

Winter Issue

December 2024

URAVU

SDB INT



RELATIONSHIP ON RECORD

Living the Mission

STORIES OF
FAITH
LEADERSHIP
AND RENEWAL

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PROVINCIAL DESK

My dear confreres and members of the Salesian Family,

It is indeed a joyous occasion for me to present Uravu, the newsletter of the province of Tiruchy. God has blessed our province with confreres who are committed and dedicated to the mission to love the young especially the poor and abandoned. There are numerous activities carried out for the salvation of the young in all our presences. This newsletter carries details of various events and programs conducted in the past few months which elucidates the importance the province gives for the youth ministry especially in the rural areas. As the province is marching in the silver jubilee year we are grateful to the Lord for the wonders and miracles taking place every moment of our lives.

Congratulations to all the communities, especially the leaders for spearheading these activities with lots of vigor and enthusiasm. I appreciate the individual confreres who are self-sacrificing and hard-working day after day. It is because of them the mission is reaching the peripheries. It is wonderful to see the collaboration of our lay partners who are closely involved in our work for the poor. God bless them for their generosity and commitment. I must acknowledge that there is so much positivity and productivity in the province that we are able to be forerunners in many aspects of life and work for the underprivileged. I wish and pray that this spirit continues and multiplies and catches like fire so that we will be able to burn with zeal for souls just as Don Bosco our father and founder did in his time.

My sincere appreciation to the media team, who have brought out this magazine with color and attraction. Their follow up and flavor for documentation is truly commendable. Let us continue to journey with the young with happiness and cheer and May God bless us all.

Always with the young,
Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB

A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Don Bosco Vidivelli, Kalavasal

Don Bosco Vidivelli, Kalavasal, is a beacon of hope and transformation for the poor and marginalized. With a mission centered on parish work, a dropout center, and social work initiatives, it strives to uplift the underserved. The parish fosters spiritual nourishment and community bonding, while the dropout center empowers youth with education and skill-building opportunities. Additionally, the center promotes livelihoods by providing vocational training, job placements, and entrepreneurial support. Guided by a holistic approach, Don Bosco Vidivelli nurtures both the spiritual and material well-being of individuals, paving the way for a brighter future.



EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS: A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

At the outset of the academic year, Don Bosco Vidivelli, with generous support from Amigos De Sivakasi and The Trichy Don Bosco Society, awarded educational scholarships to 70 deserving children. These scholarships cover essential school costs such as books, uniforms, and supplies, offering families in need a

lifeline and enabling students to begin their academic journey with confidence.

EMPOWERING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The scholarships extend beyond financial assistance; they represent an investment in the future of these children. By alleviating economic burdens, students can focus on their studies, participate actively in school

activities, and lay a solid foundation for academic success. This initiative fosters motivation, self-confidence, and better educational outcomes.

ENVISIONING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY

This scholarship program embodies the center’s commitment to educational inclusivity. By removing barriers, it ensures every child has the opportunity to pursue learning enthusiastically, irrespective of economic challenges. These efforts exemplify Don Bosco Vidivelli’s mission to empower students and promote equity in education.

SPECIAL RETREAT: RENEWING FAITH AND COMMUNITY

On 11th August 2024, Don Bosco Vidivelli hosted a spiritually enriching retreat for parishioners, organized by Rev. Fr. Vimalan SDB, the Parish Priest. Led by Rev. Fr. Anthonysamy SDB, Vocation Promoter of the Trichy Province, the retreat was a profound experience that strengthened faith and community bonds.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RETREAT

- Inspiring Sermons: Fr. Anthonysamy’s sermons prompted self-reflection, spiritual renewal, and a

deeper connection with God.

- Moments of Grace: Adoration sessions and healing prayers brought solace and inspiration to attendees.
- Holy Mass Celebration: The retreat culminated in a vibrant and spiritually uplifting Eucharistic celebration.
- Community Fellowship: A shared lunch and confession services fostered unity and spiritual peace.

The retreat was a resounding success, rekindling faith and camaraderie among parishioners. Events like these underline Don Bosco Vidivelli’s dedication to nurturing spiritual growth within the community.

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

On 1st September 2024, Don Bosco Vidivelli facilitated an impactful “Entrepreneurship and Development Training” program. This initiative, attended by 250 women, aimed to equip participants with vital business skills, including financial planning and market strategies.

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH ACTION

Led by experts from CAUVERI—Fr. Ashok Lawrence



SDB, Mrs. Esther, and Mr. Jones—the program provided practical guidance for starting or expanding businesses. Additionally, 25 women received microcredit and sewing machines, offering immediate resources to support their entrepreneurial ambitions.

COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

This transformative event was made possible through partnerships with the Desai Foundation Trust, SPS India Foundation, and Colourful Children Foundation. By combining training with tangible resources, the program empowered participants to achieve economic independence and resilience.

BRIDGING EDUCATIONAL GAPS IN RURAL AREAS

In collaboration with the Colourful Children Foundation and The Trichy Don Bosco Society, Don Bosco Vidivelli distributed study materials to 20 Supplementary Education Centres. This initiative benefited over 600 children from remote villages near Alangulam.

ENHANCING ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The provided resources—notebooks, textbooks, and stationery—strengthen the academic programs at these centers. Designed to offer holistic learning experiences, the centers also provide remedial classes, life skills training, and extracurricular activities.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

FOR EDUCATIONAL UPLIFTMENT

This effort emphasizes collective responsibility, involving parents, educators, and community leaders to sustain these educational initiatives. Teachers expressed gratitude, highlighting the positive impact on children’s learning journeys and motivation.

CELEBRATING CHILDHOOD: CHILDREN’S DAY FESTIVITIES

On 24th November 2024, Don Bosco Vidivelli organized a joyful Children’s Day celebration for 200 children from its Supplementary Education Centres. The event brimmed with excitement, creativity, and shared joy.

A DAY OF FUN AND RECOGNITION

• Engaging Activities: Party games, drawing competitions,

group singing, and dancing allowed children to showcase their talents.

• Felicitations: Esteemed guests, including Fr. John Bosco SDB and Br. Chinnapparaj SDB, recognized winners with prizes.

• Cherished Moments: Each child received a gift, and the celebration concluded with a shared lunch, leaving lasting memories.

The event underscored Don Bosco Vidivelli’s commitment to fostering holistic development and happiness among children.

CONCLUSION

Don Bosco Vidivelli, Kalavasal, continues to stand as a pillar of hope, empowerment, and transformation. Its initiatives—from scholarships and educational support to retreats and community celebrations—reflect its mission of uplifting lives through holistic development. The unwavering dedication of the Salesian community, along with generous partnerships, ensures a brighter future for all it serves, fostering lasting change and strengthening the bonds of community.



Don Bosco Anbu Illam Coimbatore

EMERGING TRENDS IN STANDARDIZING CCIS AND STRENGTHENING ALTERNATIVE CARE

Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI), Coimbatore, continues its mission of transforming lives and empowering children and youth in need. Between June and October 2024, the institution undertook a series of impactful programs and events, aimed at nurturing holistic development, fostering education, and ensuring well-being. Here is a glimpse into the vibrant activities

of DBAI, which reflect its commitment to the values of Don Bosco and its dedication to building a better future.

BEGINNING A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

On June 7, 2024, Don Bosco Anbu Illam reopened its doors after the summer holidays, marking the start of the academic year 2024-2025. The centre currently houses 21 students, including 20 boys attending St. Michael's Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore,

and one pursuing college studies at Bishop Ambrose College. The reopening was filled with excitement and aspirations for a fruitful year ahead.

YAR SECTOR MEETING: CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD

On June 12, 2024, DBAI hosted the YaR (Youth at Risk) Sector Meeting for the INT Province, focusing on the impact and sustainability of their works. The event began with a prayer led by Fr. Arul Kumar Antony SDB and a warm welcome by Fr. Casimir SDB. Fr. Santhanaraj SDB delivered an inspiring opening speech on the importance of sustaining impactful initiatives. A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Lawrence, Assistant Manager of District Programs at the Miracle Foundation India, on "Emerging Trends in Standardizing CCIs and Strengthening Alternative Care." A vibrant floor discussion



followed, providing valuable insights into improving child care initiatives. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Fr. Amalorpavaraj, Rector and Director of DBAI, reinforcing the institution's commitment to excellence.

PARENT'S DAY: STRENGTHENING BONDS

On August 10, 2024, DBAI celebrated Parents' Day, inviting families of the boys to participate. Fr. Richard, the Dean and Administrator, shared updates on the centre's activities and the measures taken to ensure the boys' well-being and education. Parents expressed gratitude and pledged to support their children's academic pursuits. This event strengthened the connection between DBAI and the families, fostering a collaborative approach to child development.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The 78th Independence Day was celebrated on August 15, 2024, with enthusiasm and patriotism. Fr. Amalorpavaraj, the Rector, hoisted the national flag and emphasized the transformative power of education in his address. The boys showcased their talents through cultural

performances, adding vibrancy to the celebrations. The day coincided with the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, marked by a solemn Holy Eucharist that enriched the occasion with spiritual significance.

Celebrating St. Don Bosco
On August 16, 2024, the birthday of St. Don Bosco was commemorated with reverence and joy. The day began with a special Holy Eucharist honouring the founder's legacy, followed by a celebration involving all staff and boys at DBAI. This occasion reminded everyone of Don Bosco's vision and inspired the community to continue his mission with dedication.

MEDICAL AND EYE CAMPS: CARING FOR HEALTH MEDICAL CAMP

On August 24, 2024, a medical camp was organized for the boys, led by Dr. Shilpa, MBBS, and her team. Twenty-seven boys underwent basic health check-ups, and a few were diagnosed with skin allergies. Dr. Shilpa recommended IQ tests for some boys to enhance their academic performance, emphasizing the need for immediate follow-ups and consistent care.

EYE CHECK-UP

On October 4, 2024, DBAI partnered with the IVM Foundation to provide a free eye check-up for the boys. Thirty-one boys benefited from this initiative, with eight receiving free spectacles, courtesy of the foundation. These health camps underscored DBAI's commitment to the physical and academic well-being of its children.

CONCLUSION

Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Coimbatore, remains steadfast in its mission to nurture, educate, and empower vulnerable children and youth. Through holistic programs and community engagement, the centre provides a safe and nurturing environment where young lives are transformed. DBAI's efforts exemplify the spirit of Don Bosco, inspiring hope and paving the way for brighter futures.



Don Bosco School of Excellence, Coimbatore

HIDDEN TALENT REMAINS SILENT UNTIL IT FINDS ITS STAGE

TRIBUTE TO WAYANAD LANDSLIDE VICTIMS

The students of Don Bosco School of Excellence paid a heartfelt tribute to the victims of the Wayanad landslide disaster, which claimed 230 lives. In a solemn ceremony, the

student. The event saw enthusiastic participation, with students putting forth their best performances, making the fest a grand success.

SCOUTS AND GUIDES CAMP: FOSTERING TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP

The Scouts and Guides Masters at Don Bosco School of Excellence organized a one-day camp centered around the theme of "Teamwork." The camp, which began at 6:00 AM with the hoisting of the flag, promise recitation, and flag song, was attended by 70 students. Activities focused on developing teamwork, leadership, and self-confidence. The event concluded at 8:00 PM after a fulfilling day of learning and a sumptuous dinner.

“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge,” said Simon Sinek.

students offered floral tributes to the photographs of the deceased, expressing their condolences and praying for the eternal rest of the departed souls.

TALENT FEST: UNVEILING HIDDEN POTENTIAL

“Hidden talent remains silent until it finds its stage.” Living up to this adage, the school management organized a vibrant Talent Fest to showcase and explore the unique abilities of each

CHILDREN'S DAY:

A Day of Surprises and Joy Children's Day holds a special place in the hearts of every child. The DBX family's teachers went above and beyond to create memorable surprises through various programs. Adding to the delight, parents took to the stage with energetic performances and captivating puppet shows, making the celebration truly unforgettable.



CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY OF INDIA

On 26th November, the school celebrated Constitution Day, also known as “National Law Day.” The School Captain administered the oath, reaffirming the values encapsulated in the Preamble: justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. The day’s significance was honored with a concluding rendition of the National Anthem.

TEACHERS’ TRAINING PROGRAM: ENHANCING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

A two-day training program for DBX teachers was organized by the school management in collaboration with CBSE, Chennai. The workshop focused on

“Strengthening Assessment and Evaluation Practices.” Teachers gained valuable insights into the latest techniques and strategies for preparing effective assessments, ensuring their professional growth and alignment with modern educational practices.

Through its diverse initiatives, Don Bosco School of Excellence continues to foster holistic development, nurturing talents, promoting values, and empowering educators to create a brighter future for all.



ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

The activities at Don Bosco Prenovitiate, Dindigul, reflect a commitment to holistic formation, blending spiritual enrichment, academic growth, and community service. These initiatives have nurtured the pre-novices, empowering them to grow in faith, skill, and dedication to their mission.

INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The In June, the academic year was inaugurated with a solemn Mass presided over by Fr. Agilan, the Provincial of the Salesian Province of Trichy. The day began with the Eucharistic celebration, followed by a family circle gathering, setting a vibrant tone for the new academic year.



“FAITH IS TAKING THE FIRST STEP EVEN WHEN YOU DON’T SEE THE WHOLE STAIRCASE.” – Martin Luther King Jr.

INTER-FORMEES MEETING

On 20th July, the Inter-Formees Meeting was held at the Prenovitiate community, inviting formees from various formation houses in and around Dindigul. Participants included candidates from Jesuit novices, Servite novices, and Charles Convent. The event was animated by Fr. Bernatsha, Fr. Vikesh, and Sister Elizabeth, who led group sessions. The gathering concluded with a solemn lunch, fostering camaraderie and shared learning.

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION IN SAVERIYARPALAYAM

The Don Bosco Prenovitiate community actively participated in the

Eucharistic Procession organized by the Saveriyarpalayam community. The day included a prayerful procession, a solemn Mass, and a shared dinner, strengthening spiritual bonds among the participants.

SEMINARS

Two enriching seminars were conducted during the period:

- Festive Oratory Seminar: Led by Fr. Selvaraj from the Province of Chennai, this session encouraged greater participation in oratory activities.
- Psalms Seminar: Conducted by Fr. Suresh Felix, this session provided pre-novices

with valuable insights into praying the Breviary, enhancing their spiritual practices.

FOOTBALL COACHING

In August, the pre-novices received football coaching, introducing them to various skills and gameplay techniques. This activity promoted teamwork and physical fitness, contributing to their overall development.

JOINT COUNCIL AND CURATORIUM MEETING

The community hosted a Joint Council Meeting for the Trichy and Chennai Provinces. Provincials and councilors from both provinces attended, discussing matters of mutual importance. The afternoon saw a Curatorium meeting focused on the well-being and progress of the pre-novices.

VILLAGE EXPERIENCE

Following their first-term examinations, the pre-novices embarked on a village experience in Keeranur. Guided by Fr. Felix and Fr. John Dharman, the program included two days of animation followed by a week-long stay in eight villages. The pre-novices engaged in social outreach and community service, concluding the experience with an evaluation session.



PARENTS' DAY

Parents' Day was celebrated on 20th October with great enthusiasm. The event featured a solemn Mass, a cultural program, and a sumptuous lunch. Parents expressed joy and gratitude at reuniting with their sons and witnessing their growth.

PROVINCIAL VISITATION

From 29th October to 1st November, the Provincial visitation took place. The community welcomed the Provincial with a solemn ceremony, followed by a Eucharistic celebration. The Provincial met with confreres and pre-novices, participated in a family circle, and concluded with a comprehensive report of the visitation.

CHILDREN'S DAY

On 10th November, Children's Day was celebrated with 80 children from the night schools. The morning session featured an awareness program by Mrs. Aruna, a social activist. This was followed by party games, drawing, singing, and poetry competitions. The day concluded with a cultural program and a hearty lunch, leaving the children with cherished memories.

HEALING RETREAT

A healing retreat for the pre-novices was conducted by Fr. Jude and a team of volunteers. The retreat was a deeply prayerful and transformative experience, enriching the spiritual lives of the participants.

ILAMAI YOUTH GROUP

The campus serves as a hub for local youth, offering a space for daily football matches and gatherings. The Ilamai Youth Group meets regularly, utilizing the facilities to foster camaraderie and constructive engagement.



PARISH ACTIVITIES

The parish community of St. Xavier's Church, Savariyarpalayam, and the Don Bosco Social Service Centre continue to inspire faith and community engagement through their dedicated efforts. With a focus on holistic development, spiritual renewal, and social outreach, the Salesians remain steadfast in their mission to serve and uplift the community, ensuring a brighter and more fulfilling future for all.

DEVOTION TO THE HOLY EUCHARIST: EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The On July 28, 2024, St. Xavier's Parish witnessed a deeply spiritual Eucharistic procession that brought together parishioners in unity and joy. Fr. Louis, a Redemptorist priest, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and delivered an inspiring sermon, preparing the faithful for the procession. Devotees from the parish and neighbouring communities participated, walking approximately three kilometres through the streets of Dindigul. The procession culminated at the parish church, creating a powerful expression of faith and devotion. The active involvement of religious priests, nuns, and laypeople demonstrated a collective

testimony of their commitment to the Holy Eucharist.

DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: CHAIN ROSARY

The parish marked October, the month dedicated to the

Holy Rosary, with great fervour. A 1250-bead Chain Rosary event was held on October 6, 2024, involving all Anbiyams and pious associations. Children adorned as Mother Mary in various apparitions



and saints who promoted the Rosary's devotion participated in a meaningful procession. Each apparition was explained with historical and theological insights, making the event spiritually enriching. Saturdays of the month were dedicated to praying for specific parish intentions, accompanied by novena prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL OF FAMILIES: PARISH RETREAT

From November 3 to 16, 2024, the parish hosted a retreat facilitated by Redemptorist priests under the leadership of Fr. Louis. This retreat focused on the spiritual and familial renewal of the parish community. The priests conducted house visits to understand the spiritual and economic conditions of parish families, creating a strong foundation for the retreat. During the week-long event, participants were offered opportunities for confession, spiritual counselling, and family enrichment. The retreat left a profound impact on the faithful, rekindling their faith and devotion.

FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER: PARISH FEAST

The annual feast of St. Francis Xavier, the patron

saint of the parish, was celebrated with devotion on December 8, 2024. After nine days of fervent novena prayers, the parish community gathered to honour their patron. Fr. Daniel Sebastian, SDB, Director of Vazhikaatti, presided over the Eucharistic celebration. The feast served as a spiritual and communal highlight of the year, strengthening the bonds of the parish family.



DON BOSCO SOCIAL SERVICE CENTRE INITIATIVES

MEDICAL CAMP

A medical camp was organized on July 14, 2024, in collaboration with Equitas Trust. The event offered general health check-ups in association with Dindigul Blood Bank, dental consultations with Adiv Dental Clinic, and eye examinations with Vasan Eye Care. The camp, coordinated by Fr. Albert Yesudoss and led by Fr. Justin, SDB, addressed the healthcare needs of the community. Chief guest Mr. Maraikayar lauded the Salesians for their initiatives and encouraged the people to avail themselves of such opportunities.

SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY

On July 17, 2024, Social Justice Day was celebrated to create awareness of fundamental laws and responsibilities among the community. Advocate Mr. James Britto addressed the gathering, emphasizing parental responsibilities and their role in shaping children's futures. The event brought together children and their parents, fostering awareness and a sense of social responsibility.

TEACHERS' DAY

The Don Bosco Children Movement celebrated

Teachers' Day on September 7, 2024, honouring all teachers in the community. Mrs. Amali, a renowned debate speaker and teacher, addressed the children, emphasizing the importance of respecting educators and their vital role in shaping society. The celebration included heartfelt tributes to teachers working in schools, colleges, and community programs

JOB PLACEMENT REGISTRATION CAMP

A Job Placement Registration and Career Guidance Camp was held on September 22, 2024, for the youth of the locality. Don Bosco Vazhikaatti, in collaboration with the Social Service Centre, organized the event. Mr. Arumai from Vazhikaatti provided insights into job opportunities and resume preparation. This initiative empowered the youth with skills to embark on professional careers.

