

Dweep Tarangika



A NEWS BULLETIN OF THE DIOCESE OF PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

SPECIAL EDITION - AUGUST, 2021



Most Rev. Alex Dias, S.F.X.

Bishop Emeritus, Diocese of Port Blair



Pilar Monastery,
Pilar, Goa,
India 403203

Message

I am immensely happy to know that the Episcopal baton has been passed on to Rev. Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj to be my successor as the Bishop of Port Blair. I do not understand why the appointment had to take almost two and a half years. It surprises me, but I know that our God is a God of surprises!! Besides, it has often been said that the 'wheels of the Catholic Church grind but very slowly!!!' But, thank God, grind they do!! And so the diocese of Port Blair has, thanks to the Lord and Mother Mary, graduated from a Diocesan Administrator to a full-fledged bishop, with the appointment of Rev. Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj, as the bishop. I had been waiting for the dawning of this day, and I am glad it has, with this much-awaited announcement by the Holy Father.

The second big reason of my happiness is that one of our own diocesan priests has become the new bishop of Port Blair. It certainly means that the local Church of Port Blair has come of age. It was way back in 1965 that the Society of Pilar had taken over the pastoral responsibility of the Mission of

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Society kept sending priests there to cater to the pastoral and other needs of the people of God on those remote islands. The lot had fallen upon me, too, and I was sent to the Andaman Islands, and I worked there from 1971 till 1976. After 20 years of the good, hard and praise-worthy work of the Pilar fathers in this distant and difficult mission territory, the Holy Father Pope John Paul II and the other concerned Authorities of the Universal Church, finally, deemed the Mission fit to be raised to the status, of a diocese. The new diocese was erected in 1984, and I was appointed the bishop, in spite of my unworthiness. I took over the reins of the diocese on the 20th of January, 1985.

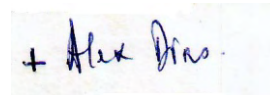
In my short-sightedness and lack of experience, at that point of time, I had thought to myself that I would be able to train local clergy, resign my Office of Bishop, hand over the diocese to one of them, and walk out, in a matter of 10-15 years. I was convinced that this should be my mission as

Bishop and the mission of the Society of Pilar-training the local diocesan clergy, and handing over the diocese into their hands, as soon as we found them ready. This is still my conviction. And, hence the second big reason for my happiness, at the appointment of a local diocesan priest as the bishop. However, contrary to my thinking and expectations, this has taken 34 years, much longer than I had thought. But it has, finally, happened, and I rejoice.

My third reason for rejoicing on this occasion is that the lot has fallen on Rev. Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj to be the bishop of Port Blair. In my humble opinion, he has good qualities of mind and heart and a good concern for the flock of Jesus. He has acquired a good pastoral as well as administrative experience, having worked along with me for quite some years. Wherever he was posted, he has given a good account of himself. The last responsibility entrusted to him was that he was unanimously elected to be Administrator of the diocese, by the diocesan

Consultors, according to the norms of Canon Law. And he went about taking care of the diocese in a praise-worthy manner.

I wish Rev. Fr. Selvaraj the very best of everything, and pray for abundant blessings upon him, of the Good Shepherd Jesus, who has chosen him to tend His flock in these remote islands. May Mother Mary, the Star of the Sea, the Patroness of the diocese, stand by him, illumining his path and protecting him at all times. And may the Church in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under the leadership of her new Shepherd, truly be what she is called and chosen to be - the light to the people, LUMEN GENTIUM.



Most Rev. Alex Dias sfx.
Emeritus Bishop of Port Blair

EPISCOPAL LOGO OF MOST REV. VISUVASAM SELVARAJ



Psalm 118:24

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."



Most Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj
Diocese of Port Blair



Deepti Dham
P.B. No. 466
Lamba Line
P.O. Junglighat
Port Blair - 744103
A & N Islands

FROM THE HEART.....

