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## Priory of the Most Holy Trinity, India

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Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In the days before the steam engine, sailing ships plied their way across the deep blue oceans of the world. For the sailors of these majestic works of art and technology, the challenge of the sea could bring them to moments of either heroic virtue or quivering cowardice, but for most of the time, life was simply 'plain sailing.' To cover one hundred nautical miles in a day was a cause for deep satisfaction for a conscientious crew and on some voyages there could be many days together where the sun shone brightly and the wind blew steadily in a favourable direction. With their ship gently rising and falling as it ploughed a disappearing furrow in the deep, they held centre stage between the azure sky and the sparkling disk of endless water. The routine of each day, busy in itself, but repeated day after day brought time to a standstill. The bells sounded the watches one after another, swabbing, polishing, cooking, the sound of the eager feet, the clatter of mess tins,

loud voices and laughter and song carried away by the steady breeze, the gurgling of the water against the hull and the creaking of the timbers and ropes . . . all arriving in due time and order made the life of a sailor seem one long continuum.

Well, sitting here, trying to think of the extraordinary and exciting things that have happened in the mission over the last three months, I begin to understand what life aboard a sailing ship might have been. Nothing has really happened and yet we have been very busy with our daily routines. In our little world, we are centre-stage, and despite being surrounded by many millions of people, there is nobody really watching... except from above.

And just as in the days of sailing ships when the greatest progress was made under a steady breeze, so it is when there is routine in our lives. When we have a routine, if it is a good routine, then we develop good habits or virtues by the repetition of actions. For a soul in a state of grace, a growth in natural virtue is also accompanied by a growth in supernatural



*'Receive the token of your admission to the Guild of St. Stephen that, ever aided by His intercession, you may lead a holy life. Amen.'*

virtue such that, the longer a good routine is maintained, the holier and more virtuous a soul becomes. It is for this reason that religious orders take their rule so seriously.

Sometimes, however, a steady routine weighs heavily upon our wounded nature—we crave change, continuous change. This is understandable because man is made to know and love God; he therefore has an in-built desire to gain knowledge of new things until he knows everything, that is, until he knows God. Unfortunately, however, when man is unfaithful to grace, he will destroy himself by seeking both sensual and intellectual knowledge that does not lead him to a knowledge of God. But when grace acts, man uses his knowledge of creatures as a springboard to a higher knowledge that comes through study, reflection, meditation and intuition. The key to overcoming the monotony of routine, therefore, is to seek for an ever higher, newer and more complete knowledge of That which will enthrall us for all eternity. It requires effort, but the rewards are infinite.

So the life of our priory, chapels and school continues as usual. The days pass with little dramas that come and go, but



*Young Mr. Joseph Carron providentially arrived just after the departure of Mr. Jack Fox. He teaches maths at Veritas Academy and supervises the boys at the priory. Here he attempts to make the boys sing—the stick is used for encouragement*

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essentially *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!*

In Jesu et Maria  
Father Robert Brucciani.

### CHRONICLE

■11th October: All day adoration took place at Palayamkottai.

■13th – 26th October: The Christurajapuram festival was brought forward to coincide with the feast of Christ the King (the chapel's patron) rather than at Christmas. Mass was celebrated everyday by Fr. Valan. Sermons were preached and Christ the King was adored in the Blessed Sacrament during benediction and during the Blessed Sacrament procession on the feast itself.

■17th October: Four servers were elevated to the position of Junior Acolyte within the Archconfraternity of St. Stephen. The blessing and presentation of the medals takes place before the offertory of the Mass.

■2nd November: The southern Indian monsoon began. Rainfall has been very low for the last few years and, because the water collection and storage infrastructure is poorly maintained, there is considerable anxiety about supply for agriculture and domestic needs. In most of India, 80% of the rain falls during 20% of the year (that mysterious 80:20 rule again). Typically during the two months of the monsoon, it rains every third day. The rain can either come as torrential showers which last for perhaps 30 minutes, or as downpours which seem to last for much of the day or night. There has been some local flooding on the roads, but nothing



*“You have to be careful,” says Anthony. “Far too many people just rush around and get stressed.”  
The boys go fishing on a Saturday afternoon.*

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*There were two new arrivals at the priory and orphanage: brother and sister, Peter and Pauline. Being Catholics, but not having being baptised, they were duly instructed and received the sacrament on the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary. Their godparents are Mr. & Mrs. Michaelas.*

like the flooding seen in the north or in other parts of Asia.