EXPOSURE VISITS AND ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

On September 14, 2024, children from evening study centres visited the Head Post Office to learn about financial planning and savings

schemes. The children were guided by Mr. Sivakumar, who motivated them to cultivate prudent saving habits.

To encourage a reading culture, children were taken to the 11th Dindigul Book Fair on October 19, 2024. Each child purchased a book, fostering a love for reading and intellectual growth.

INAUGURATION OF DON BOSCO HALL & CHILDREN'S DAY

On November 20, 2024, Don Bosco Social Service Centre inaugurated its newly renovated hall as part of World Children's Day celebrations. Fr. Issac, OFM Cap., blessed and inaugurated the hall, emphasizing the creation of a child-friendly environment. Dr. Sharmila Balaguru, founder of Mahatma Mind Care Institute, addressed the children on mental health and the importance of guidance. The celebration culminated with prize distributions and motivational talks, ensuring a memorable day for the children.



TEACHERS AT CHILDREN'S DAY



DO MORE THAN BELIEVE: PRACTICES



Through its diverse initiatives, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tharangam, continues to foster holistic development, blending academic excellence, community service, and values-based education to create empowered and socially responsible individuals.

BODHAI VENDAME: AN AWARENESS PROGRAM

On 26th June 2024, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tharangam, conducted a meaningful awareness program titled “Bodhai Vendame” (Say No to Intoxication). The initiative aimed to educate students about the detrimental effects of substance abuse and to promote a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle.



Mr. Venkatasean, the District Medical Officer of Mayiladuthurai, addressed the audience with insights into the physical, mental, and social consequences of addiction. The event featured engaging discussions, impactful testimonials, and short films, all emphasizing the importance of making responsible life choices. The program concluded with students taking a solemn pledge to lead a



substance-free life and spread awareness within their communities. This initiative underscored the college's commitment to nurturing responsible citizens.

FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS: A CHANCE TO BE A HERO

On 27th July 2024, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tharangam, organized a Fire Safety Awareness Session in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Fire & Rescue Services, Tharangam. The event aimed to equip students and staff with essential knowledge to handle fire emergencies. Experts demonstrated the proper use of fire extinguishers, evacuation procedures, and first aid techniques. Participants learned to identify fire hazards, locate emergency exits, and maintain composure during incidents. This hands-on session emphasized proactive safety measures, fostering a safer campus environment.

16TH COLLEGE ANNUAL SPORTS MEET 2024: A CELEBRATION OF TALENT AND TEAM SPIRIT

The highly anticipated 16th Annual Sports Meet of Don Bosco Polytechnic College was held with immense enthusiasm on 16th and 17th August 2024. This two-day

event showcased the energy, skill, and sportsmanship of students and faculty alike. The inaugural ceremony, graced by Chief Guest Dr. K. Sivasankar, ADSP – Q Branch, Mayiladuthurai, featured the ceremonial lighting of the torch, symbolizing fair play and unity. Highlights included an Aerobic Dance performance and a pyramid formation by students, adding vibrancy to the occasion.

The Sports Meet concluded with a grand closing ceremony, during which winners were awarded medals, trophies, and certificates by the Guest of Honour, Mr. Rajasekaran, AHM of Govt. Hr. Sec. School, Akkur. In his address, he lauded the participants for their determination and teamwork, highlighting the importance of physical fitness in personal and professional growth.

TEACHERS' DAY: A DAY TO CELEBRATE MENTORS

On 5th September 2024, Don Bosco Polytechnic College celebrated Teachers' Day with gratitude and joy. Students organized various cultural programs, including songs, dances, and skits, to honor their teachers. Fun games and interactive sessions further enlivened the event,

reflecting the deep respect and admiration students hold for their mentors.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP: A CHANCE TO SAVE LIVES

On 26th September 2024, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tharangam, hosted a Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with Kali Blood Bank, Thanjavur, and Lourdu Madha Hospital, Mayiladuthurai. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Shanmugasundaram, MBBS. Students and staff actively participated, contributing 48 units of blood under the supervision of a skilled medical team. Donors were recognized with certificates as tokens of appreciation. This noble initiative reinforced the college's commitment to community service and inspired many to pledge regular blood donations. The event was a resounding success, thanks to the efforts of all participants and volunteers. Through its diverse initiatives, Don Bosco Polytechnic College, Tharangam, continues to foster holistic development, blending academic excellence, community service, and values-based education to create empowered and socially responsible individuals.

EMPOWERING THE MARGINALISED

Living Don Bosco's Dream at Keela Eral

Keela Eral Parish is joyfully preparing to celebrate its Silver Jubilee year, marking 25 years of unwavering faith, dedicated service, and unity with the community. To commemorate this milestone, the parish has undertaken several significant initiatives to ensure the celebrations are both meaningful and memorable.

The renovation of the parish community hall, now known as the Don Bosco Hall, is one such effort, aimed at providing a refreshed and self-sufficient space for parish activities and meetings. Renovation work on the church building and premises is also underway, symbolizing both the physical and spiritual growth of the parish.

Various groups, including Anbiams, the Legion of Mary, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, DBYC, Ilamai, and other pious associations, have been actively involved in deepening the faith of the community. Popular devotions such as the First Friday Mass, St. Antony's Mass, St. Sebastian's Mass, and Mary Help of Christians Mass have been organized to strengthen faith among parishioners. Additionally, para-liturgical services such



OPENING OF DON BOSCO AUDITORIUM



as Adoration, Rosary services, Recollections, and Retreats have been planned to foster spiritual renewal.

Children's faith formation has also been prioritized, with catechism classes held on Sundays in all substations using the "God Who Protects and Provides" book prepared

The tournament featured intense matches, with players showcasing exceptional skill, determination, and camaraderie. As the competition progressed, the excitement culminated in a thrilling final match, where the youth center's team secured second place—a proud moment for

With a collective commitment to improving the student experience, the council set the stage for impactful initiatives and a productive year ahead.

DON BOSCO'S BIRTHDAY AND COLLEGE FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATION

August 16 marked a dual



"We should not serve the poor like they were Jesus. We should serve the poor because they are Jesus."
- St. Mother Teresa

by TNBCLC. Trained catechism teachers conduct regular assessments and reward children with prizes to motivate their learning. Youth Catechism sessions have also been introduced, nurturing the Catholic faith among young parishioners. The Silver Jubilee year promises to be a time of reflection, renewal, and collective growth in faith and community spirit.

DON BOSCO YOUTH CENTRE - CRICKET TOURNAMENT

The Don Bosco Youth Centre hosted an exhilarating two-day cricket tournament on 27th and 28th July, bringing together 24 teams from Keela Eral and nearby areas. The event aimed to foster unity, teamwork, and sportsmanship among the youth.

the entire parish. Beyond the competition, the event strengthened bonds within the Don Bosco youth group, inspiring plans for similar initiatives in the future.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL INAUGURATION

The Students' Council inauguration was held on 1st August at 9:30 a.m., marking the start of a new academic year of leadership and collaboration. Council representatives introduced themselves and shared their agendas, focusing on enhancing academic resources, campus facilities, and student engagement activities.

The event emphasized the importance of teamwork and effective communication among council members.

celebration of Don Bosco's birthday and the college's Foundation Day. The day began with a special assembly, where faculty and students reflected on Don Bosco's values of reason, religion, and loving kindness.

Vibrant cultural performances, including dances, songs, and skits, creatively conveyed Don Bosco's legacy and the college's mission of education and youth development. The celebrations concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and a festive atmosphere that inspired pride and unity within the college community.

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION

On 5th September, Don Bosco College of Arts and Sciences celebrated Teachers' Day with

gratitude and enthusiasm. Students expressed their appreciation through heartfelt messages, gifts, and cultural performances.

The celebrations highlighted the vital role teachers play in shaping students' lives, fostering mutual respect and admiration between faculty and students. Teachers' Day was a memorable occasion, reaffirming the college's commitment to holistic education and personal growth.

ANIMATION ON POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

On 28th September, Don Bosco College of Arts and Science organized a session on Positive Psychology for its staff, led by Dr. Ramkumar Sethupathy. The session focused on cultivating optimism, resilience, and effective stress management techniques.

A key highlight was laughter therapy, introduced as a powerful tool to enhance mental well-being and foster a supportive environment. The session equipped staff members with strategies to promote a nurturing and positive atmosphere for students, enhancing both teaching and learning experiences.

DIWALI CELEBRATION

The Bosco Hostel celebrated Diwali with great joy on 27th October. Fr. Provincial and Fr. Economer graced the occasion, sharing messages of unity and compassion. The hostel was adorned with colourful lights and rangolis, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness.

Students showcased their talents through performances, adding excitement and vibrancy to the celebration. The event concluded with the bursting of firecrackers, filling the day with laughter, warmth, and togetherness.

VISIT OF THE VICAR GENERAL

The Vicar General visited the community on 6th August, receiving a warm welcome with drumbeats and garlands. During his visit, he addressed the boys and girls, offering words of encouragement and guidance.

The visit fostered a sense of unity and motivation among the community members. A group photo captured the memorable occasion, leaving a lasting impression of inspiration and fellowship.



**“BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU TO BE,
AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON
FIRE.” – St. Catherine of Siena**

A STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY

Don Bosco Youth Village, Keeranur

Keeranur – Susaipudayanpatti continues to thrive as a centre of transformative efforts, combining community engagement, youth empowerment, and educational initiatives. The collaboration between Jananam, DB CARES, and the Scout Movement exemplifies a holistic approach to addressing societal

challenges while fostering leadership and personal growth among the youth. With such dynamic programs, the community remains steadfast in its mission to inspire positive change and build a brighter future.

ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN: "SAY NO TO DRUGS"

On June 26, 2024, Keeranur witnessed a powerful campaign marking the

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Over 1,400 school children, along with honourable members of the Judiciary, senior officers from the Police Department, Lions Club representatives, local advocates, and members of the public, gathered to raise awareness against substance abuse. The children formed a striking anti-drug slogan on the school grounds, spelling out: "SAY NO TO DRUGS."



The event also featured the launch of a special Don Bosco Salesian Bulletin edition focused on substance abuse and the Salesian response, authored by Jananam. This bulletin addressed critical issues and proposed constructive solutions, resonating deeply with the community.

SYNERGIZING FOR CHANGE: COLLABORATION WITH DB CARES

Jananam, in collaboration with DB CARES (the psychological services department of the province), initiated synergizing programs to tackle substance abuse effectively. Notable events included sessions at DBCAS in Keela Eral and DBHSS in Varadarajanpet. These collaborative efforts combined psychological counselling with educational interventions, fostering a robust support system for affected youth and families.

ILAMAI YOUTH MOVEMENT: ADVOCACY AND ANIMATION

Jananam extended its outreach by animating the General Body members of the Ilamai Youth Movement at Keeranur in July. Focused sessions addressed substance abuse among youth, emphasizing preventive strategies and the importance of community engagement.

Additionally, Jananam conducted a specialized program for the Madurai Zone Ilamai members, providing valuable insights and actionable measures to combat this pressing issue.

SCOUTING ACTIVITIES: EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

SM/GC/FL & PL TRAINING CAMP

On August 11-12, a comprehensive training camp for Scout Masters (SM), Guide Captains (GC), and Patrol Leaders (PL) was organized at the Trichy region. A total of 124 participants, including 32 SM/GC/FL, 61 scouts, and 31 guides, actively engaged in this program. This camp enhanced their leadership skills, teamwork, and commitment to the Scout Movement. Special gratitude was extended to key organizers and supporters, including school principals, rectors, and in-charge persons for their unwavering support.

NEW SCOUT DEN: A STATE-OF- THE-ART FACILITY

On August 24, the renovated Scout Den at Keeranur was blessed by Fr. John Dharman. This facility is now a fully equipped and recognized campsite for conducting

various Scout programs. The initiative was supported by Fr. Provincial, Fr. Economer, and the local community, led by Rector Fr. Barnabas. This milestone marks a significant enhancement in scouting infrastructure, enabling better training and resource availability.

BASIC AND ADVANCED SCOUT MASTER'S COURSES

From September 8-14, a Basic Scout Master's Course was conducted at the Don Bosco Camp Site, Keeranur, for 26 brothers from Yercaud. The course was well-received, with participants appreciating the excellent hospitality and well-equipped scouting materials.

Additionally, an Advanced Scout Master's Course was held from September 24-30, designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of Scout Masters across the South Zone. The course attracted 18 participants, including 12 from INT, ensuring a more experienced and informed cadre of Scout leaders.



TEAMWORK DOES WORK

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CELEBRATING GROWTH AND UNITY: INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS IN KUTHENKULY

From June to November 2024, the institutions of Port Don Bosco School, Kitheri High School, and Polytechnic College in Kuthenkuly were abuzz with vibrant and

institutions. Fr. Rector, the Guest of Honour, delivered an inspiring speech that set a positive tone for the year. Students, staff, and community members participated with enthusiasm, marking the start of a year filled with purpose and

- Dance Competition at Kitheri High School highlighted cultural diversity through traditional and contemporary performances, promoting team spirit and artistic expression.

- Friendship Day Celebration at Polytechnic College brought students together through games, card exchanges, and discussions, emphasizing the importance of camaraderie.

- Kalvi Valarchi Naal (Education Development Day): Held at Kitheri High School on 15th July 2024, the event honored Tamil Nadu's educational leader Kamaraj. Activities like debates, essay writing, and cultural programs inspired students to value education and strive for excellence.



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meaningful events. These celebrations enriched students' experiences while fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration. Here are the highlights of this dynamic period:

INAUGURATION CEREMONY: A PROMISING START

The academic year began with a grand inauguration ceremony on 10th June 2024, uniting all three

promise.

JULY FESTIVITIES: CREATIVITY AND CAMARADERIE JULY WAS A MONTH OF ENGAGING ACTIVITIES:

- Fancy Dress Competition at Port Don Bosco School encouraged students to showcase creativity by dressing up as famous personalities and unique characters, fostering confidence and imagination.

SPORTS DAY: BUILDING TEAM SPIRIT

On 30th August 2024, the three institutions collaborated for a joint Sports Day. The event

featured athletic contests and team games, creating a competitive yet friendly atmosphere. Outstanding performers were recognized with awards, making the day memorable for participants and spectators alike.

TEACHERS' DAY: HONOURING EDUCATORS

On 5th September 2024, Teachers' Day was celebrated across all institutions to honour the dedication of educators. Students expressed their gratitude through cultural programs, heartfelt speeches, and gift presentations. This celebration strengthened the bond between students and teachers.

Fruits and Vegetables Month: Promoting Healthy Living
Port Don Bosco School dedicated September 2024 to the Fruits and Vegetables Month initiative, emphasizing the importance of nutrition and sustainable lifestyles. Activities such as exhibitions, poster-making, and tasting sessions instilled healthy eating habits among students.

ENGLISH MONTH: EMBRACING THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

In October 2024, Port Don Bosco School celebrated English Month to enhance

language proficiency and appreciation.

- **Activities:** Storytelling, elocution, essay writing, and drama competitions, all conducted in English, were organized.
- **Highlights:** A spelling bee and debate competition captivated the audience, while themed activities explored the richness of English literature.
- **Outcome:** The celebration improved students' language skills, boosted confidence, and fostered an appreciation for English as a global language.

CHILDREN'S DAY: A CELEBRATION OF JOY

The festive spirit peaked on 14th November 2024 with the Children's Day Celebration across all institutions. Teachers entertained

students with skits, dances, and musical performances, bringing joy and strengthening bonds between students and educators.

CONCLUSION

The vibrant events from June to November 2024 underscored the institutions' dedication to holistic student development. These activities allowed students to explore their creative and academic potential while experiencing the joy of community and collaboration. This period stands as a testament to the institutions' unwavering commitment to fostering unity, learning, and growth. representatives introduced themselves and shared their agendas, focusing



CREATIVITY AND ENTHUSIASM

33rd Annual Sports Day
The 33rd Annual Sports Day at Don Bosco High School was a resounding success, filled with enthusiasm and extraordinary talent. The day commenced with a grand inaugural ceremony, where Mr. Edwin Amal Raj, Special Sub Inspector of Police, K.K. Nagar Police Station, Trichy, declared the event open and hoisted the flag. He also took the salute of the parade, reflecting the students' discipline and coordination. Fr. Jude Muthuselman, the school correspondent, delivered a motivational speech, inspiring students to pursue excellence in all aspects of life.

Students actively participated in various athletic events, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. Winners were honoured with medals and certificates, celebrating their achievements. The day also featured aerobic dances and adventurous skill demonstrations, highlighting students' creativity and enthusiasm.

The event concluded with a prize distribution by Mr. P. Thenisaiyan and Mr. Vetri Prabu, who commended the participants and encouraged them to strive for excellence. Special events for parents added a unique bonding element, making it a truly memorable day.

NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR STUDENTS

A notable best practice at Don Bosco High School is the

provision of dinner for the entire school community at least three times a year. This initiative promotes community spirit and ensures students receive nutritious meals.

- **PM Poshan Thithi Bojan:** On 20th September, the school collaborated with the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department to provide vegetarian meals.
- **Children's Day Celebration:** On 14th November, the school



offered a non-vegetarian dinner, supported by benefactors and alumni.

These meals brought immense joy and satisfaction to students, demonstrating the school's commitment to student welfare and community building.

EDUCATIONAL EXPOSURE VISIT

On 31st August 2024, 95 students and six staff members embarked on an educational exposure visit to Trichy, guided by the Headmaster. The trip included visits to the Trichy Railway Station, Rock Fort Temple, Teppakulam Bazaar, and St. Joseph's College.

Highlights included:

- Observing railway operations and learning about transportation systems.
- Exploring the historical significance and architecture of the Rock Fort Temple.
- Gaining insights into higher education opportunities at St. Joseph's College.
- Experiencing the local market culture.

The trip was a unique learning experience, with 40 students traveling by train for the first time. Students developed life skills like independence, teamwork, and time management.

TRICHY ZONAL YOUTH FEST

Date: 3rd November 2024

Venue: Don Bosco ITI, Manakkal, Lalgudi

Participants: 75 Illamai members and 8 Salesians

The Trichy Zonal Youth Fest was an empowering event promoting leadership, teamwork, and social awareness among youth. Fr. Rosario, the Illamai Director, entrusted the participants with organizing the event, fostering responsibility and collaboration.

Highlights included:

- **Media Awareness Session:** Fr. Britto discussed the responsible use of media.
- **Employment Guidance:** Mr. Nataraj from Valikatti spoke about job opportunities.
- **Competitive Exam Training:** Mr. Arumairaj provided insights into vocational pathways.
- **Cultural Performances:** Participants presented skits on climate change, inspiring action.

This impactful event was organized by the Illamai team, with strong support from the Salesian community.

SCHOOL PAINTING WORKS

Don Bosco High School underwent a vibrant transformation with a painting



initiative. Local artists and students collaborated to create colourful murals and informative boards depicting Don Bosco, mathematical tables, and English aids. Motivational quotes and educational slogans adorned the walls, enhancing the school's aesthetic appeal and fostering interactive learning. This initiative attracted new admissions and reflected the school's commitment to creativity and education.

PILGRIMAGE TO CARMEL RETREAT CENTRE

In May and July, 54 parishioners embarked on a spiritual journey to the serene Carmel Retreat Centre in Sogathur. The retreat offered moments of peace, reflection, and camaraderie. Guided by priests and

spiritual leaders, participants deepened their faith through prayers, meditations, and discussions. The retreat was a transformative experience, leaving the parishioners refreshed and spiritually renewed.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY INITIATIVES

In celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Tiruchy Province, the parish initiated a St. Vincent de Paul Society with 18 members dedicated to serving the poor and marginalized.

