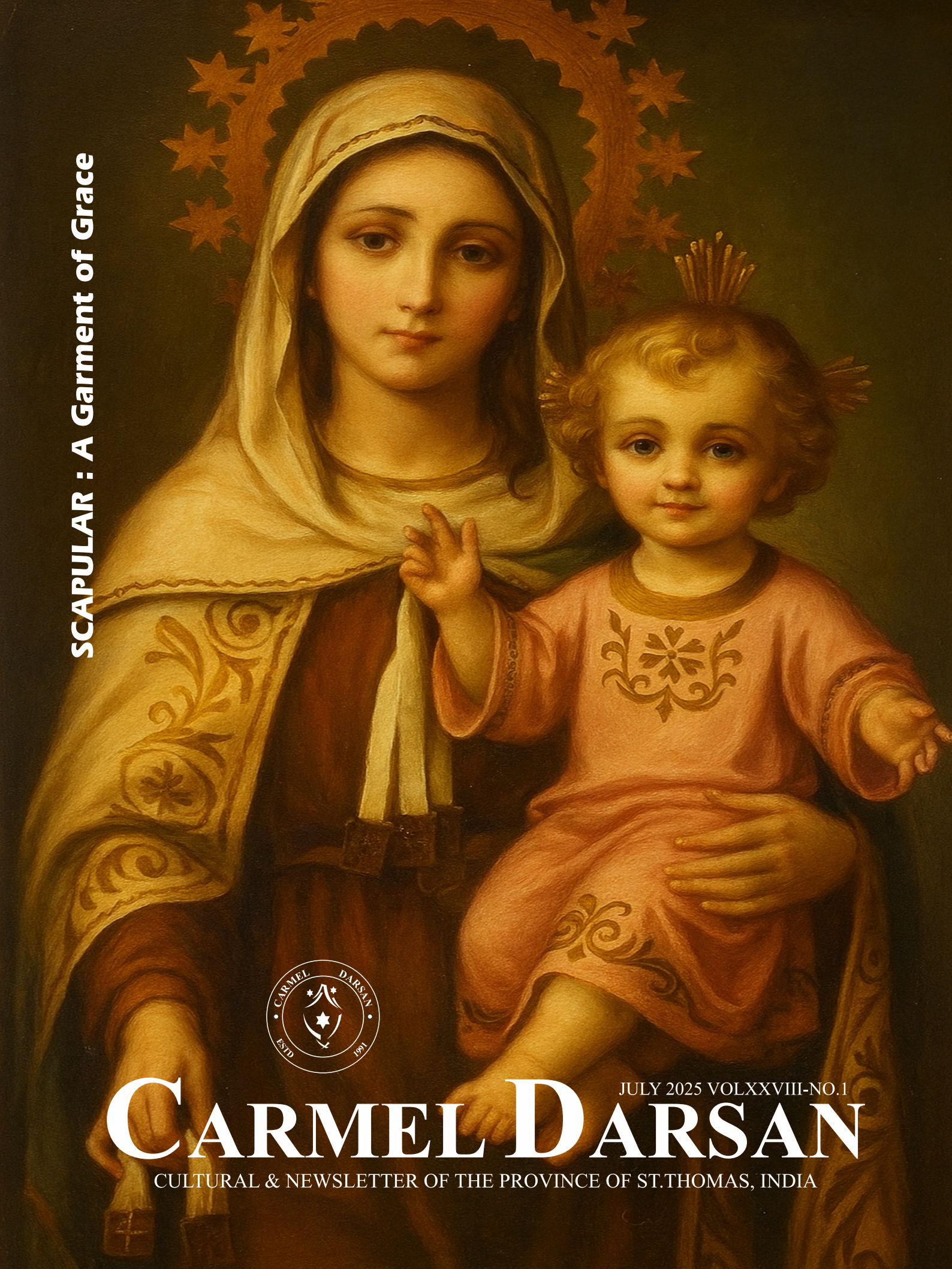


SCAPULAR : A Garment of Grace

JULY 2025 VOLXXVIII-NO.1

CARMEL DARSAN

CULTURAL & NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCE OF ST.THOMAS, INDIA

CARMEL DARSAN

Cultural & Newsletter
of the Province of St.Thomas, India

Editorial Board



Fr. Roji Pullolickal
Chief Editor



Fr. Joby Kunnathottel
Sub Editor



Fr. Thomas Mavunkal
Sub Editor

Published by:

Rev. Fr. Thankachan Njaliath O. Carm.
Prior Provincial, St Thomas Province of India
Carmel Sadan, Chettupuzha
Pin 680012

Design

Sphinx Ads & Events
Near Ann Cinemas
Kothamangalam P.O
Kothamangalam
adssphinx@gmail.com
9847765452

From the desk of the Editor

Scapular: A Garment of Grace

Dear Brothers in Carmel

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, more commonly known as the Scapular Feast, celebrated annually on July 16. This isn't just a historical observance; it's a vibrant testament to faith, a symbol of devotion, and a reminder of divine protection that continues to resonate deeply with millions world wide.

At the heart of this feast lies the Brown Scapular, a humble garment that belies its profound spiritual significance. Its origins are deeply intertwined with the vision of St.Simon Stock in 1251. As the Prior General of the Carmelite Order, St. Simon Stock faced immense challenges, with the very existence of our Order threatened. In his fervent prayers for intervention, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him, presenting him with the Scapular and uttering those now-famous words: "Receive, my beloved son, this habit of thy Order: this shall be to thee and to all Carmelites a privilege, that whosoever dies clothed in this shall never suffer eternal fire." This promise, understood not as a magical charm but as a call to live a life devoted to Mother Mary and her Son, transformed the fortunes of the Carmelites and ignited a devotion that spread rapidly throughout the Christian world. Wearing the Scapular is an outward expression of an inward commitment- a commitment to prayer, to conversion, and to seeking holiness in our everyday lives. As we reflect on these powerful symbol, let us remember its deeper meaning. They are not mere garments, but threads of Grace, inviting us to clothe ourselves in Christ, to walk in Mary's footsteps, and to live lives that bear witness to the enduring power of faith and devotion.

I thank Rev.Fr.Thankachan, our dear Prior Provincial for his beautiful message and support for publishing Carmel Darsan.

The effort of Frs. Jaison Kuthanappillil and Joes Alex in making Carmel Darsan's language more beautiful and touching is truly commendable.

I have special appreciation for the cooperation and dedication of Fr. Joby Kunnathottel and Fr. Thomas Mavunkal, sub-editors.

Carmel Darsan has come to light through your contribution and support. I sincerely thank all the co-friars for their valuable support.

Mary, Mother of Carmel,
Pray for us.

Fr. Roji Pullolickal
Chief Editor

Habemus Papam

We have a Pope



Pope Leo XIV

Prayer
Contemplation
Fraternity is communication
Liturgy
Formation



Dear brothers,

A new edition of Carmel Darsan means a new milestone in communication, the work of many generous contributors and the talent at the Editor's desk and in the Editors office. Communication is a gift and a challenge for us today. It strikes me how much communication we have and we need in our lives. Prayer is communication, contemplation is a high degree of communication, fraternity is communication, liturgy is communication and formation is all communication. It seems to me therefore that in some way we all have to be "experts" in communication. That means content and means. I often go back to those words of St. Paul in the letter to the Ephesians, that we find in the English breviary (other translations are different) where he says, "Do not use harmful words in talking. Use only helpful words, the kind that build up and provide that is needed." This fits very well with the understanding of silence that we find in the Carmelite Rule. That silence, which is not the absence of words, but the good use of words, is the servant of justice.

Today we have so many means of communication, instant and otherwise. They too are gifts to be used for a good purpose. Therefore we have to use them, but we have to know how to use them to serve that good purpose. We have to be selective. We have to know what to take in and what to send out, what furthers the dignity of the human person and what takes away from that dignity, what furthers the spread of the reign of God and what impedes that work.

So I pray God's blessing on the publishers and readers of this edition of Carmel Darsan, that this beautiful newsletter will bring joy and a sense of gratitude to all who have produced it and all who read it, because it does what St. Teresa of Jesus did with her writings. It signs the praises of God's mercy.

Rome, 23 June 2025

Fr. Miceal O' Neill O. Carm.
Prior General

Ciao da Rome



Dear brothers,

I am truly delighted to know that the next edition of *Carmel Darsan* is being released on July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. What a beautiful day to celebrate our shared life and mission! My heartfelt congratulations to the editorial team Frs. Roji, Joby and Thomas for their dedication and hard work in bringing together the stories and voices of our Province once again.

Here in Rome, it's summer—and the heat is intense, with temperatures soaring into the high thirties. Yet the city remains vibrant and full of life, bustling with tourists and pilgrims, especially during this Jubilee Year of Hope. As for me, the past year has taken me across our Carmelite family worldwide, through canonical visitations, plenary councils, and provincial chapters—particularly in Indonesia and Australia. These journeys have been moments of deep encounter, attentive listening, and shared discernment. Amidst the travel and meetings, I am continually reminded of the richness and diversity of our Carmelite presence and the enduring strength of our fraternity.

Here in Rome, the Jubilee Year has added a special spiritual depth. The General Councils of both the OCD and O. Carm came together for a pilgrimage through the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, followed by a solemn Jubilee Mass with the entire Carmelite family. It was a moving experience—an expression of our unity, our heritage, and our shared mission as "Pilgrims of Hope."

At present, much of my time is dedicated to preparing for the upcoming General Chapter—writing reports, organizing programs, and setting things in order for this important moment of renewal in the life of our Order.

As *Carmel Darsan* continues to be a cherished window into our Province, I convey my fraternal love and festal greetings to each of you. May Our Lady of Mount Carmel—our sister and mother—bless us all with her protection and peace.

Wishing you all the very best, and may every reader find inspiration and joy as they turn through its pages.

Yours in Carmel,

Fr. Robert Thomas Puthussery O. Carm.
General Councillor for Asia-Australia-Oceania

With Much Appreciation & GRATEFUL HEART



Fr. Thankachan Njaliath O. Carm.
Prior Provincial
St. Thomas Province of India

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and under the maternal protection of Our Lady of Mount Carmel!

With a grateful heart, I offer you warm greetings as we bring you another edition of Carmel Darsan. This publication is not just a collection of news and reflections-it is a living testament to the grace of God at work among us, through us, and around us as sons of Carmel.

In a world often marked by noise, haste, and restlessness, Carmel Darsan offers us a sacred space for reflection, dialogue, and communion. It brings together the voices of our friars, collaborators, and faithful friends - each echoing the Carmelite charism of prayer, fraternity, and service that defines who we are as sons of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel.

Our Province continues to grow - not only in numbers or structures, but in a deeper and more conscious commitment to our charism.

Whether in our communities, parishes, educational and charitable institutions, formation houses, or mission territories, our friars strive to be contemplatives in action, rooted in the Word of God and nourished by the Eucharist. Carmel Darsan truly offers a "darsanam" - a sacred vision - of this journey, capturing our shared efforts, celebrating our milestones, and inviting us all to renew our dedication to the path of holiness and humble service.

Let us never forget: Carmel is not merely a place or a tradition - it is a way of life, a journey up the mountain of the Lord. May we walk this path with fidelity, humility, and joy. May the Prophet Elijah inspire our zeal, and may Our Lady of Mount Carmel wrap us always in her mantle of love and protection.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Fr.. Roji Pullolickal and his team, the editorial board, for their hard work and the brilliant presentation of Carmel Darsan 2025. I also commend all those who have contributed through articles, insights, and creative expression. May this edition continue to be a source of inspiration and spiritual renewal for all who read it.

Ongoing Formation

6 & 7 MAY 2025





20 & 21 MAY 2025



Ongoing Formation











Joyful times of Carmel Sadan

Chettupuzha, Thrissur

The phrase *"Get up and eat, because the journey is long"* (1 Kings 19:7) comes from a deeply significant moment in the life of the Prophet Elijah. When interpreted in the context of a community, it carries rich spiritual, emotional, and practical meaning. What remains constant is that community - in its many forms - thrives when its members share a common purpose, but that purpose must be nurtured and sustained through collective effort.

At Carmel Sadan Provincial House, we live our Carmelite calling through three key values: community, prayer, and service - growing together in faith, love, and mission.

Major events and celebrations

Over the past year, Carmel Sadan witnessed several significant spiritual and communal events. Fr. Shijin Akkara joined the community on 4 June 2023, after completing a year of pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Kanjirappilly.

