



## News Glow Bangalore Province

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### The History of All Souls Day

On the first of November, we celebrate the feast of All Saints and we remember with joy and gratitude all those who have gone before us and who are now enjoying eternal happiness face to face with God. On the second of November, we celebrate All Souls' Day, also known as the Commemoration of All the Faithful



Departed, i.e. those who die with God's grace and friendship. Based on the Catholic theology, some of those who have departed from this world have not been perfectly cleansed from venial sin, or have not fully atoned for their past transgressions, are being temporarily deprived of the beatified vision until such time as they have been completely sanctified in Christ. These departed souls are to remain in Purgatory, a state of purification. To assist them in this process, to be freed from Purgatory, we, their spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ, pray that they may receive the reward of the saints. Death is painful and can awaken feelings that are powerful, changing and compelling. The experience of death can be painful, enveloping the person to imagine the afterlife, the longing to be with the Divine and to enter into a new experience. On this day, we are faced with the

mystery of death and we are reminded of the promise of resurrection and eternal life and therefore we ask God for mercy on those who have died. Visiting the graves of the beloved persons, eating certain special food and decorating graves with flowers are well-practiced custom. All of these customs show the wide variety of traditions related to All Souls Day.

Let us pray in a very special way for all the deceased, for all those whom we knew. We pray for an ever deeper and abiding awareness of the steadfast love of God expressed through Jesus Christ. God's love made known in Jesus Christ is the reason for our hope. Today is a day of solidarity between all Christians. It is a celebration of what we call the "Communion of Saints", where 'saints' signify all persons baptized in Christ. Our love and sense of duty do not permit us to ignore them. They are all our people, some of whom are intimately known to us. They call out for our help and one day we too, will need help from others. On this day, we remember and pray to God, our creator and redeemer, Jesus Christ our savior who conquered death and returned to glory, that people who have gone before us in faith may share His victory and enjoy the vision of God's glory forever.

### COVID-19 :A sigh and sign of our times

How shall we read it and how shall we respond to it? What are some of the requirements to read such times? Today, there is a lot of misunderstanding or lack of understanding about the signs of the times and we hear all sorts of prophecies, predictions that confuses many people. Based on the Bible and the Teachings of the Catholic Church, Pope John XXIII in his apostolic constitution said, "*Why this trustful soul seeks nothing but darkness all upon the face of the earth?*" We prefer to restate our confidence in our Savior who has not left the world in vain. Jesus' recommendation is that we learn to discern the signs of the times that we can make out even in the midst of so much darkness. More than two - that enable us to have faith and hope for the sake of the Church and humanity. The successive bloody wars of our times, the spiritual ruins of the ideologists and the proof of many bitter experiences have not been without useful lessons. Now the situation is painful, situation is bitter, the situation is dark but it is not hopeless. So precisely to find meaning in such a situation, the Teachings of the Catholic Church and Pope John XXIII

says, “*Even in those events that are very painful which nobody likes to experience, we must find meaning and significance.*” And that is the clue/key to understand what the signs of the times are. In our historical pilgrimage, it is through the medium of the sign of the times that God’s love is communicated. In spite of the prevailing conditions, we need to recognize these signs and the providential care of God in a particular place and in a particular time. In His goodness and wisdom, God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us His very self.

What are the signs of the times in general? From Christian perspective, there are three major categories of signs of the times:

1. **Primordial time** - It is nothing but Christ time because all other times are interpreted in the light of Christ. God Himself being human and Christ among us.
2. **Perennial time** - *a. Creation itself.* They have been there for right from creation, quite a long time and they are with us. Creation illustrates God’s overflowing love for us. There is no need for God to create anything at all. Therefore, creation itself is a sign of His love.  
*b. Human history.* It is a sign because it points towards God’s involvement in our lives.
3. **Episodic signs** - These are special events, they could be very pleasant or very unpleasant, but they are special events. They are not perennial, they don’t last, they come and go. Covid -19 comes under this sign. This type of sign demand discernment and identification. Not anything and everything is a sign of the time. Therefore, it needs discernment and identification.

