

---

# Orphanage

---



*Sr. Maria Immaculata cuts the Welcome Home sign.*

## AUNTIE RETURNS

On the 3rd July at the motherhouse of the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Vigne, Italy, Sr. Maria Immaculata pronounced her first public vows at the end of her 12 month novitiate. The event was marked at the orphanage in Palayamkottai by prayers of thanksgiving and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament .

With almost indecent haste, Sister packed her bags, made her farewells and jumped on a plane to return to her precious charges at the orphanage .

For months before, the children were counting down the days with growing excitement. If any of the classes at school seemed a bit dull of an afternoon, one simply had to ask the question, “How many days until Auntie comes?” and the sleepy mob would be transformed instantly into a bright eyed, chattering m  l  e.

Cards were designed, plays were practised, songs were rehearsed, fireworks purchased. Miss Marie-Blanche managed to persuade the cold-hearted Fr.Brucciani to let the children have a day off school so that, when the flight arrived at the nearby Tuticorin airport on the 10th July, all would be prepared.



*Happiness. Jyothi and Auntie.*

If only it were possible to convey the overflowing joy of the boys and girls on that day. Sister, however, being of a very phlegmatic temperament, betrayed little more than a placid smile. Fr.Couture came especially for the event, for it marked the close of another chapter in the continuing story of what can only be described as a beautiful work of Divine Providence.

## MISS MARIE-BLANCHE DEPARTS

The arrival of Sr. Maria Immaculata was anticipated with mixed emotions by Miss Marie-Blanche. She had held the whole operation together while Sr.Maria Immaculata was in Italy: not only looking after the orphanage but acting as headmistress of Veritas Academy too. There was much midnight oil burnt during the 16



*And tears. Anu finds it all too much.*

---

## Orphanage

---

months that she was in charge.

On 20th July, sad to leave the children, but happy to return home, Miss Marie-Blanche left India to return to the mother house and commence her novitiate. May the Lord reward her richly for the many sacrifices she made during her time here and may He grant her a year of repose in His Sacred Heart.

### THE FUTURE

The Consoling Sisters plan to keep sending postulants to the mother house for their novitiate until there are enough professed and experienced sisters to establish a novitiate here in India. Two more postulants, Miss Rosaline and Miss Rosilda, will shortly follow Miss Marie-Blanche and another postulant has recently been accepted into the orphanage.

There is also a grandiose plan on the drawing board for a new orphanage, novitiate and church to be built on land which has already been purchased. The land is in the countryside about 5 miles (8 km) to the north east of Palyamkottai. As soon as the first phase of the building is complete, Sr. Maria Immaculata hopes to accept more orphans into the orphanage. The ones we have now are growing up very quickly. Ω



*My girls.*



*Miss Marie-Blanche Herault, packed and ready to return to the haven of the novitiate of the Consoling Sisters in Vigne, Italy.*



*Lucy looks on in silent reflection.*