

Priory News



New vestments on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Christian Schneider and the faithful of the parish who have been very generous benefactors of the mission over the years.

▪ Before Christmas, Sebastian, one of our Tamil boarders, had the misfortune of breaking his arm while playing football. It was a nasty break as we can see from the x-ray, but he was very stoic about it all. His friends, however, were quite upset by the whole episode. Fortunately, after a successful operation, Sebastian was soon back at school.

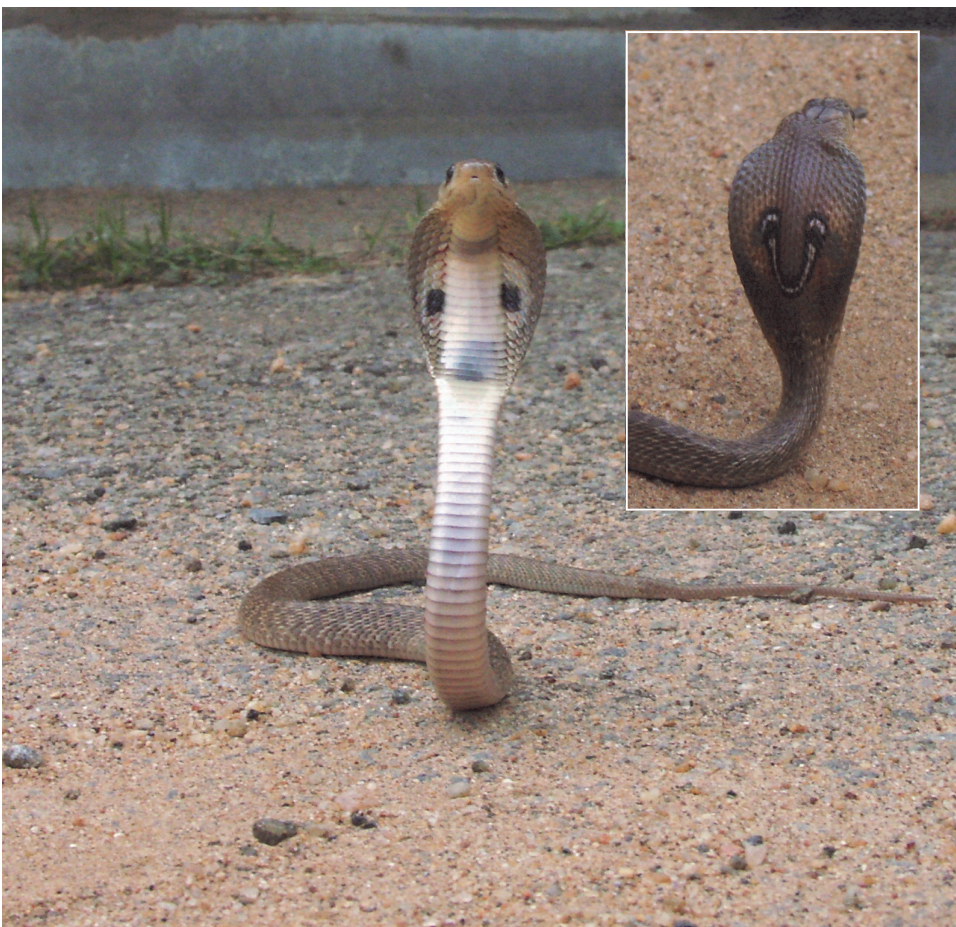
▪ Anistas, the renowned snake catcher, intercepted a king cobra as it slithered slyly past the front steps of the priory recently. The cobra is the deadliest of all snakes; there is no antidote to its poisonous bite. Our particular specimen, is quite safe, however, as it now finds



Sebastian's nasty break.



Sebastian and sympathetic friends.



The Cobra in front of the priory.

itself pickled in a jar of formalin on a shelf in the dormitory.

▪ On 20th & 21st December a potentially violent political rally was held at Palyankottai by one of the local political parties. Fortunately it turned out to be a peaceful gathering to salute a new party leader by the name of Mukka Stalin. About 300,000 people were encouraged to turn-up to the rally which took place next to the girls' orphanage. The girls were forced to sleep in the school for two nights to avoid any trouble with Mukka's



Pre-postulant brothers. John-Peter and Anistas examine their latest catch.

Priory News



Mukka Stalin and an admirer.

Bombay and Dr.Suneel Reddi from Hyderabad, both seminarians at Holy Cross Seminary, stayed at the priory for their summer apostolate. It was the first time for five years that Rev. Mr.Gregory had visited the priory. The last time he came the building was still under construction. He has spent his time here teaching Latin at Veritas Academy and giving some badly needed singing lessons to the boys. We



Praveen examines his bated hook before skilfully casting his rod.

excited devotees.

▪ The clement weather of midwinter in Southern India afforded an excellent opportunity for fishing at the “dam”. The “dam” is a modest imperial construction about 20 minutes away from the priory. It serves to control the water that flow into the rice fields which burst into life for four months of the year. The boys usually go swimming there but a recent interest in angling has caused a good few fish to be landed instead.

▪ It is a tradition at the orphanage that, a few days before Christmas, all the children are taken to town to buy a new outfit for Christmas Day. This tradition was duly observed this year and generated the greatest excitement. The good sisters at the orphanage organise this trip; they look after both the boys and the girls.

▪ Another tradition that was observed before Christmas was the construction of a huge crib at the priory. This year’s crib was truly magnificent and was the fruit of four weeks of work.

▪ On 11th January, Fr. Brucciani paid a fleeting visit to the U.K. to renew his visa. The visit enabled him to give presentations to the faithful at St. Michael’s School and at St. Joseph’s in London.

▪ For part of January and most of February, Rev. Mr. Gregory Noronha from



A thoughtful Mary Rita .in her new Christmas dress