Highlights:

- Collected ₹50,000 and provided clothing and a meal to 20 underprivileged individuals.
- Embodied values of charity, justice, and compassion through community service.

This noble endeavour aims to uplift the dignity of individuals and make a meaningful impact on the community.

STAFF ANIMATION (13TH SEPTEMBER 2024)

An animation day for 37 staff members and Salesians from three ITIs focused on enhancing training quality and skill development.

Key Sessions:

- HR Insights: Mr. Jude Infant emphasized crafting

impactful CVs and mentoring trainees.

- Teaching Strategies: Visual communication experts shared tips on managing classrooms and connecting with students.
- Don Bosco's Pedagogy: Fr. Joseph Arulraj discussed integrating Don Bosco's teaching methods into daily practices.

The session rejuvenated the participants, equipping them with strategies for professional and personal growth.

CONVOCATION FOR ITI GRADUATES (26TH OCTOBER 2024)

The convocation ceremony celebrated the achievements of ITI graduates. Certificates and medals were presented

by notable guests, including Mr. Ramachandran V (Kothari Sugars) and Mr. Velmurugan M (Kaveri Garages). Inspirational speeches encouraged graduates to refine their skills and prepare for promising futures.

WELDING PROJECTS

To enhance practical learning, welding students undertook various projects, including constructing benches, partitions, sheds, and signboards. A highlight was the completion of a 75 x 24 ft shed at Sengipatty farm. These projects provided invaluable hands-on training, fostering technical skills and confidence among students.



MADURAI – JAWAHARPURAM

BRIDGING DREAMS AND CAREERS



Installation of Rector

On 14th June 2024, the Don Bosco ITI community in Madurai witnessed the solemn installation of Rev. Fr. Robert Simone as the Rector. Presided over by Rev. Fr. Agilan Sarprasatham, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Trichy, the ceremony was held during a Eucharistic celebration that united the entire community. Fr. Robert Simone shared his vision for the institution, emphasizing collaborative leadership, holistic development, and the enduring values of Don Bosco. The event set a spiritual and administrative tone for the new academic year, inspiring all present to work together in harmony and dedication.

CAMPUS INTERVIEW: BRIDGING DREAMS AND CAREERS

The campus interview conducted at Don Bosco ITI was a landmark event, attracting 18 leading companies from various industries. This annual initiative provided a vital platform for students to connect with potential employers, showcasing their technical expertise and professionalism. The results were outstanding: 90% of the graduating students received job

offers, and four students were offered positions in Dubai, highlighting the global relevance of the training imparted by Don Bosco ITI.

Recruiters commended the students for their preparedness and confidence, which reflected the institution's robust academic

students added vibrancy to the occasion. The event concluded with graduates expressing their gratitude to the faculty and staff and looking forward to future endeavours with confidence and hope.

purpose among altar servers, inspiring them to deepen their commitment to their faith and service.

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR: A FRESH START

The new academic year commenced on 21st September 2024, with an enrolment of over



“We should not serve the poor like they were Jesus. We should serve the poor because they are Jesus.”
- St. Mother Teresa

curriculum and industry partnerships. The event also emphasized the faculty's role in nurturing students' talents, making the interview a stepping stone to success in an increasingly competitive job market.

FAREWELL: CHERISHING MEMORIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The farewell event held for 72 final-year students was both heartfelt and celebratory. Faculty members shared inspiring speeches, while students reminisced about their growth, friendships, and cherished memories. The event also recognized 20 hostel residents for their active participation and contributions to campus life.

Cultural performances, reflections, and a special volleyball match for hostel

ALTAR SERVER CONVENTION: NURTURING FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

The two-day Altar Server Convention, held on 29th September 2024, brought together nearly 100 young altar servers from Salesian parishes across the Trichy Province. Designed to enhance spiritual and social engagement, the event featured a variety of activities, including discussions on liturgical roles, team-building exercises, and a unique puppet show by an Anglican priest from Chennai. The performances were both entertaining and educational, imparting moral lessons that left a lasting impression on the participants.

The convention fostered a sense of camaraderie and

500 students in various vocational courses. Parents, faculty, and students came together for the inaugural event, which featured an inspiring speech by Mr. Kennedy, a distinguished alumnus. Sharing his personal journey and professional milestones, Mr. Kennedy highlighted the transformative power of education and hard work, motivating the students to make the most of their opportunities.

The event reinforced the institution's commitment to fostering excellence in vocational training and community collaboration.

ALAIHAL SHOP REOPENING: RENEWING SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

The Alaihal shop reopened

on 24th September 2024, following extensive renovations that transformed the space into an inviting and organized venue for religious articles, statues, and books. Rev. Fr. Agilan officiated the reopening ceremony, blessing the store and emphasizing its role in nurturing spiritual growth within the community. The event drew clergy and community members alike, who appreciated the improved shopping experience and the renewed emphasis on faith-based resources.

AYUDHA POOJA CELEBRATION: HONOURING TOOLS OF TRADE

Ayudha Pooja was celebrated with enthusiasm and reverence on 10th October 2024. Students decorated their tools and participated in prayers, acknowledging the importance of their trades and the skills they were acquiring. Rev. Fr. Justin SDB blessed the tools, speaking about the dignity of work and the role of gratitude in professional success. The event was a perfect blend of spirituality and practical learning, leaving a lasting impact on students' appreciation for their vocational training.

TEACHERS' DAY: HONOURING EDUCATORS

On 5th September 2024, Teachers' Day was celebrated with heartfelt enthusiasm. Students organized cultural performances, speeches, and gift presentations to express their gratitude and respect for their teachers. A special meal was served, strengthening the bond between students and educators. The celebration highlighted the pivotal role of teachers in shaping the futures of their students.

ANTI-DRUG SEMINAR: SPREADING AWARENESS

An anti-drug seminar was conducted on 6th November 2024 in collaboration with local police. The seminar aimed to educate students about the adverse effects of drug abuse, with officers sharing real-life stories and interactive discussions. Students were encouraged to embrace healthy lifestyles and contribute to creating a drug-free community.

ROVER TRAINING: EXPLORING NEW SKILLS

Rover training, led by Fr. James SDB on 21st October 2024, introduced first-year students to rover technology



and its practical applications. The hands-on sessions sparked interest among participants, many of whom expressed the desire for such training to become a regular feature.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING:
PRIORITIZING MENTAL
WELL-BEING**

A two-day psychological counselling program was held on 22nd and 23rd October 2024 in collaboration with DB Care. Individual and group sessions focused on stress management, emotional resilience, and academic pressures. Students found the sessions highly beneficial, with group discussions fostering peer support and individual counselling addressing personal challenges in a confidential setting.

**PROVINCIAL VISITATION:
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY
BONDS**

Rev. Fr. Provincial's annual visitation on 8th and 9th October was a momentous occasion. The two-day program included individual meetings with confreres, interactions with students and staff, and an animated assembly where the Provincial

presented his report. The visitation concluded with a solemn dinner, leaving the community inspired and united.

**Marian Month Program:
Celebrating Devotion**

The "Marian Month Program 2024," themed "Mary, Mother and Teacher," was a month-long celebration filled with competitions, special events, and devotional activities. Designed to deepen students' devotion to Mary, the program featured singing, drawing, and dance contests, fostering unity and spirituality within the community.

**CHILDREN'S DAY KABADDI
COMPETITION: CELEBRATING
SPORTSMANSHIP**

Children's Day on 14th November 2024 was marked by a lively Kabaddi competition. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, promoting teamwork, discipline, and physical fitness. Spectators cheered passionately, creating an electrifying atmosphere. The event highlighted the importance of traditional Indian sports, making it a memorable celebration for all involved.

Madurai - Lourdes Shrine

"HENCEFORTH, ALL GENERATIONS WILL CALL ME BLESSED" (Luke 1:48)

The Salesian Community of K. Pudur, Madurai, joyfully celebrates the vibrant activities of Lourdes Shrine, which continue to nurture the faith of the people and bear witness to the Almighty and the Blessed Mother. The construction of the Church of Lourdu Annai stands as a testament to God's blessings upon the community. With Jesus Christ as the cornerstone, we endeavor to build not only a church but also a community firmly rooted in faith and love.



JUNE: A MONTH DEDICATED TO THE SACRED HEART

June, dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, began with the installation of the Sacred Heart's image in many homes. Parishioners who desired blessings for their families received special blessings, emphasizing Christ as the head of their households. A special Mass was conducted for students and staff at the beginning of the academic year, where they were given stationery and sent forth with blessings for success.

Laity Sunday was celebrated with a solemn Mass presided over by Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop of Madurai, who highlighted the vital roles of laypeople in the Church. Catechism classes for the year 2024-25 were inaugurated on June 16, reaffirming the importance of faith formation among the youth.

JULY: STRENGTHENING PARISH BONDS

The Salesian Parish Community organized Anbiyam Masses in July, bringing families together in prayer and fostering greater involvement, coordination, and collaboration. Leaders of the Anbiyams meticulously planned the liturgical arrangements, ensuring every Mass became a meaningful gathering of faith and unity.

AUGUST: MILESTONES IN FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

The month began with the Sacrament of Confirmation for 45 students on August 3, administered by Archbishop Antony Pappusamy. This was followed by Youth Sunday on August 4, where Fr. Prabhu gathered 170 young people, initiating youth groups within the Anbiyams. On August 15, the Feast of the Assumption, ID cards were distributed to members of various parish groups to emphasize their unique roles

and responsibilities, avoiding overlapping memberships.

The dedication of 33 trained altar servers was celebrated on August 24. They received their official attire, symbolizing their commitment to serve the Church. Recognizing that altar servers are often the source of priestly and religious vocations, this event was particularly significant for the parish community.

SEPTEMBER: HONOURING THE WORD AND CELEBRATING MILESTONES

September was dedicated to the Holy Bible, with various competitions organized for parishioners of all age groups. A 13-day preparation for the Triple Jubilee began on September 11, culminating in the grand opening of the Golden Jubilee of the Salesians' arrival in Madurai on September 24. The solemn inaugural Mass, celebrated by Fr. Provincial, included the hoisting of the Jubilee flag, marking this historic occasion.

Fr. Provincial also conducted his annual visitation on September 29-30, offering encouragement and spiritual guidance to the Salesian community and parishioners.

OCTOBER: THE POWER OF THE ROSARY

October, the month of the Holy Rosary, was marked by an array of prayerful activities. Families, Anbiyams, and the parish community collectively prayed the Rosary, reinforcing its power as a weapon against evil. From October 25-27, the parish organized a remarkable 53-hour Rosary prayer marathon, involving all Anbiyams with great joy and devotion. Salesians visited Anbiyams, delivering inspiring messages on the importance of the Rosary in spiritual life.

NOVEMBER: REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

In November, special Anbiyam Masses were offered for the souls of the faithful departed. Leaders compiled the names of the deceased in their respective Anbiyams, ensuring heartfelt prayers for them during Mass and morning prayers with the Salesians. On All Souls' Day, large congregations gathered to honour and pray for their departed loved ones.

The month also featured 24 hours of Eucharistic Adoration in preparation for the Feast of Christ the King. Children's Day was celebrated with a special program organized by

catechism teachers, bringing joy to the children. The Salesian community made its tri-monthly recollection at Idaikaattur, a moment of spiritual renewal. The community also welcomed Dn. Ajilash, assuring him a fruitful diaconate ministry in K. Pudur.

CONCLUSION

Happiness is not a destination but a journey, enriched by love, grace, and gratitude. The Salesian Community and parishioners of Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur, continue this spiritual journey under the guidance and protection of the Blessed Mother. Together, we walk in faith, hope, and love, striving to build a vibrant and united community anchored in the teachings of Christ.



SUCCESS IS EARNED, NOT GIVEN.

The inauguration of groups and movements and the 34th Annual Sports Meet at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Surya Nagar, were monumental events that highlighted the school's commitment to fostering holistic development among its students. Through these vibrant celebrations, the school not only showcased the talents and potential of its students but also strengthened the bonds within its community. Both events stand as a testament to the school's dedication to excellence in academics, extracurricular activities, and character building.

INAUGURATION OF GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS

On 15th July 2024, Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Surya Nagar, Madurai, hosted the grand inauguration

of its various groups and movements. The event began at 2:30 PM with a vibrant procession from the school entrance to the stage, led by the groups and movements, creating an atmosphere of pride and enthusiasm.

The Tamil Mandram was inaugurated by the retired Tamil teacher, Mr. M. Murukesan, M.A., B.Ed., who served as the chief guest and

speaker for the occasion. His insightful address highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting the Tamil language among students. Similarly, the English Academy was graced by Dr. R. Daniel Rubaraj, M.A., Ph.D., from the English Department of the American College. His speech emphasized the global significance of mastering the English language. The event featured the introduction of



all groups and movements by their respective teacher coordinators. As each group was introduced, its members joined the stage, proudly representing their associations. Student leaders, including the SPL, class leaders, assistant class leaders, group leaders, and assistant group leaders, were honoured on stage by the esteemed guests.

Adding to the celebrations, students performed a Tamil skit and an English dance, showcasing their cultural and artistic talents. The event concluded with an inspiring address by Fr. George, Rector of the Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur. The vote of thanks marked the end of the day's program, leaving students motivated to actively participate in their respective groups and movements throughout the academic year.

34TH ANNUAL SPORTS MEET

The 34th Annual Sports Meet of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School was held on Saturday, 27th July 2024, beginning at 9:30 AM. The event was a grand celebration of athleticism and teamwork, graced by notable dignitaries, including Mr. Joseph Alangararaj (J.R. Constructions and Electricals,

Madurai), Mrs. Antonyammal (Councilor of K. Pudur), Mrs. Muthulakshmi (Councilor of Sambakulam), and Fr. George (Rector of Schoenstatt House, Madurai). The chief guests were warmly welcomed with a colour party by scouts and JRC students, who accompanied them to the stage. The day's proceedings commenced with the hoisting of the flag, followed by a disciplined march-past and a captivating drill performance. Fr. Joe Augustine, Rector of Don Bosco Surya Nagar, officially declared the sports meet open, while the Olympic torch was lit by Fr. George, adding a symbolic touch to the occasion.

Parents and well-wishers joined in the celebrations, cheering on the students as they competed in various track events. Participants displayed exceptional talent, determination, and sportsmanship. Winners were awarded medals and certificates immediately after their events, recognizing their achievements. The students, organized into four houses distinguished by vibrant t-shirt colours, competed passionately for points, culminating in an overall house championship award. Refreshments, including

cakes and cool drinks, were provided to all, ensuring everyone stayed energized throughout the day. The event also featured a "Lucky Corner" game for parents and well-wishers, adding an element of fun and inclusivity.

Teachers played a pivotal role in the event's success, working in harmony with the management and students to ensure smooth execution. The Annual Sports Meet 2024 was a resounding success, leaving a lasting impression on all participants and attendees, as it celebrated unity, talent, and the true spirit of sportsmanship.



Melanmarainadu

WELL DONE IS BETTER THAN WELL SAID

The chronicles from Melanmarainadu highlight a series of vibrant and impactful events that reflect the school's commitment to holistic education, cultural enrichment, and community engagement. These initiatives not only nurtured the talents of students but also fostered a sense of unity and purpose, making 2024 a remarkable year in the history of St. Antony's High School.

TEACHERS' ANIMATION CUM OUTING

On 8th June 2024, the teachers at St. Antony's High School and R.C. Primary School, Melanmarainadu, participated in a transformative staff animation program held at Don Bosco Vilathikulam. The session was animated by Fr. Jeyan SDB, Rector of Don Bosco Vilathikulam, who enlightened the teachers on the principles of the Salesian education system. The program highlighted the importance of holistic education, emphasizing the roles of reason, religion, and loving kindness in nurturing students.

As part of the program, the teachers embarked on an educational excursion to notable locations, including Don Bosco CBSE School at

Sayalkudi, the harbour at Mookaiyur, and Rojmanagar Parish. This outing combined learning and leisure, fostering camaraderie among the teaching staff and enriching their educational perspectives.

WELCOMING CEREMONY FOR NEWCOMERS

The inauguration of the new academic year at St. Antony's High School, Melanmarainadu, on 11th June 2024, was marked by a grand welcoming ceremony for new students. The event commenced with a vibrant band procession and the traditional aarathi ritual, symbolizing warmth and acceptance.

Rev. Fr. Benjamin SDB, the Correspondent, Rev. Fr. Justin SDB, the Headmaster, and Rev. Fr. John Bosco SDB, the Academic Coordinator,

inaugurated the new academic year by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The occasion also welcomed two new Salesians, Br. Chinna SDB and Cl. Inigo SDB, who were introduced by Fr. Justin.

To enhance educational accessibility, students were provided with government schemes. Additionally, Fr. Benjamin released the comprehensive School Handbook for 2024-25, serving as a valuable resource for students, teachers, and parents alike.

MOTIVATIONAL SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS

On 28th June 2024, a motivational seminar was organized for the 9th and 10th standard students. Mr. Raja, the coordinator of Don Bosco Vazhikatti, Tiruchy,

delivered an inspiring talk on the importance of education in life and its role in shaping careers. The morning session focused on instilling confidence and determination among students, while the afternoon featured a leadership training program. Class leaders, assistant leaders, and leaders of various groups and movements were equipped with essential skills to foster teamwork and accountability.

INAUGURATION OF LITERARY ASSOCIATIONS AND GROUPS

The Tamil and English Literary Associations, house system, and various extracurricular groups and movements were formally inaugurated on 5th July 2024. Mr. Siva Jeyakumar, a teacher from the Government Higher Secondary School in Thayilpatti,

served as the special chief guest. Staff members in charge of these activities were introduced, and they enthusiastically assumed their responsibilities. This event set the stage for a year of vibrant literary and extracurricular activities.

INTER-SCHOOL CULTURAL COMPETITIONS

As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy, the Academic Commission organized inter-school cultural competitions on 20th July 2024 at Don Bosco Thanjavur. Students from St. Antony's High School participated in group dance, group singing, and a mime show. The mime team secured the first prize, showcasing exceptional creativity and talent.

Following the competitions, students visited the historic Thanjavur Big Temple, adding a cultural and educational dimension to the day's achievements.

45TH ANNUAL SPORTS DAY CELEBRATION

The 45th Annual Sports Meet, held on 22nd August 2024, was a grand celebration of athletic excellence. The event was graced by Fr. Benjamin SDB, the Correspondent, Fr.



Justin SDB, the Headmaster, Fr. John Bosco SDB, the Academic Coordinator, and Fr. Vimalan SDB, Rector of Don Bosco Kalavasal. Mrs. Rabiymmal, Sub-Inspector of Police from TNC Alangulam, took the salute and declared the Sports Meet open.

Competitions were intense and spirited, with students showcasing their athletic prowess. Winners were awarded medals and certificates by Mr. M. Arunachalam, a pharmacist at the Government Hospital in Theni and a proud alumnus of the school. The event was marked by inspiring performances and enthusiastic participation, making it a memorable celebration for all.

WATER CONSERVATION CLUB: CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

On 15th October 2024, members of the Water Conservation Club from St. Antony's High School participated in competitions organized by the Water Conservation Committee of the Trichy Salesian Province. Held at Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tanjore, the club's 18 members excelled in various contests, securing the overall championship. This

remarkable achievement highlighted the students' commitment to environmental conservation.