The Final Profession of Bro. Mobin Arackal took place on 6 June 2024 at the Carmel Sadan Chapel, received by Very Rev. Fr. Provincial Thankachan Njaliath. He was later ordained a Deacon on 12 August at Carmalamatha Church by Mar Tony Neelankavil, auxiliary bishop of Archdiocese of Thrissur.

The community celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 15 July with around 90 participants, including clergy and religious from neighboring areas. The day was marked by visits from Archbishop Mar Andrews Thazhath and Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil, who offered words of encouragement.

On 31 August, Bishop Ephrem Narikulam of the Chanda Diocese visited and spent a day in fraternal fellowship with the community.

As part of the General Visitation, Very Rev. Frs. Luis Maza Subero (Councillor for the Americas) and Robert Thomas Puthussery (Councillor for Asia–Australia–Oceania) visited the community from 1 November for two weeks. They met with members of the community and engaged in dialogue and reflection.

The Annual Retreat for Carmelite priests was led by Fr. Jacob Mundackal OCD and attended by 30 priests, providing a time of spiritual enrichment.

The Spiritual Chapter, held from 12 to 15 January, gathered 34 priests, including members from Germany and Italy, for discussion, cultural activities, sports, and a community outing.

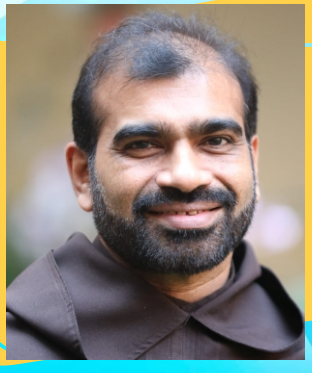
On 7 April, Fr. John Adapoor returned to the Carmel Sadan community after many fruitful years of dedicated pastoral ministry in Germany. His return was welcomed with joy and gratitude, as he brings with him a wealth of pastoral experience and intercultural insight gained through his long-term service abroad.

In May, two sessions of a Psycho-Spiritual Renewal Course were held for priests ordained before and after 2010. Due to renovations at Carmel Sadan, the sessions took place at Carmel Bhavan, Karukutty, focusing on mental health, psychological approaches in ministry, and responding to the changing world shaped by artificial intelligence.

Conclusion

Beyond formal times of communal prayer, it's essential for the community to simply "be" together. This is often done through various activities, particularly sharing meals and spending time on recreation. What's really important is that a community life well lived enables the members to share their joys, anxieties and friendships, in a safe environment, which greatly contributes to the well being of every member who fully participates.

May Our Lady be our companion and our guide as we seek the way ahead together. May she help us as we continue the journey together. Amen.



Fr. Baby Thomas
Prior, Carmel Sadan


















Joyful times of Carmel Sadan

CARMEL NIVAS

KARUKADOM

Carmel Nivas, located in Karukadom within the Diocese of Kothamangalam, is the first canonically erected house of the Order of Carmelites (O. Carm.) in India, founded on May 21, 1982. It is part of the Province of St. Thomas of the Syro-Malabar Rite, with ten priests and 18 aspirants dedicated to prayer, community living, and apostolic works in the 2025-2026 academic year. The community's activities include spiritual guidance and formation of seminarians, pastoral ministry in the local parish and surrounding areas, and educational and social outreach, embodying the Carmelite charism of "contemplata aliis tradere," which means sharing the fruits of contemplation with others.

Carmel Nivas Seminary has a spiritual director, Fr. Francis Sales Adappoor, in place of Fr. Jose Alex Valavanattu. (Vice-Principal of Mount Carmel College, Karukadom). Fr. Francis joined the formation of seminarians after of his licentiate and postgraduate studies in Spirituality and Counselling simultaneously, from DVK and Christ University Bangalore respectively during 2023-2025. In this academic year we have a new Prior and Rector in the person of Fr. Sebastian (Joemon) Vadakkeparambil substituting Fr. Boby Sebastian Tharakkunnel, who is appointed to be the President of Carmelite Institute in Rome. Fr. Joemon took charge on 02 July 2025 after his three-year ministry in the Archdiocese of Changanassery. During his ministry, he simultaneously served as the vicar of St. Mary's Old Church Vaipur and had been a teacher at SJB College of Education, Nedumkunnam. Carmel Nivas community wishes all the best to the new office bearers.

Fr. Abin Cyriac Mutholil successfully completed his B.Ed. studies at Mylacomb and is now preparing for his M.Sc., studies at SB College Changanassery. We extend our gratitude to Fr. Abin Cyriac, member of the community, Fr. Jose Alex, outgoing Spiritual Director and Fr. Boby Tharakkunnel, outgoing Prior and Rector for their dedicated service to the community during 2023-2025. Fr. Jose Alex will remain in the community and continue his teaching ministry in Mount Carmel College, Karukadom.

As a Carmelite house, Carmel Nivas Minor Seminary emphasizes Carmelite spirituality-rooted in contemplation and service-preparing seminarians for further studies. The formation program typically includes daily prayer and liturgy, academic studies, catechism, church history, liturgy, spirituality, personality development, and language studies, as well as regular spiritual direction and confession.

Two students from the minor seminary joined the pre-novitiate at Karmel Nikethan Kartikulam in this academic year. Carmel Nivas is a key centre for Carmelite formation and mission in Kerala, fostering vocations and serving the local church through education, spiritual ministry, and community service.

Fr. Boby Sebastian Tharakkunnel, the Rector of Carmel Nivas, attended a Carmelite Formators Meeting at Lurin, Peru, from May 05-16, 2025, where the revision of RIVC was discussed. There were forty participants from different parts of the world.





















FR. SEBASTIAN VADAKKEPARAMBIL
Prior, Carmel Nivas

Karmel Nikethan

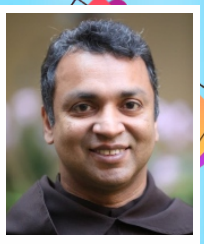
KARTTIKULAM

Karmel Nikethan Novitiate House serves as a sacred crucible where profound transformation into Carmelite religious life occurs. During this program, candidates learn how to live a Carmelite prayer life, community life, and practice humility, detachment, and apostolic ministry. The novices acquire an entirely new perspective on what it means to be a Carmelite. They go beyond intellectual understanding to embody the values and lifestyle of the Carmelite community. The curriculum includes a deep study of the Rule of St. Albert, the Constitutions, and the lives of the saints of the Carmelite Order. The structured schedule emphasises the integration of liturgical and mental prayer, community life, silence and work to form a rhythm of life central to the Carmelite way of life. Novices intensely prepare for the radical commitment of the Evangelical Counsels within the Carmelite context, understanding their meaning and implications for a lifetime. In essence, the Novitiate House is not just a place of learning; it is a sacred laboratory, a school of the heart, and a prolonged retreat where the fundamental transformation into a Carmelite religious takes place.

A Year of Grace, Commitment, and New Beginnings

The community members are Frs. John Mariadas, Jomon Kalaparambath, Jijo Mattappillil and Lijo Karippamattathil. The Karmel Nikethan community has been blessed with significant moments of grace and transition over the past year. The journey started on May 14 as Bro. Gilbert joyfully entered the Novitiate, taking this essential step in his formation. Fr. Jomon joined the community, embracing his new ministry as Parish Priest of St. George Parish, Appapara. Bro. Alwin also joined the community in August. In a sacred ceremony, the renovated church of St. George Parish, Appapara, was blessed on 1 August. Looking ahead, we anticipate with joy the Simple Profession of Bro. Gilbert on May 10, 2025. The community welcomed Fr. Nelson as the new Prior and Pre-Novice Director at the end of May. Under his guidance, Brothers Leon and Ancil enthusiastically began their journeys, joining as pre-novices on May 6. In a witness to the call of deeper solitude, Fr. John Mariadas entered on a year of dedicated prayer life at Sehion Retreat Centre, Attapady on 30 May 2025 .





FR. NELSON NEDUMPURATH
Prior, Karmel Nikethan

Greetings from CARMEL JYOTI
BENGALURU



Greetings from Carmel Jyoti - the one and only home for the intellectual, spitirtual, philosophical and theological formation of the simple professed members of the St. Thomas province of the Order of Carmelites in India. We live the Carmelite fraternity to the best of our ability through community life, prayer, studies, ministries and a variety of extracurricular activities that help us grow in the spirit of Carmel. We have fifteen members in the community, including ten simple professed carmelites who are pursuing their philosophy and theology courses. Fr. Mathew Neendoor serves as the prior of the community and the rector of the simply professed brothers. Fr. Sijo Jacob Pavarttikaran serves as the bursar of the Carmel Jyoti Community and as the assistant bursar of Carmel Academy. Fr. George Myladoor serves as the vicar of the Little Flower Church at Kothanur Dinne and as the spiritual director of the simple professed brothers in the community. Frs. Regi Jacob Pullan and Rinson George Manjaly are serving as the administrator and the principal of Carmel Academy, respectively. The community gave a warm farewell to Rev. Frs. Francis Adapoor and Nelson Nedumpurath, who were also members of the Carmel Jyoti community on the 23 March 2025. Fr. Francis Adapoor has successfully completed his licentiate in Formative Spirituality and Counselling at DVK (Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram), and he now serves as the spiritual director and teacher of the minor seminarians at Carmel Nivas, Karukadom, in Kerala. Fr. Nelson Nedumpurath is in the final stages of completing his doctoral thesis in Moral Theology at DVK and now serves as the Pre-Novice Director at Karmel Nikethan, Kartikulam, in Kerala.

At the commencement of the new academic year on 2 June 2025, we wholeheartedly welcomed Bro. Gilbert Tomy Valloppilly, the newly professed member of our community. Bros. Alwin Joseph Puthenpurayil, Jijo Joy Mangan, Justin Shaji Valikulathu, Paul Jose Padinjakkara, Joseph Edwin Jarardh Thadathil and Abin James Kalapurackal are doing their theological studies. Bros. Alan Jomy Kallikattu, Jinoy Johnson Porathukkaran, Amal Mathew Manjakunnel and Gilbert Tomy Valloppilly are pursuing their philosophical studies. The brothers carry out weekly pastoral ministries in two different parishes, namely, Little Flower Church at Kothanur Dinne, Bengaluru, and St. Joseph Church at Kalkere, Bengaluru. The exposure programs conducted by the brothers from the 14 to 19 of October 2024 at the *Akasaparavakal* Charitable Society in Kalathamanahalli, Bengaluru - where isolated and mentally disabled individuals are cared for – offered them a heartwarming experience of sharing, working, praying, and learning in their journey of transformation. As part of their training for working in the missions, the brothers visited our mission in Andhra Pradesh from December 29, 2024, to January 4, 2025, and stayed at Carmel Matha Ashram in Kosigi. They had a truly heartwarming experience in the Andhra mission, participating in community life,



CARMEL JYOTI
BENGALURU









prayers, games, various activities, and village visits. They also conducted motivational classes for the students at Mount Carmel high school, Kosigi. Bro. Jijo Joy Mangan, together with the CMI brothers, conducted mission exposure programs in nine villages in the state of Maharashtra from March 27 to April 20, 2025, as part of his theology studies.

Sports and games have also been given enough attention to go hand in hand with academic excellence. The performance of our brothers in the inter-seminary volleyball matches were outstanding. The official inauguration of the Literary and Cultural Association (LCA) at Carmel Jyoti for the academic year 2025-26 took place on July 3, 2025. Our chief guest was Rev. Dr. George Kulangara, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at DVK.

The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebrated on July 16, 2025, with a solemn Holy Mass and various cultural programs by our brothers and friends. Since we live in a highly competitive society, pastoral ministry, educational ministry, and the formation of our students face increasing and unending challenges. We witness, face and overcome the challenges of life in a bustling city like Bengaluru. Regular community meetings, mutual support, open and responsible expression of opinions, and the understanding and love shared in various aspects of community life and activities continue to strengthen our fraternal bonds. Thank you all. God bless you.



Fr. Mathew Neendoor
Prior, Carmel Jyoti

Carmel Bhavan
Karukutty

We are five members in our community: Fr. Paul Poovan (Prior), Fr. Dominic Vadakkekkuttiyankal (Bursar), Fr Bosco Njaliath, (Director of Carmel Retreat Centre), Fr. Tom Varanath (Bursar of Carmel Retreat Centre), Bro. Jeswin Vadakkumpadan,doing his regency. Fr. Titus Karimattathil who was member of Carmel Bhavan left for the USA in December 2024 for pastoral ministry.





