

SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI TIRUCHY

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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

NOVEMBER 2025

DEAR CONFRERES, SALESIAN FAMILY AND BELOVED YOUNG PEOPLE

Cordial greetings of peace and joy to you all ...

As we journey through the month of November, the Church invites us to pause and reflect on the profound mysteries of life, death, and eternity through the beautiful commemorations of [All Saints Day](#) and [All Souls Day](#). These days offer us a unique opportunity to live out the truth of the Communion of Saints—the spiritual bond between the faithful on earth, the saints in heaven, and the souls being purified in Purgatory.

On [01 November](#), we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. This is not merely a day to honour the saints formally canonized by the Church, but a joyful celebration of the vast multitude of believers—both known and unknown to us—who have attained the glory of heaven, the Church Triumphant. The lives of the saints, from biblical figures to our own deceased Salesian Confreres, inspire us to strive for holiness in our daily lives. They are our models and intercessors, showing us that the call to be saints is a call meant for each of us. This feast reminds us that our final destiny is to be with God in heaven. It fills us with the hope of eternal life and the joy of knowing that our Salesian life, lived with fidelity to Don Bosco's charism, prepares us for this ultimate reunion.



Following All Saints Day, we observe the solemn commemoration of All Souls Day, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, on [02 November](#). This day is dedicated to praying for the souls of the departed faithful, the Church Penitent, who are still undergoing purification in Purgatory before entering heaven. As Salesians, our love for the young and the neediest extends beyond this life. Praying for the faithful departed is a profound act of spiritual mercy and charity. Our prayers, especially the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, along with our alms and sacrifices, are efficacious in helping these souls hasten their entry into the joy of the Beatific Vision. Let us remember in a special way all the deceased Salesians of our Province, all members of the Salesian Family, and our own family members and benefactors. We are deeply indebted to their dedication and sacrifices. Let our communities offer special prayers and Masses for their eternal repose.

May the intercession of the All Saints and our prayers for the faithful departed, bring comfort to all who mourn and a renewed sense of heavenly hope to our own life.

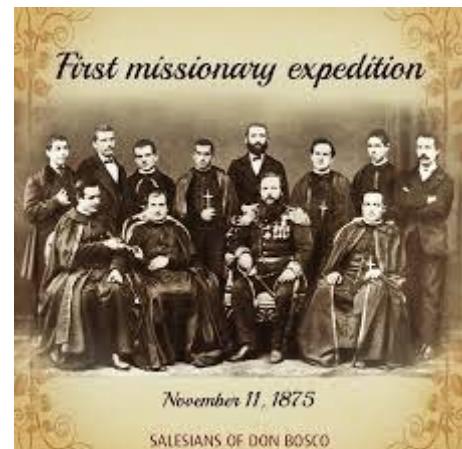
Diaconate Ministry

Dn. Antony Gunabalan of our province from Don Bosco Theological College Chennai, will be available from 15 November 2025 to 02 January 2026 for his diaconate ministry. He is assigned to Lourdes Shrine, Madurai. We wish him all the best that he may have enriching experiences in the diaconate ministry, a time specially dedicated to service and proclamation of the Word.

150th Year of Missionary Expedition – 11 November 2025

The celebration of the 150th year Missionary expedition at the congregational level is solemnly celebrated this year along with the province delegates of the missionary animation in Turin on 11 November 2025. Fr. Suresh Felix, the province delegate for Missionary Animation will be attending this event. We wish him a safe journey and all the best for a wonderful experience at the place of Don Bosco.

As a province, I exhort every community to celebrate this day in a festive manner. The youth service coordinators of our Province who are also the local coordinators of missionary animation could be instruments in making this day memorable and meaningful. The candidates from the four formation houses of our province are participating in the interprovincial (INT & INM) celebration at Don Bosco Tirupattur on 08 and 09 November 2025. I wish each community a joyful celebration and I encourage the confreres to grow with missionary zeal and to promote missionary vocation.



All Commissions and Departments Meet

On [15 November 2025](#), all the Commissions and Departments of our province will gather for the mid-year evaluation in [Don Bosco Provincial House, Tiruchy](#). The programme of the day in detail is already sent to you by the Youth Ministry Delegate of the Province. All the heads of Commissions and Departments are asked to bring the Activities Report and Implementation Report for the presentation and the format is already sent to you.