I re-dedicate myself and my service to God

I hail from a business family. It was a surprise for many when my parents allowed me to join the seminary in 1981. I was 15 years then, I entered the Minor seminary in Santhome, Chennai on 15th June 1981 for the Diocese of Madras-Mylapore. At that time I did not know what did that mean to be Diocesan or to be a religious. As years passed by, I realised that my call to Priesthood was meant for a Missionary Diocese. I was thinking of going to Africa if my family would allow. In 1987, when my Parish Priest, (Late) Rev. Fr. Kripakaran, suggested me to join the Diocese of Port Blair, I said "YES" spontaneously without knowing what I was saying. I believe that the spontaneous "Yes" at that moment, was not my decision, it was an inspiration by the Holy Spirit. Thanks to (Late) Most Rev. Casimir Ganadikam, the Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore, (Late) Rev. Fr. S.J. Antony Samy, my Spiritual director and (Late) Most Rev. Antony Devotta, in charge of Madras-Mylapore seminarians for encouraging me to follow my conscience. Thanks to Most Rev. Alex Dias for accepting me as a seminarian for the diocese of Port Blair.

I landed in Port Blair on 15th June, 1988. After landing I realised that I entered into a new world, where the people, language, culture, food habits, climate, etc., were all new and different. I think of that first year, what I had to undergo to adjust myself to the new world. It's an unexplainable mystery and God's Grace, that 33 years later, the Holy Father chooses me to be shepherd of the diocese, which I love.

During the period of formation, the seminarians need to have good formators. I thank God that I had excellent formators throughout my formation period from 1981-1994. In St. Thomas Minor seminary, Santhome, Chennai, I had the Diocesan fathers, in Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee, Chennai, I had the Salesian and the Diocesan fathers, during my regency, I had the Pilar and Jesuit fathers, in St. Albert's College, Ranchi, Jharkhand, I had the Jesuits. I believe that the family is the first formation house for everyone, including priests and

religious. God gave me good parents, brothers, sister, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, grand-nieces/nephews, other relatives and friends. I am grateful to God for giving me such wonderful formators and family members. I am thankful to all of them who played a vital role in my years of formation.

Once ordained a priest, a priest needs an understanding and supportive Bishop, friendly presbyterium, good religious sisters and the cooperative Laity. I should thank God that I had always good people around me from the day I was ordained a priest on 8th May 1994. One of my formators, who later gave us retreat in the Diocese asked me this question: Visuvasam, are you a happy priest?" My spontaneous answer was "Yes". I pray that this "Yes" continues to be active till the end of my earthly life.

I acknowledge the great role played by my Bishop, Most Rev. Alex Dias in my life. He knew me through and through as a seminarian and as a priest. He had and still has great trust in me and I, in turn, had and have great respect and gratitude to him. The diocese and I, as his successor would ever remain grateful to him for his role in building up the diocese for over 34 years as a Bishop and earlier 5 years as a Priest.

I acknowledge the contributions of earlier missionaries, initially the Jesuits, then the Diocesan priests from the Archdiocese of Ranchi, the Pilar Fathers from 1965 to 1985, other religious priests and the diocesan priests. The role of the diocesan priests in a diocese is very important. I thank God that the diocese of Port Blair has a good bunch of young diocesan priests. I pray that more and more join this elite group of Diocesan Presbyterium and work towards the building of the Kingdom of God in this Missionary diocese.

I together with the diocese register our gratitude to three women religious congregations who began working in Andamans even before the Diocese was created. After the diocese was created, other women congregations joined in building up the diocese. May God

bless all sisters! May God bless all of them abundantly! I thank the Lord and pray for the repose of the souls of fathers and sisters who worked in the diocese and who now enjoy the Company of the Lord in heaven.

The contribution of the Laity is to be acknowledged and encouraged. The Lay participation in the Andaman and Nicobar islands is very much to be appreciated. All of us must encourage the Laity to continue to share in the Common priesthood of Christ in building up the Church in the Andaman. I wish that the Church in the Andaman becomes a 'Lay centred Mission' in the coming days.

In the past 27 years as a Priest of the Diocese, I was a party in the formulation of the many major decisions of the Diocese. I was also very much involved in the preparation and promulgation of the Diocesan Pastoral Policy, "Puts out into the Deep", in 2004 and its subsequent update in 2018 (which is waiting for the approval of the Ordinary of the Diocese). I shall continue to follow "the Great Tradition", set up by the Mission/ Diocese. However the Church in Andaman and Nicobar islands shall ever be ready to listen to call of the Holy Spirit in reading the signs of the time.

