

# SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI TIRUCHY

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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

JANUARY 2026

## MY DEAR CONFRERES, SALESIAN FAMILY AND BELOVED YOUNG PEOPLE

Cordial greetings...

Happy New Year 2026. May this newborn year bring a lot of pleasant surprises and God's choicest blessings to each one of us, to our communities and to our mission. We have already reached the feast of Epiphany of the Lord. May each of us be a star in guiding the young people in right path to reach Christ the Omega. In this month of January, we are preparing ourselves for the Feast of our Father and Founder St. John Bosco. Advance wishes to you dear confreres and to all the Salesian Family members. May the spirit of our father Don Bosco engulf all of us in loving the poorest young people in our locality who are under our care and concern. May our Blessed Mother, Mary Help of Christians, walk beside you in every moment of this coming year. May she teach us to listen to the Spirit and respond with a generous "Fiat." I wish each of you a Happy, Holy, and Grace-filled New Year 2026!



After I received the invitation from our beloved Rector Major Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard, to take up the leadership role in guiding our province for the coming 6 years (2026 to 2032) as provincial, placing my trust in Jesus, Mother Mary, St. John Bosco and you my dear confreres, I accepted the responsibility. I'm sure we are going to travel along, together

as pilgrims, in guiding the province, to a greater height, both in **life** as Salesians and in **mission** to the young.

From 24 to 27 Dec 2025, I was in Rome, our Generalate, to meet in person, our Rector Major, Vicar, Economer and most of the General Council members of various sectors. I thanked our beloved RM for his great interest in our province and for appointing me as the provincial with trust and confidence. He had spent his quality time to explain to me the Road-Map for the province for the coming 6 years and to give me some practical guidelines in leading the province. He assured me his support and the General Council's guidance all throughout my tenure as the provincial of INT. I personally thanked our beloved Rector Major on behalf of the confreres of our province for all the love, interest and concern he has towards the confreres and the mission of our province.



I was overwhelmed to see a big representation from all our communities and the all-pervading joy that was vividly seen around on 03 January 2026, at DB Mankandam, for the installation of the New Provincial and simultaneously thanking the outgoing provincial. At this juncture I would like to thank Rev. Fr. Biju Michael, sdb, the General Councillor for South Asia, who took the place of Rector Major in installing me as the 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial of our Province (INT). I also thank all the provincials, vice provincials and the representatives from various provinces of South Asia Region for their encouraging presence on that day. My heartfelt gratitude to the Salesian family members, other religious and priests, laity, well-wishers, friends and young people who were also present for the programme. In short, it was a joyful celebration, which looked like a festival. Thanks one and all for your active participation in the event.

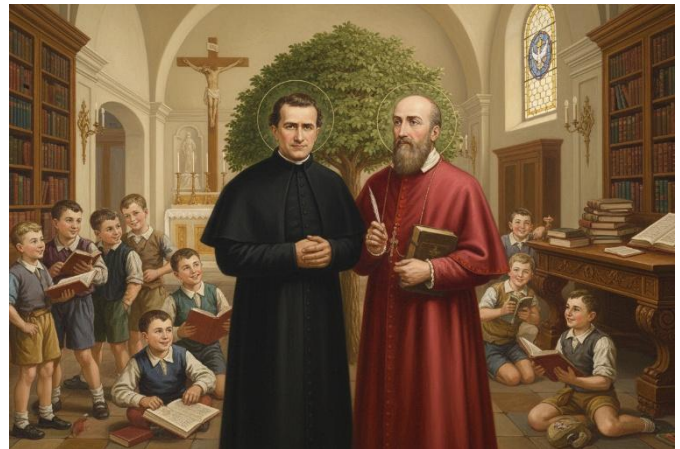
### **Feast of our Patron and Founder**

January is always a month of profound significance for us Salesians. It is a time we journey toward the dual celebrations of our patron, St. Francis de Sales, and our beloved father and founder, St. John Bosco. Our identity as "Salesians" finds its roots in the gentleness of the Bishop of Geneva. In a world that often prioritizes loud voices and aggressive stances, St.