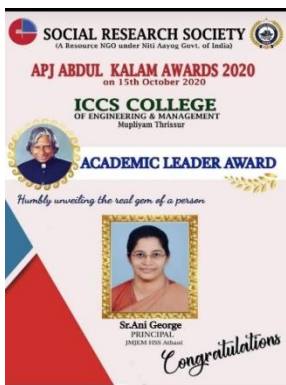
Where there is peace and harmony, it is easy to say God’s providence. What about the troubled times? Now the troubled times normally called leading to repentance and purification. So, in such a context an exemplary life calls for conversion and certain change of heart. If that is the case, it becomes a sign of the time. The sign of the time involves understanding the language of the Spirit, who speaks in different languages at different times. It can be a gentle breeze, it can be a colorful sunrise, it can be lush green vegetation, all these positive signs enable us to move into contemplation. These are all positive signs. But on the other hand, Spirit also can be heard in the cries of the poor, the screams of the oppressed, in the silent sighs of the sick and the dying, in the raging revolt of the oppressed/marginalized, the frustrated anger of the stagnated migrants... These are the languages of the Spirit. They can be highly positive, very pleasant or could be really heart rendering. The Spirit speaks through all these types of events. There are countries, rich in natural resources but we can also see majority of people under poverty. How is it possible? These are the signs of the times that attract our attention. A mass poverty and the situation demand a change of heart in those who create and perpetuate such inhuman conditions. Such historical event calls for change of heart. There is huge difference between wealth and poverty. Wealth is accumulated in some hands, in some places - such situation calls for introspection and in that sense, it can be called the signs of the time.

Humanity is also really hungry and thirsty for something more than mere food, clothing or shelter. The call of the Lord gives them something to eat, ‘They are with me for several days and they had been listening to me and I can’t send them just like that.’ In Jn7.37, ‘Let all those who are hungry come to me.’ There are two types of consideration that Jesus Himself has. On the one hand, there is care for the equal dimension of the human being, there is also concern for deeper dimension of the human being. So, we need to pay attention to those cries that comes from the discrimination and also to the physical needs of the human being like hunger, pestilence along with the spiritual dimension of the human being. Pope Benedict XVI sees even a crime situation in the world as containing the signs of the time. Although, crisis as such may be painful or even evil, it can be an opportunity for the reign of God to usher things. That is why, we have that famous poem by Rabindranath Tagore, ‘He comes, comes ever comes’ whether it is sunny days, gloomy nights, in the good times, pleasant times, he says, that we can hear His footsteps always. Some of the Biblical prophets portrays God as if He is another human being. *Ex.:* God gets angry and then He relents. For a short time, I abandon you and with great love I will gather you, etc.

We should not take the prophecies of the prophets as prediction of the future events, rather; they should be understood as the insights in to the present times. There are some necessities we need, in order to read and understand the needs of the time -

1. We need to be deeply rooted in the reality of the times in order to attain openness to other religion/language/caste/belief/groups, etc. This is possible only in and through a life of solidarity.
2. Shedding light on the day today life, through a good familiarity with the reading of the Scriptures.
3. An understanding of the infinite richness and the mystery of God. With our finite being, God cannot be understood and situation cannot be articulated as God’s punishment. Reading the signs of the time needs commitment because we need to cooperate and collaborate with God, in His salvific plan. We are called to renounce sin and announce the reign of God.

‘Charity begins at home’ like charity, prophesy also begins at home. Let us be prophets to ourselves before being a prophet to other. The tiny virus has put us together forcefully. We realized that we are responsible to each other, we are responsible to the person sitting next to us. We have the famous quoting in Genesis—‘*Am I my brothers’ keeper?*’ There can be no other answer than—‘**YES I AM**’. We have responsibility beyond our personal space. We ache for ourselves and for our neighbors standing before an uncertain future. May our love for one another go viral and not fear.



### **Congratulations to Sr. Ani George**

The APJ Abdul Kalam academic Leader Award was offered by Social Research Society to Sr. Ani George, the Principal of JMJEM HSS Athani at Thrissur Mupliyam ICCS college by honorable Shri N. P. Rajiv, Vice chairman National innovation Foundation & Executive director Vibha Vani India, in the presence of Dr. Sojan Avirachan (Chairman, ICCS College of Engineering and Management Dr Abdul Jaber Ahammad (Jury Chairman) Dr Nissan Rahman (Chairman SRS)



### **CELEBRATION OF SEASON OF CREATION - “JUBILEE FOR THE EARTH”**

**Genesis 1:1-2 -In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.**



**JMJ Provincialate Campus, Nagavara** - Creation is a gift of God from above for the benefit of every human being. God created it in a perfect manner, out of love for the whole humanity. Gradually, human being out of his greediness and in the name of development disfigured it and became a curse and threat for the creation of God. We, each of us are indebted to the nature and are responsible to reverse the nature into an original state and handover to the future generations.