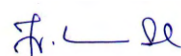
I like to convey my gratitude to the Holy Father and to the 'Congregation for Evangelisation of Peoples', for entrusting me with the new responsibility in the Diocese of Port Blair. I re-dedicate myself and my service to God, our Merciful Father, to Jesus, our Saviour and Loving Master, and to the Holy Spirit, our sanctifier. May Mother Mary, the Star of the Sea, the patroness of the diocese of Port Blair guide me and bless me. Trusting on God's providence, I assure every one of my dedication and whole-hearted service in my new Ministry. The announcement of my appointment was made on the 29th June, 2021, the day we celebrate the two great Pillars of the Church, St. Peter, and St. Paul. May their Vigour and Love for Christ guide me and my Mission!

In his recent letter, His Eminence Cardinal Luis

Antonio Gokim Tagle, the Prefect of Congregation for Evangelisation of People, exhorted me to fulfil the expectations of the Church as a Bishop of the Mission Diocese. I assure His Eminence and the others that I will dedicate my life to the Service of the Church, especially to the people entrusted to my care, with due diligence to the Gospel Values and to the Laws of the Church. In dedicating 2015 as the year of Consecrated Life, Holy Father Pope Francis expressed three aims: To remember the past with gratitude, to live the present passionately, and to embrace the future with hope. I wish and pray that these words of the Holy Father ring in my mind and in my heart every day while shepherding the Diocese.

I have chosen, "God Loves a Cheerful Giver" (2 Cor. 9:7b) as my Episcopal Motto. The meaning of my motto is: "Rooted in the Word of God I lift up my hand to the Triune God, to grant me the generosity to give myself to the People of God, entrusted to my care, under the guidance and protection of our Mother, Star of the Sea, like Jesus Who emptied Himself on the Cross through proclamation of the Word and the Celebration of Eucharist."

Throughout my priestly life, I have tried to be very close to the People and to the Presbyterium. I will continue to do the same in the future, so that the Church in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, emanates the Light of Christ, "ad intra & ad extra". I pray that the Missionary spirit of the great Apostle St. Paul, whom I consider to be my Patron, be my spirit as well. I wish at the end of my life, here on earth, I may say with St. Paul, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith", (2Tim 4:7).



† Visuvasam Selvaraj
(Bishop of Port Blair)