COMMEMORATION OF TAMIL NADU POLICE DAY

Tamil Nadu Police Day was observed on 21st October 2024 to honour the selfless service of police officers. Esteemed officers from Alangulam Taluk graced the event, which included essay writing and drawing competitions aimed at fostering creativity and awareness among students. The day's activities encouraged students to appreciate the dedication and sacrifices of law enforcement personnel.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Children's Day was celebrated with unparalleled enthusiasm on 14th November 2024. The school was filled with laughter, excitement, and joy as students, teachers, and staff came together to commemorate the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister. The celebrations included cultural performances, games, and fun activities, creating unforgettable memories for everyone involved.



A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

Don Bosco Vidivelli, Kalavasal

The events and initiatives undertaken at Namakkal - Pudupatti from July to November 2024 exemplify the Salesian mission of service, empowerment, and holistic development. From fostering safe spaces for at-risk youth to promoting health, education, and livelihoods,



the community continues to make meaningful strides in transforming lives and building a brighter future for all.



YOUTH AT RISK CHILDREN LIVE-IN PROGRAM

On the 27th and 28th of September 2024, Don Bosco Anbu Illam in Namakkal hosted the YAR (Youth at Risk) Children Live-In Gathering. Children from various centers, including Don Bosco Anbu Illam Salem, Don Bosco Care Home Nilavarapatti, Don Bosco Anbu Illam Coimbatore, and Don Bosco Anbu Illam Namakkal,

came together for this special event. A total of 56 children participated, creating a vibrant and memorable environment filled with sharing and interaction.

The gathering provided an opportunity for children to connect, learn, and build friendships. The day's activities included group discussions, collaborative games, and cultural

programs, culminating in a friendly football tournament that fostered camaraderie and teamwork. This event highlighted the importance of creating safe spaces for vulnerable children to express themselves and build their confidence.

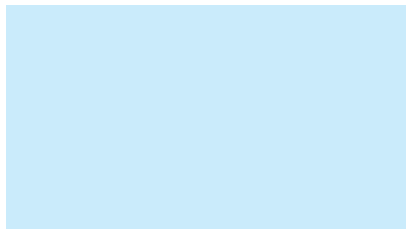
SWACHH HI SEWA: HYGIENE AND SANITATION ORIENTATION

On 15th July 2024, the community organized the “Swachh Hi Sewa” orientation program for CCI (Child Care Institution) children. The session focused on critical topics such as water, sanitation, and hygiene, aiming to promote healthier lifestyles among the participants. Discussions emphasized the importance of drinking purified water, establishing proper waste clearance systems, and practicing regular handwashing.

The interactive format allowed children to voice their thoughts and understand the direct impact of hygiene on their health. The initiative underscored the community’s commitment to nurturing informed and responsible individuals through education on essential life skills.

DRUG DE-ADDICTION AWARENESS PROGRAM

On 7th October 2024, a drug de-addiction awareness program was conducted at the Government Higher Secondary School, N. Pudupatti. The session was spearheaded by the Assistant DCP of Trichy, who provided critical insights into the consequences of drug use and the pathways to recovery.



Eleven boys from Don Bosco Anbu Illam participated in the program, gaining valuable knowledge about the dangers of substance abuse and the resources available for overcoming addiction. The session aimed to empower the participants with the awareness and tools needed to lead healthier and drug-free lives.

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF LIFE

On 4th November 2024, the community came together to celebrate the 75th birthday of Rev. Fr. Francis Camilus SDB, the former Provincial. The



event began with a solemn Holy Eucharist, followed by a joyful family circle gathering that included neighboring religious communities and benefactors.

The celebration was a heartfelt tribute to Fr. Francis Camilus' remarkable contributions and enduring legacy within the Salesian community. The event highlighted the values of gratitude and respect, inspiring everyone present to cherish the gift of life.

INAUGURATION OF THE TAILORING UNIT

On the same day, 4th November 2024, a new tailoring unit was inaugurated by Fr. Amos SDB to enhance the livelihood of women in the surrounding villages. The unit aims

to empower women with vocational skills, providing them with opportunities for economic independence and self-reliance.

This initiative reflects the community's commitment to social development and its efforts to uplift marginalized groups through practical and sustainable interventions.

MEDICAL CHECK-UP CAMP

On 16th November 2024, a medical check-up camp was held at Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Namakkal. Dr. Shanmugam from the local health department led the camp, conducting thorough health assessments for the children. The camp ensured that each child received necessary medical attention and guidance for maintaining their well-being.

The initiative underscored the importance of regular health check-ups in promoting physical and mental wellness, reaffirming the community's dedication to the holistic care of its children.



NETTUR

ACTION EXPRESSES PRIORITIES

Don Bosco Mission, Nettur, continues to thrive as a hub of faith, education, and community development. The numerous initiatives and events held between June and December 2024 reflect the mission's unwavering commitment to holistic growth, spiritual renewal, and social transformation.

INSTALLATION OF THE 11TH SALESIAN PARISH PRIEST

The Nettur parish has carried forward its Christian faith for over 120 years, with the Salesians playing a pivotal role in catechizing and educating the faithful for the last 22 years. On 5th June 2024, Rev. Fr. Siluvai Adimai was installed as the 11th Salesian Parish Priest of Nettur. Rev. Fr. Bosco Gunaseelan, the Parish Priest and Vicar Forane of Thenkasi, officiated the ceremony by reading the appointment letter from the Bishop of Palayamkottai and handing

over the keys to the Church and Tabernacle to Fr. Siluvai.

The installation Eucharist was concelebrated by members of the Salesian community, including Fr. Victor Antonyraj, Fr. Michael Arulraj, and Fr. Aldon Jibose. Village heads and Anbiyam leaders from 10 substations participated in the ceremony, congratulating the new parish priest with traditional honours. Sweet payasam was served to all attendees, and the day concluded with a fellowship meal shared with the parish community.

VISIT BY MR. GILES CONESA FROM FRANCE

On 12th June 2024, Mr. Giles Conesa, head of the Fr. Guezou Foundation, France, visited the night study centres in Nettur. Accompanied by Fr. Maria Arokiaraj SDB from Tirupattur and Fr. Fabian Antony, Assistant Director of Cauveri, Tiruchy, Mr. Giles was warmly





welcomed by students from Kavalakurichi and Nettur. The students' spectacular performances deeply impressed the visiting dignitaries, reflecting the hard work and dedication of both the students and the educators at these centres.

CATECHISM TEACHERS' TRAINING

On 27th June 2024, 14 catechism teachers from Nettur attended the Province-level animation program organized by

Kristodayam in Keela Eral. The training focused on effective methods to guide today's youth in their faith journey. Teachers found the session enlightening, as it provided valuable tools and strategies for nurturing faith among young learners.

FORMATION OF PHS ASPIRANTS

The Salesian House at Nettur continued its mission of forming PHS aspirants. This year, three candidates joined for a live-in experience, participating in regular classes and formative programs. They were also given the opportunity to attend the Province Silver Jubilee celebrations in Thanjavur. Unfortunately, by September, all three candidates discontinued due to personal reasons.

ACTIVITIES OF ADMA AND SALESIAN COOPERATORS

The Salesian House in Nettur thrives with the active participation of 21 ADMA members and 24 Salesian Cooperators. On 4th August 2024, some members joined the Province Silver Jubilee celebrations at Manikandam, Trichy. Later, members attended a live-in experience in Yercaud and participated in a tour to Kotagiri and Ooty.

Both groups diligently plan their annual activities and gather monthly for Mass animation and Novena prayers

in the substations. These regular interactions foster a strong sense of community and collaboration.

INAUGURATION OF YOUTH GROUP

On 14th July 2024, the Youth Group of Nettur was officially inaugurated in the presence of Rev. Fr. Rosario Antony SDB, the youth director of the Tiruchy Province. Of the 60 registered members, 38 participated in the inaugural liturgy, offering prayers and presenting their annual plan to the youth director. Under the guidance of Fr. Aldon Jibose, the local youth coordinator, the group continues to meet regularly for spiritual and developmental activities.

MARIAN FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

In preparation for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Marian Fancy Dress Competition was organized for catechism children. Forty participants showcased their creativity by depicting Biblical characters, particularly Jesus and Mary. Winners received valuable prizes, and all participants were given consolation prizes, making the event an enriching and joyful experience.

DISTRICT-LEVEL DON BOSCO KABADDI TOURNAMENT

For the first time, Nettur hosted a District-Level Don

Bosco Kabaddi Tournament, organized by Fr. Aldon Jibose with the support of local youth. Held on 12th October 2024, the event saw participation from 32 teams across Tirunelveli, Thenkasi, and Sankarankoil, drawing 748 spectators to the campus.

Chief guests included Alangulam Inspector Mr. Kasipandian and local Chairman Mrs. Thivya Manikandan. Winners received cash prizes ranging from ₹7001 to ₹2001 and victory cups. The tournament was lauded by dignitaries and the local community for its excellent organization and execution.

CATECHISM TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION

On 9th September 2024, the parish celebrated Catechism Teachers' Day to honour 13 dedicated teachers from Nettur and its substations. The evening began with a Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Victor Antonyraj, Fr. Michael, and Fr. Aldon. Teachers were recognized for their commitment to imparting Christian faith and values to children. The celebration included a cultural program by students and concluded with the distribution of appreciation gifts.

TOUR FOR CATECHISM CHILDREN AND YOUTH

During the quarterly holidays on 29th September 2024, 96 catechism children and 34 youth embarked on a memorable tour to Rameshwaram and Dhanuskodi. Along the way, they visited Dr. Abdul Kalam's memorial, Pamban Bridge, and Kushi Beach. Many participants swam in the sea for the first time, creating lasting memories. The Salesians at St. Antony's Shrine, Vilathikulam, and Don Bosco School of Excellence, Sayalkudi, warmly hosted the group.

BCC CULTURAL FEST

The Nettur Parish came alive on 27th October 2024 with the BCC Cultural Fest. Around 400 parishioners from 17 BCC units participated in Holy Eucharist, cultural competitions, and games. The day ended with a thanksgiving Eucharist and the presentation of the overall champion trophy to St. Michael's BCC unit.

ZONAL YOUTH MEET

On 19th October 2024, 32 youngsters from Nettur participated in the Zonal Youth Meet held at Don Bosco College, Keela Eral. The program included animation sessions, sightseeing at notable locations, and visits

to significant religious sites, fostering both learning and spiritual growth.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND BCC LEADERS' CONVENTION

On 24th November 2024, the parish hosted a one-day convention for BCC leaders, focusing on Christian life and religious vocation. Resource persons emphasized actionable steps for climate change mitigation, encouraging participants to contribute positively to environmental conservation in their communities.

ADVENT RECOLLECTION FOR YOUTH

On 1st December 2024, 43 youngsters attended an Advent Recollection at St. Mary's Church, Vanji Nagar, Thenkasi. The program included confession, spiritual talks, and a refreshing visit to Kuttralam waterfalls. The meticulously planned event provided spiritual renewal and fostered camaraderie among the youth.



DANCING IS CREATING A SCULPTURE THAT IS VISIBLE FOR A MOMENT

The events at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Pallithammam, during 2024 exemplify the institution's dedication to nurturing creativity, innovation, and holistic development. From vibrant competitions to hands-on exhibitions, each activity provided students with unique opportunities to explore their talents and express themselves. These initiatives continue to inspire and empower the young minds of Pallithammam.

FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

On "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing," said George Bernard Shaw. True to this spirit, a vibrant Fancy Dress Competition was organized at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Pallithammam, on 14th November 2024. The event was a colourful celebration of creativity and imagination, bringing life to characters from books, cinema, history, and religion.

Students paraded in elaborate costumes, portraying superheroes, political leaders, historical figures, animals, and mythological personalities. The school grounds were alive with excitement and joy as the participants showcased their vibrant and unique outfits. The judges, faced with the challenging task of selecting winners, admired the authenticity and effort behind each costume.

The event was more than just a competition; it was a platform for students to express themselves creatively. The audience, comprising students, teachers, and parents, applauded the participants for their ingenuity. The Fancy Dress Competition left a lasting impression, celebrating the boundless imagination of the young minds.

INNOVATION DAY: SCIENCE EXHIBITION

"There are no dreams too large, no innovation unimaginable, and no frontiers beyond reach," said John S. Herrington. This philosophy was at the heart of the Science Exhibition hosted by the school on 29th October 2024. The event provided a stage for budding innovators to showcase their scientific creativity and ingenuity.



The exhibition was inaugurated by Fr. Susai Savariyannan SDB, the Correspondent, and commenced with a motivational address by Fr. Mohan Christuraj SDB, the Headmaster. Students from diverse classes presented an array of working models and experiments, including solar power systems, space satellites, hydroelectric generators, windmills, hydraulic lifts, earthquake detectors, theft indicator alarms, and vacuum cleaners.

Five schools attended the event, marvelling at the innovative ideas displayed by the participants. Judges meticulously evaluated the projects and selected the top three for recognition. This hands-on experience allowed students to translate theoretical principles into practical applications, fostering a deeper understanding of science and technology. The Science Exhibition was a resounding success, providing a meaningful learning experience for the young innovators.

CLAY MODELING COMPETITION

“Clay can be dirt in the wrong hands, but art in the right hands,” said Lupita Nyong’o. The school organized a thrilling Clay Modeling Competition on 29th November 2024, where students used their creativity to transform lumps of clay into artistic masterpieces.

Participants crafted an array of creations, including animals, flowers, vehicles, gods, and everyday objects. The activity served as an excellent medium for students to enhance their dexterity, fine motor skills, and problem-solving abilities. It also provided a therapeutic outlet for emotional expression and stress relief. The finished models were displayed with pride, showcasing the immense talent and imagination of the young artists. Judges Fr. Vincent SDB and Mr. Amalraj selected six outstanding entries for special recognition. The event was a testament to the transformative power of creativity, leaving participants with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

INTER-HOUSE DANCE COMPETITION

“Dancing is creating a sculpture that is visible for a moment,” said Erol Ozan. On 21st October 2024, the school hosted an Inter-House Dance Competition for students of Classes 6 to 9, featuring both solo and group categories.

The participants enthralled the audience with performances that ranged from classical and folk styles to contemporary and hip-hop genres. Dressed in colorful costumes, the dancers showcased remarkable rhythm, synchronization, and choreography. The competition provided a platform for students to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork.

The event celebrated the joy of movement and expression, with students and parents commending the participants for their dedication and effort. The Inter-House Dance Competition was a vibrant and inspiring event that highlighted the school’s commitment to fostering artistic talent.



“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing” - George Bernard Shaw

REFLECT AND RESET

How Self-Awareness Fuels Success

Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Salem, continues to champion the cause of youth empowerment, community development, and social transformation. The institution's efforts, reflected in its diverse initiatives and impactful outcomes, reaffirm its unwavering commitment to building a better future for all.

CHILDREN'S MELA: BACK TO SCHOOL WITH HAPPINESS

On 22nd June 2024, Don Bosco Anbu Illam (DBAI), Salem, organized a vibrant Children's Mela at Adivaram with the theme "Back to School with Happiness." The event, sponsored by Mr. P. Sivanantham, Chairman of Sri Narasu's Coffee Company, celebrated the joy of education and encouraged children to embrace learning with enthusiasm.

The day featured interactive demonstrations by emergency services, including ambulance and fire station personnel, offering children practical knowledge about safety and emergency preparedness. Childline representatives conducted engaging sessions on child rights and support services, fostering awareness and self-advocacy. Each participant received a memorable gift pack containing pens, pouches, and stationery, reinforcing



the importance of education. The event attracted over 1,000 children, leaving a lasting impact on their outlook towards school and learning.

FAMILY-BASED ALTERNATIVE CARE MEETING: STRATEGIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

On 15th July 2024, DBAI hosted a Family-Based Alternative Care meeting at Mulluvadi Gate, Salem. Organized by the District Child Protection Officer in collaboration with the Miracle Foundation, the meeting brought together nine key stakeholders to discuss enhancing child protection and family support mechanisms.

Discussions focused on establishing ward-level committees, addressing challenges like substance abuse and limited access to education, and planning a half-day training session for 35 Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The meeting emphasized the critical role of family-based care in nurturing children and fostering a supportive environment for their growth.

STRENGTHENING SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

On 24th July 2024, DBAI conducted a transformative

Community Action Group (CAG) training session on “Strengthening School Management Committees (SMC)” at Vennandhur, Namakkal. Led by Rev. Dr. Casimir Raj, DBAI Director, and Dr. Chella Selvakumar, State Master Trainer for SMC, the program provided participants with an in-depth understanding of SMCs’ roles, responsibilities, and operational processes.

Key topics included the history of SMCs, election mechanisms, and the responsibilities of committee observers. Over 80 participants benefited from the training, which also featured the release of School Management Committee (SMC) Awareness IEC materials, enhancing the effectiveness and functionality of SMCs.

A VISIT FROM FR. STEFANO MARTOGLIO, VICAR OF THE RECTOR MAJOR

On 2nd August 2024, Fr. Stefano Martoglio, Vicar of the Rector Major, visited DBAI at Mulluvadi Gate and Adivaram Children’s Home. He blessed the foundation stone for the kitchen renovation and interacted warmly with the children. Fr. Martoglio’s visit inspired and motivated the children to live joyful



and meaningful lives, marking a memorable moment for the community.

CONSTITUTIONAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

On 21st August 2024, DBAI, in partnership with Vanmugil Trust, hosted an engaging one-day orientation on “Constitutional Education” for 55 community organizers and field coordinators. Led by experts Mr. Ganesan, Mr. Arul, Ms. Priya, Ms. Divya, and Mr. Senthil Raja, the session explored innovative ways to teach children about their rights and responsibilities under the Indian Constitution. The workshop emphasized empowering children with knowledge to build a more inclusive and just society.

PAST PUPILS MEET: BUILDING STRONGER CONNECTIONS

The Past Pupils Meet, held on 15th August 2024 at Adivaram, focused on fostering collaboration among alumni and strengthening their support network. The meeting included discussions on building a concrete action plan for community initiatives and electing new office bearers. The event reinforced the alumni’s commitment to contributing positively to youth empowerment.

EMPOWERMENT TRAINING FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS

In honour of World Women’s Equality Day on 26th August 2024, DBAI organized a one-day training program for 52 adolescent girls from rural villages. Titled “Reflect and Reset: How Self-Awareness Fuels Success,” the session was led by Ms. Pushpavalli, a Master Trainer in Adolescent Life Skills Education. The training covered topics such as emotional understanding, resilience building, and effective coping strategies. The event empowered the participants with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate life’s challenges confidently.

WORKSHOP: CHILD AS A RESOURCE - FAMILY IS WHERE I BELONG

On 16th September 2024, a staff development workshop titled “Child as a Resource - Family is Where I Belong” was conducted at DBAI. Animated by Rev. Dr. Rayan and attended by 35 staff members, the session delved into the importance of Family Strengthening (FS) and Family-Based Alternative Care (FBAC). Through interactive discussions, participants explored the potential of children as valuable societal resources, capable of driving positive change.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD: SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN

On 11th October 2024, DBAI observed International Day of the Girl Child with the theme “Girls’ Vision for the Future.” A signature campaign at the Salem New Bus Stand drew over 250 participants, including police officers, child welfare representatives, and community members. Participants took an oath to respect, care for, and protect girl children, reinforcing societal commitment to gender equality.

GENERAL HEALTH CHECK-UP AND AWARENESS CAMP

On 19th October 2024, DBAI, in collaboration with the Desai Foundation Trust and SPS Foundation, hosted a General Health Check-Up and Awareness

Camp at Athipalaganoor village, Vennandur. Medical professionals from Priyam Hospital provided essential health services to over 300 individuals, addressing issues such as blood pressure and blood sugar levels. The camp highlighted the importance of proactive health management and equipped attendees with vital health knowledge.

