

Priory News



Mr. Martin Nougayrede of Marseille, France gave his summer holidays to the mission to teach French at Veritas Academy and supervise the boys at the priory. Here he is giving a sports coaching session to the boys. Mr. Nougayrede is midway through a course in France to prepare for entrance exams to the illustrious military training college of St. Cyr.



A genteel afternoon walk on the dam soon degenerated into a water-lily slinging battle between shifting barbarian alliances.

▪ 8th June. School started with 49 pupils (up from 38 last year). There were only 6 of the 9 teachers required, so classes were quite a challenge. Mercifully, by the beginning of July two more had arrived.

▪ 11th June. Fr. Valan organised a grandiose Corpus Christi procession in and around St. Anthony's Chapel in Asaripalam. The entire school and orphanage attended.

▪ 17th June. A new pre-postulant arrived at the priory. He is only 17 years old and will continue his studies while living at the priory. John-Peter, our pre-postulant of two years, is now trying to obtain a passport so that he can go to Holy Cross Seminary to become a postulant brother. May the angels smooth his path through the maddening bureaucracy.

▪ 21st July—2nd August. The annual St. Anthony's Festival took place at Singamparai. On one day, the faithful of the chapel invited all the village of Singamparai to dinner in the evening. After Mass, 2000 people seated themselves in neat rows in front of the chapel. After saying grace, the priest was bundled unceremoniously into a car as the crowds started to break ranks in search of a blessing.

The climax of the festival is always a Sung Mass followed by a Blessed Sacrament procession. The girls of the orphanage sang the Mass together with several beautiful polyphonic pieces—something little known in Singamparai. Everyone was in raptures.

The ceremony closed with deafening fireworks (you can actually see the shock waves) and the lowering of the flag on the last day.

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On 29th May, Mr. Iganaci Prabaher and Maria Santhosa Kanni both of Singamparai married in St. Anthony's Chapel.



On 21st June, Maria Josy Crescentia, daughter of Michaelas and Josephin Pushpa was baptised to the great excitement of all the girls. Here she is in the arms of her aunt and godmother.

▪ 3rd—4th August: All the boys and volunteers and Fr. Brucciani went to Christurajapuram for the half-term break. As usual they spent much of the time in the crashing waves of the south coast.

▪ 13th—15th August: Fr. Valan led a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Alphonsa in

Bharananganam, Kerala. St. Alphonsa was a nun of the Franciscan Clarist Congregation of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church. She died at the age of 35 after many years of illness. She wrote to her spiritual director: "Dear Father, as my good Lord Jesus loves me so very much, I sincerely desire to remain on this sick bed and suffer not only this, but anything else besides, even to the end of the world. I feel now that God has intended my life to be an oblation, a sacrifice of suffering" (20 November 1944). Hundreds of miraculous cures are claimed as a result of her intercession and she was declared a Servant of God when her cause for canonisation was introduced in 1953. She was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI on 12th October 2008.

▪ 26th August. Another new pre-postulant, arrived at the priory from the village of R. N. Kandigai. D.G.



*Saint Alphonsa Muttathupadathu.
19th August 1910 – 28th July 1946*



Sadly Magnificat the priory cat has vanished; we suspect that she tried to eat one snake too many.



This is the new cat, Benedicat. Remarkable evolutionary adaptation has made her quickly blend-in with the armchair in the entrance hall.