Community Audit – A Day of Reflection and Renewal

The Salesian Provincial Council of South Asia (SPCSA) invites all Salesian communities to observe [15 November](#), as a Day of 'Community Audit,' a time of prayerful reflection on how our communities have reached out to the poorest and most abandoned during the past year. This is a spiritual process of discernment, asking, "How did we actualize in our community and in our context, 'absolute priority for the poorest, the most abandoned and marginalized?' "How have we been signs and bearers of God's love to the poor and young in 2025?"

Let this reflection, as an individual community and as a province, inspire us to renew our commitment to Don Bosco's vision and to plan concrete steps for greater service to the poorest in 2026. I recommend the Leaders to ensure active participation on this initiative. More information and assistance will be circulated, towards the faithful observation of this day of 'Community Audit'.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

11	Tue	Missionary Day – 150 th Year
14	Fri	Provincial Council
15	Sat	All Commissions & Departments Mid-year Evaluation @ DBPH
29	Sat	Past Pupils General Body Meeting

Tri Monthly Recollection, Quarterly Assessment of the Temporary Professed

RECALLING EVENTS

Salesian Family Live-In

The Salesian Family Day was organized in our province on 01 and 02 October 2025 at Don Bosco School of Excellence, Vellakinar, Coimbatore. It was a two-day programme that began with group dynamics followed by Rosary and family circle on the first day, and the second day began with animated meditation, followed by animation on communion in the Salesian Family, Holy Eucharist before lunch, picnic to Karunya in the afternoon, and ended with tea in the FMA Narasipuram community. I extend my sincere gratitude to all the members of the Salesian Family who participated in the programme, the rector and confreres of Vellakinar community for hosting the event, looking into all the minute details, and the FMA Marialaya, FMA Narasipuram and Don Bosco Anbu Illam for making necessary arrangements. I also thank Fr. Xavier Michael, the vice provincial, Fr. Barnabas, Fr. Gamaliel, and Fr. Britto who facilitated the events of the day. Thanks to all the Rectors for sending many members of the Salesian Family which made the event memorable.

Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation

The clerics who come under the Salem zone had a day of animation on 04 November 2025, at DB Nest, Tiruppur. They were given input on the topic Guidance and Counselling by Fr. Arul Kumar. In the afternoon, they went on a pilgrimage to Karumathampatti. I thank the Rector and the confreres of DB Nest community for hosting the meeting. Similarly, the Madurai Zone had it on 18 November 2025 at Surya Nagar community. They were animated on the topic Salesian Assistance by Fr. Herbert Amos Gandhi. In the afternoon, they had a Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai. I express my gratitude to the Rector and confreres of Surya Nagar community for organizing the meeting.

Cooperators Elective Congress

The Elective Congress 2025 of the Association of Salesian Cooperators (ASC) was held on 25 October 2025 at Don Bosco Media, Manikandam, Trichy. Mr. David Swamikannu Antuvan, ISRO Senior Scientist (Retd.) and former ASC World Councillor presented the keynote

address on commitment and mission of the Salesian Cooperators in the modern world. ASC provincial council members were elected during the meeting. Around 105 cooperators participated in the meeting. I thank all the participants and Fr. John Barnabas, the provincial delegate of ASC, and the confreres of Manikandam community for coordinating the entire programme of the day. We congratulate the following members who were elected during the Congress:

Mr. Jothi Pragasam (DBAI Coimbatore Unit) – Province Coordinator
Mr. Manohar (LS Madurai Unit) – Secretary
Mr. Joseph (DB Thanjavur Unit) – Treasurer
Mr. Peter Arockiasamy (Sirudur Madurai Unit) – Formation In-Charge
Mr. Chinnappan (Nettur Unit) – Council Member
Mr. Soundararaj (Alangulam Unit) – Council Member
Mrs. Nirmala (Tiruppur Unit) – Council Member
Mrs. Sagayamary (Auxilium Thanjavur Unit) – Council Member

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

04.11.2020 – [Fr. Louis Kulangara](#) died at Tiruchy at the age of 76.

26.11.2022 – [Fr. Joseph Puthenkalam](#) died at Dindigul at the age of 94.

