



SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI TIRUCHY

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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

JUNE 2026

MY DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings

Month of June always brings new beginning to our life in many aspects. We are beginning a new academic year 2026-27 in this month. Start everything with positive note, forgive & forget the negative past and build on the positive. A Salesian is optimistic and joyful, never gives way to discouragement, because of his complete trust in the Father, following the optimistic humanism of St. Francis de Sales (C.17). Hence, begin the year with enthusiasm, optimism and new hope for a bright future.

The encouraging performance of our students in the last academic year (2025-2026) is a source of joy for the entire Province. Guided by the Preventive System of Don Bosco our institutions continue to accompany the young with excellence. Special appreciation to the Correspondents, Principals, Headmasters, Salesians and the dedicated teaching staff who closely collaborated with the spirit of Don Bosco. May the result of the last academic year inspire us to continue forming young people as good Christians and honest citizens in the coming academic year too. All the best for the new academic year!



The liturgical calendar of June brings to us: the Solemnity of **the Sacred Heart of Jesus** (on 12th) and the Memory of **the Immaculate Heart of Mary** (on 13th). At the start of the year, remembering these two Sacred Hearts is good for our ministry. Take time to celebrate the two Hearts and entrust the members of the Salesian community, mission of the community and the beneficiaries of our mission to the Sacred Hearts. May the Sacred Hearts make our hearts unto their Hearts and help us to save more hearts for God.

Besides, we also celebrate **the solemnity of Corpus Christi (The Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ)** on Sunday 07 June. Remember the three devotions which are at the centre of our spirituality, inculcated by Don Bosco to his Salesians. One of them is devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Don Bosco wanted daily Eucharist to be the central act of every Salesian Community, for building up our fraternal communion and renewing our apostolic commitment (C. 88).

During the year, come together as community, as often as possible, for Eucharistic celebrations and other Eucharistic devotions, such as, adoration, benediction, procession, healing service...etc. Inculcate the devotion of frequent visits the Blessed Sacrament to all our collaborators and beneficiaries, especially to the young people.

Appointment of the Provincial Secretary

In accordance with the article 157,159 of the regulations of the Society of St. Francis de Sales, after hearing the opinion of the provincial council, I have appointed Fr. Nishanth Alfred as the Province Secretary of INT. He will also perform his duty as the Provincial Secretary of INT. I wish him all the best for this important office in the province. On behalf of the confreres and lay collaborators of our province, I thank Fr. Ashly Steephen for his dedicated, diligent, noble service as Provincial Secretary and Province Secretary for the past five years. Job of a secretary is very demanding, boring at times and calls for a lot of sacrifice. Fr. Ashly endured it with a smiling face, joyful family spirit in the provincial house, combining it with some pastoral work around DBPH, Kallukuzhy. Thank you, dear Fr. Ashly.

Province Level Responsibilities

Vice Provincial, Fr. Victor Antonyraj, will be the Formation Delegate of the Province. In the name of the Province, I thank Fr. Arul Maran for his committed service as Formation Delegate of the Province for the past four years, in following up the young Salesians and coordinating all the formation work of the province in line with the direction given by the Congregation and SAFC (Regional Formation Commission).

Fr. Albert Johnson will be the Youth Ministry Delegate of the Province. I thank Fr. Charles Joseph who was the Youth Ministry Delegate of the province and in-charge of Social Service Dimension, coordinating all the youth services in the province for the past three years. He contributed much for keeping the Salesian Youth Ministry alive in the province through his meticulous planning, efficient execution and brotherly follow up. I thank him in the name of the province.

Fr. Arul Maran will be the Salesian Family Delegate of the Province. I thank Fr. Xavier Michael for coordinating the Salesian Family Members, as Salesian Family Delegate of the Province, for the past one year, through his visits, animations and organizing common meetings and celebrations.

Fr. Casimir Raj will be the Youth Director of the province, to look after the oratories, youth centres and youth services in the province. He will work in hand with the Youth Ministry Delegate of the Province, primarily to look after the Ilamai Youth Movement of the province, which connects to the SYM (Salesian Youth Movement) of the congregation and through which all the Youth Services of the province. He will be in touch with all the Youth Service Coordinators of the communities.

I also thank all the other delegates who continue to serve and the heads of sector commissions and department commissions and the members of various committees, for their valuable service in assisting the Provincial and his team, through animations; capacity building sessions; professional assistance and organizing programmes, in guiding the province. We welcome wholeheartedly, the new members in all the above animating bodies of the province and wish them all the best to carry out their responsibilities in helping the Provincial to guide the province in the right direction.