KEY STATISTICS OF IMPACT (JULY - OCTOBER 2024)

- Children Rescued: 260
- Women Empowered: 1,548
- Supported Migrants: 521
- Children Integrated into Families: 245
- Welfare Schemes Beneficiaries: 1,080
- Children Educated on Child Rights: 4,138
- Skill Training Participants: 252
- Saplings Planted: 182



THE QUALITY OF LIFE IS DETERMINED BY ITS ACTIVITIES

Don Bosco Care Home, Salem, continues to uphold its mission of holistic care and empowerment for vulnerable children and communities. Through a range of activities focusing on education, health, emotional well-being, and community support, the institution is making a lasting difference in the lives of many. These initiatives stand as a testament to the unwavering commitment of Don Bosco Care Home to serve, uplift, and empower.

ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR HOME-BASED CARE CHILDREN

Date: 24th August 2024

Venue: Aathur ART Centre

Don Bosco Care Home organized a one-day orientation program for children receiving home-based care, bringing together 35 HIV-infected children and 25 parents and guardians. The program was led by Fr. Ricopar, Director, Fr. Emmanuel, Administrator, and Mr. Sam, an ART counsellor.

The event featured input sessions, sharing circles, party games, and group discussions, offering participants a blend of learning and relaxation. Nutritional support was a key highlight, with health mix powder and bed sheets distributed to all children. Lunch and tea were also provided, making the day holistic and meaningful for the participants.

PAST PUPILS MEETING: FOSTERING LIFELONG BONDS

Date: 25th August 2024

The annual Past Pupils Meeting began with a prayer song and warm welcome from Fr. Ricopar Royan, Director of Don Bosco Care Home. The event aimed to create a space for alumni to reconnect, reflect, and grow together. Fr. Ricopar facilitated group discussions on life challenges, fostering a supportive environment.

Guest speaker Mrs. Thennarasi, ART Staff Nurse, emphasized the importance of adhering to ART medication and offered practical advice on considerations during marriage. Fr. Daniel Sebastian provided insights on preparing for Group IV exams, and Fr. Peter Singarayan motivated participants to pursue meaningful lives.

The event included a cultural program organized by DBCH

boys, which added joy and entertainment. Past pupils generously donated shorts and t-shirts for the Care Home boys. Following lunch, games were organized, ensuring active participation and camaraderie. The gathering concluded with tea, leaving everyone inspired and connected.

ANIMATION PROGRAM FOR HOME-BASED CARE CHILDREN

Date: 30th September 2024
 Participants: 70 children and 15 women

A one-day animation program for children under home-based care brought smiles and learning to 70 children and 15 women. The day began with tea and registration, followed by an engaging origami session led by Mr. Pandian. Children participated with enthusiasm, exploring their creative sides. Lunch was served at 12:30 PM, and the day concluded with the distribution of nutritional supplements. Travel arrangements were meticulously planned, ensuring a smooth experience for all participants.

MEETING FOR INFECTED CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Date: 9th November 2024
 Venue: Perambalur Positive Network Centre

Don Bosco Care Home organized a meeting at the Perambalur Positive Network Centre for 15 HIV-infected children, 25 HIV-infected widows, and 10 HIV-infected women. The event began with an overview of DBCH's work by Fr. Lawrence, followed by sessions from Mr. Srinathan on health care and government benefits and Mrs. Revathi (DAPCU) on the importance of education for children.

At the conclusion, nutritional supplements and bed sheets were distributed to all attendees. The program ended with a shared lunch, leaving participants informed and supported.

GROUP THERAPY FOR EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

Date: 10th November 2024
 Organizers: Mr. Bricily and 1st-year students of MKS Institution

A day-long group therapy session was organized for 41 students, featuring activities such as painting, clay art, games, and group discussions. The interactive activities aimed to foster emotional well-being and creativity among the children.

In the evening, the Chairman of MKS Institutions

distributed notebooks to the children, marking the day as both enriching and productive



TEAMWORK DOES WORK

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At Don Bosco School of Excellence, Sayalkudi, we are steadfastly committed to the relentless pursuit of educational excellence. Our mission is to inspire and equip students to thrive in all dimensions of life—intellectually, socially, and emotionally. This is achieved through a harmonious integration of rigorous academics, innovative pedagogy, and value-oriented co-curricular endeavours. Our school has become a vibrant hub of activities, reflecting our dedication to nurturing well-rounded, confident, and compassionate individuals. Through diverse programs and initiatives, we aim to uphold the values of integrity, perseverance, and service, ensuring that every student reaches their fullest potential.

This report encapsulates the diverse initiatives undertaken at our institution, showcasing our commitment to holistic education and the timeless values of the Salesian congregation. Each activity highlights our unwavering focus on empowering students, fostering community, and embracing innovation in education.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement, with colourful welcome boards adorning the corridors and classrooms. Traditional customs like offering sandal and Kumkum to all attendees symbolized warmth and inclusivity, fostering a sense of belonging. This festive reopening, combined with motivational addresses by faculty members, set a



NURTURING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE REOPENING THE ACADEMIC YEAR WITH ENTHUSIASM (JUNE 2024)

The academic year commenced on a vibrant and enthusiastic note as students and teachers returned to campus after the refreshing summer break.

positive and invigorating tone for a productive academic year ahead.

MOCK SAFAL EXAMS: PREPARING FOR CBSE EVALUATIONS (JUNE 2024)

In alignment with CBSE's structured assessment framework, the Mock SAFAL exams were meticulously

organized for Classes 5 and 8. These preparatory tests aimed to familiarize students with the examination format while reducing anxiety. The detailed feedback provided after the assessments helped students identify areas for improvement and gain confidence in their academic journey. This initiative not only strengthened their conceptual understanding but also equipped them with strategies to excel in upcoming evaluations.

MATHEMATICS MASTERY SESSION (JULY 2024)

A highly engaging workshop on mathematics was conducted by the esteemed educator, Mr. Santiyagu, targeting students of Grades 10 and 11. The session focused on decoding CBSE question patterns, emphasizing practical problem-solving techniques, and effective time management strategies. Interactive activities and real-world examples made the learning process dynamic and relatable. Students left the session feeling empowered and confident to tackle complex mathematical challenges.

SHIKSHA SAPTAH: HOLISTIC LEARNING WEEK (JULY 2024)

Under the visionary

guidelines of NEP 2020, the school celebrated Shiksha Saptah, a week dedicated to holistic learning.

This initiative included storytelling sessions that kindled creativity, traditional games that emphasized teamwork, and eco-club projects promoting environmental awareness. Through these diverse activities, students developed critical life skills, cultural sensitivity, and a deeper appreciation for sustainability, making learning an enjoyable and enriching experience.

TAMIL NADU YOGASANA CHAMPIONSHIP: NURTURING PHYSICAL EXCELLENCE (AUGUST 2024)

The Tamil Nadu State Yogasana Championship was a platform for students to showcase their exceptional physical abilities and commitment to yoga. Participants demonstrated intricate asanas with precision and grace, reflecting their dedication and discipline. The event not only brought accolades to the school but also highlighted the importance of integrating physical well-being with education. Students and teachers alike were inspired to prioritize health and fitness in their daily lives.

TERM 1 EXAMINATIONS: ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW (AUGUST 2024)

Comprehensive term-end assessments were conducted to evaluate student performance across various subjects. The examinations were designed to assess conceptual clarity, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Post-assessment review sessions involved detailed discussions with parents and students, focusing on areas of improvement and celebrating academic milestones. These reviews fostered a collaborative approach to academic growth, ensuring that every student received personalized guidance and support.

WORLD OZONE DAY: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (SEPTEMBER 2024)

On World Ozone Day, students actively participated in educational activities that emphasized the importance of protecting the ozone layer and promoting sustainability. Interactive workshops, engaging discussions, and creative poster-making contests deepened their understanding of environmental conservation. The event culminated in a pledge by students and faculty to adopt eco-friendly

practices, reinforcing the school's commitment to environmental stewardship.

SCIENCE EXPO: SHOWCASING INNOVATION (OCTOBER 2024)

The annual Science Expo was a grand event that provided students with a platform to present innovative projects and ideas. Guided by their teachers, students demonstrated the real-world applications of scientific principles through interactive exhibits and live demonstrations. The expo attracted enthusiastic participation from parents and community members, highlighting the school's emphasis on fostering creativity, critical thinking, and a passion for science.

INDIVIDUAL TALENT EXPO: CELEBRATING CREATIVITY (OCTOBER 2024)

The Individual Talent Expo was a vibrant celebration of creativity and individuality. Students from all grades showcased their skills in art, music, dance, and creative writing. The event encouraged students to step out of their comfort zones and explore their unique talents, fostering self-confidence and artistic expression. Parents and peers applauded the participants, creating an atmosphere of encouragement and joy.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

SMART BOARD TRAINING (JUNE 2024)

In a bid to integrate technology seamlessly into the classroom, faculty members participated in an intensive Smart Board training session conducted by BenQ Smart Board Services. The session covered advanced features of smart boards, including interactive tools, multimedia integration, and collaborative learning strategies. Teachers gained hands-on experience, enabling them to create engaging and dynamic lessons that catered to diverse learning styles.

COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY (JUNE 2024)

Reaffirming its dedication to student well-being, the

entire faculty signed the Child Protection Policy during a formal ceremony. This act symbolized the school's unwavering commitment to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all students. Workshops on identifying and addressing potential risks were also conducted, equipping educators with the skills to ensure child safety.

MACMILLAN INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM TRAINING (JULY 2024)

A transformative two-day workshop introduced teachers to the Macmillan inclusive curriculum, emphasizing innovative teaching methods and collaborative learning strategies. Educators explored ways to make lessons more engaging and inclusive, ensuring that every student could thrive academically and



socially. The training sessions fostered a spirit of creativity and adaptability among the faculty.

**FACILITATOR SYSTEM:
LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION
(JULY 2024)**

The implementation of a Facilitator System marked a significant step toward promoting leadership among educators. Facilitators were trained to mentor peers, lead initiatives, and spearhead innovative teaching practices. This system fostered a culture of shared responsibility, empowering teachers to collaborate effectively and enhance the overall learning experience.

**COMPUTER SKILLS WORKSHOP:
EMPOWERING DIGITAL
PROFICIENCY (SEPTEMBER
2024)**

Recognizing the importance of digital literacy, the school organized a specialized workshop on computer skills for its faculty. Teachers received advanced training in tools and software, enabling them to create interactive and technology-driven learning modules. The workshop equipped educators with the skills to navigate the digital landscape confidently, enhancing their teaching methods.

**COLLABORATIVE STAFF
MEETINGS: STRATEGIC
PLANNING AND GROWTH
(OCTOBER 2024)**

Monthly collaborative staff meetings provided a platform for strategic planning, professional development, and sharing best practices. These sessions fostered teamwork, encouraged innovation, and ensured alignment with the school's mission and vision. Discussions on curriculum development, student engagement, and teacher support were key highlights of these meetings.

**BROADENING HORIZONS BEYOND
BOOKS**

**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION
(JUNE 2024)**

To honor the unconditional love and sacrifices of mothers, female students celebrated Mother's Day by planting tree saplings on campus. This symbolic act highlighted the nurturing role of mothers and the importance of environmental conservation. Students also penned heartfelt letters to their mothers, expressing gratitude and love.



**STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS
(JULY 2024)**

The democratic election process introduced students to leadership roles, fostering teamwork and respect for democratic values. Candidates campaigned actively, presenting their vision and ideas to the student body. The elected council members pledged to uphold the values of the school and work towards the betterment of their peers.

**CRAFTING WORKSHOP:
UNLEASHING CREATIVITY
THROUGH HANDS-ON LEARNING
(JULY 2024)**

Students participated in a crafting workshop that encouraged them to explore their creative potential through hands-on activities such as origami, paper mache, and fabric painting. This event highlighted the importance of creative expression in personal development, while fostering a sense of collaboration among students.

**CULTURAL CONTEST:
SHOWCASING TALENT AND
BUILDING CONFIDENCE (JULY
2024)**

An inter-house cultural contest provided students with a platform to showcase their talents in dance, drama,

and music. Performances celebrated cultural diversity and creativity, fostering an environment of healthy competition and confidence-building. Teachers and parents applauded the participants, acknowledging their efforts and dedication.

ANNUAL SPORTS MEET (AUGUST 2024)

The Annual Sports Meet celebrated athleticism and teamwork through a variety of activities such as yoga, track events, and group drills. Students exhibited remarkable discipline and competitive spirit, inspiring peers and faculty. The event concluded with a vibrant awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding performers and encouraging all participants to embrace the value of sportsmanship.

SCOUT CAMP: FOSTERING LEADERSHIP AND RESILIENCE (OCTOBER 2024)

The Scout Camp was an immersive outdoor experience where students engaged in activities like knot-tying, tent-making, and wilderness exploration. It fostered resilience, self-reliance, and teamwork, equipping students with essential life skills. The camaraderie built during the camp left a lasting impact, reinforcing the

values of collaboration and perseverance.

Field Visit to Valinokkam: Exploring Nature and Biodiversity (October 2024)
 Students embarked on an educational field visit to Valinokkam, where they explored local flora and fauna. Guided by environmentalists, the trip provided valuable insights into biodiversity and the need for ecological conservation. Interactive sessions and observation exercises enabled students to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world environmental challenges.

CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND BUILDING COMMUNITY

GRAND INAUGURATION: A NEW BEGINNING (JUNE 2024)

The inauguration of the new academic year was marked

by a grand ceremony that symbolized progress, growth, and unity. The event featured the opening of a new school block, a significant milestone in the institution's journey toward excellence. Chief guests, including local dignitaries and donors, shared inspirational messages about the transformative power of education. Students performed cultural programs that showcased their creativity and gratitude, making the inauguration a memorable and joyous occasion.

VISIT BY MR. GILLES (JUNE 2024)

Mr. Gilles from the Fr. Guezou Foundation visited the school, bringing inspiration and encouragement to students and staff alike. During his visit, he emphasized the importance of holistic education



in shaping lives and strengthening communities. He also inaugurated a new floor of the school building, which had been supported by the foundation, symbolizing the collective effort to create a brighter future for all students.

**INVESTITURE CEREMONY:
HONOURING LEADERSHIP (JULY 2024)**

The Investiture Ceremony celebrated the induction of the newly elected student council members. With ceremonial sashes and badges, the council pledged to uphold the school's values and serve as role models for their peers. The event was an empowering moment for the student leaders, who committed to promoting teamwork, responsibility, and school spirit. The ceremony was complemented by motivational speeches from faculty and a symbolic lighting of candles to signify the light of leadership.

**THANKSGIVING CEREMONY
FOR MR. CIAN: GRATITUDE IN
ACTION (JULY 2024)**

A special thanksgiving ceremony was held to honour Mr. Cian, a generous benefactor whose contributions have greatly supported the school's initiatives. Students and staff

expressed their heartfelt gratitude through songs, dances, and speeches. A commemorative plaque was presented to Mr. Cian as a token of appreciation. The event emphasized the importance of gratitude and the profound impact of generosity on the community.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY:
PATRIOTISM AND AWARENESS
(AUGUST 2024)**

India's 77th Independence Day was celebrated with a blend of cultural pride and patriotic fervour. The day began with the hoisting of the national flag by the principal, followed by a series of cultural events, including skits, dances, and speeches by students. Themes of freedom, responsibility, and unity were highlighted throughout the celebrations. Special competitions, such as essay writing and art, were organized to encourage

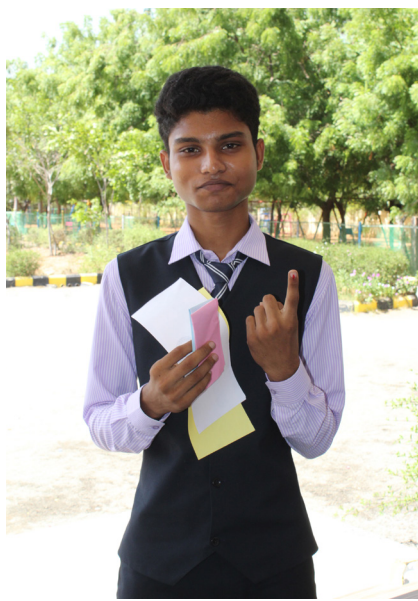
students to reflect on the significance of independence in today's context.

**VISIT BY FR. STEFANO
MARTOGLIO: INSPIRING
COMPASSION (AUGUST 2024)**

The school was honoured by the visit of Fr. Stefano Martoglio, the Vicar of the Rector Major. His presence brought inspiration and hope to the entire community. Fr. Stefano addressed the students and staff, sharing stories of compassion, service, and the mission of Don Bosco. His visit included interactive sessions with the faculty and student leaders, where he encouraged them to embody Salesian values in their everyday lives. The visit culminated in a special mass celebrated with fervour and joy.

**FRUITS DAY: FUN AND LEARNING
FOR KINDERGARTEN (OCTOBER
2024)**

Fruits Day was a delightful event for kindergarten students, blending fun with learning. The children learned about the nutritional benefits of fruits through engaging activities like games, songs, and stories. A fruit-tasting session allowed them to explore different flavours and textures, fostering curiosity and healthy eating habits. The colourful and





interactive environment created lasting memories for the little ones while reinforcing the importance of nutrition in a playful manner.

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION (SEPTEMBER 2024)

Teachers' Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and affection by the students, who organized a special program to honour their mentors. The day featured cultural performances, heartfelt speeches, and personalized gifts for the teachers. Students expressed their gratitude through creative acts, including poems and songs dedicated to their beloved educators. The event underscored the pivotal role of teachers in shaping young minds and left the faculty feeling appreciated and valued.

INTER-SCHOOL THIRUKKURAL CONTEST (OCTOBER 2024)

The Inter-School Thirukkural Contest brought together participants from 16 schools to celebrate the richness of Tamil literature. Students competed in various categories, including recitation, dance, and poetry, showcasing their talents and understanding of the timeless wisdom of Thirukkural. The event fostered a sense of cultural pride and academic excellence, creating an enriching experience for both participants and spectators.

CONCLUSION

At Don Bosco School of Excellence, our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and personal growth is reflected in the diverse range of activities and programs we undertake. By fostering intellectual curiosity through innovative educational initiatives and nurturing creativity, leadership, and a sense of community through co-curricular and cultural engagements, we strive to achieve holistic development for every student. Each endeavour represents a meaningful step toward fulfilling our vision of empowering well-rounded individuals who embody confidence, compassion, and competence.

As we celebrate the milestones achieved from June to October 2024, we recognize that these accomplishments are not mere endpoints but milestones on an ongoing journey of growth and transformation. This path is driven by the passion of our students, the dedication of our educators, and the steadfast support of our community. Together, we continue to innovate, inspire, and excel, remaining resolute in our mission to shape future leaders who will make a difference in the world.

THANJAVUR – DON BOSCO

HAPPINESS IS A CONTINUOUS CREATIVE ACTIVITY

The Don Bosco Aspirantate, Thanjavur, continues to be a nurturing ground for young minds, fostering holistic development rooted in faith, knowledge, and service. The activities and programs of the academic year 2024-2025 reflect the Salesian commitment to shaping individuals who are spiritually enriched, intellectually competent, and socially responsible. Through the collective efforts of the Salesian community and the aspirants, the legacy of Don Bosco thrives, inspiring generations to build a brighter future



INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

The academic year 2024-2025 at Don Bosco Aspirantate, Thanjavur, began with great joy and anticipation. The aspirantate opened its doors to 51 young aspirants, with representation across grades: 15 in 9th Standard, 12 in 10th Standard, 11 in 11th Standard, and 13 in 12th Standard. The vibrant

community, guided by the Salesians' dedication to faith, values, and academic excellence, was enriched further by mid-year admissions, increasing the total strength to 56 members, including 48 aspirants and 8 Salesians (5 priests and 3 brothers). The aspirants embarked on their journey of spiritual formation and personal growth with excitement and commitment.

