



Salesian Province of **Tiruchy** *Annai Velankanni*



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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

AUGUST 2026

MY DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Tiruchy!

The month of August holds special significance for us, as Indian Salesians, bringing together two great celebrations on 15th August: Independence Day of India and the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. One is a National celebration and the other a universal feast of the Church, yet both proclaim the same profound truth – TRUE FREEDOM.



The Feast of the Assumption is a celebration of hope and joy. It proclaims God's victory and the gift of eternal life. Mary was assumed into Heaven, body and soul, revealing that our human nature has a place in God's eternal glory. Heaven is not a distant or unknown realm but a living reality where God's love welcomes us. We are not alone on our journey of faith for we have a Mother in Heaven. Heaven is open, Heaven has a heart. This feast also reveals a deeper, spiritual freedom.

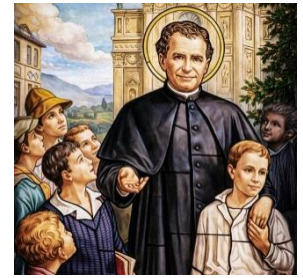
Mary's life of complete faith, obedience and holiness led her to share fully in Christ's victory over sin and death. Her assumption reminds us that true freedom is not simply doing what we desire but choosing what is good and living according to God's will. In Mary's joyful 'fiat' we find perfect model of discipleship and freedom rooted in love, grace and trust in God.

We celebrate our 79th Independence Day, commemorating our independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. On 15 August we celebrate the enduring spirit of India, a spirit marked by courage, resilience and unwavering determination. It reminds us of the remarkable journey our Nation has undertaken, shaped by the sacrifices and struggles of countless number of freedom fighters. Their dream was to see India free, self-reliant and restored to its true greatness. It is an occasion to honour the past, cherish the present and work together toward a future where the blessings of freedom, justice and opportunity are shared by all.



The convergence of these two celebrations on 15th August offers us a unique opportunity to unite our spiritual commitment, with our patriotic responsibility. As Salesians, entrusted with the mission of educating and accompanying the young, we renew our commitment to forming young people who are not only academically competent but also deeply rooted in Gospel values and responsible citizenship. Inspired by Mary assumed into heaven and strengthened by the legacy of our freedom fighters, may we become faithful disciples of Christ and committed builders of our Nation. May Our Blessed Mother intercede for us and for our beloved India.

On 16 August we celebrate 211th birthday of St. John Bosco, our father and founder, who discovered that true freedom begins with a heart rooted in Christ. His life reminds us that freedom is not simply the absence of constraints, but the grace to dream God's dream, to choose goodness over comfort and dedicate oneself joyfully to the service of others. His unwavering joy sprang from gratitude, his holiness from ordinary acts of love and his mission from an open heart that welcomed every young person. As we celebrate his birthday, may we be inspired to use our freedom not for ourselves alone but to become signs of hope, builders of fraternity and companions who enable the young to discover their dignity, purpose and the courage to dream beyond themselves.



May God bless our country with peace, justice, unity and prosperity and grant us the grace to form young people who are truly good Christians and honest Citizens, living the values of the Gospel and the noble ideals of Indian Constitution.

Preparation for the Extraordinary Visitation

Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard, our Rector Major, by his letter has announced the next Extraordinary Visitation to INT Salesian Province of Our Lady of Velankanni from 01 December 2026 to 24 February 2027. The Rector Major has appointed Rev. Fr. William Matthew, Regional Councillor for East Asia Oceania, to carry out the Extraordinary Visitation in accordance with Article 127 of the Constitutions and Article 104 of the Regulations. Therefore, the extraordinary Visitation will begin on 01 December 2026 and conclude on 24 February 2027. Following the communication from the Rector Major and the Extraordinary Visitor, I request the communities to begin the necessary preparations by updating and compiling the required documents and carrying out a self-assessment of community life and mission. Further details and specific requirements will be communicated to the communities in due course.