Fr. Paul Poovan
Prior, Carmel Bhavan

Congratulations & All the best



FR. SEBASTIAN VADAKKEPARAMBIL
Prior, Carmel Nivas,Karukadom



FR. BOBY SEBASTIAN THARAKKUNNEL
President,
Institutum Carmelitanum
Rome



Fr. TOM VARANATH
Bursar,
Carmel Retreat Center,Karukutty



Fr. FRANCIS ADAPPOOR
Spiritual Director
Carmel Nivas, Karukadom



FR. ANSON ERANAKUZHIYIL
Formation Course in Pune



FR. LUCKA JOHN THEKKEMADATHIPARAMBIL
Carmel Matha Ashram
Kosigi, Andhra
(House Procurator,
Assit Vicar,RCM Church, Sunkesheri
Assist Bursar, Mount Carmel School)

Carmel Matha Ashram

Kosigi, Andhra

Grace-filled Moments at Carmel Ashram, Kosigi

The past months at Carmel Ashram, Kosigi, have been filled with grace, celebration, and fraternal joy. On 28 December 2024, the ashram witnessed a spiritually vibrant event as 300 children from Kosigi and Sunkeswari parishes received the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at the Mount Carmel School campus. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by the Most Rev. Dr. Gorantla Johannes OCD, Bishop of Kurnool, and was beautifully organized by the dedicated members of the ashram community. As the new year unfolded, the community came together on 26 February 2025 to celebrate the blessing of the renovated chapel, a sacred space renewed and rededicated by Rev. Fr. Joji Michael Thalachira, Superior of the ashram. A few days later, on 29 February, the community bid a heartfelt farewell to Fr. Tony Thekkumpurath, who had been a beloved













member for the past two years, offering his valuable service and pastoral care. During the Spiritual Chapter gathering, the community members presented a light-hearted comedy skit, which was warmly appreciated by the members of the province. The performance not only brought moments of joy and laughter but also reflected the vibrancy, creativity, and strong sense of collaboration within the community. In the spirit of fraternity and recreation, the community then embarked on a memorable picnic to Malaysia - Lankavi from 25 to 30 March 2025, cherishing moments of relaxation and togetherness. Each of these events beautifully showcased the active spiritual life, unity, and joyful witness of the Carmelite community in Kosigi.



Fr. Joji Thalachirayil
Prior
Carmel Matha Ashram, Kosigi

Hearty

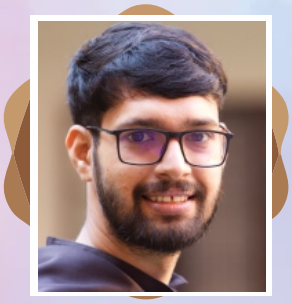
Congratulations on your achievement."



Fr. Tom Varanath
Licentiate in Marriage & Family Studies
(John Paul ll Institute Changanacherry, Kerala)



Fr. Francis Adappoor
Licentiate in Formative Spirituality and Counselling
(Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram Bengaluru,Karnataka)

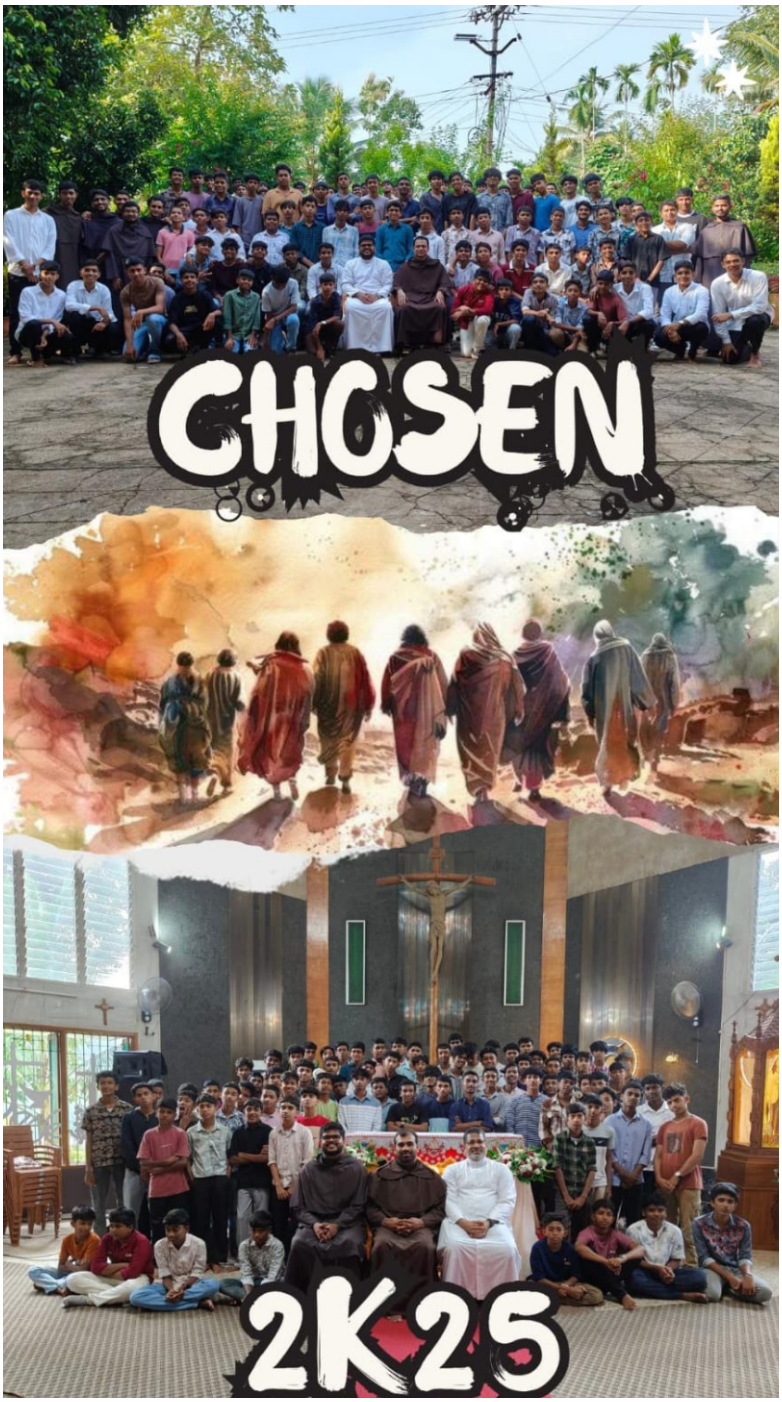


Fr. Abin Cyriac Mutholil
Successfull completion of B.Ed.

VOCATION CAMP & CLASSES



Fr. Jain George Kokkappillil
Vocation Director













VOCATION CAMP & CLASSES















KARUNA BHAVAN
KARTIKULAM

Greetings from Karunabhavn Old Age Home,

With a heart full of gratitude, I thank God Almighty and all the kind-hearted people who continue to support and uplift the mission of caring for the elderly at Karunabhavn Old Age Home.

Currently, we are blessed to care for seventeen beloved residents. Among them, six are physically very weak and suffering from serious health conditions. The others, though aged, are able to manage their basic needs such as walking and eating with minimal assistance.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the Fathers and Superiors whose constant guidance, tireless efforts, and heartfelt dedication ensure the smooth functioning of this home. I also wish to specially acknowledge the RFTS Sisters—three of whom render extraordinary service here each day, working hand-in-hand with our dedicated supporting staff.

Each year, we welcome around ten new residents. Many of them are given a second chance at better health and renewed dignity through our care. Some, however, find here a peaceful and dignified departure from this world. No matter their background, health, or personal story, we strive to serve each one with compassion, respect, and love, as we believe they are entrusted to us by God Himself.

Your prayers and continued support are the strength behind our mission. May your kindness help us to reach out and care for even more elderly people in need in the days to come.

With heartfelt thanks and prayers,
Fr. Jijo Mattappillil
Director, Karunabhavn Old Age Home





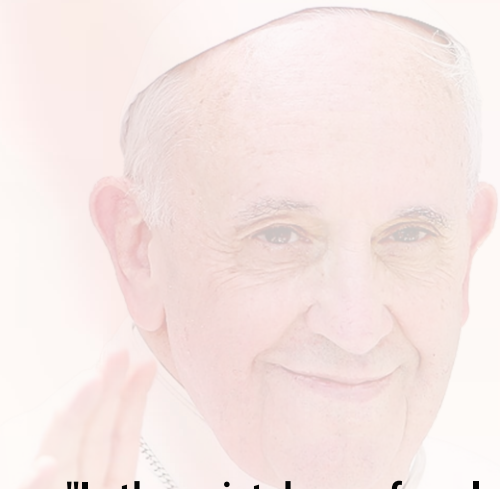








Fr. Jijo Mattapillil
Director



A Tribute to Pope Francis.

"In the quiet dawn of a solemn day,
The shepherd's voice fades, yet his deeds stay.
Franciscus, humble, with a heart so wide,
Walked with the poor, stood by the sidelined.

He washed the feet of the weary and lost,
A servant's act, no matter the cost.
With hands outstretched, he embraced the pain,
Of a world divided, seeking love again.

His words, a balm for the wounded soul,
"Care for creation, make the broken whole."
He called for peace where war had sown,
A bridge he built where hate had grown.

From Gaza's cries to the migrant's plea,
He bore their burdens, their dignity.
A rosary gifted, a blessing bestowed,
In every gesture, his compassion showed.

I loved him most because he made me believe
that holiness was still possible,
in the mud, in the margins, in the Church, in me.

Pope Francis, your body is done, your mind is at rest,
your soul goes to the Best of the Best.
Rest in beauty, Pope Francis.



Fr. Felix Antony.
St. Martin of Tours Parish
Mississauga , Canada

Mary, the Patroness of the Brothers of Mount Carmel

The ancient brothers who made their home on the ridges of Mount Carmel in the Holy Land held a special, profound and unique devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, long before the foundation of the Carmelite Order as we know it today. While historical records from their earliest days are meager, the enduring tradition within the Carmelite charism points to Mary as their patroness and guiding light.

The Hermits of Mount Carmel and Their Marian Devotion

Before their migration to Europe in the 13th century and the formalization of their rule, these hermits lived a life of prayer, contemplation, and austerity in the caves and cells of Mount Carmel. Their proximity to the places where biblical events unfolded, particularly those related to the prophets Elijah and Elisha (whom they also held in high esteem), imbued their spirituality with a deep sense of continuity with salvation history.

Central to their contemplative lives was an unwavering veneration of Mary. While the exact origins and forms of their early Marian devotion are subject to scholarly discussion, it is widely believed that these hermits saw Mary as the model and inspiration of discipleship, contemplation, and closeness to God. She was the "Virgin Most Pure," who perfectly embodied the ideal of living a hidden life with Christ.

The "Little Cloud" and the Carmelite Scapular

A significant symbolic link between Mary, Mount Carmel, and the Carmelite tradition is found in the biblical account of the prophet Elijah. In the book of 1 Kings chapter 18, Elijah prays for rain after a long drought. His servant reports seeing "a cloud as small as a man's hand" rising from the sea. This small cloud soon brings forth a great rain, ending the drought. Carmelite tradition interprets this "little cloud" as a prefigurement of Mary, who brought forth Christ, the source of all grace and spiritual refreshment. This powerful imagery, rooted in their very geographical home, solidified Mary's role as the spiritual wellspring, source of spirituality and protector of the Carmelite hermits wherever they are.

Later, this imagery found a tangible expression in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. While the precise historical details of the Scapular's origins with St. Simon Stock in the 13th century are debated, it became a powerful symbol of Marian protection and a visible sign of commitment to the Carmelite charism, drawing directly from the historical and spiritual link to Mount Carmel and Mary.

Mary as Mother, Sister, and Queen

For the hermits of Mount Carmel, Mary was more than just a distant patroness; she was seen as a spiritual mother, a sister in their contemplative journey, and the Queen who guided them to her

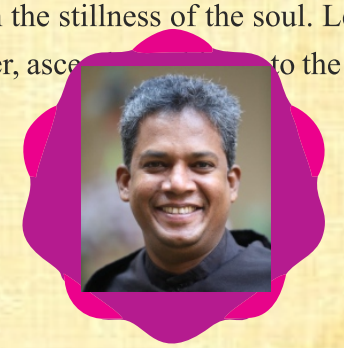
Son. Their hermitage on Mount Carmel was, in a sense, her dwelling place, and their lives were lived under her mantle of protection.This deep Marian spirituality fostered a unique understanding of their vocation: to live in "allegiance to Jesus Christ," following the example of Mary, who perfectly embodied this allegiance. Their lives of solitude and prayer were offered in imitation of her contemplative heart.