INSTALLATION OF FR. SURESH FELIX SDB AS RECTOR

A milestone in the life of the aspirantate was the installation of Fr. Suresh Felix SDB as Rector. The solemn ceremony, held during a Eucharistic Adoration service, was presided over by Fr. Provincial and his council. The rite included the symbolic handing over of responsibilities to Fr. Felix, signifying his role as the spiritual and administrative head of the community. Fr. Felix's leadership is expected to inspire the aspirants and Salesians alike, as they journey together in the spirit of Don Bosco.



Installation



Football Coaching



Prayer Moments



Walking Picnic



Annual Retreat



Community Day

SPORTS AND GAMES: BUILDING SKILLS AND CHARACTER

Sports and physical activities are integral to the holistic development promoted at Don Bosco Aspirantate. The aspirants underwent rigorous training in football, focusing on foundational techniques, teamwork, and strategic play. The highlight of the sports calendar was a football tournament held during the Marian Month, honoring Mary, Help of Christians. These activities not only enhanced physical fitness but also instilled values of discipline, perseverance, and camaraderie among the aspirants.

MUSIC: A HARMONIOUS JOURNEY

Music is the soul of the community at Don Bosco Aspirantate. Aspirants received comprehensive music training under the guidance of Fr. Rector, Brothers, Mr. Stephen, and Fr. Balasingam. Sessions covered vocal training, instrumental practice, and hymn composition, preparing aspirants for active participation in liturgical celebrations. The program also encouraged creative expression through music, deepening their spiritual and artistic sensibilities.

BEAM: BOSCO ENGLISH ACADEMY FOR MATRIC

The Bosco English Academy for Matric (BEAM) initiative was launched to strengthen the aspirants' command of the English language. Activities such as debates, storytelling, skits, quizzes, and recitations enriched their linguistic skills. Grammar, vocabulary, and conversational abilities were honed through interactive sessions. The highlight of the program was the English Nights, where aspirants confidently showcased their language proficiency, building self-assurance and communication skills essential for their future endeavours.

CELEBRATIONS AND OUTINGS: A VIBRANT COMMUNITY LIFE PILGRIMAGES AND PICNICS

The aspirants embarked on spiritually enriching pilgrimages to sacred sites, fostering reflection and a deeper connection to their faith. Picnics and outings provided opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and community bonding, reinforcing the aspirants' sense of belonging.

COMMUNITY DAY AND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The aspirantate celebrated Community Day and Salesian Jubilee with enthusiasm and joy. These events were marked by a vibrant blend of liturgical services, cultural performances, and communal meals, underscoring the spirit of unity and gratitude.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Feast of the Assumption was a solemn yet joyous occasion. The day began with a Holy Eucharist, followed by a cultural program featuring a one-act play on Mother Mary. The aspirants' performances reflected their creativity, teamwork, and devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

SILVER JUBILEE GRAND FINALE OF TRICHY PROVINCE

Don Bosco Aspirantate, Thanjavur, had the honour of

hosting the grand finale of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Salesian Province of Trichy. The event commemorated 25 years of unwavering dedication to education, faith formation, and youth empowerment.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDED:

- A Solemn Eucharistic celebration led by dignitaries and Salesian leaders, reflecting on the journey of the province.
- Inspirational speeches that highlighted the contributions of the Salesians and their impact on the community.
- Cultural performances by aspirants and youth, showcasing their talents and celebrating the Salesian spirit.

This landmark occasion was a testament to the province's legacy and its commitment to serving young people with zeal and dedication.

FORMATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

SEMINARS AND ANIMATIONS

The aspirants participated in a series of seminars and animation sessions designed to foster intellectual growth and critical thinking. Expert-led sessions delved into topics such as leadership, team-building, and effective communication. Group discussions encouraged collaborative learning, while individual projects

nurtured creativity and self-expression.

VISUAL LEARNING

Animated visual aids were extensively used in lessons, making complex concepts more accessible and engaging for the aspirants. This innovative approach to teaching enhanced their understanding and retention of key ideas, preparing them for academic and personal challenges.



A JOYFUL BEGINNING

The year 2024 has been a transformative journey for our community in Madhakottai, characterized by vibrant activities that have enriched minds and nourished souls. The past months have showcased a harmonious blend of spiritual renewal, educational initiatives, and cultural celebrations, all deeply rooted in faith and the teachings of Christ.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” (Proverbs 16:3)

MAY: A JOYFUL BEGINNING

The month of May marked the commencement of our journey with a meticulously planned summer camp that brought together 250 students. Under the dynamic leadership of Fr. Clan and Br. Vinith, the camp offered a unique blend of learning and cultural experiences. Participants were introduced to skills in cultural dance, singing, and English, alongside deeper insights into the Bible. This holistic approach not only enhanced their talents but also strengthened their spiritual foundation.

Simultaneously, an English coaching camp was conducted for over 50 school students. This initiative, designed to improve language skills, proved to be invaluable for the academic journey of the participants.

Spiritual formation took center stage during this

period, with classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation organized by our Parish Priest, Fr. Ferrington. These sessions laid a strong faith foundation for the younger members of our parish, preparing them to embrace their spiritual responsibilities with devotion and understanding.

The month concluded with a grand Parish Festival and the celebration of First Holy Communion. The vibrant liturgy and heartfelt community participation turned this event into a joyous occasion, bringing everyone together in worship and gratitude.

JUNE: RENEWAL AND REJUVENATION

June ushered in a period of spiritual renewal as the parish celebrated the Confirmation Mass, administered by the diocesan administrator, Fr. L. Sagaya Raj. This solemn occasion

witnessed a renewal of faith among the youth and their families, strengthening the bonds of the community.

With the reopening of schools for the new academic year, the atmosphere was filled with excitement and enthusiasm. The Freshers' Day celebrations provided a warm welcome to new students, setting the tone for a year filled with growth and achievement.

The inauguration of various groups, movements, and the literary association created platforms for students to explore their talents and contribute meaningfully to school life. Events like Sports Day and a Science Exhibition further fostered creativity, teamwork, and holistic development.

EUCARISTIC DEVOTION AND COMMUNAL PRAYER

The parish continued its spiritual journey with the Corpus Christi celebration, a profound occasion that deepened the community's devotion to the Eucharist. The procession and adoration brought together parishioners in a collective expression of faith and reverence.

In October, the parish observed the Month of the Rosary with great fervor.

Every Anbiyam (Small Christian Community) actively participated in the recitation of the Rosary and the Holy Mass, reinforcing the importance of communal prayer and the intercessory role of the Blessed Mother.

NOVEMBER: REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

The month of November was dedicated to the souls in purgatory, as the parish united in prayer and remembrance of the departed. Special Masses and prayer services were organized, fostering a deep sense of unity and hope among parishioners. These moments of reflection and prayer served as a reminder of the enduring bond between the living and the faithful departed.

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As the parish community of Thanjavur – Madhakottai looks back on these months of vibrant activities, there is immense gratitude for the blessings received and the collective efforts of all involved. Each initiative—be it spiritual, educational, or cultural—serves as a step toward building a united, faith-filled community committed to the teachings of Christ.

“May the Lord bless us and keep us; may His face shine upon us and be gracious to us.” (Numbers 6:24-25)



THERESA EXPO

organized by DBYM

Therespuram Parish's activities from June to October 2024 reflect its vibrant faith community, united in devotion, celebration, and service. From spiritual events to youth initiatives and catechism programs, the parish continues to nurture its members, fostering a deeper connection with faith and creating lasting bonds among its parishioners.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

1. BIBLE MONTH: A JOURNEY THROUGH SCRIPTURE

To commemorate Bible Sunday, Therspuram Parish organized a month-long celebration from August 25 to September 25, 2024. Weekly Bible-related competitions for catechism students fostered a deeper connection with the Scriptures. Parishioners engaged in Bible decoration activities across 50 anbiyams and participated in the grand Bible Night competition. This spiritual initiative encouraged collective reflection on the Word of God and strengthened the parish's faith community.

2. PARISH FEAST: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GRACE

2.1. CART PROCESSION IN HONOR OF ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS

The parish celebrated its 40th feast day with a historic milestone: the creation of its first-ever cart, designed by the Don



Bosco Youth Movement (DBYM). On October 3, 2024, the cart was blessed and used in a reverent three-hour procession, symbolizing devotion to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus.

2.2. SINGING AND DANCE COMPETITIONS

To mark the feast day, vibrant singing and dance competitions were held on October 4 and 5, 2024. Teams from neighboring parishes participated enthusiastically, with winners receiving prizes and mementos in recognition of their talent and effort.

2.3. THERESA EXPO 2024

The fifth annual "Theresa Expo," organized by DBYM, took place on October 4, 5, and 6, 2024. This charity-driven event raised funds for the poor while fostering community participation and showcasing the youth's commitment to social causes.

2.4. SPECIAL HYMN IN HONOR OF ST. THERESA

To commemorate the feast, a unique Tamil hymn (nfhb ghly;) dedicated to St. Theresa of the Child Jesus was composed, adding a spiritual and cultural dimension to the festivities.

2.5. ROSARY MONTH ACTIVITIES

In honour of Rosary Month, a chain rosary was conducted on October 30, 2024, followed by a solemn rosary procession on October 31,

2024, bringing the parish together in prayer and devotion.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

1. INAUGURATION OF DON BOSCO YOUTH MOVEMENT (2024-2025)

The DBYM was inaugurated on June 30, 2024, during a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Sudharson, Youth Director of the Thoothukudi Diocese. Members pledged their commitment to the movement while holding lighted candles, symbolizing their dedication. The event also featured the release of the July 2024 issue of the "Mop (Aazhi)" monthly magazine.

2. YOUTH SUNDAY MEGA RALLY

On August 11, 2024, DBYM marked International Youth Day with a grand rally addressing issues such as drug abuse, the right to education, and social justice. Over 250 participants, including catechism children, joined the event. The day concluded with a powerful street play, chpik vq;fs; chpik, performed near the seashore, earning widespread acclaim for its impactful message.

3. SPECIAL ROSARY SERVICE

During Rosary Month, the youth organized a special service guided by the

Thoothukudi Diocese's youth coordinator. Around 60 young participants gathered to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer and devotion.

4. YOUTH PICNIC

After the extensive efforts during the parish feast and Theresa Expo 2024, the youth enjoyed a rejuvenating trip to Kanthalloor, Kerala. From September 25-27, 2024, they celebrated their achievements, strengthening bonds and creating cherished memories.

CATECHISM ACTIVITIES

1. CATECHISM INAUGURATION

The catechism classes for 2024-2025 were inaugurated on June 30, 2024, with 230 students in attendance. Rev. Sr. Margaret FMA graced the occasion as the special guest, inspiring the students to grow in faith and knowledge.

2. GRANDPARENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

On July 28, 2024, the parish celebrated Grandparents' Day with heartfelt activities. Children greeted their grandparents, sought their blessings, and shared selfies with them. Prizes were awarded for the most creative entries, fostering love and respect for elders within the community.

THE CAMPUS WITH JOY AND NOSTALGIA

Don Bosco AMSAM continues to shine as a beacon of faith, education, and community engagement. The wide array of activities and initiatives highlights the institution's commitment to holistic development, spiritual growth, and societal impact. The year 2024 has been a testament to the vibrant and dynamic spirit of the AMSAM community.

PAST PUPILS' DAY CELEBRATION

The Past Pupils of DB AMSAM ITI gathered on 11th May 2024 for a joyous celebration of memories and achievements. Former principals graced the occasion as chief guests, and the event brought together 175 past pupils who filled the campus with joy and nostalgia. The celebration was meaningful, as the past pupils reminisced about their formative years and

saving lives through regular blood donation drives.

AWARENESS SEMINAR ON DRUG ADDICTION

On 25th June 2024, the Ramji Nagar Police, represented by Sub-Inspector Mr. Shanmugam and Mr. Palanisamy, conducted an awareness seminar for the students. They addressed the dangers of tobacco, cool-lips, and hans, offering valuable insights to steer students



cherished bonds with the institution.

away from addiction. The program left a lasting impact, encouraging students to lead healthier lives.

BEST BLOOD DONOR AWARD

On 14th June 2024, DB ITI received the Best Blood Donor Award from the Government Hospital in Manapparai. Rev. Fr. Francis, the Principal of DB ITI, proudly accepted the award on World Blood Donors' Day, recognizing the institution's dedication to

ENT SPECIAL CAMP

An ENT Special Camp was held on 26th June 2024 in collaboration with St. Joseph's Eye Hospital, Trichy. All DB ITI students received thorough check-ups, ensuring their health and well-being were prioritized.



FAREWELL DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 16th July 2024, first-year students organized a heartfelt farewell for the outgoing second-year batch. The event was marked by emotional speeches, cultural performances, and the presentation of personalized mementos to departing students.

CAMPUS INTERVIEW

On 24th July 2024, a well-organized campus interview attracted 30 reputed companies from across India. Over 400 students from nearby ITIs participated, showcasing their skills and securing employment opportunities. The event underscored DB ITI's commitment to fostering career growth and industry readiness.

STAFF ANIMATION AT SENGIPATTI

On 2nd September 2024, Rev. Fr. John Kennedy, Rector and Correspondent, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Arulraj led a staff animation program at Sengipatti. The session focused on team building, professional growth, and the Salesian mission, leaving participants inspired and motivated.

INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

The new academic year

was inaugurated on 7th September 2024 with a splendid ceremony. Rev. Fr. Albert, Rector & Parish Priest of Holy Redeemer's Basilica, Trichy, blessed the event with his presence. Parents of new students were welcomed, and the institution celebrated a promising start with increased admissions.

ROVERS TRAINING FOR STAFF

On the same day, Rovers Training was conducted for staff members by Rev. Fr. John Peter, Rev. Fr. James Benjamin, and Rev. Fr. Albert. The training session was insightful, equipping the staff with leadership and problem-solving skills.

COUNSELLING & DE-ADDICTION SEMINAR

On 8th October 2024, Fr. Francis Jeyapathy SJ from St. Joseph's College led a full-day seminar focusing on counselling and de-addiction. Students learned strategies to overcome challenges such as tobacco addiction and substance abuse, leaving a profound impact on their outlook and behaviour.

AYUDHA POOJA CELEBRATIONS

On 10th October 2024, staff and students came together to celebrate Ayudha Pooja. The event was filled with prayers and thanksgiving,

fostering unity and gratitude among the DB ITI community.

SEMINAR ON MEMORY MASTERY & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

On 21st October 2024, Mr. Thendral from Thendral Foundations, Coimbatore, hosted a seminar on memory mastery and skill development. Students learned innovative techniques to enhance memory power and apply it effectively in academics and beyond.

CONVOCATION CELEBRATION

The convocation ceremony for the 2022-2024 batch was held on 13th November 2024. Rev. Fr. Agilan Sarprasatham SDB, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Trichy, graced the event, making it a memorable day for outgoing students and their families.

MARIAN DEVOTION

Every 24th of the month, the parish commemorates Mary Help of Christians with great devotion. Celebrations include a cart procession, recitation of the rosary, Eucharistic adoration, and a Holy Eucharistic celebration, concluding with an anointing ritual and a communal supper. These monthly events foster spiritual growth and community bonding.



EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION

On the first Saturday of every month, the parish conducts an all-night prayer session starting at 10:00 PM and concluding with the Holy Eucharistic celebration at dawn. The faithful participate with great fervor, making this a cherished spiritual tradition.

CATECHISM INAUGURATION

The catechism academic year began on 30th June 2024, with children from all substations participating. Teachers guided the children, and the event concluded with a symbolic balloon release, signifying hope and joy for the year ahead.

SEMINAR FOR ALTAR BOYS AND GIRLS

On 28th July 2024, a seminar for altar servers was conducted by Rev. Fr. Jepison. Seventy-two altar boys and girls participated, gaining valuable insights into their roles and responsibilities during liturgical celebrations.

YOUTH SPORTS DAY

For Girls: On 4th August 2024, games such as throwball and tug-of-war were organized for women, with Sr. Jansi Amaladoss from Holy Cross College leading the session. Village president Mr. George Fernandes encouraged the participants.

For Boys: Football, cricket, volleyball, and tug-of-war were held for the boys, with enthusiastic participation and support from local leaders.

DRAWING COMPETITION FOR CATECHISM CHILDREN

On 20th October 2024, drawing competitions were organized in all substations, inspiring creativity among catechism children. Fr. John Kennedy and Fr. Jepison personally ensured active participation and awarded prizes to winners the following Sunday.

PARISH-LEVEL BIBLE COMPETITION

Anbiyam-wise Bible competitions were held across all substations, culminating in a grand finale at Mary Help of Christians Shrine, AMSAM. Participants showcased exceptional scriptural knowledge, making it a memorable spiritual event.

12-HOUR CONTINUOUS ROSARY SERVICE

A 12-hour rosary service was conducted at Mary Help of Christians Shrine, starting at 6:00 AM and concluding with the Holy Eucharistic celebration at 6:00 PM. Parishioners participated fervently, reflecting their deep faith and devotion.

TIRUCHY – KALLIKUDI

ACTIVITY IS THE ONLY ROAD TO KNOWLEDGE

Don Bosco Vazhikaatti, Trichy, stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity for rural youth, empowering them with the skills, guidance, and support needed to achieve their dreams. Through its multifaceted programs and unwavering commitment to social upliftment, the institution continues to transform lives, building a brighter future for individuals and communities alike.

DON BOSCO VAZHKAATTI, TRICHY: EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Don Bosco Vazhikaatti, Trichy, continues to spearhead initiatives aimed at equipping rural youth with the skills, opportunities, and support needed to thrive in today's competitive world. Through a comprehensive approach that blends career guidance, employability training, and job placement, the institution addresses key challenges faced by rural communities, fostering sustainable development and empowerment.

CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAMS

Between June and November

2024, Don Bosco Vazhikaatti organized several career guidance sessions to inspire rural students and equip them with essential knowledge about various career paths. On June 29, 2024, a leadership and life skills session was conducted at St. Antony's High School, Melanmarainadu, Alangulam, benefiting 146 students under the guidance of Mr. Raja.

In August, two career guidance programs were held at Don Bosco Hr. Sec. School, Madurai, on the 9th and 21st, with 125 and 127 participants respectively. Both sessions, facilitated by Fr. Daniel and Mr. Raja, emphasized the importance of self-awareness, educational choices, and vocational training. On October 12, 2024, a session at the Government Children's Home, Thattaparai, focused on developing study habits and life skills for 24 participants, conducted by Mr. Raja. November saw two impactful events: a session at Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Coimbatore, on November



9 with 171 attendees, and another at Philominas Girls Hr. Sec. School, Trichy, on November 30 with 124 participants.

Overall, these initiatives reached 717 students, providing them with practical insights and actionable strategies to navigate their academic and career journeys.

JOB PLACEMENT INITIATIVES

Don Bosco Vazhikaatti's job placement programs are designed to bridge the gap between rural talent and employment opportunities. Between July and November 2024, the institution organized multiple job drives in collaboration with prominent companies, including ITC Ltd, Novarese India Ltd, and Royal Enfield.

On July 13, 2024, a job drive at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhi, saw 16 participants, with eight securing positions at ITC Ltd. Another drive on July 20 at St. Vianney Pastoral Centre, Sivagangai, resulted in 10 placements out of 17 attendees. In August, drives held at TCYM Trichy Pastoral Centre and Don Bosco Vazhikaatti connected candidates with companies such as Bharani Hydraulic Ltd

and Allsec Technologies, with impressive placement rates. The job drives continued with notable successes in September and October, culminating in a collaborative effort with MRF Ltd at Don Bosco Matriculation School, Thanjavur, on November 16, 2024. Across all these events, numerous rural youth were guided toward meaningful employment, with personalized support and follow-ups.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILL TRAINING

Recognizing the importance of skill development, Don Bosco Vazhikaatti conducted employability skill training programs across various locations, reaching 489 participants. Sessions were held at institutions like Don Bosco ITI Amsam and SMS College Alangulam, focusing on resume building, interview preparation, and workplace adaptability. These programs empowered participants to confidently approach the job market, equipped with the tools necessary for success.