When we glance at the different reflections on jubilee for the earth or Laudato Si, Pope Francis’s ground breaking new encyclical on the environment; it was a kind of reminder for us **to be still and to know the richness of the earth/ nature**. It disturbed our inner being and helped us to see the beauty in the creation. **Genesis: 1:31, God saw everything that He had made, and indeed, it was very good.** The love and the



admiration gushed forth from our hearts towards the Creator, who is the cause for the entire creation. Though we live and move on the mother earth but we forget that, the mother earth is holding us in its bosom. We learnt to appreciate the beauty of the creation. The nature and creation itself are a great blessing for the humanity, only in the Old Testament the book of Genesis reveals how God the Father Almighty created the entire world and said that everything is good.

Laudato Si is a call for us to open our inner eyes towards the environment and to care for the creation that extends as far back as the book of Genesis, when humankind was called to “till and keep” the earth. But we have, sadly, done too much tilling and not enough keeping. We are striving towards protecting the creation in different ways. The creation reveals that the goodness of God came to existence. We too enjoy the creation of God and find everything is good. At the end, we should realize that if we care for the earth and enjoy its richness, God also rejoices our own happiness. We are fully connected with the creation, where we too are part of the world as like the other creatures. The wellness of our being depends upon our contribution to the nature.

It was a good opportunity to pause for a while in the busy schedule of our life and reflect on the creation of God and thank God for His beautiful gift of planet earth and care for it. It was also a time to make amendments in our life style in a manner that will help the nature to revive and rebuild. To mark the event of season of creation with the theme “Jubilee for the earth”, we would like to share with you all the celebrations that took place in Bangalore province based on the report received from the communities.



**JMJ Nivas, Devara- Hipparagi** - Praying the Rosary along with our co-workers on the occasion of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. We cherish the beauty of the creation and experience the presence of the Creator.

and prayed for the planet earth. We came to an awareness of the Goodness of God and our ingratitude towards nature. We took a resolution that we take every step to preserve and nurture the earth in our own little way.

**Sneha Sadan, Kogilu**- organized the various activities in the campus. Special prayers were conducted on the appropriate theme of the day



Praying with the Nature – We had a special prayer day in the nature. We asked God’s forgiveness for disfiguring the nature. We implored God to renew our hearts and fill us with mercy and kindness towards nature. Every tiny creature in the nature teaches us a lesson to be generous, to work hard and to live with selflessness and be good to each other. All of us prayed for God’s mercy on us and implored God to restore our nature and to vanish every sickness and virus from this earth.



To mark the importance of nature in our daily living, we cooked the food in an open area. Children in groups presented about the importance of nature, sang the composed songs and delivered speeches written by themselves. They were very inspiring and creative. We had a short prayer followed by sumptuous lunch together with the nature.

**Competitions like drawing, writing poems.. on the theme to save the planet earth:**



We had divided children in to 4 groups and conducted drawing competition on save the earth. Each group presented their chart very creatively and enthusiastically. Children became aware of the current situation of the planet earth. They also mentioned the ways of saving and protecting the Mother earth.



**Promotion of Kitchen garden:** We were divided into groups and were allotted a piece of land to clear it and to prepare the ground for planting the vegetables. Each group took it as a challenge and worked hard thus understanding the hard work of the farmers who work day and night to provide us with grains. It also brought awareness among us that we need to respect the farmers and not to waste food. Hard work is the only way to earn food and mother earth is kind enough to produce grains and feed us. We learnt from mother earth that as nature gives us freely, we too should share our resources freely to protect the Mother earth.



**Poem composed by Miss. Shilpa (7<sup>th</sup> Class)**



I love my Nature  
I love the flowers  
It's all creation of our God  
My earth looks round  
I like to go around  
I love the birds singing  
I like the plants dancing  
I love the sun rising  
And its setting  
My nature is full  
I feel so cool

Thank you, God for the gift of it,  
Thank you, God, for the beauty of it  
I promise to keep the beauty of it.



**Vijaya Marie Convent, Siruguppa** - Celebrated the jubilee for the earth with meaningful prayer service, followed by cleaning of the entire campus and planting of trees. We realized that it is a wonderful gift given by God and jubilee for the earth is an opportunity to become more aware of the beauty of the Creation which the Lord has created



and handed over to us. It helped us how to build a better world together and bring some change within ourselves promoting unity, togetherness and sisterhood. We offered chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary for the people who are a cause for the destruction of the nature, that the Lord may inspire them to change their way of life. We felt happy and we became more aware of the nature, its support to the human family and more interested to take care of God's creation.