Province Foundation Day

As we gather on 05th August at Don Bosco Alaihal Media, Manikandam to celebrate our Province Foundation Day, we gratefully remember God's providence that has guided our Province from its humble beginnings. Rooted in the charism of Don Bosco and inspired by our Motto, "Making the Periphery, the Center," this celebration is an occasion to renew our

Salesian Identity and recommit ourselves to the mission of educating and evangelizing the young especially the poor and the marginalized.

This year's celebration is further enriched as we honour our confreres celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their Priestly Ordination and Religious Profession. Their twenty-five years of faithful witness, generous service, and unwavering commitment to God, the congregation and the young are a source of inspiration for the entire province. As we celebrate these milestones together, may our gratitude for the past strengthen our communion in the present and renew our dedication in the spirit of St. John Bosco. We joyfully congratulate Fr. Ashok Lawrence, Fr. Bernard Moses and Fr. Suresh Felix on the Silver Jubilee of their Religious Profession and Fr. Amaladoss Sanjone, Fr. Amalaorpavaraj Annappan, Fr. Bhakiaraj Lourdu, Fr. Francis Xavier Antony, Fr. Jayaraj Christopher, Fr. Ricopar Royan and Fr. Patrick Antonyraj on the Silver Jubilee of their Priestly Ordination.

As our Province Foundation Day is intended to strengthen our communion and deepen our fraternal bonds, I earnestly encourage the wholehearted participation of all the confreres from every community. I particularly urge that our young Salesian be given the opportunity to take part in this important gathering, as it is a valuable occasion to experience our shared identity, celebrate our common heritage. Dear Salesians your gracious presence will add joy and meaning to this celebration.

Beatification of Salesian Martyr Fr. Elia Comini

The Church will witness a moment of profound joy and our congregation will celebrate a historic moment of grace with the Beatification of Fr. Elia Comini SDB on 27 September 2026. Born on 07 May 1910 in Calvenzano di Vergato, Bologna, he made his first profession in 1926 and was ordained a priest on 16 March 1935. As a Salesian educator he became known for his cheerful spirit, deep pastoral charity and fatherly concern for young people. Amidst the horrors of World War II, he courageously ministered to the wounded, comforted the dying, promoted the sacraments and worked tirelessly to reconcile civilians, partisans and occupying German forces.



On 29 September 1944, Fr. Elia Comini and Fr. Martino Capelli were arrested by Nazi soldiers while bringing spiritual consolations to survivors of a massacre. Though fully aware of the danger, they remained with the prisoners, hearing confessions, praying with them and encouraging them to place their trust in God. On 01 October 1944 both the priests were executed in hatred of the faith. Until his final moments, Fr. Elia led the prisoners in prayer, transforming the march to death into a witness of Christian hope and forgiveness. The beatification of Fr. Elia Comini is a moment of immense joy for the entire Salesian Family and

the universal Church. His life reflects the Salesian spirit of loving service, pastoral charity and unwavering fidelity to Christ. May the witness of the new Blessed inspire all of us to embrace the Gospel with courage, generosity, hope and faithful witnesses of Christ in today's world.

Appointment of the New Delegate for the Salesian Family



On 07th July 2026, Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard, Rector Major, appointed Fr. Manuel Jimenez Castro as the Rector Major's Delegate for the Secretariat for the Salesian Family for the six-year term 2026-2032. He succeeds Fr. Joan Lluís Playa, who has faithfully guided the Secretariat since 2020. As we welcome Fr. Manuel Jimenez Castro to this important responsibility, we assure him of our prayers and best wishes for a fruitful ministry. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Joan Lluís Playa for his generous service over the past six years.