DATA CAMPS

Don Bosco Vazhikaatti also organized data camps to build digital literacy and analytical skills among youth. Between September and November 2024, camps were conducted in locations

such as Savariyarpalayam, Dindigul, and Don Bosco ITI Manakkal, Lalgudi, engaging 150 participants. These camps emphasized the importance of data skills in today's tech-driven world, preparing attendees for diverse career opportunities.

NEW VENTURES AND COLLABORATIONS

The institution expanded its reach through innovative initiatives such as:

- Observation Home, Trichy: Activities included individual counselling, de-addiction animation, and vocational training in mobile phone servicing.
- Government Protection Home, Trichy: A six-month AARI work and tailoring training program for inmates, fostering skill development and self-reliance.
- Government Children's Home, Thattaparai: Monthly motivation and life skills training sessions for children, emphasizing personal growth and resilience.
- Don Bosco Academy for Competitive Examinations: In collaboration with Dexter Academy, the institution launched a year-long training program for TNPSC Group IV examinations across multiple locations, including Trichy, Thanjavur, and Salem.

TIRUCHY – KALLUKUZH

NURTURING SALESIAN SPIRIT

Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy, continues to be a centre of unity, innovation, and spiritual growth. From leadership training and collaborative meetings to batch gatherings and strategic evaluations, the Provincial House serves as a dynamic hub for fostering the Salesian mission. As the province moves forward, these initiatives lay the foundation for sustained excellence and a renewed commitment to serving the young and the community.

INTRODUCTION

On Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy, has been a beacon of collaboration, spiritual renewal, and leadership development over the past year. Between June and November 2024, the Provincial House hosted a series of transformative events aimed at fostering unity, enhancing leadership, and empowering the Salesian community. These initiatives reflect the province's commitment to nurturing leaders, strengthening community bonds, and furthering the Salesian mission.

STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP: TRAINING AND COLLABORATION

NEW ADMINISTRATORS' TRAINING

From June 19 to 21, 2024, nine newly appointed administrators participated

in a comprehensive training program at Don Bosco Provincial House. The sessions focused on advanced accounting techniques, auditing methodologies, and administrative best practices. Organized by the Economer and his team, the program equipped the participants to excel in their new roles. Their enthusiastic involvement underscored the importance of ongoing learning in fostering effective leadership.

LEADERS' MEET

On July 12, 2024, Rectors and community leaders gathered at the Provincial House to discuss the effective formation and execution of the Salesian Educative Pastoral Project (SEPP) and the Educative Pastoral Community Council (EPCC). Additionally, strategies for celebrating the province's Silver Jubilee were

deliberated. The meet fostered a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose among leaders.

KEY GATHERINGS: NURTURING SALESIAN SPIRIT

SPCSA COUNCIL MEETING

From August 6 to 7, 2024, the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia (SPCSA) convened at Kallukuzhy following the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Attended by Rev. Fr. Biju Michael, SPCSA Secretary, and all the Provincials of South Asia, the two-day meeting focused on strategic initiatives and the shared mission of the Salesians. The impeccable hospitality provided by the Kallukuzhy community ensured a seamless and productive gathering.

PERPETUAL PROFESSION PREPARATION

On September 14, 2024, clerics preparing for their perpetual profession came together for an enriching day of reflection at the Provincial House. Sessions on the evangelical counsels were followed by an outing to Sengipatti Farm, offering a perfect balance of spiritual depth and community bonding.

BATCH MEETINGS: STRENGTHENING FRATERNAL BONDS

IRUDAYAKULAM AND VALAM RETREAT CENTER MEETS

The first batch meeting for confreres professed between 1992 and 2001 took place on August 23-24 at Irudayakulam, while confreres from the 2002-2008 batch gathered at Valam Retreat Centre on October 25-26. Animated by speakers like Fr. Arul Ambrose and Fr. Selva Kumar, sessions addressed Youth Ministry for the Present Generation and AI Tools in Youth Ministry, respectively. These meetings concluded with recreational outings, fostering camaraderie and relaxation.

VADIPATTI MEET FOR SENIOR CONFRERES

Confreres professed before 1991 gathered at the Divine Word Centre, Vadipatti, on November 8-9, for a deeply enriching experience. The program featured sessions by Fr. Arul Ambrose, who provided insights into contemporary youth ministry, and Sr. T. Arockiamary, who emphasized the significance of apostolic engagements. Fr. Arockia Selvakumar delivered a session exploring "The Role of Artificial Intelligence

in Modern Ministry,” inspiring the confreres to embrace technological advancements in their pastoral work. Fr. John Dharmanathan concluded the meet with a comprehensive scientific study of the province, which served as the foundation for a moderated assembly, encouraging collaborative discussions and collective reflections.

SALESIAN BROTHERS MEET

On October 5-6, 2024, Salesian Brothers from INT and INM provinces convened for their annual meeting. Discussions focused on evaluating their ministries and missions. Both provincials and the vice provincial of INM participated, ensuring robust dialogue and valuable insights. Br. Edwin Arockiadoss coordinated the program, reinforcing the vital role of Salesian Brothers in the mission.

MID-YEAR EVALUATION: COMMISSIONS AND DEPARTMENTS UNITE

On November 30, 2024, all Commissions and Departments of the province gathered at the Provincial House for a mid-year evaluation. Heads and members presented detailed reports, reflecting their progress, challenges, and plans. The session emphasized methodological precision and strategic alignment, strengthening the collaborative efforts of the province.



“UNITY IS STRENGTH. WHEN THERE IS TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION, WONDERFUL THINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED.” – Mattie Stepanek

DON'T HATE THE MEDIA, BECOME THE MEDIA.

The achievements of Don Bosco Alaihal Media reflect its unwavering commitment to excellence, creativity, and service. By prioritizing impactful activities and fostering a culture of innovation, the media centre continues to inspire and transform communities. As it moves forward, Alaihal Media stands poised to redefine social communication and evangelization, ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come.

INTRODUCTION

Don Bosco Alaihal Media, located in Manikandam, Tiruchy, has emerged as a leader in integrating technology, faith, and community outreach. Between June and November 2024, the media centre spearheaded a range of impactful initiatives in education, evangelization, and environmental awareness. This mid-year report highlights the strides made by Alaihal Media, showcasing their commitment to empowering youth, fostering creativity, and addressing contemporary challenges through innovative communication strategies.

PIONEERING TRAINING PROGRAMS

Don Bosco Alaihal Media facilitated transformative training sessions that blended technical proficiency with creative expression. Key achievements included:

- Graphic Design and Videography: Workshops

equipped participants with expertise in tools like Photoshop and Premiere Pro, fostering skills in digital storytelling.

- Photography Skills Development: Specialized sessions in candid, wedding, and rural photography empowered individuals to capture narratives that resonate with their communities.

- Technical and Media Training: Outreach programs for engineering and agricultural students emphasized practical application, sustainability, and career readiness.

These initiatives nurtured a generation of skilled individuals ready to use media as a force for social good.

CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION

Alaihal Media consistently produced high-quality content that resonated with diverse audiences:

- **Eco Club Video Series:** Educational videos emphasizing environmental conservation inspired action among youth and adults.
- **Liturgical Resources:** The Thiruppadalgal video series provided weekly spiritual enrichment to communities across the region.
- **Documentary Collaborations:** Projects with institutions like Holy Cross College showcased impactful narratives, bridging education and spirituality.

The Alaihal Media YouTube Channel became a hub for engaging, educational, and socially relevant content, reaching a wide and growing audience.

DYNAMIC ANIMATION PROGRAMS

The centre's animation efforts addressed the needs of youth, educators, and religious leaders through innovative workshops and seminars:

- **Artificial Intelligence and Evangelization:** A groundbreaking seminar at the CBCI National Catechetical Conference explored the role of AI in pastoral work and evangelization.
- **Social Media Management:** Training sessions equipped participants to navigate the digital world responsibly and align online presence with their spiritual and educational goals.
- **Educator Empowerment:** Programs like the one at Nirmala Hr. Sec. School helped teachers integrate technology into their classrooms effectively, enhancing learning experiences.

These initiatives strengthened the media literacy and technical skills of participants, enabling them to become agents of change in their communities.





“In every child, even the most difficult, there is an angel waiting to be awakened.” – St. John Bosco



NETWORKING AND EVENT MANAGEMENT

Don Bosco Alaihal Media’s ability to collaborate with diverse organizations set a benchmark for excellence in event management and outreach:

- Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival: The center played a pivotal role in organizing this international celebration of youth creativity.
- Illuminaire Media Conference: A premier event that fostered media literacy, cultural appreciation, and networking among media professionals and enthusiasts.
- Partnerships and Collaborations: Engaging with Boscom, ISCAI, and local educational institutions amplified the impact of their programs.

These events underscored Alaihal Media’s reputation as a hub for fostering creativity and meaningful dialogue.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND ADAPTATIONS

Despite challenges like overlapping events and resource constraints, Alaihal Media focused on high-impact activities that aligned with its mission. Notable achievements included:

- Climate Mitigation Campaigns: Creative media projects raised awareness and inspired action on environmental issues.
- Jubilee Documentations: The centre documented the rich legacy of the INT Province during its Silver Jubilee celebrations.
- Educational Media Productions: Inspiring films and digital resources bridged the gap between education and spirituality.

Their adaptability and focus ensured significant outreach and quality delivery of their initiatives.

PROTECT CHILDREN WITH LOVE AND LAW

Don Bosco Nest, Tiruppur, stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment. Through its diverse programs, including seminars on child protection, emergency preparedness, skill development, and cultural celebrations, the institution continues to uplift communities and inspire individuals to lead meaningful lives. With a commitment to holistic development and social responsibility, Don Bosco Nest is shaping a brighter future for all.

“PROTECT CHILDREN WITH LOVE AND LAW” SEMINAR

In an effort to address the pressing issue of child safety, Don Bosco Nest organized a seminar titled “Protect Children with Love and Law,” which brought together over 50 participants, including school teachers, NGO staff, and child protection advocates. The seminar aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools required to safeguard the rights and well-being of children.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Legal Awareness: Mr. Viviliyaraja, a former District

Child Protection Officer, delivered an in-depth session on various child protection laws, including the POCSO Act, and provided practical strategies for handling cases of abuse and neglect.

- Behavioral Insights: Mrs. Jacqueline from Home Link emphasized the importance of understanding children’s emotions, recognizing signs of distress, and creating safe environments that foster open communication. The seminar featured interactive case studies, group discussions, and role plays, enabling participants to develop a comprehensive understanding of child protection. Attendees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn actionable steps for protecting children and creating a nurturing environment.



**FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING:
SAVING LIVES, BUILDING
CONFIDENCE**

To enhance the community's preparedness for emergencies, Don Bosco Nest conducted a First Responder Training program. This initiative targeted staff, students, and representatives from Young at Risk (YAR) presences, with the aim of equipping them with life-saving skills.

TRAINING OBJECTIVES:

- **Emergency Recognition:** Participants learned to identify critical situations, including airway obstructions and cardiac arrest.
- **CPR and Basic First Aid:** Practical sessions on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first aid empowered attendees to act confidently during crises.
- **Scenario Simulations:** Real-life scenarios were enacted to give participants hands-on experience in managing emergencies effectively.

Led by Mr. Edwin from the APEX Skill Development Centre for Healthcare in Chennai, the program emphasized the critical role of first responders in

minimizing casualties and promoting a culture of safety. Attendees left the session feeling empowered and ready to handle emergencies with confidence and care.

**TAILORING COURSE
GRADUATION: EMPOWERING
LIVES**

The culmination of the tailoring course at Don Bosco Nest was celebrated with a grand graduation ceremony. The event recognized the efforts of 35 women who

completed the course and demonstrated remarkable skill and perseverance.

Special Awareness Session:

Mrs. Sherin Asha, a renowned social worker, conducted an engaging session on essential topics such as physical health, child care, nutrition, and the importance of women's empowerment in building stronger communities. Her talk inspired the graduates to embrace their roles as change-makers within their families



and neighbourhoods. Certificates of completion were awarded to the graduates, symbolizing their readiness to embark on entrepreneurial ventures or secure employment. The graduates expressed heartfelt gratitude for the training, which they credited with transforming their lives and providing them with opportunities for financial independence.

MINI MIGRANT YOUTH MELA: ENERGIZE, INSPIRE, ACHIEVE

The Mini Migrant Youth Mela 2024 was a vibrant and spirited gathering that aimed to celebrate the resilience and contributions of migrant youth. Held at Don Bosco Nest, the event brought together over 100 young migrants for a day of learning, camaraderie, and cultural expression.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Eucharistic Celebration:** The day began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration, offering participants a chance for spiritual renewal.
- **Cultural Programs:** Participants showcased their talents through traditional dances, songs, and skits that highlighted the rich cultural heritage of the migrant community.
- **Interactive Games:** Engaging party games and group activities fostered teamwork and strengthened bonds among the youth.

Dynamic leadership was provided by four deacons from the Dimapur Province, who ensured the event ran smoothly. The Provincial and Economer of the Trichy Province, serving as chief guests, lauded the efforts of the youth and encouraged them to persevere despite challenges. The mela concluded with a message of hope and a commitment to supporting migrant communities.



**“SERVICE TO OTHERS
IS THE RENT WE PAY
FOR OUR ROOM HERE
ON EARTH.”**

- Muhammad Ali

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Don Bosco Varadarajanpet stands as a beacon of excellence, shaping generations through education, spirituality, and holistic development. The vibrant activities and milestones of 2024 reflect the institution's enduring commitment to transforming lives and empowering communities.

PTA GENERAL BODY MEETING

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) General Body Meeting held on 29 June 2024 was a testament to the strong bond between the school and its parent community. With nearly 1,500 parents in attendance, the event featured insightful talks by Mr. Suresh, Sub-Inspector of Andimadam Police Station, and Mr. Selvaraj, DCPO (in-charge) of Ariyalur. Their messages highlighted the importance of holistic education and parental involvement.

The meeting celebrated the staff's achievement of centum results in the last academic year. Additionally, the PTA executive meeting prior to the general body session outlined upcoming events for the school's Diamond Jubilee Year celebrations.

SCHOLARSHIPS: EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

Fr. V.T. Sebastian Financial Support Scheme: On 3 August 2024, Mr. M. Jesudoss, a retired bank manager and alumnus of Don Bosco, distributed scholarships to eight graduates of 2024. Each received Rs. 10,000 to support their higher education. His son, Mr. Felix, joined him in honouring the memory of Fr. V.T. Sebastian. Mr. Jesudoss' heartfelt gratitude toward the Salesians underscored the transformative role of the school in his life.



Visit of Mr. S. Don Bosco:
Another illustrious alumnus, Mr. S. Don Bosco, Senior Vice President of an American software company in New York, visited the school. He inspired 12th Standard students to dream big and pursue their goals with determination. His address during the school assembly was a moment of pride and inspiration for the entire community.

INAUGURATION OF GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS

On 5 July 2024, the school inaugurated its various student groups and movements. Fr. A. Rozario Antony, Youth Director of Tiruchy Province, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Student leaders, including the SPL, ASPL, house captains, and group leaders, took a solemn pledge to uphold their responsibilities. Scholarships and uniforms were distributed to commemorate the school's Diamond Jubilee, benefitting 60 and 35 students, respectively.

COMPETITIONS AND TRAININGS

Chess Competition: A chess tournament held on 11 July 2024 saw students competing in Under-14, Under-17, and Under-19 categories, showcasing their strategic acumen and concentration.

NCC Activities: Regular parade and training sessions were conducted for NCC cadets under the guidance of Mr. Stalin. Army personnel from NCC Chidambaram, including JCOs and Havildars, visited the school to motivate the cadets.

Group Counselling Sessions:

From 9 to 11 July 2024, the Don Bosco Cares Department organized group counselling sessions for senior students. Facilitated by Fr. David Ryan and Fr. Justin Sengol, these sessions addressed academic and personal challenges, equipping students with coping strategies.

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT DAY

On 15 July 2024, the school celebrated the birth anniversary of freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, K. Kamaraj. Dr. Arun Mozhi, MD (Siddha) and an alumnus, inspired students with his achievements. Essay and speech competition winners were awarded prizes, and merit certificates were distributed to academically outstanding students.

SPORTS DAY

The 60th Annual Sports Day, held on 19 July 2024, was a grand celebration of athleticism and teamwork. The day began with colourful



parades and mass drills, followed by track and field events. Heats conducted earlier identified top performers who competed with zeal. Participants were awarded medals, certificates, and gifts, celebrating their achievements.

Zonal and District-Level Championships: In September 2024, school athletes excelled at zonal, and district-level meets, securing overall championships. Preparations are underway for state-level competitions, thanks to the dedication of physical education staff, Mr. Arockiam and Mr. Kaspar.

SALESIAN PIETY

The school continued its tradition of fostering spiritual growth through monthly commemorations of Mary Help of Christians and St. John Bosco, First Friday Masses, Marian Month programs, and term-wise recollections and confessions. Bosco Hostel students actively participated in these spiritual exercises, strengthening their faith.

TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION

On 5 September 2024, Teachers' Day was celebrated with the theme, "The influence of a good teacher can never be erased." The day began with a Holy Eucharist,

followed by cultural programs and a tea party organized by students. Teachers were honoured with gifts, and the event culminated in a friendly volleyball match between staff and students.

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The Diamond Jubilee celebration on 19 October 2024 was a historic milestone. The day began with a solemn thanksgiving Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. Agilan, Provincial of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy. Rector and Correspondent Fr. Thomas Louis welcomed everyone, reflecting on six decades of blessings.

The event included felicitation ceremonies and cultural programs, highlighting the school's legacy of excellence. Dignitaries such as Mr. Ka. So. Ka. Kannan, MLA of Jeyankondam, Mr. E. Sivanandham, CEO of Ariyalur District, and Mr. Balasubramanian, DEO, graced the occasion. Commemorative souvenirs, including special T-shirts for staff and students, added a memorable touch to the celebrations.

VILATHIKULAM

THERE IS NO PLANET B

The Don Bosco Mission, Vilathikulam, has made 2024 a year of impactful initiatives, blending education, empowerment, and community building. Through its diverse activities, the mission continues to inspire hope and foster resilience among the people it serves, embodying the Salesian spirit of service and transformation.

INDEPENDENCE DAY AND YOUTH DAY CELEBRATIONS

Date: 14th August 2024

The Don Bosco Mission at Vilathikulam marked a triple celebration on August 14, 2024, combining the spirit of Independence Day and Youth Day. A total of 66 young participants joined the festivities, which were imbued with patriotism and a call to youth empowerment.

HONOURING THE NATIONAL FLAG AND HEROES OF INDEPENDENCE

The day began with the solemn hoisting of the National Flag, followed by

a collective singing of the National Anthem. Patriotic fervour was further ignited through speeches delivered by the youth, who eloquently highlighted the sacrifices of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Bhagat Singh. Skits and role plays brought these historical struggles to life, captivating the audience with their creativity and poignancy. Enthusiastic renditions of patriotic songs filled the air, creating an atmosphere of unity and pride.

YOUTH DAY SEMINAR: LEADERSHIP AND NATION-BUILDING

A seminar titled “Youth as Agents of Change” was the cornerstone of the day. The session covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Leadership and Responsibility: Inspiring the youth to identify and tackle challenges within their communities with courage and innovation.



- **Skill Development:** Practical advice on honing technological, environmental, and social skills essential for progress.
- **Unity in Diversity:** Emphasizing inclusivity and mutual respect in a multicultural nation. Interactive activities and Q&A sessions encouraged participants to share their ideas and aspirations. A young attendee remarked, "This seminar has opened our eyes to the immense potential within us to shape our nation's future."

