



SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI TIRUCHY

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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

APRIL 2026

MY DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings

Wish you a very Happy Easter. May the Risen Lord who will never die again, bless all of us with a strong hope that we are born to live for ever like Him and never to die.

The faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ is crucial to many of the issues in our personal life and in the life of the world. If we believe strongly that heaven is a place where all of us are going to live together in harmony and peace, where we have to meet our enemies and the persons whom we hated and never wanted to live with, then the way we look at our life on earth will change. We will start living that harmony and peace already now.



Similarly, the present world, which is warring, destroying countries and killing thousands of people for selfish reasons, lacks faith in life after death; in heaven. If the leaders of countries, who are responsible for war and its consequences, believe in heaven where everyone will have to live in harmony, they may look for alternative solutions to the problems.

Basically, we lack faith in the resurrection of Jesus and consequently in our own resurrection. We are too much immersed in the life of this world. That is the reason for many of our problems and conflicts. During the Holy Week and the Pascal Season, shall we take time to contemplate on the resurrection of Christ Jesus and in our own resurrection.

As Salesians and Salesian Family members we are called to accompany young people on their journey of faith in the Risen Lord, who alone can give them hope and meaning to their lives. When we approach young people with deep faith in the Risen Lord, their life will change like the disciples on the way to Emmaus.

Wish you a deep internal preparation in holy week, joyful celebration on Easter Sunday and a meaningful journey of faith during pascal season. May the Easter Season fill you and all the young people under your care, with strong hope in eternal life.

Ordination in INT

On [April 29, 2026, at 5.30 PM](#), a solemn ordination ceremony will be held at [Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur, Madurai](#), where Dn. Antony Gulabalan will be conferred with holy orders. The Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy D.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Madurai, will preside over this sacred rite. On behalf of the province, I extend my wishes and offer fervent prayers for the deacon as he diligently prepares for this significant milestone in his life. He will be at home for holidays from 20 April to 20 May 2026. Right now, he is doing his diaconate ministry at Lourdes Shrine, Madurai.

We express our sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr. Don Bosco, the Provincial of Chennai, the Rector and staff of Don Bosco Theological Centre, Kavrapettai for their collective guidance and accompaniment over the past four years. They have been instrumental in the life of our deacon to serve the Lord as ordained minister. May God bestow upon them abundant blessings, good health and enduring joy.

Annual Retreats

The province has organized two retreats for the year in January and March and has scheduled to organize three retreats in the coming months. The third retreat will take place from [06 to 11 April](#), the fourth from [13 to 18 April](#) and the fifth from [04 to 09 May 2026](#). All retreats will be conducted at The Retreat – Yercaud. The annual retreat offers a valuable opportunity for our confreres to engage in six days of contemplative silence and solitude, fostering profound spiritual renewal. I earnestly encourage all to arrive the day prior to each retreat for supper, thereby ensuring a meaningful collective spiritual experience.

Perpetuals and Renewals

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Rectors and Leaders for their diligent preparation of the young clerics for their next stage of formation. I thank the local council for receiving the applications and for going through the admission procedure, of those due for renewals and perpetual profession, admission to the novitiate and pre-novitiate. The forms are reaching the provincial office in these days. The admission process by the provincial council will be done during this month in the provincial council meeting. Let us continue to offer our prayers for all the young Salesians, that they may flourish joyfully in their Salesian religious vocation.

Summer Ministry

The summer season strengthens our Salesian communities, fostering a vibrant atmosphere with a diverse array of engaging programs, tailored for children and youth. Furthermore, students who have completed their philosophical studies as well as those who are pursuing

theological studies join our communities to spend their vacation meaningfully and to joyfully support all the special programmes planned by the communities. I wish you all, dear confreres, a fruitful summer ministry with many children and young people. May they come to know and appreciate the joy of our Salesian communities and mission. Furthermore, I earnestly encourage all the Salesians to actively participate in the regular rhythm of community life and collaborate harmoniously to cultivate a truly memorable summer experience.

Lenten Contribution

All the leaders of the communities are requested to send the Lenten Contribution to the Provincial Economist by the [end of April 2026](#). This will be collected and sent to the Rector Major.

Congratulations!

- We congratulate [Fr. Xavier Michael](#) on being appointed as a Social Worker member of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in Madurai district on 23 February 2026.
- We congratulate [Fr. Albert Yesudoss](#) on being appointed as a member of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Dindigul district on 04 March 2026.
- We congratulate [Fr. Rozario Antony](#) on completing his doctoral studies in Computer Science. His thesis, titled "Prediction Analysis of Students' Performance on the Hybrid EDA-SVR Model," was completed at Karpagam University, Coimbatore, on 06 October 2025.
- We congratulate [Fr. Thiviya Alexander](#) on completing his doctoral studies in English Literature. His thesis, "A Dystopian Study of Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy: *Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood*, and *MaddAddam*," was completed at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University on 13 February 2026.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

06-11	Mon-Sat	Retreat III – General Patronage @ The Retreat, Yercaud
13-18	Mon-Sat	Retreat IV – General Patronage @ The Retreat, Yercaud
20, 21	Mon, Tue	Provincial Council
23	Thu	Election - Voting Day
29	Wed	INT Ordination @ Lourdes Shrine, Madurai

RECALLING EVENTS

All Commissions and Departments Meet

All commissions and departments meeting was held on March 14, 2026, at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy. Most of the heads and members of the commissions and departments attended the meeting. A substantial time was allotted to draft and finalize the province and youth ministry programme for the next academic year 2026 - 2027. I wish to

express my sincere gratitude to all participants for their presence and valuable contributions. Special thanks to Fr. Charles Joseph, the Provincial Youth Ministry Delegate, for coordinating and facilitating the meeting and Vice Provincial Fr. Xavier Michael for planning this meeting together with DBPH community.

