



SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI TIRUCHY

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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

MAY 2026

MY DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings

We begin the month of May with the remembrance of [St. Joseph as patron of workers](#). Let us pray for the workers in our mission centres, including us, that we may imitate his honesty and dedication in our work. May his intercession help us to take care of the members of our community and the people of our mission, especially the young. On 06 May we celebrate the [feast of St. Dominic Savio](#), the model of holiness to young people. Like Don Bosco we should have God's eyes to see holiness in young people. May St. Dominic Savio help us to become holy and make others holy. On 13 May we celebrate the [feast of St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello](#), the co-foundress of Salesian sisters. Let us pray for Salesian sisters (FMA) and the young people under their care. Trust her intercession, especially, for the girls under our care.

Another great feast in the Salesian world is the [feast of our blessed mother Mary Help of Christians](#) on 24 May.

Celebrate well her feast, not only to ask her intercession, but to thank her for her constant accompaniment in our lives and in the life of the young. May this day be a gratitude day for all the helps we received during the year, through our benefactors and friends.



Besides, the church reminds us about the resurrection of our Lord once again on 17 May, on the [solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord](#), to tell us that our real home is heaven and this world is only a temporary shelter. Get convinced and convince others about this mystery, which is fundamental to our life and mission. On 24 May we also celebrate the [Solemnity of Pentecost](#), receiving the Holy Spirit, to give us strength and Divine Wisdom to discern God's will in our life and mission. We end the month, on 31 May, with the [Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity](#), a great model of Father and Son and Holy Spirit, living and working

together with one vision. The unity among the Triune God is the source and strength to our own life in community and our work in mission field. We also remember some more Saints of the Salesian Family in his month: Saint Louis Orione, priest and Founder of the Little Work of Divine Providence on 16 May; Saint Leonard Murialdo, priest and Founder of the Congregation of St Joseph on 18 May; Blessed Joseph Kowalski, priest, martyr on 29 May. Celebrate meaningfully the feast of these Salesian Saints, that they may inspire us and our beneficiaries to become holy.

Month of May is also known for vocation camps and recruitments, as we remember Jesus the Good Shepherd, who called people to be his disciples and apostles in order to look after his people. In our province we have the vocation camp from 02 to 21 May 2026 at DB, Thanjavur. Pray for the success of the camp in discerning right candidates for our congregation.

Perpetual Profession

Five of our clerics, Dinesh Joseph, Sinto Mariathason, Christen Paulraj, Maria Yovan and Sagayaraj Ajith Bruno Nithin Porthas will make their perpetual profession on [24 May 2026 at 5.30 pm in Mary Help of Christian Church, AMSAM, Tiruchy](#). On behalf of the Province, I wish them all the best for their perpetual commitment in the Salesian way of life. The immediate preparation for them will take place from 11 to 16 May and the Retreat will be conducted from 17 to 22 May 2026 at The Retreat, Yercaud.

Renewal of Profession

Thirty-one of our clerics are due for renewals this year. They will renew their vows on [24 May 2026 in Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy](#). They are recommended to reach the Provincial House for night stay on 23 May 2026 without any excuse. We will assist these young Salesians with our prayerful support so that they may continue to live joyfully as Salesians.

First Profession

Five of our Novices will be making their first profession on [24 May 2026 in Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yellagiri](#). Let us accompany them with our prayers that they may persevere in their vocation to Salesian life. We thank the Novice Master, Fr. Bellarmine and the Salesian staff for preparing and guiding our novices to reach the stage of first profession.

Admission to the Novitiate and Pre-Novitiate

Eight Pre-Novices of Tiruchy Province and Sixteen Pre-Novices of Chennai Province have been admitted to the Novitiate. All the eight Pre-Novices of our Province will go to Idaya Deepam, Yellagiri for their Novitiate. Let us accompany them with our prayers that they may have a year of fruitful spiritual formation. We are grateful to Fr. Dominic Bernatsha and the entire staff of the Pre-Novitiate Community for accompanying these young candidates with much dedication.