Francis de Sales reminds us that "a spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrel of vinegar." Whether in our schools, technical institutes, or parishes, let our presence be defined by that "loving-kindness" that breaks down walls.

As we celebrate the feast of St. John Bosco, we aren't just looking back at a historical figure; we are encountering a living charism. Don Bosco did not wait for the young to come to him; he went to the prisons, the streets, and the workshops. Don Bosco's secret was that the young felt loved. This starts with listening to their anxieties, their digital realities and their dreams. Our mission to the marginalized remains our priority. Let us look at our



"borderline" ministries with fresh eyes and renewed courage. In a world often shadowed by uncertainty, a Salesian must be a lighthouse. "I have promised God that until my last breath I shall have lived for my poor young people." — St. John Bosco. May the Rector Major's Strenna for this year guide our steps, and may Mary Help of Christians, who "did it all," continue to walk with us. A very Happy Feast of Don Bosco to all of you!

### **Pongal – A Celebration of Gratitude**

The month of January carries the sweet scent Pongal. More than just a cultural harvest festival, it is a profound expression of the "Spirit of Gratitude." The festival is spread across four days, each carrying a unique spiritual and social significance. As we celebrate this harvest, let us pray for our farmers. May our hearts overflow with the same fervour we see in the celebration, bringing the warmth of Christ to every youngster we encounter. Happy Pongal to all!



### **Dissemination of Strenna 2026**

The Strenna 2026, presented by the Rector Major, Fr. Fabio Attard, is entitled: "Do whatever He tells you: Believers, free to serve." This annual theme serves as a spiritual and pastoral compass for the entire Salesian Family. It is deeply rooted in the Gospel of John (2:5), specifically the Wedding at Cana. It emphasizes that faith is not a duty, but an encounter. In a world often marked by "digital bubbles" and a search for transcendence, the Salesian Family is challenged to be credible witnesses. The Strenna reminds us that Mary does not just command obedience; she invites a proactive, loving trust in Christ that leads to true freedom and service to those most in need.



The dissemination of the Strenna will be held for all the leaders of our communities on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy. Subsequently, the leaders will organize a day of animation on the Strenna within their respective Salesian presences, inviting all members of the Salesian Family and young people from the neighbourhood to participate before February 15, 2026. To foster a greater sense of fraternity and sharing, nearby communities are encouraged to consider holding the Strenna presentation together.

### **Annual Retreat**

The province has planned to organize five retreats this year. The Vice Provincial has already communicated the retreat details to all Rectors and Community Leaders. I strongly urge all Rectors and Leaders to ensure that every member of their respective communities participates in this essential annual spiritual renewal.

### **Consultation for Provincial Economist, Council Members and Rectors**

I am making consultation for the appointment of the Provincial Economist, as Fr. Amaladoss Sanjone is completing three terms of office, and for three Council Members who are completing their terms of office (Fr. Amalorpavaraj Annappan – two Terms, Fr. Charles Joseph and Fr. John Barnabas – One Term) on 24 May 2026. I am also making consultation for the Rectors of the communities where the rectors are completing their term. The list is given below:

S. No.	Name	Period	Place	Completing
1.	P Dominic Bernatsha	2020 – 2026	DB Dindigul	Two Terms
2.	P Albert Johnson	2020 – 2026	Kuthenkuly	Two Terms
3.	P Casimir Raj	2020 – 2026	DBAI Salem	Two Terms
4.	P Arockiam Vedamuthu	2020 – 2026	Sayalkudi	Two Terms
5.	P Amalorpavaraj	2023 – 2026	DBAI Coimbatore	One Term
6.	P George Fernandez	2023 – 2026	LS Madurai	One Term
7.	P John Kennedy	2023 – 2026	Amsam	One Term
8.	P Felix Arulnathan	2023 – 2026	Tiruppur	One Term

Since it is a matter of importance for our Province, I request the sincere and responsible cooperation of all our confreres so that suitable confreres are chosen for the respective roles. Kindly suggest names after prayer and due reflection. You are recommended to **send the forms to me directly by email ([provincial@donboscotiruchy.org](mailto:provincial@donboscotiruchy.org)) on or before 20 January 2026**. Those who do not have access to email can send in sealed envelopes. Kindly send the form after saving the file in your name so that it is easy for consolidation.

