



SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI TIRUCHY

DON BOSCO PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 65, Illuppur Road, Kallukuzhy, Tiruchy - 620 020
0431 - 2316324 / +91 80152 39489 www.donboscotiruchy.org



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

MARCH 2026

DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings to all of you.

In the past two months I have visited all the communities of our province and met all the confreres individually for *Rendiconto*. Thanks for the warm welcome, hospitality and genuine sharing. I could witness vividly the providential hand of God in all our mission. Keep up your enthusiasm in serving the young people.



We have already begun the holy season of Lent. Most of our houses are seriously keeping additional moments of prayer, penance decided by the community and charity towards the poor. Towards the end of this month, we will begin the Holy Week. May this season bring more blessings on you and on all the beneficiaries in our mission.

On 19 March we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, one of the patrons of our congregation. This feast comes as an oasis in the desert, during the Lenten season. Celebrate it well and present St. Joseph as an honest, dedicated caretaker of Jesus and Mary, the holy family. St.

Joseph is a holy model for us Salesians in taking care of the children and young people entrusted to our care. Children and young people will be flocking to him in these days, seeking his help to perform well in their exams. Make use of this chance to propagate devotion to St. Joseph. May the powerful intercession of St. Joseph help us to take care of the young people genuinely, as God wants.

Thanks to Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam

After visiting our communities and listening to you dear confreres, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam, first of all, for taking care of the confreres as a loving father; secondly for shouldering the responsibility of animating and governing our province for the past 9 years, as vice provincial (3 years) and as provincial (6 years). As I mentioned during my installation, this responsibility of being the provincial came to him all of a sudden, after the sudden death of our beloved Fr. Antony Joseph. Fr. Agilan took it up

with courage and guided the province gently towards growth and self-sufficiency. Many of our missions have grown into bigger missions, serving more children and youth. He had paved way to enlarge some institutions for generating funds for the mission in the rural areas. Under his guidance confreres have made sincere efforts to bring communion among themselves. He kept up the Salesian Traditions alive in the province. He was gentle in correcting and guiding the confreres. During his time many of our confreres have gone for missions, some on permanent transfer and others on contract. A number of them are studying in abroad. Some of our confreres are serving at the regional level net-works and centres.

Dear Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam, we thank you for your courageous and sacrificing tenure as provincial of our province (INT); for your youthfulness in guiding the province; for your serene and friendly way of approaching the confreres; for the tireless journeys you made in the past six years to meet our confreres, Salesian Family members and especially the young people in our mission; for animating and governing the province through long circular letters, meetings, visitations; for your interest in making our houses economically self-sufficient.....etc. At this juncture, I also thank and appreciate all the provincial council members, especially the Vice Provincials and the Economist who travelled along with you, worked with you and supported you in your decisions. Continue to assist me and the province to become double of Don Bosco and to grow closer to Jesus Christ, in and through our mission.

All Commissions and Departments Meet

The year-end evaluation and planning meeting of all commissions and departments will be held on [March 14, 2026, at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy](#). All the members of the commissions and departments are invited to attend the meeting for the evaluation and for the planning of the coming academic year. The details of the day have been already communicated to you by Fr. Charles Joseph, the youth ministry delegate of the province.

Diaconate Ordination

Clerics Amuthan Michael, Jeya Herman and Robert Sahayaraj of Don Bosco Theological College, Kavrapettai will be ordained deacons on [March 19, 2026](#). Clerics Arun Ebinesh and Bosco Sundar of Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore, will be ordained on [March 26, 2026](#). We congratulate them and wish them all a relevant and fruitful diaconate ministry. We thank Fr. Don Bosco Lourdusamy, the Provincial of Chennai, the Rector and staff of DBTC, Chennai, and Fr. Jose Thomas Koyickal, the Provincial of Bangalore, the Rector and staff of KJC, Bangalore, who have accompanied our clerics in the past three years and helped them make a firm decision to serve the Lord as ordained ministers. They are assigned to the following places for their diaconate ministry:

Amuthan Michael	-	Madhakottai
Arun Ebinesh	-	Therespuram

Bosco Sundar	-	Lalgudi
Jeya Herman	-	Nettur
Robert Sahayaraj	-	Kalavasal

May I request the rectors and parish priests to accompany them in their pastoral experience. They will be engaged in preaching, administering sacraments, animating basic Christian communities, and organising Easter blessings.

We also congratulate the students of theology who will be receiving their ministries as acolytes and lectors.