Initial Visit

The Provincial Team has already started the initial visit to our communities and completed three communities, namely, DBCH Moolakadu, DBAI Salem, DBAI Coimbatore. Installation of new Rectors will take place simultaneously during the initial visit, in the respective communities. A schedule for the initial visit, in rest of the communities, is attached with this circular letter. Kindly keep ready the following documents, revised for the academic year 2026-2027, for the initial visit: Salesian Community Plan of Life (SCPL), Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan (SEPP), Youth Pastoral Plan (YPP), Annual Plan of the Mission and Budget. Leaders of communities are requested to convene a meeting with all the members of the community, if possible, with EPCC members, to facilitate the preparation of these documents. When the documents are ready, send them to the Provincial Secretary.

Sector Meetings

As we are beginning the new academic year 2026-2027 in this month of June, the sectoral commissions of our province will organize meetings to finalize the planning, disseminate responsibilities and animate the members on a relevant topic. Dates were already published in the annual plan of the province for 2026-2027. Hence, I request all the members who are involved in the ministry of the respective sectors to participate in these meetings without fail. These meetings are important to focus our attention in one direction as the province and the congregation wants.

Department Meeting

As mentioned in the annual plan 2026-2027 of the province, the departments will have their meeting on 02 July 2026 at DBPH, Kallukuzhy, Tiruchy. Departments are at the disposal of the communities for animation and organizing programmes in line with the aim of the respective department. May I request the communities to make use of the departments and the departments to plan one or two programme to reach every community of the province, during the academic year.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

09	Tue	YaR Sector Meeting @ NEST, Tiruppur
11	Thu	Formation Sector Meeting @ DB, Thanjavur
12, 13	Fri, Sat	Provincial Council
15	Mon	Online meeting: DB Past Pupils Local Delegates
17	Wed	Rural Sector Meeting @ Sayalgudi
20	Sat	Parish Sector Meeting @ AMSAM
21	Sun	Missionary Animation Seminar @ DBPH, Tiruchy
25	Thu	Online meeting: Higher Education Sector / Uravu Correspondents
26, 27	Fri, Sat	Oratory & Youth Center In-charge National Meet @ DBPH, Tiruchy
28	Sun	Online meeting: ASC Delegates & Coordinators
29	Mon	Technical Sector Meeting @ AMSAM

RECALLING EVENTS

Annual Retreats:

Five retreats were organized for our province during the academic year 2025-2026, offering the confreres meaningful moments of prayer, reflection, renewal and fraternal communion. I gratefully acknowledge Fr. Arulkumar Sebastian SDB, Fr. Austin Joy MSFS, Fr. Juventus Antrade CSSR, Fr. John Dharman SDB & his team for their enriching guidance, inspiring reflections and dedicated accompaniment throughout the retreats. Sincere appreciation is extended to the Retreat, Yercaud, for graciously hosting four retreats during March, April and May 2026 and to the Tiruchy-Manikandam community for organizing the retreat held in January 2026. All the retreats offered me the opportunity to listen to the confreres personally and to engage in meaningful dialogue with them, thereby deepening our bonds of communion and shared mission as a province.

AIDBES Workshop on Salesian Pedagogy

A two-day national level workshop on “Educating with the Heart of Don Bosco: A Journey into Salesian Pedagogy” was organized by AIDBES at Don Bosco Manikandam, Tiruchy, on 24-25 April 2026. The programme brought together Salesians and educators from our institutions for a deeper reflection on the Salesian educative methods. The participants were enriched in their understanding of Salesian pedagogy and its relevance in contemporary educational settings. I appreciate Fr. Gamaliyel Francis, provincial delegate for the Educational and Cultural Dimension and the Rector of ALAIHAL – DB Media Centre Manikandam for hosting and seeing to the arrangements.

Perpetual Profession

The perpetual profession of five brothers – **Bro. Ajith Bruno Nithin Porthas, Bro. Christen Paulraj, Bro. Dinesh Joseph, Bro. Maria Yovan Sagayaraj and Bro. Sinto Mariathan** was

solemnly and gracefully conducted on 24th May 2026 at AMSAM, Tiruchy and **Bro. Mano Sebastian** made his perpetual profession on the same day at Oud-Heverlee, Belgium. Their joyful 'yes' stands as a profound witness of faith, fidelity and apostolic zeal. Congratulations to our brothers on their Perpetual Profession.



The immediate preparation for Perpetual Profession took place at The Retreat, Yercaud, from 11 to 22 May 2026, bringing together brothers from the INM and INT provinces. Hosted by our province, this period of prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal served as a fitting preparation for their definitive commitment to the Lord in the Salesian Congregation. I express my sincere gratitude to the Rector and the community of the Retreat, Yercaud, for their gracious hospitality and support. I gratefully acknowledge Fr. Victor Antonyraj, Vice-Provincial INT, for organizing the proximate preparation for the brothers. My sincere thanks to Fr. Robert Vincent sdb and Fr. John Dharman sdb, for their spiritual guidance during the guided retreat. I extend a heartfelt appreciation to Fr. John Kennedy, Rector, and the AMSAM Community for the meticulous arrangements made for the celebration, the deep sense of communion and belonging they manifested towards the province. Their dedicated service added grace and solemnity to the occasion.