*Together with this circular, I am attaching the consultation form.*

### **The Retreat, Yercaud – Platinum Jubilee**

It is with great joy and a sense of profound gratitude to the Almighty that we announce the Platinum Jubilee of The Retreat House, Yercaud, marking 75 years of spiritual grace and service. Established in 1950, The Retreat House holds the distinction of being the oldest house in our Province. For seven decades, it has stood as a sanctuary of peace, providing a sacred space for reflection, renewal and encounter with the Divine. As we celebrate this milestone on 10 January 2026, we look back with appreciation at the visionary foundation laid by our predecessors and the enduring spirit of this premier institution. We are honoured to welcome Rev. Fr. Silvio Roggia, SDB, the General Councillor for Formation, who will grace this auspicious occasion with his presence. His participation underscores the significance of this house as a centre for spiritual and vocational growth within the Salesian congregation.



As we celebrate this 75-year journey, we raise our hearts in praise to God for the countless blessings bestowed upon this house and all who have entered its doors. We express our deepest appreciation for the dedicated work of the many confreres who have served at The Retreat House over the years. Their labour of love has shaped it into the spiritual landmark that we celebrate now. I cordially invite all confreres of the Province to join the celebration. Your presence will add to the joy and fraternal spirit of this historic event. Let us come together to celebrate our history and renew our commitment to the mission.

### **Sports Academy – Football Tournament**

The Sports Academy of our Province, together with Ilamai – the Department of Youth Services – is organizing a 5-a-side football tournament for the youth of our presences on 11 January 2026 at Don Bosco ITI, Jawaharpuram. This initiative aims to promote sportsmanship, physical fitness, and team spirit among the young people entrusted to our care, in honour of our Father and Founder, St John Bosco. I exhort all the communities to encourage more participation towards the tournament.

### **Clerics Zonal Meeting**

A zonal-level meeting will be organized in this month for the clerics who are in initial formation doing practical training and college studies. For the clerics who are in Tiruchy zone, the meeting will be on 24 January 2026 at Don Bosco, Manikandam. I am sure all the

clerics will attend these meetings joyfully as it is an animation at the province level. The details of the meeting will be communicated by the Vice Provincial.

### **INT Youth Mela**

The Annual Youth Mela of our Province, scheduled for 25 and 26 January 2026, will be held this year at Don Bosco College, Keela Eral. Around 250 young people from our various presences are expected to participate in this gathering. As the State Assembly elections are fast approaching, the main focus of the input sessions will be on political awareness and responsible citizenship. There will also be ample opportunities for spiritual experience, entertainment, cultural expression, and enriching group interactions.

I kindly request the Rectors, leaders, and youth service coordinators to identify, prepare, and accompany the young people from your respective presences and to ensure their active participation in these events. May these annual gatherings contribute significantly to their growth and formation, and help them mature in their personal, social, and spiritual life.

### **PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH**

03	Sat	Installation of New Provincial @ Manikandam
10	Sat	The Retreat House Jubilee @ Yercaud
11	Sun	DB Sports Academy Football Tournament @ Jawaharapuram
12-17	Mon-Sat	Retreat I – General Patronage @ Manikandam
14	Wed	Provincial Council
17	Sat	Strenna Presentation for Leaders @ DBPH
24	Sat	Zonal Meeting for Young Salesians @ Manikandam
25,26	Sun, Mon	Youth Mela @ Keela Eral
31	Sat	Feast of St. John Bosco

### **RECALLING EVENTS**

#### **Priestly Ordination of Dn. Leo Nepolian**

Dn. Leo Nepolian SDB was ordained a priest on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., at the Parish Church of Alangara Annai, Varadarajanpet. He was ordained by Most Rev. Jeevanandam, the Bishop of Kumbakonam. Fr. Bart Decancq, the provincial, Fr. Hans Decancq and Fr. Biju Oledath from BEN province and a couple Mr. Guido and Mrs. Greta from Belgium took part in the ordination ceremony. On behalf of our Province, I extend heartfelt thanks to the bishop and all who solemnized the event. We wish and congratulate Dn. Leo Nepolian of our special prayers as he starts this important ministry in the church.