Enduring Legacy

The shift of the Carmelites from Mount Carmel to Europe necessitated adaptations, but their foundational Marian devotion remained unmoved and resolute. The title "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" became the enduring designation for their patroness, forever linking Mary to the order's ancient roots on the holy mountain.

Even today, Carmelite spirituality is characterized by a profound love for Mary, seeing her as the gate to Christ, the Star of the Sea guiding them through life's storms, and the perfect example of a life lived in intimacy with God. This tradition, born on the hillsides of Mount Carmel, continues to inspire countless individuals to seek a deeper relationship with God through the intercession and example of His Blessed Mother.

We find in Mary, the mother of Carmel, not only a mother but also a mirror of divine love, silence, and surrender. Cloaked in simplicity and crowned with grace, she stands as the radiant Star of the Sea, guiding all who journey through the deserts of life toward the mountain of the Lord. In her, the Carmelites discover the heart of contemplation, the courage of prophetic witness, and the beauty of unwavering faith. As Patroness, she does not merely watch from afar — she walks with us, whispers to us the Word she bore, and teaches us to see God in the stillness of the soul. Let us be inspired to draw closer to her Immaculate Heart, and through her, asce to the heights of divine intimacy.



FR. JOSE ALEX VALAVANATTU
Vice Principal Mount Carmel College, Karukadom



Fr.Mobin George

All the best

to the newly ordained priest

Carmel Retreat Center

KARUKUTTY

Carmel Retreat Center is a spiritual haven rooted in the Carmelite tradition. Under the leadership of Fr. Bosco Njaliath O.Carm, the center has become a place where countless individuals come to experience renewal, healing, and a deeper encounter with God. Known for his compassionate guidance and powerful preaching, Fr. Bosco, along with Fr. Paul Poovan O.Carm, leads the various ministries of the retreat center with zeal and pastoral care.

One of the core missions of the center is its weekend retreats, held regularly on the first and third weekends of each month. These retreats begin on Friday at 4 PM and continue until Sunday at 4 PM, offering participants a deeply spiritual empowerment through prayer, worship, the Word of God, and the sacraments. The quiet surroundings of the retreat center especially our perpetual adoration chapel add to the atmosphere of peace and reflection, allowing individuals to step away from their daily lives and encounter the Lord more intimately.

In addition to the weekend retreats, the center conducts a vibrant first Friday convention at Carmelamatha Church in Chettupuzha. This gathering serves as a time of powerful praise, preaching, and Eucharistic celebration, drawing many who seek spiritual nourishment and healing. On the second Saturday of each month, another convention is held at the retreat center itself, creating yet another space for people to come together in faith and fellowship. From time to time, the center also organizes special fasting prayers, depending on the spiritual needs of the season. These moments of intense intercession and fasting are opportunities for the faithful to pray deeply for personal, family and communal intentions.

Recently, the retreat center has begun a new ministry aimed at spreading divine presence more actively in the world. We are gifted with a Tempo Traveller, a mini bus named Jahovah Shamma (The Lord is Here. Ezek 48:35) A group of dedicated faithful is now being formed and prepared to carry out Eucharistic processions in various places. This mission is intended to bless and empower locations through the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the presence of our Lady of Mount Carmel through Rosary processions. As part of this new initiative, a group of twelve people undertook a pilgrimage to Velankanni, spending time in continuous prayer, praise, and adoration. This journey was not just a spiritual preparation but also a witness to faith, as they moved in unity and devotion.

Another important aspect of Carmel Retreat Center's outreach is its dynamic media ministry, known as Carmel Media. Recognizing the growing spiritual hunger among people, especially in today's digital age, Carmel Media has become a powerful tool for evangelization. Every morning at 5 AM, a short talk and Adoratiom are shared online, specifically offering intercession for children. This daily broadcast has become a spiritual lifeline for many, with a minimum of ten thousand people participating each day. The reach and impact of this online ministry reflect in the participants for our retreats, Adoration and fasting prayer.

Carmel Retreat Center continues to grow as a spiritual powerhouse, guided by prayer, empowered by the sacraments, and supported by a vibrant community of believers. With its expanding ministries, deep-rooted faith, and commitment to serving the people of God, the center stands as a sanctuary of grace and a source of spiritual strength for all who come seeking the Lord.

Carmel Retreat Center











Fr. Bosco Njaliath
Director, CRC

"Called Together, Sent Together"

Fraternal Life and Mission of the Indian Carmelites in Germany

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" — Psalm 133:1

The twenty of us, Carmelites from the St. Thomas Province (India), continue our pastoral mission in Germany with dedication and deep fraternity. Despite our busy work in the parishes, we remain committed to living in community and nurturing our shared vocation.

Our communities are based in three main houses—Hirschhorn, Straubing, and Pohlheim. In addition, several brothers reside in houses of the German Province, fostering mutual support and collaboration.

Even amidst pastoral responsibilities, the brothers make time to visit one another and maintain close fraternal ties. Three times a year, the Indian Carmelites in Germany gather to share life, faith, and brotherhood. These meetings are moments of renewal, strengthening the spiritual and personal bonds among us.

This year, we met in Bamberg and later in Kelheim, near Straubing. These gatherings were marked by prayer, joy, and deep conversations—and we are grateful that almost all the brothers were able to attend.

Once a year, our brothers serving or studying across Europe also try to come together in one place. These meetings keep our international presence united in spirit and mission.

Last year, we were 21 brothers in Germany. At the beginning of this year, we bid farewell to Fr. John, who returned to India after serving the Province and the people in Germany with faithfulness and humility. His contribution is remembered with great appreciation and fraternal gratitude.

As we continue our journey—rooted in prayer and mission—we remain convinced that community is not only where we live, but how we live.











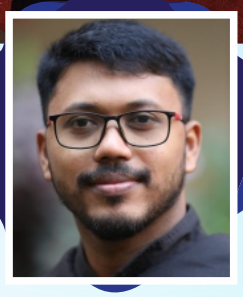
Frs. Sijoy, Joshy Pottakkal and Alexander
Germany

Carmel Villa Thadiyampad

Carmel Villa is a beautiful, peaceful place where we're serenaded by the calm music of nature. Located in the Mariyapuram Parish of the Idukki Diocese, I provide spiritual support throughout the parish, especially through the Sunday Holy Mass for catechism students and the Tuesday Holy Mass at the SABS Convent. Every first Friday, I visit the elderly to bring them the Eucharist and offer Confession.Our garden is a thriving collection of fruits and trees, including pepper, cardamom, coconut, rubber, and nutmeg. All of our plants are growing strong, and the agricultural work here is our main source of income.

Spiritually, Carmel Villa is a tranquil space that helps us connect with both nature and God. We celebrate Holy Mass every day at 6:30 AM, except on Sundays. In July, we honor the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Starting in October, we began a Rosary ceremony here at the Villa, and people often come to join us in prayer.We also offer spiritual help to nearby parishes and engage in pastoral work, particularly at St. Mary's Church in Mariyapuram. We welcome spiritual assistants into our community and support them whenever they need it. Just like Mount Carmel, this Villa is a burning sanctuary of God's presence and love, a place where we can have a direct and intimate experience with God. Carmel Villa truly is a sacred space for meditation, fostering a profound connection with both the natural world and the Divine.





Fr. Mathew Edanad
Director, Carmel Villa



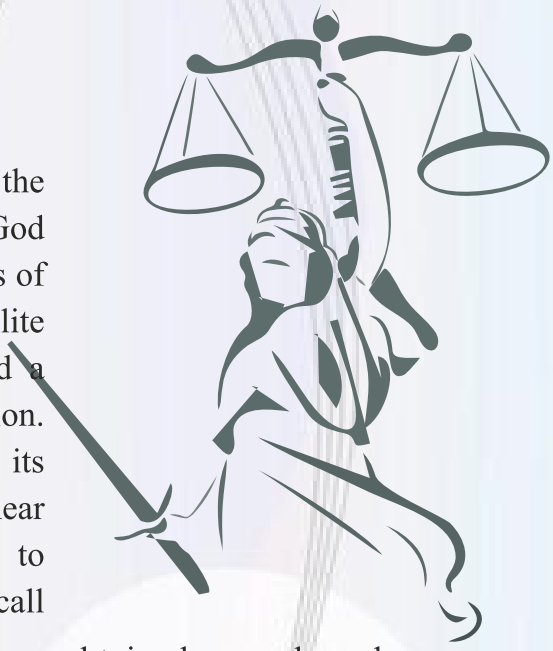








Pro Bono



The core of Carmelite spirituality is to stand before the face of the living God(1Kings 17:1). Standing before God also means seeing the world through God's eye- eyes of compassion, mercy and justice. Though the Carmelite tradition rooted deeply in contemplation, prayer and a profound relationship with God it equally focus on action. We do not withdraw from the world to escape from its problem but rather we enter into the silence of prayer to hear more clearly the cry of the poor. The call of Carmelite is to be instruments of peace and justice and this prophetic call is not optional but obligatory .

In today's society access to justice is not a privilege but it is a human right . Yet thousands are denied this right due to poverty, illiteracy or systematic inequality. Responding to this reality is not only a social concern for Carmelite but it is a spiritual imperative also. It is disgusting and painful to lure a devastating client who approaches a lawyer when his right or justice is denied .

As a Carmelite I realize that this legal ministry is my call and vocation and I actualize the self by doing this ministry than any other ministry. Justice and Peace is one of the main streams of our Charism and we have a counsel appointed for the same in each province. Justice and Peace does not mean to dispend the hard earned money of others to the poor but rather rendering free service to the needy by our own effort. We could not see or consider this ministry as a job or profession in a strict sense as a means to generate income like doing business. Doing a ministry in the area of Justice and Peace for earning is totally against the spirit of the Charism of the Order and unethical.

I am indebted to my authorities for allowing me doing this ministry as part of Justice and Peace. I could continue this ministry with the grace God and the support and help of some good hearted people.

I do this ministry associated with a small office in Ernakulam. The main area of our concentration is family and DRT matters .I am not hesitating to say that I have some limitation compared to others. First of all I have entered into this filed in my late age. Unlike others I have not obtained my law degree from a prestigious college by attending regular class. Hence I face some difficulties like lack of skill and efficiency.

I sum up this article with a suggestion that if anyone is interested to do this ministry let him be equipped well by attending regular class and obtain a degree from a renowned college and join in the profession in his early days.



Fr. Philip Nirappel
Advocate,
Practicing in High Court, Kerala

Do Your Possessions Own You?

We often believe that what we own makes us wealthy, but have you ever considered if your possessions actually own you? This is a powerful idea, one that an ancient story helps us understand.

An Indian wandering monk, a Sannyasi, once found a diamond so large it was likely the biggest in the world. He carried it with him on his forest path. One day, a villager approached him, saying he had a dream that he would find a precious stone. Without a second thought, the Sannyasi simply handed the massive diamond over.

The villager was stunned. He took the diamond but spent the whole night tossing and turning. The next morning, he returned to the monk, not for the diamond, but for something else. He asked, "Give me the wealth that allowed you to give away this diamond with such a light heart."

More Than Just Owning Things

This story perfectly illustrates a key truth: Possession isn't just about what I own—it's what owns me. If we're constantly worried about our things, or if our happiness depends on acquiring more, then our possessions have a hold over us. The monk was truly rich because he wasn't tied down by anything material.

Think about it:

* Generosity reveals your grip: Can you easily give things away? If so, you probably understand that earthly goods are temporary and don't define you.

* The trap of "more": We live in a world that constantly tells us we need more. It's easy to fall into the trap of endless consumption.

Finding Inner Freedom

We don't have to give up everything like the Sannyasi. But we can learn to create a healthy inner distance from our belongings. This means not letting our hearts become completely attached to them.

One woman I know shared a great tip: Before she enters a store, she writes down exactly what she needs. This helps her avoid the temptation to buy extra things she doesn't truly need. It's a simple act of "consumption asceticism"—mindful living that helps us stay in control.

Ultimately, it's about shifting our focus. Instead of always chasing what we want, perhaps we should appreciate what we truly need. As a prayer beautifully puts it: "God, don't give me what I wish for, but what I need!"

What do you think? How can you cultivate a lighter heart when it comes to your own possessions?