Announcing the Preparations for 15th BOSCOREE

On 03 July 2026 Rev. Fr. Biju Michael, General Councillor for the South Asia Region and President of SPCSA, officially announced the commencement of preparations for the 15th BOSCOREE, which will be hosted by the Salesian Province of Chennai from 28 December 2027 to 02 January 2028. Following the announcement of the preparations for 15th BOSCOREE, I warmly invite the communities, scouts and guides of our province to begin preparing for this significant Salesian gathering. May St. John Bosco accompany our preparations and inspire us to make the 15th BOSCOREE a joyful experience of communion, growth and mission.

New Ratio Dissemination for all Formators of INT

A dissemination Programme on the New *Ratio Fundamental* for all formators of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy will be held on 20 August 2026 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy. The programme aims to familiarize formators with the renewed vision, principles and guidelines of Salesian formation, enabling them to accompany those in formation with greater clarity, fidelity and effectiveness. All the formators in our formation houses are expected to participate in this important programme without exception and update themselves on the latest directives concerning Salesian formation.

Priest & Salesian Brothers Meet (2005-2014)

As part of the ongoing formation programme of the Province, the first Batch Meeting for perpetually professed confreres will be held on 28-29 August 2026 at Mount Don Bosco, Kotagiri. Confreres ordained between 2005 and 2014 are expected to participate. The list of participants has already been shared in the INT news WhatsApp group. May this gathering foster fraternal communion, rekindle the Salesian spirit and renew our shared commitment to the mission entrusted to us by Don Bosco.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

01, 02	Sat, Sun	Young Salesians Meet @ DBPH, Tiruchy
05	Wed	Province Foundation Day @ DB Alaihal Media, Manikandam
06	Thu	Provincial Council @ DBPH, Tiruchy
07-09	Fri - Sun	Certificate Programme for Catechism Teachers @ Kodaikanal for Tiruchy Zone
11	Tue	Media Awareness Online Seminar
15	Sat	Zonal Level Migrant Cultural Fest @ Tiruppur
20	Thu	New Ratio Dissemination for all the Formators of INT @ DBPH, Tiruchy
27	Thu	Training for the Assistant Parish Priests @ Madhakottai
28-29	Fri, Sat	Priest and Salesian Brothers meet (2005-2014) @ Kotagiri

RECALLING EVENTS

Formation Course for the Newly Appointed Provincials

I participated in the formation programme for new provincials, held at Salesian Generalate, Rome from 12 to 24 July 2026. We were 9 new provincials: 1. Fr. Ashley MIRANDA **INB** 2. Fr. Peter CHINWEIKE MORBA **ANN** 3. Fr. Mel Racelis AMELITO **FIS** 4. Fr. Gaston HARISOA J. **MDG** 5. Fr. Ignacio José LAVENTURE **AET** 6. Fr. Dariusz BARTOCHA **PLS** 7. Fr. Ronilo [Aguilar] JAVINES **FIN** 8. Fr. Domenico SARANITI **ISI** 9. Doss Kennedy JEGADOSS **INT**. I thank Fr. Victor Antonyraj, Vice Provincial and Fr. Ricopar Royan, Economer for taking care of the province during my absence.

The programme began with an introductory session on 12 July 2026 evening, animated by our Rector Major Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard and the Vicar of Rector Major Rev. Fr. Stefano Martoglio, explaining the dynamics of the course and giving us an orientation. Everyday we had our morning prayer, meditation, mass, evening prayer, spiritual reading, good night talks, together with all the general council members in the Chapel of Letters. We also had our meals (lunch and supper) together with our Rector Major and the general council members in a separate refectory, on all the days of the course. This is to say that the Rector Major and his council wanted to travel with us, the new provincials, in preparing us for the animating and governing role in our respective provinces.