#### **Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians**

23.01.2013 – [Fr. Christopher Packianathan](#) died at Tiruchy at the age of 83.



## CONDOLENCES...

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

- To the [Provincial and confreres of INS Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Br. Nello Valeri](#) (87) on 04 December 2025.
- To [Fr. George Fernandes](#) at the demise of his father [Mr. Adaikalaraj](#) (75) on 06 December 2025.
- To the [Provincial and confreres of INH Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Alappat Jose](#) (85) on 14 December 2025.
- To the [Provincial and confreres of INM Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Arokiasamy Augustine](#) (56) on 17 December 2025.
- To the [Provincial and confreres of INC Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Br. Policarp Ekka](#) (81) on 30 December 2025.

*May their souls rest in peace!*

## COMMUNITY REFLECTION

**‘TOGETHER AS PILGRIMS TO REJUVENATE SALESIAN LIFE AND MISSION’** was the motto that I propose to the province, the Salesian Family and the lay mission partners, for the coming 6 years. Let me explain to you a little, in order to grasp the basic dynamism in the motto.

**TOGETHER:** For the last nine years we concentrated on the theme COMMUNION among us. We need not sit back and say that we have achieved communion to its perfection. Communion is a process, that progresses, but never ends. Though we grow in perfection, there will be some imperfections which can be rectified during the process. Hence, the word TOGETHER denotes the communion among the Salesians, the Salesian Family Members and the Lay Mission Partners. To substantiate togetherness, go through the following readings: Jn 15:1-12 and C.12,16.

**PILGRIMS:** Church is on a pilgrimage towards realizing the Kingdom of God, here on earth. The popes were insisting on this word during the jubilee year (2025) of the church. We the Salesian Family Members are also on a journey (pilgrimage), together with the Catholic Church, in realizing the Kingdom of God in our lives and in the lives of young people. Remember, pilgrimage is also a process, but has a clear goal of reaching God. In this pilgrimage we don't walk alone, but together as a vast movement of persons, people set apart for the salvation of the young. C.5

**REJUVENATE:** Our Church and the Congregation are calling us constantly to renew our life and mission. Renewal is a character which is very unique to young people. They always look for new avenues. We, Salesians, who are always with the young, 24 hours, should have the same spirit of renewal in us. Hence, I'm calling everyone to rejuvenate, particularly in our life as Salesians and in our mission for the young. Col 3:5-16

**SALESIAN LIFE:** Among the various crises that we face today in our religious life, the predominant one is the Identity Crisis. Who am I? is a question that is not answered for a very long time, sometime even till the end of our life on earth. At times we know our identity theoretically, but hesitate to live it in our day-to-day life. That we are Salesians, we are Religious, we are priests, consecrated by God for His mission is our identity. Hence, we are invited to live our Salesian Consecrated Identity in its fullness. C.3

**SALESIAN MISSION:** We are happy to belong to the Salesian Congregation, within the Salesian Family, a vast movement of dedicated persons, because our mission focus is very clear. We are evangelizers of the young, who keep worrying about saving their souls for God, all the time. Give me souls and take away the rest is the Mantra, composed by our father and founder St. John Bosco, which keeps ringing in our hearts 24/7. Salesian Province of Tiruchy, has gone ahead further in defining the focus as reaching out the most marginalized young people who are the poorest. Their cry echoes in our hearts every-day. Are we their close friends?

Hence, **'TOGETHER AS PILGRIMS TO REJUVENATE SALESIAN LIFE AND MISSION'** would mean that: We journey together, as Salesian family and laity, to realize the kingdom of God on this earth, especially in the lives of the poorest young people of our province, by living our Consecrated Salesian Vocation radically, following the charism of our father St. John Bosco.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Doss Kennedy SDB  
Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**Happy New Year  
2026!**