CONDOLENCES...

On behalf of the province, I offer my sincere condolences,

- To [Fr. Sesu Raj](#) at the demise of his father [Mr. Anthonisamy](#) (72) on 25 October 2025.

May the soul rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE PROVINCE OF TIRUCHY – WAY FORWARD

9. From Hostility to Hospitality: Reaching Out to Our Fellow Human Beings

Continuing from the theme of the first movement, namely, "From Loneliness to Solitude," I want to reflect on the second movement described by Henry Nouwen, which is "From Hostility to Hospitality." It is there that our changing relationship to ourselves can be brought to fruition in an ever-changing relationship to our fellow human beings. It is there that our reaching out to our innermost being can lead to a reaching out to the many strangers whom we meet on our way through life. Hospitality is one of the richest biblical terms that can deepen and broaden our insight into our relationships with our fellow human beings.

1. When Abraham received three strangers and offered them water, bread and a fine tender calf, they revealed themselves to him as the Lord announcing that Sarah, his wife, would give birth to a son. (Gen 18:1-15)

2. When the widow of Zarephath offered food and shelter to Elijah, he revealed himself as a man of God, offering her an abundance of oil and meal and raising her son from the dead. (I Kings 17:9-24)
3. When the two travellers to Emmaus invited the stranger who had joined them on the road to stay with them for the night, he made himself known in the breaking of the bread as their Lord and Saviour. (Lk 24:13-35)

Thus, when hostility is converted into hospitality, then fearful strangers can become guests, revealing to their hosts the promise they are carrying with them.

To fully appreciate what hospitality can mean, we possibly must first become strangers to ourselves. Imagine you are a traveller and happen to lose everything you have and are left with nothing to eat, nowhere to go and no one to help. You will learn what it is to be humble and thankful for a meal, a ride and totally at the mercy of chance. Only those who have experienced this agony will know the worth of hospitality. Experience always teaches us more than all that we read and come to know in life. Hospitality therefore means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place. To convert hostility into hospitality requires the creation of a friendly empty space where we can reach out to our fellow human beings and invite them to a new relationship. This conversion is an inner event that cannot be manipulated but must develop from within. Just as we cannot force a plant to grow but can take away the weeds and stones which prevent its development, so we cannot force anyone to such a personal and intimate change of heart, but we can offer the space where such a change can take place.

I remember well an incident I had written in the Intercom many years ago when I was doing my theology at Poonamallee. One day, I visited Don Bosco, Thanjavur. As soon as I entered the gate, one of the clerics noticed me and came running to greet me. He took my bag and, with a smiling face, accompanied me to the room. He made sure everything was in place and told me to refresh and be ready to go to the dining hall for tea. Meanwhile, he went downstairs to arrange for tea and then returned to invite me. He came along with me and remained with me till I had tea and snacks, and then he took me back to the room and made sure that I had everything for my comfortable stay. He informed the fathers about my arrival, and later I went on with my schedule. I could never forget the love and hospitality of the cleric that I wrote about this in a column for the province magazine. I also remember many confreres appreciating me for this article and acknowledging that this is "Salesian Hospitality." I was taught in the Aspirantate to practice hospitality like this, but I had not experienced it myself for many years till this incident took place. It made a deep impression on me, and I am always proud of being a Salesian who practices hospitality in letter and spirit till today.

It is wonderful to see so many Salesians living this hospitality to the full in each of our communities. That is the reason why many of the priests and religious like to come to our Salesian houses. I know very well some of the laypeople who could very well stay at the hotels prefer to stay at our Salesian homes not because they can save some money but more because of our love and hospitality. This is our tradition and heritage. While our hospitality towards strangers is so good in our communities, I want to examine our conscience regarding the hospitality we show to our own fellow confreres in the community. It is painful to come to know that we are back again to the disappeared anonymous letters in our province. How uncharitable are we to one another? Some people may say that when there is consultation for the new provincial, these are bound to happen. Or when there are some disturbances within the administration, these behaviours cannot be avoided. But it is precisely during these moments that we should behave as mature individuals and be strongly orientated in love towards one another. We criticize the politics in the world where one party is blaming the other and one group is using abusive language against another. But what is happening among us? It is nothing less. What about our spirituality? Should we not show explicitly in our lives that we love one another as brothers despite our own weaknesses and limitations? Let me suggest some ways in which we can move from hostility to hospitality.