Renewal of Profession

Twenty-nine of our brothers in temporary vows renewed their vows at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy, Tiruchy, while one renewed his vows at DB, Thanjavur and another at Kuthankuly. I thank God for the grace bestowed upon these 31 brothers who have generously renewed their vows, reaffirming their commitment to follow Christ in the Salesian way of life. I gratefully acknowledge the provincial house community that saw to the details of organising the event.



First Profession

The first profession of **Bro. Arulandu Kulanthaisamy, Bro. Arumugapandiaraj Bala Ganesh, Bro. Josephsahayaraj Sebastin Alivar, Bro. Jude Rijin and Bro. Mohandhas Merbin Dhas** was held on 24 May 2026 at Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yellagiri Hills. I place on record my profound gratitude to Rev. Fr. Don Bosco Lourdusamy, Provincial INM & Fr. Bellarmine, Novice Master, for their dedicated accompaniment and the formation of these newly professed Salesians.

Dear young Salesians, we warmly welcome you to walk in the footsteps of Don Bosco as consecrated apostles of the young, especially the poorest, abandoned and most in need. Strengthened by the grace of your religious profession and guided by the spirit of *Da mihi*

animas, cetera tolle, may you grow each day in your fidelity to Christ, love for the Church, and dedication to the Salesian mission. May your life become a joyful witness of fraternal communion, pastoral charity and selfless service among the young entrusted to your care.

Vocation Camp

The vocation camp for the year 2025-2026 was conducted at Don Bosco, Thanjavur, from 1 to 21 May 2026, with the participation of 76 candidates. The camp provided the young aspirants with a meaningful opportunity for vocational discernment, prayer and Salesian accompaniment. I sincerely thank and appreciate Fr. Diraviya Rupen, the vocation promoter, for his tireless efforts and commitment to vocation promotion. I also express my gratitude to Fr. Suresh, Rector and the confreres of Don Bosco Thanjavur for their fraternal support in hosting the vocation camp.

Students of Theology Meet and Summer Camp Evaluation

On 30 and 31 May 2026, twenty students of theology of our province gathered at DBPH, Tiruchy. The brothers presented reports on the summer camps and youth programmes conducted across the province and engaged in a collective evaluation of their pastoral experience. The gathering fostered reflection, fraternal sharing and renewal before the resumption of their studies. Special thanks to Fr. Victor Antonyraj, Vice Provincial, for organizing the meeting and facilitating the evaluation process of the summer ministry. I gratefully thank and appreciate all the students of philosophy and theology as well as the Rectors and all the Salesians whose collaborative efforts enabled numerous young people to get benefited.



Diaconate Ordination

The diaconate ordination of **Cleric Maria Jerin Antony Samy** took place on 31 May 2026, at St. Mary's Parish Church, Maynooth, Ireland. On behalf of the province, I extend my congratulations to Bro. Jerin and offer our best wishes for his diaconate ministry.

Consecration and Inauguration of the New Church at Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur.

The Solemn Consecration and Inauguration of the newly constructed church, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, was held on 31 May 2026 at K. Pudur, Madurai. I express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Rector and Parish Priest, the Salesian community and the faithful people of Lourdes Shrine Parish, for their dedicated efforts, sacrifices and the generous collaboration in constructing the new church in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes Shrine, K. Pudur, with its rich history of 106 years, has always remained a vibrant centre of unwavering faith, deep Marian devotion and committed Christian living.

In view of the structural condition of the old church and the deep desire of the faithful to commemorate Platinum Jubilee of the Erection of the parish and the Golden Jubilee of the

Salesian Presence in the parish, the decision was taken to construct a new church. After a careful discernment and planning the construction work was started. The foundation stone for the new church was laid on 11 November 2023 in the presence of Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy, Archbishop Emeritus, Fr. Agilan, former Provincial, along with ministers, political leaders, government officials, Salesians and a large gathering of faithful.

I sincerely appreciate Fr. George Fernandez, the Rector and Parish priest, Fr. Bhakiaraj Lourdu, the Vice Rector and the Salesian Community for their tireless efforts throughout the construction process. I also thank the parishioners, benefactors, engineers, workers, well-wishers, and all the faithful whose prayers, contributions and sacrifices made this dream a reality.