Here comes *Holy family Home for the Aged, Veerannapalya* - highlighting the celebration they had during the season of creation. We have used this period to renew our relationship with our Creator, Neighbor and Nature. We share a common role as caretakers of God's creation. We begin to see the problems for our very existence – with the air we breathe, the water we drink, the Earth we cultivate to live, the increasing heat and fire we live with and lack of space... On 4<sup>th</sup> October after a meaningful prayer service, with a deep and profound reflection, as well as a prayer on our lips, the members of our



community cleaned the entire garden and prepared the soil for planting new plants and trees as a preparation for the Jubilee for the earth. Some of the resolutions taken by our community include: we pledged to protect mother earth, have a positive relationship with the planet, decided to promote prayer in our community to inspire and initiate collective action to care for the earth. We prayed for the people, especially the young to learn to love creation and to care for the environment thus to tackle climate change and natural disasters. The whole house was transformed and the chapel so beautifully decked out symbolically. The Jubilee for the Earth was concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist. A significant day to remember and cherish.

**JMJ Sadan, Shiggaon** - To make this year special, we the sisters of MJM Sadan, Shiggaon had some creative ways of praying along with the nature such as one day Laudato Si' prayer service for creation, praying the rosary, divine mercy chaplet and reflecting on eco-friendly living (yoga). It was a privilege to actively participate in all these as a community. It helped us to thank God for the creation, reflect on our own lives and into the needs of the world in prayer.



It was a joy and a time full of fun to remove the garbage and clean the campus together, make vegetable garden by planting some seeds. It helped us to feel one with the nature and become aware of the need to take care and protect our environment.

**JMJ Nivas, Dornahalli** - "Our goal is not just an environment of clean air, water and scenic beauty. The objective is an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures."

From 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October we had prayers -

- We the sisters, our staff and our special children took care of cleaning the garden and removing the waste.
- We cultivated paddy in the field, vegetables in our garden and sowed some seeds.
- It was a good experience joining with the whole world, praying and becoming aware of how to take care of the environment created by God.



# A Tribute to our Deceased Sisters

## Sr. Perpetua Bastian

*'The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God.'* – Wis. 3:1

Sr. Perpetua was born to the pious parents Mr. Simon Joseph Bastian and Mrs. Navamani Arokiamary on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1925 and hails from Madras Mylapore. She was the only daughter, eldest in the family having two younger brothers. At the age of 11, she lost her dear mother. The inspiration of her parents, family prayer, daily Holy Mass and the encouragement of the sisters in the parish, determined her to become a religious and entered the Society of JMJ on 05<sup>th</sup> July 1948.



As a sister of JMJ, she was motivated by the very lifestyle of our Dutch missionaries - Mother Jacqueline, Sr. Hedwiga and Sr. Aldegondis. She was a staff nurse and a tutor for ANM students. She rendered her dedicated services at Guntur, Nagavara, Hanuman Junction, Thecklur, Porumamilla, Siruguppa and Sirsi. Besides being a Nurse and tutor, she was always interested to teach catechism to the children and share the Good News of God to the people. After her retirement, she rendered her services in the pastoral care department of St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore.

She was affectionately called *'mother of god'* and is fondly remembered as an Icon of self sacrifice for her simplicity, perfect obedience and utter poverty. She was a champion of God, true daughter of our founder, an authentic religious, very attentive and sensitive to the needs of others. Her maxim was, 'Self help is the best help and God helps those who help themselves'. Her advice to the younger generation was to pray well, love the vocation, follow the rules, live the vows, follow the model of Holy Family and study the life of our founder.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020, she was admitted at St. Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore for symptoms of weakness. She had a leg fracture a month ago and was diagnosed with stones in the gall bladder. On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, she breathed her last at 4.30 pm due to mild stroke.

The song is ended, but the melody of 96 years of earthly life and 72 years of consecrated life of Sr. Perpetua lingers in the hearts of every JMJ sister.

May her noble soul rest in peace!



## Sr. Herman Joseph Manikanamparambil

*‘ For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ’*

*- Phil.1 :21*

Sr. Herman Joseph Manikanamparambil was born to the pious parents Mr. Mathew Joseph and Mrs. Mariakutty Joseph on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1930 and hails from Udayamperoor, Ernakulam, Kerala. She comes from a devout Catholic family. Her parents sowed the seed of vocation in her and it grew in the garden of JMJ. She had 4 brothers and 2 sisters who encouraged her choice of religious life.

She was a teacher by profession and rendered her dedicated services at Nagarjuna Sagar, Koilakuntla, Ongole, Kurnool, Hyderabad, Rajnandgaon, Bangalore, Veerannapalya and Athani as a teacher, Head mistress and superior in various communities. She received the Best Teacher Award at Nagarjuna Sagar. Since 2012, she was in JMJ Nilayam, Bangalore.

