represented the different cultures: Tamil, Central-Tribal, North East, Garba & Raas.

The next big event we look forward to is April 10 when the academic year will come to an end and we will be bidding good-bye with thankful hearts to each other and above all to our dear formators.

- Sch. Anish



## OURS IN PUBLICATION

**Fr. Ajay Nelson D'Silva**, *Mastering Conflict: The Five Key Styles*, in *Daijiword Media Network*, April 08 2026.

**Fr. Don Prem Lobo** and Nair, A. (2026). From textbooks to campuses: how caste continues to undermine Dalit representation and social justice in Indian education. *The Mooknayak*, 16 Feb, <https://en.themooknayak.com/discussion-interview/from-textbooks-to-campuses-how-caste-continues-to-undermine-dalit-representation-and-social-justice-in-indian-education>.

**Fr. Don Prem Lobo** (2026). Opinion: India's tobacco tax 2026 – public health or revenue strategy? *Telangana Today*, 24 March, <https://telanganatoday.com/opinion-indias-tobacco-tax-2026-public-health-or-revenue-strategy>.

**Fr. Don Prem Lobo** (2026). Magnet schools and educational access in rural Karnataka. *Metro Times India*, 2 Apr, <https://metrotimesindia.com/magnet-schools-and-educational-access-in-rural-karnataka/>.

**Fr. Don Prem Lobo** (2026). Regulating hate speech without silencing dissent. *Metro Times India*, 20 Mar, <https://metrotimesindia.com/regulating-hate-speech-without-silencing-dissent/>.

**Fr. Joseph Lobo**, "The two Josephs redefine Justice", *Jivan*, March 2026, p. 7.

**Fr. Royston Pinto**, The Enduring Relevance of the Ministerial Priesthood: A Canonical and Theological Synthesis, *Smart Companion*, Vol. 16, March (2026), pp. 21-24.

**Fr. Royston Pinto**, Women in the World and Church Today, *Smart Companion*, Vol. 16, March (2026), pp. 31-32.

**Sch. Arun Lobo**, "ಶಿಲುಬೆಯ ಮೇಲಿನ ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತನ ಮರಣ, ಕೊಲೆ ಅಥವಾ ಆತ್ಮಹತ್ಯೆ? ಭರವಸೆಯ ಜಾಗಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸತ್ಯಾನ್ವೇಷಣೆ...", *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 16, Issue 04, April (2026), pp. 11-12.

**Sch. Avin A**, "ಭಯದಿಂದ ಭರವಸೆಯತ್ತ", *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 16, Issue 04, April (2026), pp. 13-14.

**Sch. Royster Monis**, "ಇದನ್ನು ನನ್ನ ಸ್ಮರಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿರಿ." ಯಾಜಕತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಪವಿತ್ರ ಬಲಿಪೂಜೆಯ ಮಹತ್ವ. *Tabor Vaani*, Vol. 16, Issue 04, April (2026), pp. 05-06.

## REST IN PEACE

**Fr. Aloysius Pieris, SJ, (SRI)**, 92/73, on 22 March 2026, in Sri Lanka.

**Fr. Ernest Kujur, SJ, (RAN)**, 72/49, on 12 March 2026, in Ranchi.

**Fr. Emmanuel Kujur, SJ, (RAN)**, 92/69, on 12 March 2026, in Ranchi.

**Fr. Melwin J. Pinto, SJ, (KAR)**, 62/44, on 10 April 2026, in Mangaluru.

## Fr Melwin Joseph Pinto, SJ (62/44) (31 December 1963 – 10 April 2026)

Dear Bishops and concelebrants, the Jesuit family gathered here, very especially the bereaved family members of Fr. Melwin—his brother Steven; his sisters Ivy, Jenifer, and Vinaya; his close relatives; dear friends; and all who are gathered here in love and remembrance,

Let me begin with a deeply personal note. I stand before you today not only as a fellow Jesuit, but also as a close friend of Fr. Melwin—a companion who shared with him some of the most formative and defining years of life. We studied in the same school, entered the Society of Jesus on the same day, and journeyed together through every stage of Jesuit formation. We were ordained on the same day, along with two other companions – Fr Daniel Fernandes and our current provincial Fr Dionysius Vaz. Over the years, what grew among us was not merely companionship, but a profound and enduring friendship—a bond that allowed us to support one another in moments of struggle, to learn from one another in humility, to challenge one another in truth, and to share in the mission entrusted to us with deep trust



and profound confidence.

Just a few days ago, we went to see Melwin in the hospital. We stood by his side and on the advice of the doctor even called out his name, but could not communicate with him, as his condition did not permit it. Perhaps, in that silence, something deeper was already being said—something beyond words, something that now lingers deep in our hearts.

Today, we gather with heavy hearts, wounded by the pain of loss. Messages across social media echo a profound sense of shock and sorrow at the untimely passing of our dear Melwin.

The pain we feel is real and it runs deep. We deeply mourn Melwin's passing and miss him beyond words. There is an emptiness that his absence leaves behind—an absence that words cannot quite fill. Many hearts here ache with grief.

And yet, as we experience this sorrow, we are reminded that sorrow is not a burden we carry, much less a dry and empty sadness; rather, as it is said, "sorrow is the price we pay for love." It is, in fact, a sacred testimony—a sign of how deeply we have loved, and how deeply we have been loved. Love and loss are bound together in ways we cannot escape. And so, we grieve—because Melwin mattered more than words can hold, because he touched our lives, because he loved and was loved in return. For his family, his close companions, and all who held him dear, this grief will take time to soften, though it may never fully fade.