Fr. Pius Kandathil
Neu-Isenburg
Germany

Carmel Boys' Home
Andhra



The mission has been successfully running the Carmel Boys' Home, which provides accommodation and education to 35 students. The students follow a structured schedule, including study time, play, prayers, and manual work. They join the community for daily Mass, Rosary, and morning and evening prayers in our chapel. The children also have opportunities to participate in festive celebrations.We emphasize discipline, punctuality, and cleanliness among the students. We had many cultural and sports activities were conducted last academic year. We also expanded the CCTV surveillance system in different areas of the hostel for improved security. The hostel aims to create a homely atmosphere, nurturing responsibility and values among the boys. We also thank all the helping hands towards our Boys home, especially our friars from different parts of the world. Thank you all for your prayers and support.





FR. JACOB PALLIPURATH
Director, Carmel Boys' Home
(Andhra)



Fr. Joby Theruvickal

St. John of the Cross Parish

Mississauga
Canada

Experiences four distinct seasons, each offering unique beauty and charm: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. Each season provides a different opportunity to appreciate the breathtaking natural surroundings and the rich cultural offerings of the country, transforming Canada into a year-round marvel.

Here at St. John of the Cross Carmelite Parish in Mississauga, which was established in 1978, we embrace the beauty of these seasons as a vibrant community. The parish hosts daily Masses and five weekend services that are well-attended, drawing parishioners from diverse national backgrounds. Many dedicated volunteers contribute their time and efforts beyond their regular jobs to support our faithful community.

Within our parish, various organizations and ministries thrive, including the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Men's Fraternity, Parish Women's Group, Youth Ministry, Rosary Apostolate, Prayer Group, and Alpha Programs. These groups are instrumental in reaching out to our parishioners through a variety of programs, enhancing the spiritual life of the community.

A Warm Welcome and Community Spirit

I arrived here in mid-August, greeted by warm summer weather and an even warmer welcome from the parish community, which embraced me like family. I participated in a 10-day enculturation program designed for newly arrived priests from various countries, which helped me gain a deeper understanding of the history of the Canadian Church and its political background. As one of the most active parishes in the Archdiocese of Toronto, St.John of the Cross becomes especially vibrant in September after summer vacations. Each year, many new families join our parish, drawn by its Carmelite spirituality, traditions, and welcoming nature. In November, we hosted an International Food Festival to celebrate the diverse cuisines and flavors from around the world. This event provided an opportunity for everyone to taste

In November, we hosted an International Food Festival to celebrate the diverse cuisines and flavors from around the world. This event provided an opportunity for everyone to taste and appreciate dishes from different countries, fostering a sense of community and cultural exchange among our parishioners. During December, we honored our Heavenly Patron with a joyful feast on the 14, celebrated by Bishop John Boissoneau, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto, who delivered an inspiring message.

As part of our spiritual renewal, we hosted Advent and Lenten retreats. Under the guidance of the dedicated RCIA team, 30 individuals, including children, joyfully embraced the Catholic faith during the Easter liturgy after eight months of preparation and study. In a spirit of celebration, 200 children received their First Holy Communion, and 180 were confirmed during this Easter season. We also emphasized the significance of the Body and Blood of Christ with a Procession and Benediction on the Feast of Corpus Christi. The Alpha programs deepen individuals' faith and enrich their spiritual journeys.

In keeping with Carmelite tradition, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as our summer feast. This special occasion includes a Solemn Holy Mass, followed by a procession, the distribution of scapulars, and festive celebrations.





Our parish is proud to support six elementary schools and one high school, where we celebrate Holy Mass at the beginning of the academic year, during the Advent season, and at year-end or graduation ceremonies. We provide the sacrament of reconciliation during both Advent and Lenten seasons, and through the Rosary Apostolate ministry, we teach elementary school children the importance of praying the rosary.

Additionally, we extend our compassion to those within our parish boundaries facing financial difficulties through organizations like the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. To raise awareness about physical and mental health, we conduct various programs, including fundraising initiatives for cancer awareness.

In all these ways, St. John of the Cross Parish embodies the spirit of community, faith, and service, enriching the lives of our parishioners and the greater Mississauga area through Carmelite spirituality and fraternity.



Fr. Joyson G. Pottackal, the Pastor of St. John of the Cross Parish, Fr. Joby Theruvickal, Associate Pastor and Fr. Marvin Diongzon O.Carm, Carmelite from the Philippines, who resides at the priory and assists at the church while doing his business management studies at the University of Toronto.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Montreal, Canada





























Fr. Joy Abraham Kulanjiyil
Pastor

A New Beginning in the Heart of Mainz

When I first arrived in Germany, I was filled with a mixture of hope and uncertainty. Everything was new — the language, the culture, the faces — and yet, I felt a quiet assurance in my heart that this journey was part of something greater.

Being welcomed into the Diocese of Mainz has been one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. The warmth of the people, the strength of the faith community, and the rich spiritual traditions have made me feel not like a stranger, but like a brother in Christ. I am especially touched by how the churches here embrace diversity, offering space for people from many backgrounds to feel at home.

Attending Mass in German was a challenge at first, but over time, I started to recognize the familiar rhythm of prayers, the peace in the liturgy, and the universal language of love and kindness that transcends words. It reminded me that the Church is truly one family — whether in my home country or here in Mainz.

I am still learning — not only the language, but the culture, the customs, and the everyday life in this new land. But I am grateful for every smile, every small act of help, and every opportunity to grow. My hope is to give back to this community, to share my own faith journey, and to walk together in unity.

Germany may be my new home, but through the Diocese of Mainz, I have found something even deeper — a spiritual home.







Fr. Lijo Kavanukattil
Mainz, Germany

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

Mississauga, Canada





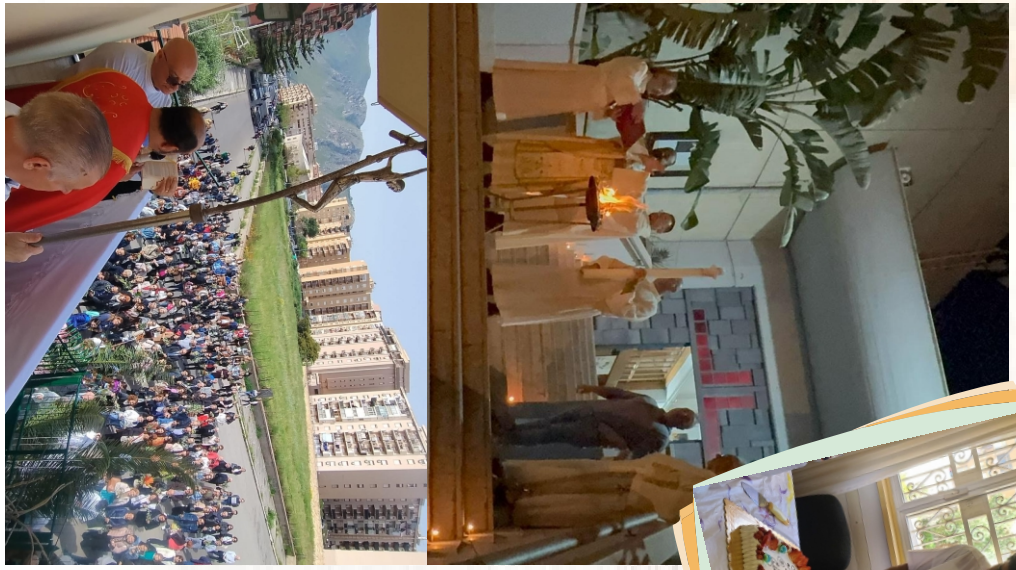








Fr. Felix Antony
Pastor

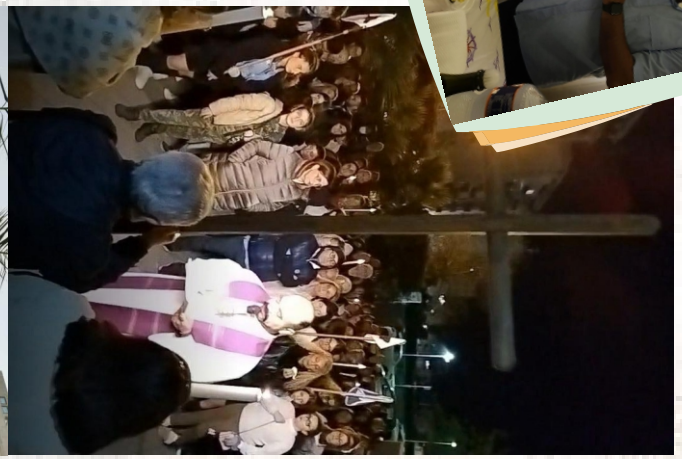






Palermo, Italia

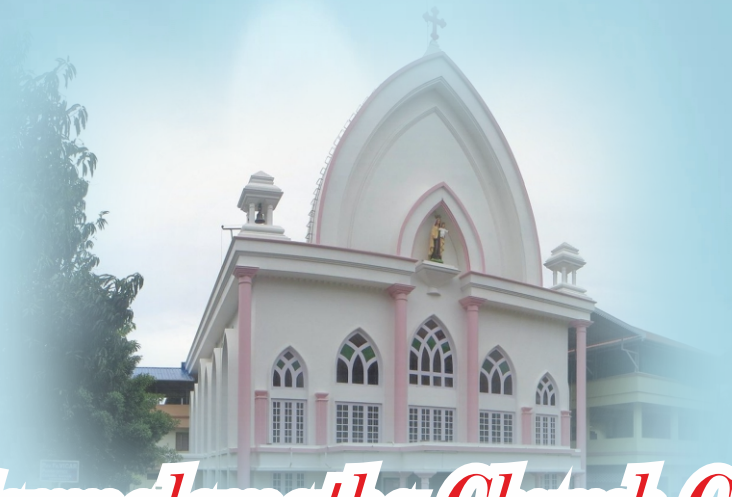








Fr. Martin Varghese Ponnittuseriyil
Palermo, Italia





Fr. Sebastian Arucheril
Vicar

Carmalamatha Church Chettupuzha
Thrissur

Silver Jubilee Year (2025–2026)

The Silver Jubilee celebrations of Carmalamatha Church, Chettupuzha, began in May 2025 and will conclude in May 2026. The Jubilee Year was solemnly inaugurated on May 2, 2025, by His Excellency Mar Tony Neelankavil, Auxiliary Bishop of Thrissur in the presence of our dear Prior Provincial Rev. Fr. Thankachan and our community members. Following the inauguration, a nine-day novena was held in preparation for the grand celebration of the feasts of St. Sebastian and Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Throughout this blessed Jubilee Year, a variety of spiritual and community-oriented programs have been planned. The Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was devoutly celebrated on July 16, bringing the parish community together in faith and joy. As part of the jubilee initiatives, the church is also undergoing renovation to mark this milestone with renewal and gratitude.

On this memorable occasion, we gratefully remember and acknowledge the dedicated support of the members of the St. Thomas Province of the Order of Carmelites in India. Their commitment, guidance, and tireless service have been instrumental in the smooth and faithful functioning of the parish throughout these 25 years.

This Jubilee Year is a time of thanksgiving and celebration, as we reflect on the journey of grace and look forward with hope to the years ahead.






















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25
2001 - 2026


North East Mission





Nagaland is one of the most beautiful states in the Northeast, home to diverse tribes and rich cultures. It is a predominantly Christian state with various denominations. Education has brought significant changes to this region.

We, Fathers Shijo Mathew and Jinto Jose, pursued our MSW studies at NEISSR College in Chümoukedima, Nagaland, intending to gain an awareness and understanding of the North East mission. Our time at the college was a rich and rewarding experience, as we studied alongside students from various Northeast states. This offered us a unique opportunity to interact with them, learn about their diverse cultures, traditions, and food habits.

It was also an opportunity to understand the various challenges faced by the region and to recognise the importance of our presence and mission here.

We also made the most of our fieldwork opportunities by engaging with different diocesan social service centres across the North East. Moreover, we spent our Christmas and Easter celebrations in various dioceses such as Nagaland, Arunachal, Bongaigaon, Nongstoin, Jowai, Diphu, Tura, and Guwahati. Each of these dioceses welcomed us with warmth and hospitality, allowing us to immerse ourselves in their mission contexts.

Through these experiences, we invited our provincial team to visit several dioceses in the region, further strengthening our shared commitment to explore future missionary possibilities. With joy and hope, we look forward to deepening our understanding and continuing our journey of learning for the growth and development of the North East mission of our Order.