Creating a Free and Friendly Space for Others

There used to be a simple way of dividing the teams during our summer camps or other group games. 4 captains will be called, and each of the 4 captains will choose a member each for his team. There will not be a problem for the first ones to be called but imagine the plight of the individuals who will be called at the end. Some of the members will not be chosen by any of the captains. I used to imagine if something similar happens in our communities and that option is given to the superiors to choose the confreres for their communities, what would be the situation for those who will be called at the end or who will never be called at all by anyone. It will be a tragedy. That is the reason we do not have this custom. I have heard that some of the congregations who follow this system, and I do not know whether it is true, but in religious life we certainly cannot exercise this sort of allotment of members for communities.

We need to create space for others despite their qualities, talents and potentials. For which we do not evaluate the members or assess them or compare them to the others, etc. But we certainly cannot leave the members as they are and allow them to do what they want either. That is why we talk about freedom with responsibility. I sincerely tried to create spaces for people to interact and share their views by way of several assemblies of confreres after the retreats and during the batch meetings. I firmly believed that it would help us all to come out of our closed circles and build a wider family of love at the province level. It was unfortunate that several confreres themselves suggested that we stop such a practice because the purpose is defeated, and a few confreres were making use of such a forum to wash their dirty linen in public and behaving in an immature manner by attacking

individual confreres, including the authority. Hence, I was forced to stop this practice. But personally, I am still of the conviction that this assembly of confreres will help us to break barriers and build communion. It will take some time for everyone to understand this. That's all.

Receptivity and Confrontation

A stranger or a community member needs to be received in a free and friendly space where he can reveal his gifts and become our friend. Reaching out to others without being receptive to them is more harmful than helpful and easily leads to manipulation and even to violence – violence in thoughts, words and actions. Really honest receptivity means inviting the other into our world on his or her terms and not ours.

But receptivity is only one side of hospitality. The other side, equally important, is confrontation. We are not hospitable when we leave our house to strangers/community members and let them use it in any way they want. An empty house is not a hospitable house. In fact, it quickly becomes a ghost house, making the stranger/member feel uncomfortable.

Confrontation has become carefrontation these days. It is true that the vocabulary has changed, but what about doing it in reality. This is also becoming difficult now in most of our communities. True hospitality is not allowing people to do whatever they want but in helping them to choose what is good for them. It is bitter to take some medicines, and the patients will avoid taking them. But this cannot be allowed, for the patient will not be healed without taking the medicines. All of us know this, but how many understand this? In our communities, we find the same phenomenon. No one wants to get a bad name, and hence there is no confrontation taking place when things go wrong. Every member leaves the job to the Rector, and if the Rector does not exercise it either, then the entire community will be left free without any responsibility.

Celebrating the Differences

Variety is taste. This is the experience of everyone. Even if it is the best, it cannot be enjoyed for a long time, whether it be food or entertainment or even persons. Differences bring in newness, and variety adds flavour. Hence, we should celebrate the differences in our communities. How wonderful is a family of young and old, men and women, black and white, tall and short, fat and thin, loud and soft, and so on! Such a family is not only becoming rare in the world but also in our religious communities. People seek to gather as one group hailing from the same village or belonging to the same caste or coming together as friends who have the same character and quality, etc. I was blamed when I appointed one Rector some years ago that he was appointed because he belonged to my caste. But now I come to know from the list that emerged during the consultation process that he does not belong to my caste. To tell you the truth, I still do not know the caste affiliation of my own companions, though we have been living as friends for more than 40 years, much less the caste names of the entire province and the confreres. But I know there are some confreres

who have done doctorates in this field, and I do consult them whenever there is a need or a clarification, only to answer those who came with questions of this sort to me and whom I did not know how to answer because I really did not know.

Let us rise above the differences and celebrate them in our lives. I am sure life will be more joyful and happy. On the contrary, if we become narrow-minded and imagine that we will be happy only with those whom we choose, life will not only be boring, but we may lose the little happiness that we have. Bloom where you are planted and you will have your way.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB
Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**All Saints
Pray for us!**