She was very loving, jovial, gentle and approachable person who always welcomed everyone with a broad smile. She had a great concern for her students specially the slow learners. She was very affectionate, compassionate, helpful and a sociable person being thoughtful of the employees. She instilled in them Christian and moral values. She was regular in visiting the houses and teaching catechism. She was full of vigour and enthusiasm to work for the upliftment of the poor and needy.

Smartness and shortness go together, in the case of Sr. Herman Joseph, it was well displayed in her life. Very smart in her talk, action and plans. She loved her life and lived the life as the daughter of Fr. Mathias Wolff and in the spirit of J.M.J. She used to spend time in prayer, very understanding in the community and encouraged the young sisters. She was open and truthful in her life with much transparency. Being in union with the Lord in prayer, she bore every suffering with patience and tolerance. Her committed and generous services were an inspiration for us.

Sr. Herman Joseph breathed her last on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 5.10 pm at St. Philomena’s Hospital, Bangalore due to age related problems. Still one can term her sudden death as ‘a call from God’ and here too death came like a thief without giving us any indication.

May her noble soul rest in peace!





## Sr. Elsy Pulickal

*“I am the Resurrection and the Life and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die!”*

*- Jn.11 :25 -26*

Sr. Elsy Pulickal hails from Kothamangalam, Ernakulam, Kerala born on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to the God fearing parents Mr. Devassy and Mrs. Thankamma. She has 4 brothers and 3 sisters. She was the 3<sup>rd</sup> child in the family and was brought up in good faith formation. Her primary education was in Kerala. Soon after her primary schooling, the family was shifted to Tamilnadu where she completed her higher secondary.



Seeing Sr. Aloysius, she was inspired and started stirring the flame of being a missionary. Her uncle priest guided her to join the Congregation of JMJ. As an aspirant, she was sent to Guntur where she was motivated by the adaptability of the Dutch Sisters to the scorching heat and decided to continue to live her life for Christ. Sr. Aldegondis Van Went and Sr. Joannette Mallavarapu were her inspiration.

She was a qualified nurse and completed her administrative course. She rendered her committed services at Guntur, Kurnool, Nellore, Ongole, Kadapa, Porvorim, Bangalore as a nurse, administrator, nursing superintendent and superior in various communities. She was like the lamp, who did not want to be hidden but always wanting to shine in the midst of many other shining lights in order to give a ray of hope in the service of others. She said, “No matter what comes on my way, I keep burning in the service of the Lord for He is the light to my path.”

She was always attuned to the Spirit of the Lord and was ever adaptable to the signs of the times. She experienced that God had used her as a perfect instrument in His service. She is known for her ever charming personality, hospitality, generosity, punctuality, optimism, a simple style of leadership and an efficient administrator. She encouraged the younger ones to remain ever faithful to the Lord. She was a precious pearl of the congregation carrying the charism of the founder, with a spirit of adaptability to any situation, to any kind of apostolic work as long as her lamp was burning.

She was admitted in the hospital on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020. As she suffered much, the Lord relieved her from all the pains and called her to Himself on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 at 04.45 pm at St. Philomena’s Hospital, Bangalore. She died while she was exercising the office of the superior of St. Stanislaus Convent, Bangalore.

May her noble soul rest in peace!



## In Loving memory



### Guntur Province:-

Sr. Maria Medabalimi 27.07.2020

### Bangalore:-

Sr. Perpetua Bastian 28.09.2020

Sr. Herman Joseph Manikanamparambil 14.10.2020

Sr. Elsy Pulickal 21.10.2020

### Family Members:-

Cousin brother of Sr. Rosy KC 28.05.2020

Uncle of Sr. Luviza Miranda 23.06.2020

Uncle of Sr. Jolly Arimboor 12.07.2020

Brother of Sr. Lucy Gade 13.08.2020

Uncle of Sr. Divya Kavadi 14.08.2020

Grandmother of Sr. Jolly George Pottanani 21.08.2020

Father of Sr. Bhagyamma Poliseti 23.08.2020

Uncle of Sr. Esther Rani 23.08.2020

Father of Sr. Parimala Michaelappa 26.08.2020

Aunt of Sr. Lourdu Rani Cheemalapenta 03.09.2020

Cousin of Sr. Mary Kalavathi

(Rev.Fr. Sarveswar Reddy) 06.09.2020

Niece of Sr. Anastasia Mallavarapu 10.09.2020

Nephew of Sr. Sleeva Rani Kommareddy 19.09.2020

Brother in law of Sr. Tresa Maramreddy 21.09.2020

Cousin of Sr. Sleeva Rani Kommareddy 22.09.2020

We extend our heartfelt condolence and sympathetic wishes to our dear sisters and their family members.  
May the Lord give them comfort and consolation.

**Eternal rest grant unto the departed O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen**

### **Editorial**

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