With prayer and love
Frs. Shijo and Jinto



Fr. Shijo Karikoottathil



Fr. Jinto Pynadath

St.George Church
Pampadumpara



Best Sunday School (C Category) in the Diocese of Kanjirapilly

By the grace of God and the wholehearted support of our parishioners, the year 2024 was marked by several faith-filled, charitable, and community-strengthening activities at St. George Church. Rooted in our mission to grow together in love and service, the parish has witnessed remarkable moments that reflect both spiritual growth and communal unity.

In response to the needs of our community and neighboring areas, the parish organized multiple charity distribution drives throughout the year. Financial assistance was offered to deserving families, especially during festive seasons and times of emergency, upholding the Gospel call to serve the poor and marginalized. The initiative was further strengthened by the dedicated efforts of the Mathruvedi organized a separate charity drive led by the women of the parish.

The youth of the parish, through Yuvadeepthi (SMYM), came together for a vibrant youth meeting that included spiritual reflection, discussions on current challenges, and cultural expressions. This gathering helped foster a stronger sense of belonging and responsibility among the younger generation.

The annual retreat was a time of deep spiritual renewal for the entire parish community. With meaningful preaching, moments of confession, and adoration, the faithful found time for reflection and renewal, drawing closer to God and one another.

The feast of St. George, the patron of our parish, was celebrated with immense devotion and community spirit. Over three days, parishioners came together for

solemn liturgies, novenas, flag hoisting, a festive procession, and cultural programs that highlighted our unity and joy in the Lord.

As a token of appreciation for their dedicated liturgical service, the altar boys were taken on a special tour this year. It was a joyful and educational experience that helped strengthen their bond and commitment to their ministry.

The Sunday School teachers, who play a vital role in the faith formation of our children, were honored with a special family gathering. It was an opportunity for rest, celebration, and strengthening of relationships among the teaching team and their families.

This year, we were once again blessed to be recognized as the Best Sunday School in the Kanjirappally Diocese under Category C—a proud moment for the entire parish. Additionally, our handwritten magazine received the Second-Best Award at the diocesan level, a tribute to the creativity and commitment of our students and teachers.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Roji Pullolickal, Director of Mount Carmel Monastery and my co-friar at Vandanmedu, for his generosity and compassionate spirit towards the parish. We also sincerely thank all parishioners, benefactors, and well-wishers for their continued collaboration and support. With faith in God's providence and the intercession of St. George, we continue our journey forward with renewed hope and unity.

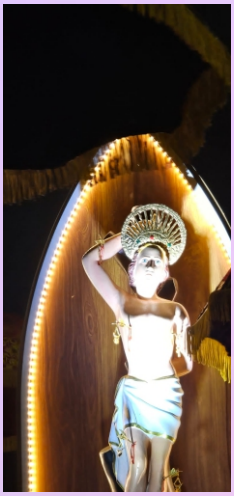
"Let all that you do be done in love." – 1 Corinthians 16:14



















Fr. Joby Kunnathottel
Vicar

LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH

KOTHANOOR DINNE,BENGALURU















Fr. George Myladoor
Vicar

IS THE TRUTH BEHIND BARS?



In late July, the arrest of two Catholic nuns in Durg, Chhattisgarh, on charges of human trafficking and forced religious conversion sparked a national outcry and became a political and religious flashpoint across the country. The incident, which saw Rev. Srs. Preethi Mary and Vandana Francis, along with a man named Sukaman Mandavi, taken into custody at the Durg railway station, has been widely condemned by political leaders, many other organizations and religious associations, who argue that the nuns are innocent and were targeted unjustly. The arrest followed a complaint by a local Bajrang Dal functionary, who accused the nuns of forcibly converting and trafficking three tribal women from Narayanpur district. However, the women themselves, who were all adults, and their families, have vehemently denied these allegations. The women stated that they were traveling to Agra willingly for work and training at a Christian hospital, with the full consent of their parents. One of the women even claimed that Bajrang Dal activists had coerced and assaulted her to give a false statement to the police.

The case has been met with significant political condemnation, particularly from leaders in Kerala, the home state of the two nuns. Members of Parliament from both the ruling Left Democratic Front and the opposition Congress-led United Democratic Front staged protests and demanded the immediate release of the nuns. They have accused the Chhattisgarh government of targeting minorities and allowing right-wing groups to operate with impunity. Initially, the nuns were denied bail by lower courts, which cited a lack of jurisdiction and transferred the case to a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court. This move further intensified concerns, with many viewing it as a sign of the case's political nature. However, after nine days in jail, the NIA court ultimately granted conditional bail to the nuns and Mandavi. The court's decision was based on several key factors, including the fact that all three accused had no prior criminal records, the alleged victims were adults, and no material evidence of coercion or forced conversion had been presented. "The most important and relevant question remains unanswered: Why the innocent is jailed?"

While the nuns have been released on bail, the legal proceedings are ongoing. The case continues to highlight the precarious situation of religious minorities in certain parts of India and has raised serious questions about the role of police, political parties and various groups in such incidents. The arrest and subsequent release of the two nuns have become a symbol of the larger debate surrounding religious freedom, human rights, and the rule of law in the country. The most important and relevant question remains unanswered: "Why is there dual justice?"

The arrest and imprisonment of Rev. Srs. Preethi Mary and Vandana Francis stand as a grave indictment of a system where truth is not merely ignored, but incarcerated. In the face of clear and consistent testimonies from the young women and their families, politically driven allegations of forced conversion were allowed to override due process. This case exemplifies how the machinery of justice can be weaponized—where innocence is vilified, facts are sidelined, and the truth itself becomes the first prisoner. The most important and relevant question remains unanswered: "Is the truth imprisoned?"



FR. JOSE ALEX VALAVANATTU
Vice Principal Mount Carmel College, Karukadom



ST. GEORGE CHURCH

Appapara

Appapara St. George Church is a small Parish in Mananthavady Diocese adorned with 26 families. Eventhough majority is poor but their Faith and participation in Church activities are commendable. In the first year of the triennium Fr. Jijo Mattappillil was the parish priest and when he transferred Fr. Jomon Kalaparambath took charge as parish priest in August 11, 2024.

As a new Parish priest I am very much thankful to my predecessors, who worked hard and shaped this community a spiritually matured one. Former Vicar made structural changes and it's consecration was on August 1, 2024 by Bp. Mar Jose Porunnedom. Catechism, CML, Mathruvedi, etc are very much active in parish ministry. Parish gained so many prizes in elocution and in piece of writing in Forane level. Appapara parish is the first one enrolled in 'Teclesia' an initiative to connect all parishes in Mananthavady Diocese. In future all formal procedures related to parish will go through this system.











FR. JOMON KALAPARAMBATH

Vicar, St. George Church,
Appapara

ST. GEORGE'S RCM CHURCH, KOSIGI

Established as an independent parish in 2017 through the dedicated efforts of the mission, St. George's RCM Church, Kosigi, has become a centre of faith and community life for the people in the area. The church serves as a welcoming space where the faithful gather to celebrate, pray, and grow together in their spiritual journey.

As a beacon of hope, the parish offers spiritual guidance, pastoral care, and support to individuals and families. Weekly Masses, confessions, retreats, and sacramental services are conducted regularly, fostering spiritual growth and deepening the faith of the community.

Our committed team of priests and lay leaders ensures that each member receives personal care and attention, helping them encounter God's love in their daily lives while building a stronger, faith-filled community.

The year 2024 was an unforgettable year for the parish. We had solem holy communion and confirmation of 300 children in corporation with Sunkeswari parish. It was precided by His Grace Mar Gorentla Johanes.

I took charge as parish priest on February 20 this year. The main event was Holy Week.The Holy Week at St. George RCM Church was observed with deep reverence and spiritual reflection, drawing a large number of faithful who gathered to journey through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The week began with **Palm Sunday**, commemorated with the blessing of palms and a solemn procession in all the villages.

Holy Thursday was celebrated with the Mass of the Lord's Supper,and washing of the feet. It was done in Kosigi parish church. The people from other villages joined together in the parish.

On **Good Friday**, the church observed the **Solemn Passion of the Lord** with a profound sense of prayer and reflection. Many parishioners participated in the **Way of the Cross procession**, that started from Belegal by 6 in the morning. The procession ended in the mountain of Kosigi. The Good Friday prayers were conducted in Mount Carmel High school with the help of Carmel matha ashram community. The Easter mass was conducted solemnly in all the villages. I thank all the friars of St. Thomas province and the supporters for encouraging and helping us. May God bless you.





FR. JACOB PALLIPURATH
Vicar, RCM, Kosigi



CARMEL MATHA PARISH SUNKESWARI, ANDHRA

Fr. Thomas Mavunkal
Vicar







"A Year of Grace and Growth: The Living Witness of Sunkeswari Parish 2024–2025"

In the 2024–2025 year, Sunkeswari Parish in the Diocese of Kurnool has flourished as a vibrant center of faith and fellowship. The parish, which nurtures 560 families across five villages—in Sunkeswari (200 families) and the substations of Rampuram (90 families), Basaladoddi (180), Chawtapalli (50), and Om Nagar (40)—has woven a close-knit tapestry of spiritual devotion. Sunday Masses are thoughtfully scheduled to meet the community's needs: 7:00 AM in Rampuram, 9:00 AM in Sunkeswari, 7:00 PM in Chawtapalli, and 11:30 AM on alternate Sundays in Basaladoddi and Om Nagar. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Carmel Ashram friars, whose steadfast support during feast days and weekday ministries has enriched parish life, and to Fr. Jacob, whose year of devoted service as Assistant Vicar has been invaluable.

The life of the parish was further enriched through sacramental celebrations: 46 children and 17 adults received baptism, while 163 young souls—40 from Sunkeswari, 43 from Rampuram, 54 from Basaladoddi, and 25 from Om Nagar—received their First Holy Communion on 28 December 2024 in a solemn ceremony led by His Excellency Rev. Dr. Gorantla Johannes, OCD, Bishop of Kurnool. Additionally, 21 couples entered the sacred covenant of marriage during the year, marking moments of joy and blessing for our community.

During Holy Week, the parish and its substations observed the Triduum with deep reverence. The Sisters consistently provided admirable support to church activities and catechism ministry, offering invaluable assistance at both the parish and station churches.

In November, the parish celebrated a special Mass at the cemetery grounds of each of the five villages—a solemn occasion of prayer, remembrance, and blessing for the faithful departed, following the meaningful tradition of cemetery liturgies celebrated during this month.

Furthermore, in a gesture of heartfelt recognition, the parish felicitated the newly appointed Provincial Superior of the Mary Matha Province, Mananthavady—Rev. Sr. Paulin Mukalayil, SABS—who served for the past three years at Sanjo Bhavan Convent in Sunkeswari. Her dedication to parish life has been deeply appreciated

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of two new catechists: Male Thomas at Sunkeswari Parish and Sannaki Mathew at Basaladoddi substation—each bringing fresh enthusiasm and dedication to youth formation and sacramental preparation.

This year's journey reflects a parish deeply anchored in sacramental grace, vibrant pastoral care,

and communal unity. It stands as a testament to spiritual resilience and collaborative dedication.The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was celebrated with great devotion at RCM Church, Sunkeswari, on Saturday, 19th July 2025. And around 1,700 faithful participated in the celebration.

A special highlight of the day was the blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed Grotto of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the Shrine of St. Antony. Although the Bishop of Kurnool, Most Rev. Dr. Gorantla Johannes, could not attend due to serious illness, the Vicar General, Msgr. Fr. David Arulappa, presided over the celebrations as the main celebrant.

The procession began at 5:30 PM, followed by the blessing ceremony at 7:00 PM, and the Solemn Holy Mass at 7:30 PM. The Eucharistic celebration was concelebrated by former parish priest Rev. Fr. Regi Jacob Pullan, and Rev. Frs. Joji, Johnson, and Jacob from Carmel Ashram, Kosigi, along with Rev. Fr. Jojappa, CMF, and Rev. Fr. Devadanam, OCD.

The celebration concluded with a festive dinner served to all at 9:30 PM. It was truly a day of grace, unity, and deep spiritual joy for the parish community.













MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE

Karukadom P.O., Kothamangalam, Ernakulam (Dist), Kerala - 686 691

(Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam)

ACCREDITED WITH GRADE A 3.21 CGPA NAAC

Mount Carmel College, Karukadom, stands as a beacon of learning and formation under the inspiring motto "Wisdom Liberates." Nestled in a beautiful and green campus near the Kochi-Dhanushkodi national highway (NH 85), the college offers a serene and conducive environment for academic excellence and holistic development.

