
The Travels of His Lordship : R.N.Kandigai

The next day, His Lordship, was taken to the train station for another six hour northward journey. The destination this time was the house of a benefactor in Chennai, but, no sooner had the clergy fallen asleep that evening, they were rudely awoken at 3am on Sunday 31st August and shovelled into a taxi for a two hour southward journey to the village of R.N.Kandigai.

R.N.Kandigai, as explained in a previous *Apostle*, has been without a parish priest for eleven years on account of a caste dispute with the local bishop. The dispute has only simmered in recent years but the arrival of the apostolic Fr.Pfeiffer really upset the status quo of things. By celebrating Mass every Sunday in the parish church and teaching catechism after Mass, the village has been brought to spiritual life again with Mass attendances of 300 or more. News of this renaissance reached the local bishop and moved him to obtain a court injunction forbidding the use of the parish church a few days before the Confirmation ceremony was due to take place.

On the day, however, the victory of the local bishop rang rather hollow for, with a congregation of almost 1000 faithful, there were far too many to fit into the church anyway (it can hold about 300 at a push). 15 souls received the sacrament of Confirmation.

From R.N.Kandigai, His Lordship returned to Chennai, then flew to Delhi, transferred to the International Airport and then probably crawled on to a flight at a quarter past midnight bound for the U.S. How he manages at his age is cause of wonder to us all. Ω



“But David and all Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of wood, on harps and timbrels and cornets and cymbals.”(2 Kings 6 v5). His Lordship is borne in the ark from the door of the locked parish church to the temporary outdoor chapel at R.N. Kandigai.