Summer Apostolate

The students of theology from KJC will be available from [27 March 2026](#). The first-and third-year students from Kavarapettai will be available for summer ministry from [20 March 2026](#). The second years from Kavarapettai will come only from [20 April 2026](#) as they have special programme. All the students of theology will come to the provincial house for two days of animation and evaluation of the summer ministry before going to the theologate on 01 and 02 June 2026. The second-year students of philosophy will be available from [20 April 2026](#). The students of Philosophy have to be back on 23 May 2026.

We warmly welcome them to our communities as they join us for their formative summer experience. It is our joy to guide and support them during their stay and to participate collectively in all the activities planned for the summer. I request that Rectors submit the assessments of the clerics involved in the summer ministry to the Provincial office by the beginning of June, 2026.

Zonal Meeting for Clerics

The zonal meeting for the clerics who are in Thoothukudi zone has been scheduled on [01 March 2026 at Don Bosco, Sayalgudi](#). I invite all the clerics of the zone to attend the meeting joyfully as it is an animation at the province level. The details of the meeting has been communicated to you by the Vice Provincial.

Meeting For Clerics Due for Perpetuals

A meeting for clerics due for perpetual vows will be held on Saturday, [March 15, 2026, at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy](#). Fr. Xavier Michael, the Vice Provincial, has already communicated the details to the clerics. Let us pray for these young Salesians as they enter an important phase of religious commitment.

Applications for Perpetual and Renewal

The clerics who are due for Perpetual Profession and Renewal of Vows will submit the application on [March 19, 2026](#), to the Rectors of the Communities during the Holy Eucharist. I request the rectors to send the documents on or before [March 25, 2026](#), with the

opinion of the house council in the prescribed form, to the Provincial office. Kindly send two admission forms and the applications of those applying for the perpetual profession. I recommend all the members of the community to accompany our young Salesians during their journey of discernment. *The province secretary has already sent the details of the list of those due for renewals and perpetual professions and the related documents to the Rectors. I exhort the leaders to ensure prompt response and cooperation in this regard.*

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

01	Sun	Zonal Meeting for Young Salesians @ Sayalgudi
13	Fri	Provincial Council
14	Sat	All Commissions and Departments Meet @ DBPH, Tiruchy
15	Sun	Meeting for those due for Perpetual @ DBPH, Tiruchy
16-21	Mon-Sat	Retreat II – General Patronage @ The Retreat, Yercaud
21, 22	Sat, Sun	Workshop on Salesian Pedagogy @ DB, Manikandam
29	Sun	Palm Sunday

RECALLING EVENTS

Leaders Meet and Provincial Community Day

A day of meeting was held for the leaders of our province at The Retreat, Yercaud on 06 February 2026. During the meeting the 'Road-map' that has been proposed by our Rector Major Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard and his council, for the coming 6 years was taken for discussion. Following day we had the blessing of the new building, dBPiedmond, at Yercaud and the celebration of the provincial community. I sincerely thank all the leaders for their active participation. I express my sincere gratitude to the rector and community of The Retreat, Yercaud for their hard work and dedication towards the preparation for all these events.

Clerics Zonal Meeting

A zonal meeting was organized for the clerics who are in the Salem zone on 21 February 2026 at Moolakadu, Salem. They were animated on Eco Spirituality by Fr. Ricopar Royan, and they had discussion on Strenna 2026. In the afternoon they made a pilgrimage to Lourds shrine in Agraharam. I appreciate Fr. Ricopar and the community for hosting the meeting.

ADMA General Body Meeting

A day of meeting and animation at the province level was held for all the members of ADMA from all the units of our presences on February 22, 2026, at DBPH, Kallukuzhy. A good number of participants from our presences attended the meeting. I thank Fr. John Bosco Lourdusamy, the ADMA delegate of the province for organizing the meeting.

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

02.03.2015 – [Fr. Xavier Rodriguez](#) died at Tiruchy at the age of 84.

CONDOLENCES...

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

- To [Cl. Yovan King](#) at the demise of his father [Mr. Chinnapparaj](#) (56) on 17 February 2026.
- To [Br. Edwin Arockiadoss](#) at the demise of his father [Mr. Saminathan](#) (76) on 22 February 2026.

May their souls rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

Lent is a season, in Roman Catholic liturgy, meant for renewal in the lives of her faithful. We witness a lot of people doing extraordinary penances, going for pilgrimages and genuinely approaching the sacrament of reconciliation, primarily for their personal renewal, which consequently leads to community renewal.