Eight candidates from Don Bosco Thanjavur and Five candidates of INT and One Candidate of INM from PHS Nettur have been admitted to the Pre-Novitiate. We appreciate them and wish them all the best as they begin their first phase of formation. We thank Fr. Suresh Felix and the community of Don Bosco Thanjavur and Fr. Victor Antonyraj and the community of Nettur for preparing these candidates to enter the Pre-Novitiate.

Vocation Camp

The Vocation Camp for this year has been scheduled in [Don Bosco Thanjavur](#), from [01 to 21 May 2026](#) for the students who have completed 8th, 10th, 12th standard and above. We appreciate Fr. Diravya Rupen, the vocation promoter, for his hard work in contacting the young boys regularly and encouraging them to participate in this 'Come and See' Programme. Let us encourage the boys from our own presences to attend the vocation camp and to serve in the vineyard of the Lord.

Twin Jubilee Celebration of SMA Sisters

Rev. Sr. Josephine Selvi, the Superior General of SMA sisters, is inviting us for the twin celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Congregation and the Birth Centenary of their Founder, Rev. Fr. M. C. Antony, SDB, on 13 May 2026 at 04.00pm at SMA Generalate Madhavaram, Chennai, to thank God and celebrate together these joyful occasions.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

04-09	Mon-Sat	Retreat V – Guided @ The Retreat, Yercaud
24	Sun	Renewal of Vows @ DBPH Perpetual Profession @ Amsam
30,31	Sat, Sun	Students of Theology Meet @ DBPH

RECALLING EVENTS

The Ordination Ceremony of Dn. Gunabalan of our province was held on 29 April 2026 at Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur, Madurai. I extend my sincere thanks to Most Reverend Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop Emeritus of Madurai, who conferred the ordination. I express my heartfelt appreciation to Fr. Xavier Michael, the vice provincial, Fr. Amaladoss, the economer, and Fr. George Fernandez, the Rector of LS Madurai, all the confreres of the community and the lay faithful for looking into details of the entire programme.

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

22.05.2009 – [Fr. Edwin Santhanaraj](#) died at Tiruchy at the age of 29.

CONDOLENCES...

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

- To the [Provincial and confreres of IND Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Kallarackal Job](#) (78) on 11 April 2026.

- To the [Provincial and confreres of IND Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Maippan Paul](#) (62) on 19 April 2026.

May their souls rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

As I am announcing the appointment of the Provincial Councilors and the Rectors and releasing the list of apostolic assignments, I thought of reflecting with you the vow of obedience as availability. Look reflectively some of the expressions in our constitutions:

By religious profession we live the grace of our baptism radically and more fully; we follow Jesus Christ in his self-emptying and surrendering totally to God (c.60); we witness to the world to come and become a sign of the power of resurrection to the young (c.63). Jesus came on earth not to do his own will but that of his Father in heaven. By vowing obedience, we offer our will to God and by carrying out the mission entrusted to us we relive in the Church and in the Congregation Christ's own obedience. We take the gospel as our supreme rule of life, the Constitutions as a sure path to follow, and the superiors and the community as day-by-day interpreters of God's will (c.64). For the Salesian obedience is the path to holiness (c.65).

In the community we all obey even though we have different tasks to perform. In matters of importance, we seek the will of the Lord together in patient brotherly dialogue (c.65). If the concrete demands of charity and of the apostolate require the sacrifice of personal wishes or plans, the confrere accepts with faith whatever obedience asks of him (c.69). We collaborate even when our own views have not prevailed (c.65). Sometimes obedience will clash with our own selfish attitudes and desires for independence, or may really test our love. This is the moment to look to Christ, who was obedient even unto death (c.71). Jesus Christ, who, although was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil 2: 6 - 8).