Under the dynamic guidance and enriching presence of Principal Rev. Fr. Shaji Mangalath and Vice Principal Fr. Jose Alex, Mount Carmel College continues to strive for the highest standards in education. The dedicated service of Bursar Rev. Fr. Ebin Baby, Rev. Fr. Binny Joseph, the Head of the Department of Psychology, further strengthens the academic and non-academic fabric of the institution. We form the core team that tries to nurture the vision and mission of MCC.

The college is home to 37 experienced teaching staff and 12 committed non-teaching staff, all working collaboratively to impart quality education aimed at forming responsible and value-based citizens of tomorrow. The institution prides itself on its modern infrastructure, which includes a well-equipped library, advanced laboratories, spacious playgrounds, and both indoor and outdoor badminton courts, ensuring the all-round development of students.

In today's educational landscape, to impart meaningful education is not an easy task—especially for a self-financing institution like Mount Carmel College. Withstanding the pressures and competition from aided and autonomous colleges poses one of the greatest challenges. Added to this are wider concerns such as the fast-changing demands of the job market, the impact of technology, the need for mental health awareness, and the responsibility to foster inclusivity and innovation in learning environments. Yet, in the midst of these realities, we continue to dream—to create a vibrant academic community rooted in compassion, guided by values, and equipped to build a better tomorrow.

MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE

AN ACCADEMIC YEAR OF EXPLOSIVE PROGRAMMES

















With a strong reputation for academic excellence with college toppers of various departments and a first rank holder in Fashion Designing at MG university, Mount Carmel College looks forward to welcoming more students in the coming academic year.

The college remains ever grateful to the Provincial and his Council for their unwavering support, encouragement, and blessings that continue to guide its journey toward educational excellence.













Fr. Shaji Mangalath
Principal



Fr. Jose Alex
Vice Principal



Fr. Ebin Vazhakkuzha
Finance Administrator



Fr. Binny Tharappel
HoD, Psychology

Moate community , Ireland celebrations for Fr. Jimmy Murray and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil on theirDiamond and Silver Jubilees of ordination

Great attendance and standing ovations in Moate for jubilarians Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm.



Members of the Indian community joined Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm for the celebrations on Wednesday of last week, 16 July, 2025



Pictured after the planting of a tree and unveiling of a plaque are the jubilarian Moate Carmelites Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm, and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm, with the Bishop of Meath and chief concelebrant of the Mass, Bishop Tom Deenihan and the other priests who concelebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving on Wednesday of last week, 16 July



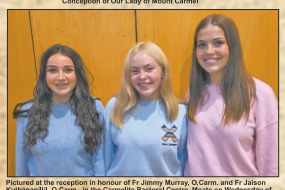
Picture after the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Moate are, from left: Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm., 60 years a priest and originally from Rosemount; the Bishop of Meath and chief concelebrant of the Mass, Bishop Tom Deenihan; Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm., 25 years a priest, and Fr Michael Troy, O.Carm., Prior, Carmelite community, Moate



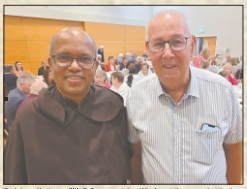
Last Wednesday, 16 July, 2025, was an historic day in Moate, and this little girl was one of the youngest at the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Carmelites' Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel



Pictured centre is Canon William Steacy, Rector, Athlone Union of Parishes, who led the members of the Church of Ireland community at the celebrations for Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. on Wednesday evening of last week, 16 July, while left and right are Joe Creggy and Marie Smyth



Pictured at the reception in honour of Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm, and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm., in the Carmelite Pastoral Centre, Moate on Wednesday of last week, 16 July, are Karrissa Barus, Katie Creggy and Aoife Ross. Katie was one of the altar servers during the Mass of Thanksgiving



Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. and Joe Whelan at the reception in the Carmelite Pastoral Centre, Moate on Wednesday evening of last week, 16 July



The ceremonies in the Carmelites Moate on Wednesday of last week, 16 July, were historic, and pictured there are Fr. Jimmy Murray, O.Carm., 60 years a priest, and Martina Griffin, local historian



Amy Guinan read the Prayers of the Faithful, while on right is the Bishop of Meath, Bishop Tom Deenihan, and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm., 25 years a priest

Community celebrations as Fr Jimmy Murray and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil mark their Diamond Jubilee and Silver Jubilee of ordination



STANDING ROOM ONLY — A section of the congregation in the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Moate on Wednesday of last week, 16 July, for the Mass of Thanksgiving for the Diamond Jubilee of ordination and the Silver Jubilee of Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. Among the concelebrations of the Mass was Fr. Bernard Noonan (front right), PP, Moate, part of the adjoining Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois

More photos next week



Fr Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. are pictured after the planting of a tree — a Fagus Sylvatica Atropurpurea — and the unveiling of a plaque in the grounds of the Carmelite Priory, Moate on Wednesday of last week, 16 July

By James Wims

There were celebrations, applause, standing ovations, smiles, embraces and handshakes on Wednesday of last week, 16 July, 2025, as two of the priests of the Carmelite community in Moate — Fr. Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. — each marked special anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood.

Fr. Jimmy, a native of nearby Rosemount, and a past pupil and a former teacher in the then Carmelite College, Moate, was ordained a priest 60 years ago, on Sunday, 11 July, 1965 — this year he celebrates his Diamond Jubilee of ordination.

Fr. Jaison, a native of India and now an Irish citizen, was ordained 25 years ago, on Sunday, 29 October, 2000 — this year he celebrates his Silver Jubilee of ordination.

The celebrations took place on Wednesday evening of last week, 16 July — then feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel — with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at 7.15pm in the Carmelites' Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

This was followed by the planting of a tree — a Fagus Sylvatica Atropurpurea tree — and the unveiling of a plaque in the grounds of the Carmelite Priory, Moate, and then a reception in the Carmelite Pastoral Centre.

MANY TRIBUTES

Chief concelebrant at the Mass was the Bishop of Meath, Bishop Tom Deenihan, who was joined at the altar by Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Jaison, Fr. Michael Troy, O.Carm., Prior, Moate Carmelites, and Fr. Pat Kiernan.

All-age number of priests joined in offering the Mass, Both Bishop Deenihan and Fr. Michael Troy, O.Carm., Prior, Moate Carmelites, led the tributes to Fr. Jimmy and Fr. Jaison; Tributes were also paid Fr Jimmy and Fr Jaison at the reception afterwards in the Carmelite Pastoral Centre, with each of the priests receiving sublimed applause and standing ovations.

Prominent during the Mass of Thanksgiving was the Carmelite Choir, Moate.

Among those who participated in the Mass of Thanksgiving was the Reader, Frances Kerrigan and Amy Guinan (Prayers of the Faithful).

There were two soloists from the choir, Edel Martin and Morgan Crowley.

At the reception after the Mass Fr Jimmy and Fr Jaison expressed thanks to all for the occasion.

Both recalled their life and times in the Carmelites, and Fr Jaison had a special word for his mother in India and his late father. Further report and photos next week.



Pictured are members of the Moate Carmelites Choir in the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Moate



Fr Michael Troy, O.Carm., Prior, Moate Carmelites, addressing those present in the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Wednesday of last week, 16 July



(Right) Frances Kerrigan was the Reader at the Mass of Thanksgiving in Moate on Wednesday of last week, 16 July

Moate community celebrations for Fr Jimmy Murray and Fr Jaison Kuthanapillil on their Diamond and Silver Jubilees of ordination

By James Wims

As reported last week, there were celebrations, applause, standing ovations, smiles, embraces and handshakes earlier this month, on Wednesday, 16 July, 2025, as two of the priests of the Carmelite community in Moate — Fr. Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. — each marked special anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood.

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CELEBRATIONS

It was on Wednesday evening, 16 July — the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel — that the celebrations took place, first with a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving at 7.15pm in the Carmelites' Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The chief concelebrant at the Mass was the Bishop of Meath, Bishop Tom Deenihan, who was joined on the altar by Fr. Jimmy, Fr. Jaison, Fr. Michael Troy, O.Carm., Prior, Moate Carmelites, and Fr. Pat Kiernan.

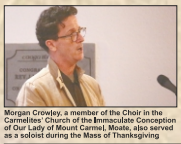
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P



During the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Carmelites' Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Moate, Edel Martin, a member of the Church Choir, also served as a soloist



Morgan Crowley, a member of the Choir in the Carmelites' Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Moate, also served as a soloist during the Mass of Thanksgiving



Pictured left and right are Fr. Jimmy Murray, O.Carm. and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm., cutting their Jubilee cakes at the reception in the Carmelite Pastoral Centre, Moate. Fr. Jimmy celebrated is Diamond Jubilee of ordination (60 years and Fr. Jaison celebrated his Silver Jubilee (25 years)



Pictured at the tree planting ceremony after the Mass of Thanksgiving are, from left, Annette Ryan, Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm., and Seamus and Anne McCabe



At the reception in the Carmelite Pastoral Centre, Moate, Tom Duffy paid glowing tributes to Fr. Jimmy and Fr. Jaison on behalf of the Moate community



Helping to co-ordinate things in the kitchen at the reception in honour of Fr. Jimmy and Fr. Jaison were, from left, Caoimhe Redmond and Donna, Abbey and Frank Murphy



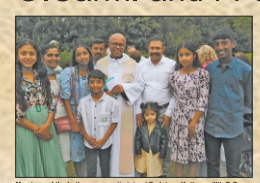
Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm, is pictured with John and Nuala Julian



STANDING ROOM ONLY! — A section of the huge attendance on Wednesday evening, 16 July, 2025 in the Carmelites' Church of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Moate for the Diamond (60) Jubilee and Silver (25) Jubilee of ordination of Fr. Jimmy Murray, O.Carm, and Fr. Jaison Kuthanapillil, O.Carm. respectively. Wednesday, 16 July, was the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

TOPIC• 24 July, 2025 EWS N 7

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CARMEL ACADEMY

BANNERGHATTA ROAD, BENGALURU

Nurturing Minds, Shaping Futures:

Nestled in the vibrant heart of Bannerghatta Road, Carmel Academy stands tall as a beacon of holistic education. Managed by the Carmel Jyothi Trust of the St. Thomas Province of the Order of the Carmelites, our institution has proudly completed 13 successful years, fulfilling a long-cherished dream of the Carmelite Order. With every passing year, Carmel Academy continues to grow in strength, wisdom, and purpose.

Making a Difference – The Carmel Way:

At Carmel Academy, our mission extends beyond academics. We are committed to nurturing a compassionate, value-based learning environment, where students are encouraged to grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. Our goal is to prepare young minds to meet the challenges of the modern world-absolutely equipped with knowledge, rooted in faith, and guided by integrity.

This is made possible through a strong administrative framework, inspired leadership, and the enduring values of the Carmelite tradition.

With over 225 dedicated faculty and staff, Carmel Academy educates and mentors about 2000 students, following the ICSE and ISC curriculum.

New Academic Year 2025-26:

The new academic year 2025–26 began on a positive and energetic note at Carmel Academy. Students returned with renewed enthusiasm, ready to embrace fresh challenges and learning opportunities. We welcomed new admissions with orientation sessions and warm greetings. Our teachers laid the groundwork for a year filled with growth, creativity and academic excellence. Our newly elected members of the Student council committed themselves to the foundation of an exciting leadership work. The atmosphere at present is vibrant, setting the tone for a promising year ahead.

As we move forward, we carry the legacy of academic excellence and holistic development. We extend our best wishes to all our students and staff for the upcoming activities for the academic year. With the






WELCOME
TO
CARMEL ACADEMY
2025-26


CARMEL ACADEMY
Graduation Ceremony




WELCOME
TO
CARMEL ACADEMY
2025-26




13TH
ANNUAL DAY


CARMEL ACADEMY
Graduation Ceremony



















blessings of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the support of our Carmelites, the journey continues—brighter and stronger than ever.

Carmel Academy – " Nil Satis Nisi Optimum" Where every child's journey is nurtured with care, faith, and a vision for the future. We believe that "Nothing But the Best Is Good Enough".





Fr. Regi Pullan
Administrator
Carmel Academy



Fr. Johnson Baby Kunnath
Principal, Mount Carmel High School





Mount Carmel High School

Kosigi,Andhra.