The following topics were dealt during the course: Outline of the Six-Year Plan of the Congregation – Rector Major and the Vicar of RM; Legal Aspects – Fr. Guido Garino and Fr. Pier Fausto Frisoli; Animation and Governance of the Province – Fr. Stefano Martoglio, Vicar of RM; Formation - Fr. Silvio Roggia & Team; Youth Ministry – Fr. Rafael Bejarano and Team; Religious Identity and Religious Discipline – Vicar of RM; A day of Recollection on the theme ‘The Spirituality of the Provincial’ animated by RM, followed by Personal Prayer and Confession; Salesian Missions – Fr. Jorge Crisafulli & Team; Social Communication – Fr. Orendain Fidel & Team; Economy – Fr. Gabriel Stawowy & Team; Salesian Family – Fr. Joan Lluís Playa & Team; Postulation for the Causes of the Saints – Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni. Every

day in the evening we took turns to meet the Rector Major and the General Councillors individually for Personal Colloquy.

Besides, we also had guided tours, on different days, to Salesian Pontifical University (UPS) and Salesian Historical Institute & ACCSA; to Vatican Library – guided by Fr. Mantovani; to different places in Rome, where Don Bosco stayed and worked on Salesian Constitutions, got the approval for our congregation from Pope.

On two Sundays I concelebrated Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart; on a Saturday I celebrated mass on the side altar of Mary Help of Christians, where Don Bosco wept while celebrating mass, towards the end of his life. I offered these masses for our province and your intentions dear confreres.

It was an enriching experience of learning, living in the place where Don Bosco himself lived and praying in the Basilica built by Don Bosco. Spiritually and intellectually, I'm empowered. Fr. Patrick Antonyraj, being the secretary of the Vicar, was the main coordinator of the programme; planned meticulously and helped us in all ways possible. In the name of our province, I thank our beloved Rector Major and the general council members for offering us such an enriching experience in learning.

All Departments Meeting

The All Departments meeting of the Province was held on 02 July 2026 at DBPH, Kallukuzhy, with the active participation of all the Provincial Departments. I sincerely thank all the members for their wholehearted presence, generous collaboration and valuable contributions. I express my gratitude to Vice Provincial for organizing the meeting and the Rector & community of DBPH, Kallukuzhy, for looking after the accommodation and food.

Leaders Meet

The Meeting of the Rectors and Leaders of our communities was held on 3,4 July 2026 at DBPH, Kallukuzhy focusing on the theme of Salesian Consecrated Identity. The gathering provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection, renewal and strengthening of our vocation and commitment as Consecrated Salesians in the Spirit of Don Bosco. I sincerely thank all the



Rectors and Leaders for their wholehearted participation, openness and fraternal sharing during the meeting. Your presence and active involvement have greatly contributed to the enrichment of our common journey and the strengthening of our Salesian Identity. I also express my gratitude to Vice Provincial for

planning the programme of the meeting and the Rector & community of DBPH, Kallukuzhy for their warm hospitality and dedicated service in hosting this important gathering.

Training for the New Administrators cum Administrators and Accountants Meeting

A two-day workshop for the new Administrators and Accountants, followed by the Meeting of Administrators and Accountants of all the Salesian houses were organized at DBPH, Kallukuzhy from 6-8 July 2026. The Economer's office has provided valuable formation on Society Registration and Maintenance, FCRA and Income Tax norms, ACME-ERP software usage. And the Economer animated them on the theme: 'Salesian Administration: Knowledge, Systems and Accountability.' I express my gratitude to Fr. Ricopar Royan, Provincial Economer and his team for their dedication, planning and coordination of these programmes.

INT Province Youth Service Coordinators' Meeting

The INT Youth Service Coordinators' Meeting was held at Don Bosco ALAIHAL Media, Manikandam on 11 July 2026. The meeting was enriched with the sessions on accompanying Gen Z and Gen Alpha, strengthening youth groups, career guidance, the Oratorian spirit and the Vision of ILAMAI. I thank all the Youth Service Coordinators, Zonal Youth Directors, resource persons and Fr. Casimir Raj, Youth Director, for their dedication and shared vision in strengthening our commitment to accompany young people in the spirit of Don Bosco.