■6th November: Mr. David Gallo, a professional teacher of English as a foreign language, returned to the Ukraine after spending one month giving intensive English classes to some of our newest pupils. Our grateful prayers go with him.

■10th November: Jack Fox left for his native Australia after a 10 month stay. He will be sorely missed for his consideration towards others and his boundless enthusiasm with the boys. He now plans to go into the army to seek even more adventure. Although the continuous rain of the monsoon seems more depressing without Jack, it was a relief to get him back home in one piece – **how he didn't seriously** injure himself on his motorbike is clearly an act of Providence; he must have a very holy mother.

■18th November: Joseph Carron of the Valais, Switzerland arrived for a 6 month stay. His arrival is an answer to our prayers as we need at least one male volunteer to help with the boys at the priory. Having completed his military service in the Swiss Army, where he specialised as a motorbike rider, he is ideally suited to both bringing order out of the chaos of **the boys' dormitory and coping with danger** on the roads.

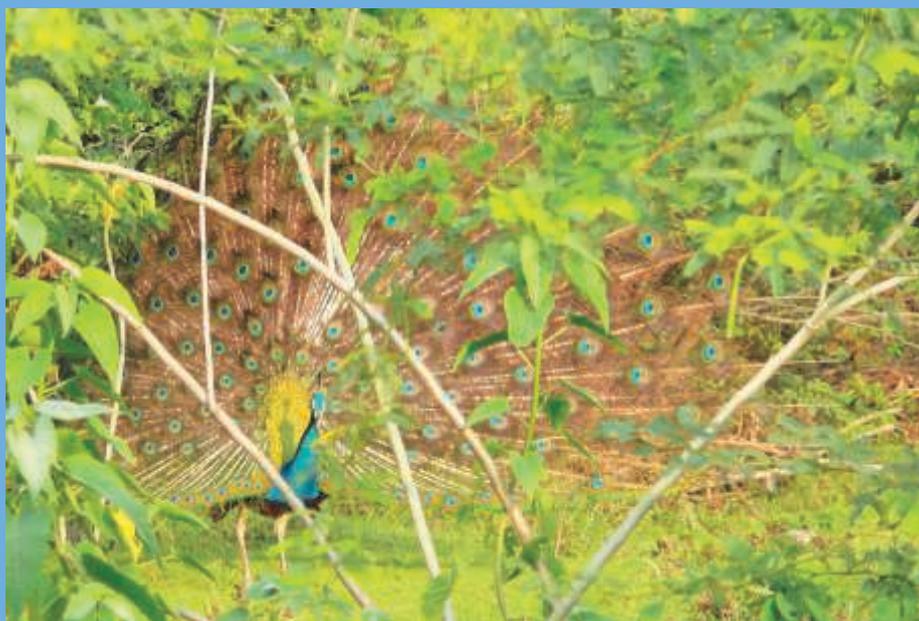


*Le'me go!*

■21st - 22nd November: Fr. Brucciani paid a regular visit to St. Joseph's Chapel in Trichy to see Fr. Matthias (one of our helper priests) and to be a guest at the 160th Legion of Mary Meeting of the parish. Fr. Mathias also unveiled a new publication—a copy of a spiritual work encouraging devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The book is the life work of Fr. Mariados and is written in Tamil.

■29th November: In the midst of an outbreak of chicken pox among the boys, a nefarious plot was uncovered in the dormitory: Michael Bastin, coveting 1st place in Standard 5, has been doing his utmost to have the other boys incapacitated by the malady. So far he is guaranteed 5th place out of 8. Ω

### NATURE



*Look at me!*



*Evening from the roof of the priory.*