Obedience demands absolute availability on our part. Take sometime to meditate on the availability of prophets in the Old Testament; availability of St. Joseph in the New Testament; availability of Our Blessed Mother Mary; availability of the apostles; availability of Don Bosco. Transfer has to be seen, from this angle, as my availability to a particular mission in the church, in the congregation and in the province. We learn from the availability of Jesus to the Father's mission, entirely offering, even to the extent of giving His own life. He had no other distraction. His concentration was fully in establishing the Kingdom of His Father (God).

Availability entails many virtues when practiced in our lives. I list some of them for our perusal, drawing from our Constitutions and the Word of God:

Humility in availability: Humility may look like weakness in secular world, but in spiritual world it is power. Jesus humbled himself (Phil: 2: 6).

Sacrifice and Suffering in availability: In secular world appointments bring power, money and prestige. In spiritual world it is the opposite. It brings suffering and demands sacrifice. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered (Heb 5:8).

Weakness in availability: At times I may find weak and not qualifies for the work I'm assigned to. Remember St. Paul – 'For when I am weak then I am strong' (2 Cor 12:10).

Failure in availability: Not necessarily we should be always successful in our ministry. Look at the cross, which was a failure in this world, but salvation brought to the world through the cross. Your failure may be a Divine Plan for salvation.

Forbearing one another in availability: Our community may not have persons whom we like and with whom we can collaborate well. So, bear with each other.

Forgiving in availability: Be the first one to forgive; forgiveness brings peace; peace will make us joyful in doing the ministry together.

Mission Focus in availability: God calls us to live in communities for a particular mission. Hence, focus and clarity regarding the mission of our community is necessary.

Doing what I dislike in availability: Not always I will be given the ministry that pleased me. Remember Jesus praying 'father, if this chalice cannot pass from me unless I drink it, thy will be done' (Mt 26:42).

Incompetence in availability: Do you feel that you are incompetent and unqualifies for a particular ministry? Don't worry. God, who called you, will empower you with qualification and competence.

Challenging situations in availability: You may be called to some places to solve some issues which only you can.

Pioneering in availability: Some are good for starting new missions and some for innovations in the already existing mission. It maybe you.

Conflicts in availability: Don't be afraid of conflicts. There are good conflicts to clarify God's will in ministry. Wisdom of God will guide us in those moments.

Continuity in availability: I don't go to a mission to destroy it and start anew according to my taste, but to assure continuity of the mission already built up by my predecessors.

Collaboration (Synodality) in availability: Tools such as dialogue, discussion, listening, consultation, sharing, discernment will help us in the process of finding God's will for our mission. Christian life and mission are communitarian, not individualistic.

Accommodation in availability: Embrace and accept everyone in the Salesian community and the mission community (EPC), without disparity. Don't have in mind that you should work only with the strong, healthy and talented. All of us are weak in one way or the other. Accept, empower and give meaning to weak persons. Doctor is needed for the sick.

Presence for availability: Presence is the secret of success for the Salesian Preventive System of education. Be present in the mission always; participate in every bit of your community life and mission actively. Your conscience should prick if you are absent from your community and mission.

Meeting people in availability: Be available to meet people, especially the young. Don't shut yourself in the room. Enjoy meeting persons. Remember Jesus who appeared so many times to his own, after his resurrection. His physical presence empowered them with courage and strength. Similarly, your physical presence will empower people.

Spiritual Direction/Counselling in availability: If people come to you for Spiritual Direction, don't run away. It will take away your time. Don't consider it as waste of time. God will bless you if you can make people talk to Him.

I would like to end my reflection with the quotation with which Fr. Joe Mannath sdb usually ends the guided retreat at DBRC, Bangalore.

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.....Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." (Mt 28:5-7).

The present Galilee is the place of your mission. Don't be afraid to get back to your mission or go to a new mission. Jesus is there in that place ahead of you, preparing the place for you. He will make it a success, because it is His Mission. Be courageous and hopeful.

Prayerful best wishes to all of you,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



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



**Mary Help of Christians,
Pray for Us!**