And yet, even as tears fill our eyes, there is another truth that quietly rises within us—a truth that brings not a quick end to our sorrow, but sheds a gentle light and makes us encounter in Melwin a life that was truly lived to the full.

Ever since his sad demise, the social media has been filled with heartfelt messages reflecting on Melwin's full and vibrant life—his busy days, his dreams, his plans, and all that he achieved. So many have shared their deep gratitude for the ways he showed up for them in their times of need. They speak of how his personal touch brought comfort, healing, and transformation during their most difficult moments. Others recall, with tenderness and longing, the joy of being in his warm and caring presence—memories that now feel even more precious.

I can certainly vouch for all these. When it came to his responsibilities, he gave himself wholeheartedly. When it came to helping those in need, he was always ready—always available. When people were burdened, troubled, or lost, he was there to console, to encourage, and to walk with them in their darkness. When someone needed care and accompaniment, he did not hesitate to walk with them an extra mile. The poor, the distressed, and the forgotten always found a place in Melwin's heart. He did not count the cost. He did not measure his efforts. He did not consider his own comfort or convenience, nor did he spare himself rest or even his own health. He gave, and gave, and kept giving—quietly, generously, and without seeking anything in return.

Melwin loved the Society of Jesus and its mission with all his heart. He was truly a man of the Society—deeply rooted in its spirit and wholeheartedly committed to its call, especially to serve the least, the last, the lost, the bent and the battered. Many times, he shared with me his concern for the countless individuals whose lives had touched his own—people he had accompanied, supported, and uplifted in so many ways. Even in recent times, he spoke with hope and enthusiasm about his plans for St Aloysius (Deemed-to-be) University. Yet, at the heart of all his dreams and plans, there was always one constant thread: a deep, abiding concern for those who were in need.

Melwin was, above all, a man of the heart. Compassion was not something he tried to cultivate—it flowed naturally from him. Empathy and solidarity with those who suffered were very instinctive to him. In many of our conversations, I sensed in him a warm spiritual depth—a quiet, interior life rooted in God. His love for Jesus was not merely spoken; it was lived. It revealed itself in the way he loved others—especially the poor, the marginalized, and those who had no one else to turn to.

Indeed, we cannot help remembering those consoling words of the Lord: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was in prison and you came to visit me, I was lonely and you stayed with me... now enter into the home of my Father, prepared for you in all eternity."

Melwin always carried a tender love for the least of the Lord's brothers and sisters. In serving them, he was quietly serving the Lord himself. And today, we trust and believe that the Lord lovingly welcomes him into His eternal home, where compassion is fulfilled in joy and love knows no end.

And how can we forget the joy he brought into our lives? Melwin was jovial, warm, and full of life. He had a natural gift for bringing people together. His sense of humour was gentle yet infectious; his laughter had a way of lifting the heaviest of hearts. It was difficult to remain sad or anxious in his presence—such was the warmth he carried within him. He harboured no grudges. If ever relationships were strained, he was often the first to reach out, to heal, and to reconcile. He was a peacemaker in the truest sense, a seeker of justice, a defender of the weak, and thus a man who lived the spirit of the Gospel Beatitudes with a profound authenticity and daring.

And so today, as we stand in this sacred moment of farewell, we find ourselves asking: is this not a life lived to the full? Is this not a life that has been poured out, as St Paul so beautifully describes, "like a libation" in loving service of others?

Yes, indeed. And it is precisely this that fills our hearts—not only with sorrow, but also with deep gratitude; gratitude to God, who gifted us with Melwin—a remarkable human being, a compassionate Christian, and a committed Jesuit; gratitude for the love he shared, the lives he touched, and the goodness he embodied. And so, even through our tears, we are not gathered here only to mourn. We are gathered to give thanks. We are gathered to celebrate. We are here to honour a life that, in every sense, was truly, beautifully, and generously lived to the full.

May Melwin now rest in the peace of the Lord whom he loved so deeply and served so faithfully. Let us now, in a spirit of faith and hope, commend Melwin to the loving mercy of God. May the Lord grant him a merciful and redeeming judgment, wiping away every shortcoming born of human weakness, and embracing him with divine compassion.

As Saint Paul says, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness" (2 Timothy 4:7–8)—may Melwin, in the spirit of these words, now find the fulfilment of his journey in the loving arms of our Heavenly Father, where peace is eternal and love is made perfect.

Just as when a fragrant flower fades, its perfume lingers gently in the air; just as when a radiant light is extinguished, a soft echo of its glow still hovers, refusing to surrender to the dark and just as when a cosy campfire dies down, its warmth clings tenderly to the space, continuing to give the comfort it once gave, so too dear Melwin, although you have reached the farther shore, beyond the limits of this life, yet the inspiration you have given us, and the warmth you have left in our hearts, remain. They are precious gifts from the Lord Himself—the grace to guide us as we continue our own journey, striving to walk in fidelity to His will.

Farewell, dear Melwin, until we meet again in the eternal home of our Heavenly Father. Let us pray:

Let us pray: Lord, source of all life and love, we thank You for the gift of Melwin for the goodness he embodied, for the love he shared, and for the countless lives he touched. Receive him now into Your eternal embrace. Grant him the rest that he so often denied himself in serving others. Comfort all who mourn his loss; fill their hearts with Your peace and quiet assurance. May his life continue to inspire us, and may we, like him, learn to love more generously, serve more selflessly, and live more fully. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Fr Joseph Lobo, SJ