One area in which all of us in the world need renewal is 'OUR DAILY WORK'. We have humpty number of example, of people from various walks of life, who work/worked hard to find/found meaning and purpose in life. We have a great model in our own founder Don Bosco who was tireless in working for the salvation of the young. He told us Work, Work, Work.

Unfortunately, the world is getting into a culture of 'work less but earn more'. There are sectors which call people to work from home; no need to move even out of their sedentary life confinement. This is a dangerous culture which is leading the world to sickness and immorality. God did not create us for such living. He Himself worked hard to create the world and only on the 7th day took some rest and He is still at work through the Holy Spirit and through all of us.

We see a similar 'work less' attitude entering into religious and priestly life today. Pope Francis had already pointed out this syndrome in his first apostolic exhortation "Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel" as 'Selfishness and Spiritual Sloth'. Hence, I would like to speak to you about 'WORK' for us Salesians, from the heart of our father Don Bosco.

Speaking about WORK, [C.18](#) begins with the statement "Work and temperance will make the Congregation flourish," whereas the seeking of an easy and comfortable life will instead bring about its death. The article continues stating that the Salesian gives himself to his mission with tireless energy, taking care to do everything with simplicity and moderation. He knows that by his work he is participating in the creative action of God and cooperating with Christ in building the Kingdom. The Salesian does not look for unusual penances but accepts the daily demands and renunciations of the apostolic life. He is ready to suffer cold and heat, hunger and thirst, weariness and disdain whenever God's glory and the salvation of souls require it.

C.78 articulates that HARD WORK is an expression of the vow of poverty. Unremitting and self-sacrificing work is a characteristic left us by Don Bosco and is a concrete expression of our poverty. In our daily labours we are at one with the poor who live by the sweat of their brow, and we bear witness to the human and Christian value of work.

When Don Bosco wrote **To the Salesian Confreres**, under the title Poverty, he says the following: All that is beyond food and clothing is superfluous for us, and contrary to a religious vocation. It is true that at times we shall have to suffer some inconvenience on our journeys, in our work, in time of health and of sickness; we shall sometimes have food, clothing and other things not to our liking, but it is precisely then that we ought to bear in mind that we have made profession of poverty, and that if we wish to have its merit and reward, we ought to bear with its consequences. Let us be on our guard against the sort of poverty censured by St Bernard, who says: "There are some who glory in being called poor, but who will not bear the consequences of poverty; there are those too, who are content to be poor, provided they want for nothing".

Among the **Five Faults** that Don Bosco told us to avoid, the 4th and 5th faults are about work: 4. Let no one neglect his own duty. The Salesians considered together form one single body – the Congregation. If all members do what is expected of them, then things will proceed with order, and give satisfaction; otherwise, there will be disorder, disunion, rupture and the final undoing of the body itself. Let everyone do his duty well, with zeal and humility, with confidence in God; let him not yield in defeat if he is called to some sacrifice which costs much. Let him take heart that his endurance and fatigue benefit the Congregation to which we are all consecrated. 5. In all we do, our duty, work, troubles or sufferings, we must never forget that we are consecrated to God; it is for love of Him alone we work and from Him alone we hope for the reward. The least thing done for His name's sake is not left forgotten; it is of faith that in His own good time He will give us rich recompense. At the end of our lives as we stand before His judgement seat, He will say, radiant with love: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master". A similar assurance is given to missionaries by Don Bosco in the **Souvenir to the First Missionaries**: 20. In time of fatigue and suffering do not forget that we have a great reward prepared for us in heaven. In the **Spiritual Testament**, Don Bosco states that when a Salesian yields up his life whilst working for souls, you can say that our Congregation has registered a great triumph and that on it will descend in abundance the blessings of heaven. Don Bosco believed that Hard Work and austere life of our confreres will draw and almost compel their pupils to follow their example and we shall have vocations in abundance.

Let us spend some-time in examining our work in the mission. Do I do minimum work and take most of my time for my personal projects or do I spend most of my time for the mission? Am I an asset to the mission of my community? Do I work hard to contribute to

the welfare of my community's mission to the young? What more can I do to rejuvenate my capacity for work?

May St. Joseph, the worker and patron of workers, whom we are going to celebrate in this month, be our model for a responsible and sincere work in the respective places of our mission to the young.

Advance wishes for the feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary.

Wish you a meaningful Lenten season and Holy Week.

Prayerful best wishes to all of you,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



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



**St. Joseph,
Pray for Us!**