Mount Carmel School stands as a beacon of hope for the people of Kosigi, offering a path to success for countless children. With a student body of 1300, our school boasts a dedicated teaching staff of 42 and a supportive non-teaching staff of 16.

Mount Carmel School's commitment to academic excellence is evident in our students' remarkable achievements. They have consistently demonstrated exceptional performance, securing high pass percentages in the 10th-class exams. Not only have they excelled academically, but they have also emerged as the top institution in nearby mandals, not only in terms of passing percentages but also in securing the highest marks.

This year, we are introduced the National Cadet Corps (NCC) program, which has played a pivotal role in empowering our students, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. The NCC program has provided them with invaluable opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and discipline.

At Mount Carmel School, we are committed to providing holistic education that caters to the diverse needs of our students. As part of our mission, we offer fee concessions to 25% of our students, ensuring that they have access to quality education regardless of their socioeconomic status.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our esteemed Provincial, Councillors, friars in India, friars in Germany, and friars in Canada for their unwavering support and care. Their generosity has been instrumental in enabling us to continue our mission of providing education to those who need it most.

A Graceful Encounter on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Fr. Febin Kachirayil

On 16 July 2023, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I had the unexpected and profound opportunity to meet Pope Leo XIV while on holiday in Rome with my parents. The encounter took place during a visit to one of our monasteries, named Santa Maria del Carmelo in Traspontina, where I was asked to concelebrate the Holy Mass in honor of the feast.

The main celebrant was Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, whose presence radiated humility and sincerity. Just before the Holy Mass, he took a moment to engage in a warm conversation with me. He asked about mybackground and expressed heartfelt memories of his visit to Kerala.

Celebrating the Eucharist alongside him was not only an honor but a deeply spiritual experience that I will always treasure. I later discovered that Cardinal Prevost has a tradition of visiting the Traspontino monastery each year on this feast day, making the encounter feel even morem eaningful and divinely timed.

In Cardinal Prevost, I could see a truly humble and genuine soul. This unexpected encounter may last forever in my memories. May the Lord guide and strengthen him throughout his Papacy.









Karamliten Kloster in Straubing

Straubing is a small town located on the banks of the Danube River *("With an average discharge of around 6,855 m³/s and a total length of 2,857 kilometers, the Danube is the second largest and second longest river in Europe after the Volga. The river drains large parts of Central and Southeastern Europe. It flows through or borders ten countries (Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine) – more than any other river in the world*). Straubing lies in the southern German state of Bavaria. In 1368, a local duke named Albrecht I. invited the Carmelite Order to Straubing and built a large church and monastery. Since then, Carmelite Monks and priests from the German Province have been continuously serving the region within a radius of about 30 km, until the year 2016.

On November 17 2016, the Upper Germen Province officially bid farewell from Straubing. "Following this, the Diocese of Regensburg entrusted the Carmelite Monastery and Church to the St. Thomas Province." As a result three Priests from Kerala,India -Rev. Fr. Jim Vadakumparambil, Fr. Paul Kizhekekala, and Fr. Anil Kaiprampadan came to Straubing to continue the pastoral care and meet the spiritual needs of the local people as successors to the German Carmelite Province in Straubing. "The Diocese of Regensburg appointed Fr. Jim Vadakumparambil as *Rector Ecclesiae*, and he served in this role as in charge of the Carmelite Church und Monastery until September 2019. It was a new venture with Indian priests in Straubing and marked a successful beginning." At the same time, Fr. Anil Kaiprampadan served as the Assistant Parish Priest at St. Elisabeth Church in Straubing and was also actively involved in youth apostolate work in the Deanery of Straubing.

After completing his three years of service in Straubing, Fr. Jim Vadakumparambil moved to another parish in Cham. Fr. Sunny Kodiyan, who joined the community in the year 2019 and was appointed, Rector Ecclesiae" of the same church in Straubing, succeeded him.When Fr.Paul Kizhekekala went to pursue higher studies at "*The Ludwig Maximilian* ***University*** *(LMU)* in Munich, Fr. Thomas Nelliyani arrived in Straubing from Carmalite monastry Mainz and began his service as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Jakob Basilica. However, his stay lasted less than three years. He was then appointed Assistant Parish Priest in the parishes of *Wörth an der Donau and Wiesent*.

In 2024, we have been blessed and pleased to welcome Rev. Fr. Valson Kaiparambil as a new member of our Kloster community in Straubing. He joins us from the Carmelite Monastery in Mainz and is currently engaged in pastoral ministry in the Parish of Hunderdorf.

In India, Punjab is widely known as the "Granary of India." Because of its significant contribution towards the Food production. We can also say that lower part of Bavaria- *(Niederbayern)* is very fertile land and it's called the agricultural Powerhouse of Germany- *Der Gäuboden –die Kornkammer Bayerns*). Because of its well Farming, cultivation of Wheat, Corn and Sugar beets-(a sugar beet is a plant whose root contains a high concentration of sucrose and that is grown commercially for sugar production.)

The people here are very faithful, generous and always willing to help. For example, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, they donated 20,000 Euros to our Mount Carmel School in Kurnool in Andra Predesh. Similarly, after a landslide near the Mananthavady region, they contributed 8,000













Euros in aid. These acts of kindness show how compassionate and benevolent the people here are, especially toward those who are in need.We have since 1368 in Straubing a famous beer called *Karmeliten Bier*. It was the first project of the *Carmalite Monastry* in Straubing. Known for its excellent taste, this beer has been enjoyed by many. We can say that, This *Karamliten Bier* is the heart of *Bavaria*.In 1864, a *Carmalite* monk-Fr. Cyrillus Knoll- from the monastery in Straubing, founded the PCM Province in America. His name is remembered as a part of history, written in golden letters as a historical testimony.

Miss Monika Schneider Stranninger has always extended her support to all our activities in Straubing. She works on the editorial board of the newspaper *Straubinger Tagblatt*. Under her leadership, a charitable society also operates here. She is always committed to help us in every possible way with our concerns and initiatives. She is a trustworthy person.

Although I will be retiring from here at the end of this year, we can all be proud that *Carmalite Monastry* in Straubing will continue to be a center of our hope and charitable works. I sincerely thank all my fellow priests for their support, love, Handwork and tireless dedication to the pastoral needs of the faithful in and around Straubing.

May the Good Lord bless you all.

Thank you,



Fr. Sunny George Kodiyan
Straubing, Germany

Receperint Tergum



Fr. John Adapoor
Selfless & Dedicated 16 Years
of Pastoral Ministry In Germany.

Mis Mejores Deseos



Rev. Fr. Titus Joseph
Karimattathil
Pastoral Ministry in USA

CARMEL ESTATE

KARTIKULAM, MANATHAVADY







Dear Brothers in Christ,

It brings me great joy to share my heartfelt reflections on the blessings and experiences I have received while serving at Karmel Nivas and Karmel Nikethan Estate in Mananthavady.Coming from an agricultural background, I feel deeply connected to the land. Working in the estate has been more than a task—it has been a fulfilling ministry that brings peace to the heart and purpose to the soul. There is a unique joy in watching life grow from the soil. Seeing progress in the fields gives renewed energy to our lives and reminds us of God's abundant grace.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our senior friars who, with great wisdom, continue to recognize and uphold the value of the soil and the importance of contributing to society through farming. I have come to understand even more deeply that farming is not merely a profession—it is a mission and ministry, serving not just our community, but also our nation and humanity at large.Nature is a faithful teacher. The soil never cheats us—it gives back

large. Nature is a faithful teacher. The soil never cheats us—it gives back more than what we invest, with patience and care. Our estate, blessed with fertile land and hard work, has created regular employment opportunities for around fifteen local laborers, many of whom come from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds. It brings us joy to know that our efforts also support the livelihood of those in need. We are also thankful for the steady and fruitful yields from our plantations:

- 44 tons of coffee in 2023–2024
- 34 tons in 2024–2025
- Expecting 60 tons in 2025–2026

These results are a testament to the collective hard work of our team and the grace of God. I take this opportunity to thank all the former Estate Managers, the Karmel Nikethan community, and each one of you for your unconditional support, encouragement, and prayers. Your contribution is part of every leaf that grows and every life that is touched through this mission.

With deep gratitude
and fraternal love,



Fr. Jijo Mattapillil
Estate Manager











CARMELGIRI ASHRAM

THAZHEKODE, PERINTHALMANNA



Fr. Johnson Elayidathukunnel
Director



The planting of arecanut saplings was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. John Adapoor.



Mount Carmel Monastery
Vandanmedu





Mount Carmel Monastery has 25 acres of land. We have leased 15 acres for cardamom cultivation for a period of ten years, and we own 3.50 acres of cardamom plants. The remaining 6.25 acres, which contain tea plants, have not been utilized for the past four years. As I've heard from the Provincial bursars, Mount Carmel Monastery provided the Province with Rs. 2,00,000 (Two Lakhs only) after the land was purchased in 2000. Leasing the 15 acres was a suitable decision made by the Provincial Council. I hope Mount Carmel Monastery can begin supporting the Province financially from the 2025-2026 fiscal years onward.

Fr. Roji Pullolickal and Fr. Joby Kunnathottel minister at Mount Carmel Monastery, serving as Director and Parish Priest at St George Church, Pampadumpara, respectively. The monastery is kept lively with various activities, including daily Holy Mass at 6:15 a.m., birthday celebrations, and feast days. Fr. Roji often assists nearby parishes by hearing confessions and celebrating Holy Mass when needed. Many of our fathers, residing both in India and abroad, visited and stayed at Mount Carmel Monastery, Vandanmedu .

Mar Jose Pulickal, Bishop of Kanjirapilly made a graceful visit to Mt Carmel Monastery.We celebrated the feast of Fr. Lucka, assistant Vicar at St Thomas Forane Church, Anakkara. Fr. Mobin George, the newly ordained priest celebrated HolyMass at MCM, Vandanmedu

Fr. Joby Kunnathottel organized the birthday and feast celebrations for Fr. Roji Jacob on January 15 and 20, inviting members of the CMI and OCD communities. Similarly, we celebrated the birthday and feast of Fr. Joby Kunnathottel with friends, trustees, and the sacristan of St. George Church, Pampadumpara.

Mount Carmel Monastery also celebrated the Scapular feast by inviting priests and nearby religious communities. Over 30 people attended the function, which was a truly enriching time for our fraternity.









GOLDEN MOMENTS AT
Mount Carmel Monastery

















Fr. Roji Pullolickal
Director & Estate Manager

CARMEL BOOK STALL

ക്രിസ്തീയ
ഭക്ത സാധനങ്ങൾ

MOB: 9605006687













My Service in Palermo: A Carmelite Experience

My ministry in Palermo has given me the opportunity to serve in two very different, yet complementary parish communities.

At San Sergio I Papa parish, I serve as Parrochial vicar, working closely with a welcoming and affectionate community. Many parishioners trust me enough to invite me into their homes, especially to hear the confessions of the elderly and the sick. My sacramental role here mainly involves Masses and confessions, but I'm also involved with the Catholic Scouts, accompanying a lively group of young people and helping them grow in faith and fellowship.

I also serve at San Giovanni dei Lebbrosi parish, one of the oldest churches in Palermo, founded in 1071— some centuries before the Carmelite Rule of St Albert. I was entrusted with this responsibility by the Archbishop of Palermo, and here I've found broader pastoral involvement: baptisms, weddings, first communions, and a strong connection with the local community, who often see me as a reliable point of reference for spiritual matters.

Beyond parish life, I remain active in academic writing. I contribute to the PCM Province of the Carmelite Order in the United States, and recently had an article on Carmelite eco-spirituality published in their quarterly journal—a reflection on how our tradition speaks to the urgent call to care for creation.

These two pastoral experiences—together with academic engagement—continue to shape and strengthen my Carmelite journey in Europe.

















Fr. Rijo Jose
Palermo, Italy









Fr. Sudeesh Joseph
Gie Ben, Germany

Dear Brothers,

For the past three years, I have been serving as parochial vicar in the parishes of St. Francis and St. Joseph in Londorf and Lollar near Gießen. In these parishes, I am responsible for the confirmation preparation. Together with a dedicated team, I prepare the young people for the sacrament of confirmation. My pastor also supports me in my ministry.

This year, the Most Reverend Bishop of Mainz, Dr. Peter Kohlgraf, administered the sacrament of confirmation. He conferred the sacrament on 29 young people in the church in Lollar.

I am very happy in my parish – the people here are very friendly and warm-hearted.

Releasing Ceremony Of

CARMEL DARSAN 2024





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