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WEEK

Date: 22nd - 29th September 2024

The Don Bosco Mission organized an impactful Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week, reaching over 536 participants across 10 Night Study Centre Villages. This week-long event combined education, action, and community engagement to promote global awareness and local responsibility.

SEMINARS ON LIFE COPING SKILLS

Led by professional counselors, seminars focused on essential life coping skills such as stress management,

effective communication, and building emotional resilience. Gender equality workshops challenged societal norms, fostering dialogue about equal opportunities and respect.

CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS RALLIES

Three rallies were conducted in Kovilpatti, each featuring slogans like "There is No Planet B" and "Act Now: Stop Pollution." Participants carried creative placards and banners, drawing attention to pressing environmental issues. These rallies inspired villagers to adopt sustainable practices, from waste reduction to tree planting, as tangible actions against climate change.

Young participants shared their reflections, with one stating, "This week has shown us that small actions can make a big difference in preserving our planet for future generations."

VISIT OF THE PROVINCIAL TO DON BOSCO MISSION

Date: 3rd - 4th November 2024

The Provincial's visit was a milestone for the Don Bosco Mission, offering a blend of encouragement, evaluation, and spiritual renewal.

Day 1: Engaging with the Mission Community

The Provincial began his visit by reviewing the mission's progress with the Salesian community. He presided over the Sunday Eucharistic celebration at St. Antony's Church, delivering an inspiring homily on the themes of faith, service, and community. In the evening, he visited the Kulathur Night Study Centre, where he felicitated Master Jeya Sunder, a national karate champion, praising his achievements as a testament to dedication and discipline.

Day 2: Strategic

DiscussionsThe second day was devoted to strategic discussions with the staff of Vembu and Valamai. The Provincial emphasized innovative approaches to community engagement and teamwork, leaving attendees motivated to enhance their impact on local development.

CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Date: 17th November 2024

Children's Day at Vilathikulam was a vibrant event that brought together 158 children from 11 Night Study Centres. The celebrations were meticulously planned to provide a joyful and

enriching experience for all participants.

CULTURAL COMPETITIONS

A variety of competitions were organized, including drawing, speech, mime, and folk arts. The children’s creativity and enthusiasm were evident in every performance. The drawing competition showcased artistic talent, while the speech contest highlighted their ability to express ideas eloquently. The mime performances, with their silent storytelling, left the audience mesmerized, and the folk arts competitions celebrated traditional cultural expressions.

GUEST ADDRESS AND PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

Inspector A. Sakthivel, the chief guest, delivered an inspiring address emphasizing the importance of education, discipline, and values in shaping responsible citizens. His words resonated with both children and parents, encouraging them to pursue excellence in all aspects of life. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners were honoured with certificates and gifts.

COMMUNITY BONDING

The day also served as

a platform for fostering community spirit. Parents and staff members expressed their appreciation for the meticulous organization and the opportunities provided to the children. A senior organizer shared, “Children’s Day reminds us of the limitless potential within every child and our role in nurturing it.”

ANNUAL RETREAT AND COMMUNITY REFLECTION

On October 5th and 6th, 2024, Don Bosco Mission organized a two-day annual retreat for staff and volunteers. The retreat was centred on the theme “Walking in Faith and Serving with Compassion,” featuring keynote sessions, meditative reflections, and group prayers. Facilitated by Fr. Ignatius, the retreat concluded with the Holy Eucharist, leaving participants spiritually rejuvenated and aligned with their mission.

Skill Development Initiatives

Don Bosco Mission’s commitment to empowerment was evident in its ongoing skill development programs. Tailoring classes for women equipped 40 participants with marketable skills, enabling them to pursue self-employment opportunities. Computer literacy workshops

introduced local youth to the basics of IT, enhancing their employability in a digital age. Agricultural training sessions educated farmers on sustainable practices, promoting eco-friendly farming methods.



ENRICHING EXPERIENCES AND FELLOWSHIP

Don Bosco Retreat, Yercaud, continues to be a hub of spiritual, academic, and communal growth. The activities from July to October 2024 reflect the community's commitment to holistic development, fostering a vibrant spirit of learning, service, and unity.

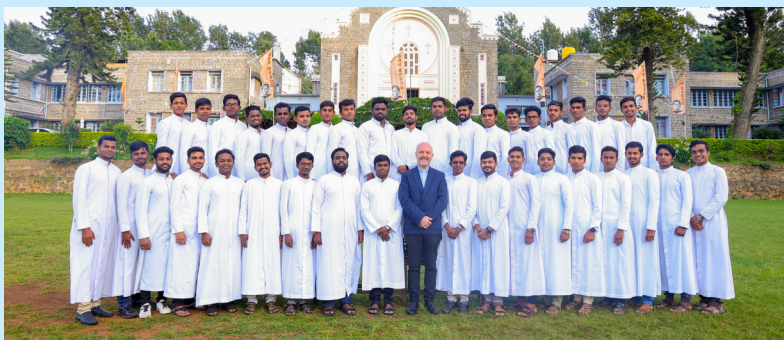
JULY: A MONTH OF INSIGHTS AND CELEBRATIONS

INM PROVINCE FEAST

On 3rd July, the Retreat community celebrated the feast of St. Thomas alongside the province feast of Chennai. The Eucharistic celebration, presided over by Fr. Jerome Hendry, was dedicated to praying for the Chennai Province, its provincial and council members, and all confreres. Post-mass, heartfelt wishes were extended to Fr. Jerome, Br. Arun, and other Chennai Province members. The festivities included special games for the brothers and culminated in a solemn lunch, fostering community spirit.

SEMINAR ON PSYCHO-SEXUAL INTEGRATION

On 4th July, a profoundly insightful seminar on psycho-sexual integration was conducted for all student brothers, led by Fr.



Gnanadas. Topics covered included healthy emotional development, the integration of sexuality with spirituality, and understanding personal identity. Practical tools and reflective exercises provided valuable frameworks for personal growth and mission alignment. Brothers actively participated in discussions, and the overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted the seminar's transformative impact.

BIRTHDAY OF FR. SIMON RAJ

The Retreat community joyously celebrated the birthday of Fr. Simon Raj, Vice Rector and Principal, on 19th July. Morning prayers and blessings set the tone for the day, while the evening featured a special birthday mass and a lively family circle gathering. Brothers presented creative programs that added vibrancy and joy to the occasion.

SEMINAR ON CATECHETICS

On 29th July, a seminar on catechetics led by Fr. Antony Christy provided a pioneering perspective on religious education. Key topics included leveraging technology in catechesis, creating engaging lesson plans, and deepening the understanding of sacraments. Participants left empowered

with innovative strategies to enhance faith formation across age groups.

AUGUST: MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Visit of the Vicar General
On 3rd August, the community welcomed Fr. Stefano Martoglio, Vicar General of the Salesian Congregation. His visit was marked by a special Eucharistic celebration where he delivered an inspiring homily on faith and service. Fr. Martoglio engaged with various groups, offering invaluable guidance and fostering unity. Student brothers benefited greatly from personal interactions with him, leaving them motivated to implement his insightful recommendations.

YOUNG SALESIANS MEET

Also on 3rd August, the Retreat hosted the Young Salesians Meet, graced by Fr. Stefano Martoglio. This gathering emphasized psycho-sexual integration, spiritual growth, and leadership development. Young Salesians shared experiences and aspirations, renewing their commitment to community service and Salesian values. The event left participants enriched and inspired.

SEMINAR ON GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

On 5th August, Fr. Renigo Roy conducted a seminar on general psychology for philosophy students. Topics included cognitive development, mental health, and behavioral therapy. Engaging discussions and practical exercises enhanced understanding and application of psychological principles. Feedback highlighted the seminar's relevance and its significant contribution to the brothers' academic and personal growth.

ASSUMPTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

The solemnity of the Assumption on 15th August was celebrated with great reverence. The liturgy included special prayers, hymns, and reflections on Mary's role in salvation history. The occasion also marked India's 77th Independence Day with the hoisting of the national flag and patriotic celebrations, creating a blend of spiritual and national pride.

SEPTEMBER: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEARNING

INT PROVINCE FEAST

The feast of Our Lady of Velankanni on 7th September

doubled as the province feast for Trichy Province. The community celebrated with a solemn mass and felicitations for Trichy confreres. The day highlighted gratitude for past achievements and discussions on future endeavours.

SCOUT MASTER'S COURSE

On 8th September, the community hosted a Scout Master's Course that provided rigorous training in leadership, outdoor skills, and youth mentorship. Participants engaged in practical sessions and team-building activities, equipping them to lead scout troops with confidence and dedication.

BIRTHDAY OF FR. ARUL ANTONY

On 12th September, the birthday of Fr. Arul Antony, Administrator of the Retreat, was celebrated with warmth and joy. The evening's special mass and family circle gathering were filled with heartfelt messages, music, and dance, making the event memorable for all.

OCTOBER: ENRICHING EXPERIENCES AND FELLOWSHIP

PROVINCIAL VISITATION

From 15th October, the Provincial Visitation by Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam was a significant and

enriching experience for the community. Engaging with various groups, the Provincial provided strategic guidance and constructive feedback on community activities. The visitation concluded with a special mass, where his homily emphasized unity, faith, and dedication, leaving the community invigorated.

Birthday of Br. Arun Kumar

On 16th October, Br. Arun Kumar's birthday was celebrated with great enthusiasm. The day began with a thanksgiving mass and continued with a lively family gathering, where community members expressed their appreciation through heartfelt messages, music, and games.

CURATORIUM

On 18th October, the Curatorium meeting brought together Provincials and Vice Provincials from both provinces alongside Retreat council members. The discussions covered curriculum development, faculty recruitment, and student welfare. Collaborative efforts aimed to enhance the institution's academic and formative standards.

COMMUNITY DAY

The Community Day on 22nd October, themed "To Be

United in Heart and Mind," was a vibrant celebration of fellowship. Activities included sports competitions, cultural performances, and a communal feast. The event strengthened bonds and created lasting memories.

COOKING PICNIC

On 23rd October, the community enjoyed a delightful cooking picnic at Asambur. Members prepared and shared meals in a scenic outdoor setting, exchanging culinary tips and enjoying fellowship. The day was marked by fun, food, and camaraderie.

Seminar on Hermeneutics

On 25th October, Fr. Robert from Tirupattur conducted a seminar on hermeneutics for philosophy students. The sessions explored interpretative methods for sacred scriptures, emphasizing the importance of context, historical background, and personal reflection. Lively discussions and practical exercises enriched the participants' understanding and skills.



EDUCATION TO FAITH

Christodayam serves as a beacon of light, guiding individuals to deepen their faith and live a meaningful life rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Through its dedicated efforts, the department continues to inspire, educate, and empower catechists and Basic Christian Community (BCC) leaders, fostering a spirit of collaboration and servant leadership within the Salesian Province of Tiruchy.

CATECHIST TRAINING PROGRAMS

In July 2024, Christodayam conducted three zonal-level catechist training programs across Amsam, K. Pudur, and Keelaeral, bringing together a total of 99 participants. These sessions were designed to rekindle the participants' sense of purpose and mission, emphasizing the theme of "Proclaiming the Good News."

The training explored practical strategies for effective catechesis, empowering participants to inspire and guide their

communities. Through interactive discussions, workshops, and reflections, the catechists gained valuable insights and tools to strengthen their role as faith educators. The sessions fostered a collaborative environment, encouraging participants to share their experiences, challenges, and best practices.

BCC LEADERS TRAINING

Between September and November 2024, three zonal-level BCC leaders training sessions were organized in Amsam, Vilathikulam, and Nettur, with 264 participants in attendance. These programs aimed to equip leaders with the knowledge, skills, and methods needed to guide their Christian communities effectively.

Focusing on the principles of servant leadership, the training highlighted the teachings of Jesus Christ as a model for Christian



leadership. Leaders were encouraged to serve with humility and compassion, embodying Christ’s message in their actions and decisions. Through thought-provoking discussions and case studies, the sessions deepened participants’ understanding of their responsibilities and inspired them to lead with integrity and selflessness.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND COLLABORATION

The true success of these events lay not only in the knowledge imparted but also in the strong sense of community and collaboration they fostered. Catechists and BCC leaders from diverse backgrounds came together, united by their shared mission of faith formation. The programs created a platform for meaningful dialogue, mutual support, and collective growth, strengthening the fabric of the Christian community in the Salesian Province of Tiruchy.



PAST PUPILS

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

The Association of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco continues to embody the spirit of Don Bosco through its commitment to community, faith, and service. The events of 2024 reflect a shared dedication to fostering unity, supporting the underprivileged, and carrying forward the Salesian mission with pride and purpose. United in their mission, the past pupils remain a living testament to the enduring legacy of Don Bosco.

LOCAL DELEGATES MEET

The Local Delegates Meeting for the year 2024-25 was held on June 15, 2024, at Don Bosco Maiyam, Pallithammam. The meeting witnessed the participation of 13 dedicated delegates, complemented by the virtual presence of Mr. Santhosh, the Province President, through Google Meet. In his online address, Mr. Santhosh encouraged delegates to strengthen relationships with past pupils in their respective units, ensuring that Don Bosco's mission continues to thrive.

A special address by Mr. Prabakaran, a distinguished alumnus of Don Bosco School, Pallithammam, added a personal and inspiring touch. Sharing his journey of growth and success, he expressed deep gratitude to Don Bosco for shaping his future. Delegates also presented updates on activities within their units and laid out plans for the upcoming year.

Fr. Henry Dominic, SDB, the Provincial Delegate, played a pivotal role in organizing the meeting. He emphasized the invaluable role of past pupils as a treasured resource and urged delegates to actively mentor and support them. Fr. Henry proposed initiatives to assist underprivileged youth and children, encapsulating Don Bosco's spirit of service. His message, "To know, love, help one another, and keep united," resonated deeply, inspiring all to work with "one heart and one mind."



PAST PUPILS PARTICIPATE IN SALESIAN FAMILY EVENTS

Approximately 40 past pupils actively participated in the Province Silver Jubilee celebration alongside members of the Salesian Family on August 4, 2024, at Don Bosco, Manikandam. The event was graced by Rev. Fr. Stefano Martoglio, Vicar of the Rector Major, who inspired all with his presence. The celebration was a moment of gratitude for God's blessings on the Salesian Province of Tiruchy and its mission to uplift underprivileged youth.

Several past pupils also attended the grand finale of the jubilee celebrations at Don Bosco, Thanjavur, on August 5, 2024. Additionally, a group of 25 past pupils participated in the Salesian Family Live-In Programme at Don Bosco Retreat, Yercaud, from October 1 to 2, 2024. These gatherings celebrated the shared Salesian identity and mission, fostering unity through prayer, interaction, and a renewed commitment to Don Bosco's apostolic vision.

PARTICIPATION IN THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL WORLD ASSEMBLY (EGWA)

Three representatives from the INT Province—Mr. Kennedy

from Tiruchy Metro Unit, Mr. Ithayaventhen from Varadarajanpet Unit, and Fr. Henry Dominic, SDB, the Provincial Delegate—attended the Extraordinary General World Assembly (EGWA) of Don Bosco Past Pupils in Valdocco, Turin, from October 2 to 6, 2024. This global event brought together 200 past pupils from nearly 40 countries, commemorating the 150th anniversary of Carlo Gastini, the first past pupil who presented Don Bosco with a symbolic coffee set.

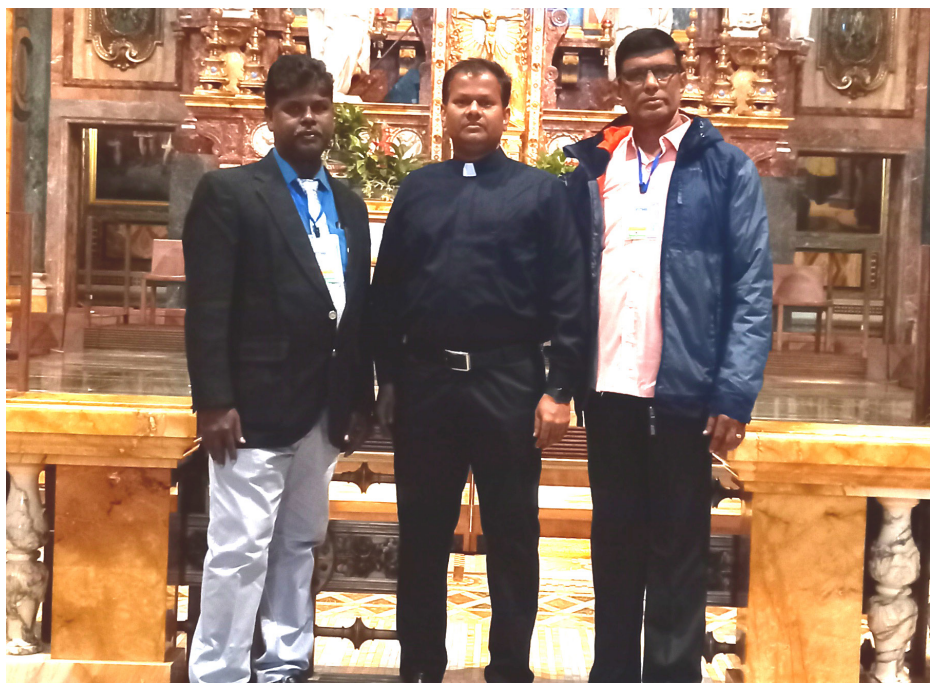
The assembly revolved around the theme, "Reflect on our past, discern the present, and shape the future," encouraging unity, synodality, and proactive engagement with contemporary challenges. Discussions focused on how past pupils can contribute meaningfully

to their communities, the Salesian Family, society, and the Church.

Amendments to the statutes of the World Confederation of Don Bosco Past Pupils were finalized, and multilingual workshops in English, Italian, French, and Spanish facilitated meaningful exchanges. Participants embarked on a Salesian pilgrimage, visiting landmarks such as Casa Don Bosco in Valdocco, the Seminary at Chieri, and Colle Don Bosco. These experiences deepened their connection to Don Bosco's legacy, leaving a lasting impression.

PROVINCE ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy took place on November 24, 2024, at Don Bosco College of Arts and Science (DBCAS), Keela Eral.



The event brought together 75 members representing 11 past pupils' units.

Rev. Fr. Xavier Michael, SDB, the Vice Provincial, presided over the AGM, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong ties with Don Bosco and living lives rooted in values and virtues. Fr. Rajadevan, SDB, Rector and Secretary of DBCAS, shared inspiring experiences, highlighting the transformative power of Don Bosco's teachings.

The chief guest, Mr. Sathiyarayan, a Software Engineer at Infosys and a past pupil of DBCAS, reflected on how the Salesians played a formative role in his life. He encouraged participants to aspire beyond mediocrity and persevere in achieving meaningful goals.

Mr. Santhosh, the Province President, alongside Mr. Allwyn Dickson, the Treasurer, and Mr. Pounraj, the Local Unit President, ensured the smooth conduct of the event. Cultural performances by local unit members enriched the proceedings, and group discussions focused on enhancing activities, increasing enrolment, and streamlining documentation within the units. The AGM

concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks by Mr. Raja, Vice President, recognizing the efforts of all contributors in making the event a resounding success.



விருதுவாக்கு 2025 அருட்பணி. ஸ்டெஃபனோ மர்த்தோலியோ ச.ச.
சலேசிய உலகத் தலைவரின் பதிலாளர்



எதிர்நோக்கில் நங்கூரம் ஊன்றி இளைஞர்களுடன் திருப்பயணிகளாக



**“Christ is born to renew
our hearts and rekindle our
mission.”**

May the birth of our Savior fill our hearts
with divine joy and strengthen our resolve
to serve with love and humility. As we cel-
ebrate the wonder of the Incarnation, let
us renew our commitment to be bearers
of Christ’s light in our ministries and
communities.



MERRY

Christmas

&

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2025