Diaconate Ordination

The diaconate ordination of Clerics Amuthan Michael, Jeya Herman and Robert Sahayaraj took place on March 19, 2026, at Votive Shrine, Kilpauk and Clerics Arun Ebinesh and Bosco Sundar took place on March 26, 2026 at KJC, Bangalore. On behalf of the province, I extend my congratulations to all the deacons and offer our best wishes for their diaconate ministry. May it be a period of profound encounter with God's love and the vibrant faith of the people they serve.

Zonal Meeting for Clerics

The zonal meeting for the clerics who are in Thoothukudi zone was held on 01 March 2026 at Don Bosco, Sayalkudi. They were animated on Salesian youth ministry in rural area by Fr. Arockiam Vedomuthu and they had discussion on Strenna 2026. I thank the rector and confreres of Sayalkudi community for hosting the meeting, Fr. Arockiam for animating the clerics and Vice Provincial for coordinating.

Meeting For Clerics Due for Perpetuals

A meeting for clerics due for perpetual vows was held on 15 March 2026, at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy. They were animated on religious commitment. I thank the clerics for their active participation and Fr. Xavier Michael, our Vice Provincial, for animating and guiding them.

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

10.04.2023 – Fr. Selvadurai Paulraj died at Coimbatore at the age of 46.

15.04.2016 – Fr. Packiaraj Rayan died at Thanjavur at the age of 67.

27.04.2010 – Fr. Sebastian Vayalipara died at Madurai at the age of 80.

CONDOLENCES...

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

- To the **Provincial and confreres of INC Province** at the demise of **Rev. Br. Roy Thirumalachalil** (51) on 19 March 2026.
- To the **Provincial and confreres of INM Province** at the demise of **Most Rev. Jerome Dhas Varuvel** (74) on 24 March 2026.

May their souls rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

The Lent, Holy Week and Pascal Season are the time of sincere repentance and seeking forgiveness, in the life of the Church and especially in the lives of practising Catholics of the world. There is a deep longing for forgiveness in every human being. Because God has created the conscience of human beings in that way. Conscience is a place where God wants to dwell and thus it often seeks purification of itself. Sacrament of reconciliation is one of the powerful weapons used by the Catholic Church to help God's people to keep away from the evil and to keep God closer. I would like to speak to you about three areas of forgiveness which are necessary for all of us.

1. Forgiving Oneself: All of us need to forgive ourselves for the faults committed, failures encountered, weakness experienced; temptations given-in, revenges taken, selfishness entertained, hurts unforgiven, enmity prolonged...etc. Without our knowledge these faults take deep root within our system, causing psychosomatic disorders, physical sickness and even terminal illness. Many psychological exercises, such as, Healing the Inner Child, Group Therapy, Holotropic Breathwork...etc., try to heal the clients from these harmful conditions. Dear confreres, take a deeper look into yourself and forgive yourself. Forgiving oneself is first in the order of healing that should take place during this season.

2. Forgiving Others: I need not explain much about this forgiveness. Jesus has taught us so much during his life and finally from the cross. Church is constantly reminding us to repent, particularly in this season. Many of us make good confessions in these days. Remember this: as long as we view life only from the values of this world, we cannot forgive others. The moment we transcend to have faith in the Risen Life, where we have to live together, forgiveness will become a necessity. Hence, for forgiveness in this world, we need faith in the next world. Don Bosco's creation of Monthly Recollection as preparation for happy death has this idea deep inside (C.90,91). If Don Bosco had not believed in forgiving the faults of young people, he would not have started the Youth Work for the rugged, vulnerable, rotten youth; he would not have seen holiness in the street urchins of Turin. Like Don Bosco, Salesian should be the first one to forgive. Don Bosco invites us for this type of frequent daily forgiveness (C.16).

3. Forgiving God: You may be wondering about this forgiveness – why God has to be forgiven? I say this, because, many people, even many of us, are angry with God for the status we are in. When our prayers are not heard, when our desires are not fulfilled, when we are pushed to the places and status which we never wanted, we start hating God. It happens to priests and religious too. However, if you look deeply within, most of the causes are within ourselves. We are the causes and not God. Hence, there is a need to reconcile with God and deepen our relationship with Him. In other words: forgive God if you are angry with Him.

Dear confreres make a good confession during this season. I quote Don Bosco, from his writing to the Salesian Confreres, when he speaks about monthly recollection: "The confession which all should make on that day should be more than ordinarily exact, having in mind that it may indeed be the last, and holy communion should be received as though it were Viaticum". In other words, Don Bosco wants his Salesians to be pure always, in order to guide young people to Holiness.

Happy Easter!

Prayerful best wishes to all of you,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Happy Easter!

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