Throughout every stage of the construction, the experience of the loving guidance and maternal presence of Mary was so vivid. Echoing the conviction of Don Bosco, I firmly believe that the successful completion of this sacred work is truly a sign of Divine Providence and the blessings of Our Lady of Lourdes. May this new church continue to be a place of prayer, faith, unity and spiritual renewal for generations to come. May Our Lady of Lourdes bless abundantly all those who have contributed to this noble mission.

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

04.06.2021 – Fr. Sahayaraj Arulkannu died at Thanjavur at the age of 61

05.06.2021 – Fr. James Theophilus died at Salem at the age of 68

09.06.2007 – Fr. Amala Joseph Maddhichetty died at Wisconsin at the age of 45

14.06.2020 – Fr. Thommai Antonyrajan died at Sri Lanka at the age of 56

CONDOLENCES...

On behalf of the province, I extend my heartfelt condolences,

- To Fr. Xavier Vinothraj at the untimely demise of his beloved brother, Mr. Arockia Sibin (38) who passed away following an accident on 19 May 2026
- To Fr. George Arockiaraj at the demise of his beloved father, Mr. Selvanayagam @ K.S. George (86), who was called to his eternal reward on 20 May 2026
- To the Provincial and confreres of INC Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Peter Vincent Lourdes (101) on 28 May 2026
- To the Provincial and confreres of INN Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Jyotish Kumar Kindo (53) on 30 May 2026
- To the Provincial and Confreres of INC province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Mathew Chiriyankandath (83) on 30 May 2026

Entrusting the departed souls to the infinite mercy of God, let us unite in prayer for their eternal repose and for strength and consolation to the bereaved family. *May their souls rest in peace!*

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

God calls us to live in community and entrusts us with brothers to love (C 50). When this brotherly love reigns in a community towards one another and all rejoice in another's good, just as though it were their own, then the house becomes heaven itself – says Don Bosco (To the Salesian Confreres).

As we begin the new academic year, let us take strong resolution to create heavenly communities, wherever we are. The evangelizing mission of the Catholic Church expects the religious to create and live in communities which resemble heaven. Secular world longs for such models. Although, we religious, live in a secular world, we live as though we don't belong to this secular world, but belong to heaven.

For us Salesians living together and working together is a fundamental requirement. This is why we come together in communities, where our love for each other leads us to share all we have in a family spirit, and so create communion between person and person. The community becomes a reflection of the mystery of the Trinity: there we find a response to the deep aspirations of the heart and we become signs of love and unity for the young (C 49).

The family spirit is the hallmark of the Salesian community (C.51). Don Bosco wanted everyone to feel at home in his establishments (C16). For him Salesian community becomes a sign revealing Christ (C.57). The section on fraternal life in our constitution begins with the following bible passage:

“Let love be genuine... love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honour... practice hospitality... Live in harmony with one another” (Rom12:9-16).

Though the word LOVE is commonly used in many contexts, with many connotations, we cannot take for granted the LOVE that Christ spoke about, apostles wrote about and Don Bosco insisted on. Christ, when he gave the new commandment on LOVE, specifies that we have to LOVE one another AS CHRIST LOVES:

“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13: 34,35).

Hence, it is not any other love that world denotes, but the LOVE that Christ taught us through His life. It will be good to check at the beginning of the year about the love that prevails in our personal life and in our communities.

Further explaining on the same LOVE of Christ St. Paul has the following to say:

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but

do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor 13: 1 – 7).

Don't by pass this reading, just by reading it once or by glancing through. Take it for *Lectio Divina* at the beginning of the year. Let the confreres share their mind and heart in understanding this text. A religious community has to take this LOVE aspect of the community life very seriously and make effort to live it to the full. This calls for consistent effort and day by day fidelity. There is no genuine love without sacrifice. Members of the community sacrifice their personal projects in order to keep the community project alive. If there is no genuine love in the community, slowly members will get deviated to look for love outside the community which will divide and shatter the community.

Don Bosco uses a humane word 'affection' in the place of love. The Salesian house becomes a family when affection is mutual and when all, both confreres and young people, feel welcome and responsible for the common good (C 16). Challenge in today's religious communities is to create such affection between members. Don Bosco himself was very affectionate towards his Salesians and boys. When Don Bosco wrote to Michael Rua, sent at the age of 26 to be the Rector at Mirabello, he began his long letter with the phrase "con te stesso" – "for yourself" – advising Michael Rua to take care of himself. To boys Don Bosco would say: "For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life" (C 14).

When such affectionate love is lived in Salesian community, with simplicity, self-giving, kindness, cheerfulness, sharing and even in welcoming and offering hospitality to outsiders, many will be drawn towards Salesian Family Spirit and this witness will enkindle in the young the desire to get to know and to follow the Salesian vocation (C 56, 16).

Let us make effort to create affectionate communities in the province.

Happy Feast of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



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