National Council Meeting of Past Pupils Federation

The National Council meeting of the Past Pupils Federation of Don Bosco was held at DBPH, Kallukuzhy, hosted by our Province. The meeting served as a significant platform for reviewing the progress of the federation, strengthening governance and accountability and planning future initiatives. I express my sincere appreciation to the Vice Provincial, Fr. Victor Antonyraj, for his support in hosting this important meeting. I also extend my thanks to Fr. Albert Lourdusamy, Provincial Delegate for Past Pupil Federation, Fr. Ashok Lawrence, Rector and the community of DBPH, Kallukuzhy for the preparations and hospitality that contributed to the success of the meeting.

Orientation Training for the Staff and SDBs by DB4M

The DB4M National Capacity Building Programme for Migrant Help Desk Directors, Staff and Partners was held at DB Alaihal Media, Manikandam on 17-18 July 2026 bringing together Salesian Provinces of India, partner organisations and migrant ministry personnel from across India. The programme focused on strengthening migrant ministry through research, legal awareness, networking, coordinated action and advocacy. My sincere gratitude goes to Fr. Felix Arulnathan, the Rector and the Community of Tiruppur for planning and coordinating the programme; and Fr. Barnabass, the Rector and the community

of Manikandam DB Alaihal Media, for their warm hospitality, generous support and fraternal care which contributed to the success of this enriching national gathering.

Orientation for New Academic Staff

A training programme on Salesian Pedagogy for the newly recruited teachers was held on 18 July 2026, bringing together fifty teachers from various Salesian schools of our Province. The programme aimed at introducing the participants to the educational vision, values and pedagogical approach inspired by our father and founder St. John Bosco. I sincerely thank Fr. Gamaliyel Francis, Provincial Delegate for Education to Culture Dimension, for coordinating this programme and DBPH community for hosting this programme. May this initiative help our teachers become more effective bearers of the Salesian educational mission.

Meetings and Animation at the National Level

Fr. K.P Vincent attended the DBYA Sports Academy Meet, for the Province Coordinators, held at Dimapur on 3,4 July 2026.

Bro. Sagayaraj Madalaimuthu participated in the Salesian Brothers' Province Delegates Meeting, held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad on 10,11 July 2026.

Fr. Mohan Christuraj (Manakkal), Fr. Alphonse Lazar (Sayalgudi) and Fr. Arnold Mahesh (DBAI - Ukkadam) have completed the Rector's Course conducted at DBRC, Bengaluru from 25 June to 14 July 2026.

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

27.08.2007 – Fr. [Rosario Perez](#) died at Madurai at the age of 46

CONDOLENCES...

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

- To the [Provincial and confreres of INB Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Ivan de Souza](#) (78) on 26 July 2026

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

Oratorian Character of a Salesian

Don Bosco wanted the pastoral experience of the first Oratory at Valdocco as a permanent criterion for all the Salesian activity in the world. Valdocco was for the youngsters a home that welcomed, a parish that evangelized, a school that prepared them for life and a playground where friends could meet and enjoy themselves. (C.40) All our Salesian communities should have these four basic elements of an Oratorian character of Valdocco.

Mostly we look at this criterion outside of us, in the Salesian house, in the community, in the building, in the mission field...etc. We concentrate more on the external structures for creating the Oratorian Spirit in our mission. Have we ever taken a journey within, to see a Oratorian Heart in ourselves personally? Unless a Salesian personally lives this criterion in one's own life, he will never be able to create it in the mission and he will never be a true Salesian, as Don Bosco wanted. Hence, there is a basic need that each one of us become a home, a parish (church), a school and a playground. Let us see how:



HOME:

We know that every Salesians house should be a home according to the mind of Don Bosco. Let us apply this concept to our own personal lives and say **every Salesian should be a home**. It means, every Salesian is a family member, who welcomes, accepts and values every youngster; who has a family spirit of kindness, trust, forgiveness and mutual respect; who cares for young people by listening, guiding and encouraging; who creates a joyful environment of friendship, recreation, prayer and shared life; who can be easily approached by youngsters anytime to grow spiritually, emotionally and personally.



St. John Bosco believed that young people thrive best when they experience genuine love and belonging. So, when Salesians who live in the Salesian schools, hostels, parishes, and communities reflect the warmth, security and affection of a loving family - not simply operate with rules and regulations - that Salesian presence becomes a home.

In short, the youngsters should feel that they belong, are loved, and are at home whenever they meet a Salesian of Don Bosco.

PARISH:

We know that every Salesians house should be a parish (church) according to the mind of Don Bosco. Let us apply this concept to our own personal lives and say **every Salesian should be a Parish (Church)**. It means that every Salesian is a holy dwelling place of God. It expresses the spiritual ideal of the life of a Salesian.

Salesian is a person in whom God is fully present, in whom youngsters can easily encounter God. More specifically it means that he is a man of prayer; he is a witness to the unfailing providential love of God; he is a radical witness to faith in God; he keeps Christ at the centre of his life; he is a man of the Holy Spirit; he shares the filial love of our Blessed Mother; and ultimately, he is a religious on his way to Holiness.

Hence the young people get attracted towards him because of his divine purity; his prevenient love of God; his compassionate heart of the Good Shepherd Christ; his motherly, fatherly, brotherly accompaniment like Don Bosco's Madonna, our Blessed Mother Mary help of Christians; his predilection for the young like Don Bosco.

In short, when we say a Salesian should be a parish (church), we mean that he should radiate prayer, faith, and God's presence; not merely in his external behaviour, but deep within himself. He should be a place (parish church) where young people meet God, experience Christ and feel the heart of Don Bosco.

SCHOOL:

We know that every Salesian house should be a school according to the mind of Don Bosco. Let us apply this concept to our own personal lives and say **every Salesian should be a school**. It means, every Salesian is a life-learning space for the youngsters whom they meet. Salesian becomes (more than creating) an environment for a friendly, lively, joyful learning and growth. Remember Don Bosco saying: for you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life. He became a personal space for the youngsters to lean on him and learn life. Following Don Bosco, a Salesian becomes all things to all youngsters, for learning the right things in life.



Salesian remains joyful always amidst youngsters; admits curiosity, over memorization, in learning; plays games with them; gets involved in sports, dramatics, singing and group activities in order to develop their character, leadership and social skills; allows them to make mistakes while learning, and avoids harsh punishments.

'Every Salesian should be a school' - has a broader meaning. It means, Salesian becomes a medium in which young people are formed - intellectually, morally, spiritually, emotionally, and socially – in order to become good Christians and honest citizens.

PLAYGROUND:

We know that every Salesian house should be a playground according to the mind of Don Bosco. Let us apply this concept to our own personal lives and say **every Salesian should be a playground**. It means that every Salesian should offer space in his personal life for young people to come in and feel happy, free, safe, and welcomed.

The playground has a special meaning in the Salesian tradition. When a Salesian becomes a playground, in him young people find space for laughter, play and enjoyment; through him they find their true friends and build authentic relationships; his friendly presence helps them to trust and open their hearts easily; while being with him, they play well, learn teamwork, honesty, respect, self-control and perseverance.

When a Salesian is present among the young, playing-talking-encouraging, not merely supervising them from a distance, God's Kingdom can be experienced there. This we call, in Salesian terms, as playground spirituality

So, when we say every Salesian of Don Bosco should be a playground, we mean, he should be a space filled with life, joy, friendship, healthy recreation and caring relationships, where (i.e., in him) every young person feels at home.

Make this Oratorian criteria, a personal criterion. Ask yourself if you are a home, a parish, a school and a playground for the young people who come to you personally. This will give a Salesian Identity to each one of us as Don Bosco wanted. Salesian is A home where young people are loved; Salesian is A parish (church) where young encounter God; Salesian is A school where young people learn their life; and Salesian is A playground where they meet friends and experience joy.

Together, these four images describe the complete Salesian vision of educating and accompanying young people.

Happy Independence Day!

Happy Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother!

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



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