Dated: 21.08.2021

James 1:17

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

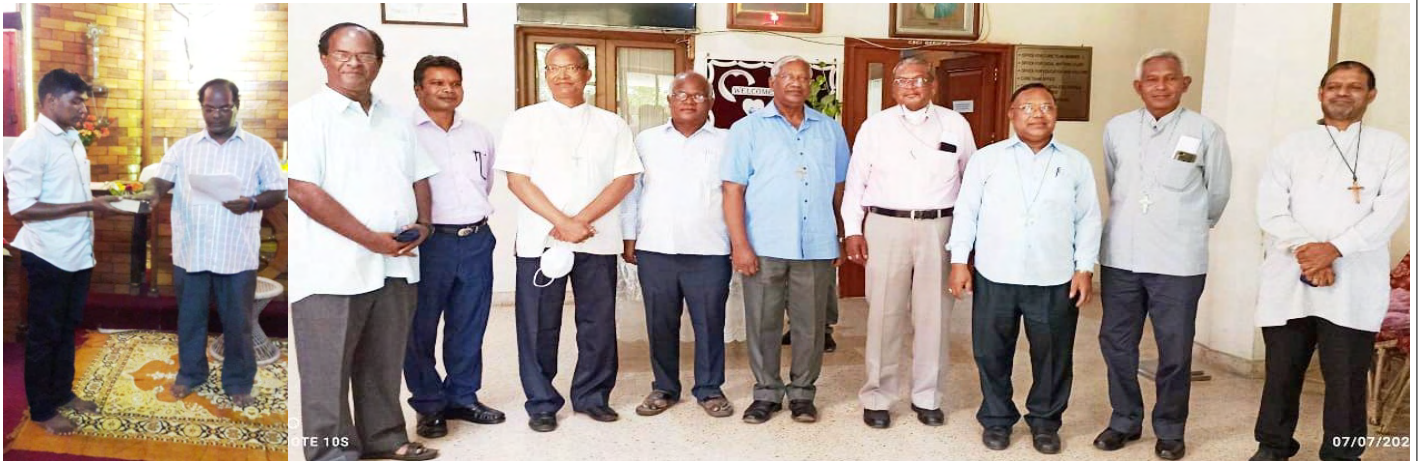
PROFILE OF RT. REV. VISUVASAM SELVARAJ

FULL NAME	VISUVASAM SELVARAJ
PARENTS	(Late) Mr. S. Viagappan and (Late) V. Maria Ranjitham
DATE OF BIRTH & Siblings	04.01.1966 8TH CHILD IN THE FAMILY OF 9 CHILDREN. Eight sons and one daughter. As of now, five brothers have died.
School Education	· Class 1 to 5: Avvai Home, Adyar, Chennai · 6th to 10th: Kumara Raja Muthiah School, Adyar, Chennai
Vocation promoters	Rev. Fr. Rayappa and Rev. (Late) Fr. Antonysamy, Parish Priests of Our Lady of Guidance Church, Foreshore Estate, Chennai. (Late) Fr. Krupakaran, Parish Priest of Visitation Church, Abiramapuram, Chennai, was responsible for choosing the Diocese of Port Blair. I also gratefully remember Late Fr. Antonysamy and Late Bishop Devotta for their help in choosing the Diocese of Port Blair.
Minor Seminary	· Entered St. Thomas Minor seminary, Santhome, on 15th June, 1981 for the Diocese of Madras Mylapore · 11th and 12th: Santhome Senior secondary School, Chennai 2 Years Minor seminary course in Chennai. Finished in April, 1985.
Major Seminary	1985 – 1988 · Three years Philosophy in Sacred Heart Major seminary, Poonamallee, Chennai · BA History from Madras University (correspondence) and · D.Com (correspondence)
Regency	· Opted for the diocese of Diocese in 1987. · Arrived in Port Blair on 15th June, 1988. · June to October 1988 - Nirmala Boys Hostel under Fr. Peter Gomes, Fr. Devanand and Fr. Michael Cruz · November to December - St. Ignatius Church, Diglipur Under Fr. Vital Ekka, SJ · January to June 1989 - St. Thomas Church, Mayabunder Under Rev. Frs. Salu and Christopher Lakra July to April 1990 - Our Lady of Rosary Church, Oralkatcha Under Frs. Peter Soares and Custodio.
Major Seminary	1990 – 1994 Four years of Theology in St. Albert's College, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Ordination	Ordained by Most Rev. Alex Dias, SFX, on 8th May, 1994 at St. Thomas Church, Mayabunder.
Appointments	
1994-1995	Asst. Parish of the Cathedral, In-charge of Nirmala Boys hostel, Sagritara Pre-Primary school, Chaplin for the Tamil Community and Asst. Diocesan Procurator.
1996-1997	Diocesan Procurator, In-charge of Diocesan Projects
1998	Asst. Parish Priest in Mayabunder
1999-2001	Studies in St. Peter's Pontifical seminary - Master in Canon Law
2001 - 2006	Diocesan Financial Administrator, and Project In-charge
2005-2006	Director - Diocesan Social Service Centre
2006-2010	Parish Priest, St. Joseph Church, Katchal, Nicobar Dist.
2010-2013	Parish Priest, Stella Maris Cathedral, Port Blair
2014-2015	Rector, Our Lady of Vailankanni Shrine, Panighat, South Andaman, In-charge of Diocesan Projects
2015-2017	Diocesan Financial Administrator
2017-2018	Vicar General & Chaplin for Tamil Catholic Community.
1994-1999, 2001-2006, 2010-2018	Diocesan Consultor & Diocesan Financial Administrator
Jan-2019	Diocesan Administrator
29th June 2021	Appointed Bishop of Port Blair Diocese
21st August 2021	Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj

Journey From Priest to Bishop



Priestly Ordination



Taking Charge as the Diocesan Administrator

JHAAN Bishops in CBCI New Delhi



JHAAN Regional bishops with Apostolic Nuncio in Delhi on 8th July 2021



With Bishop Alex Dias



With Pillar Fathers in Goa



With Pope Francis and Regional Bishops, JHAAN

AD LIMINA VISIT



Childhood & Family Members.



1 Year Old



At the Age of 9



At the Age of 10



Mr. Viagappan, Father



Ms. Ranjitham Mother



Brother & Sister in Law



Sister



Brother & Sister in Law



Younger Brother Mathew



With Nieces



With Brothers

With Family Members



With Bishop Alex & Family Members



With Elder Brother in New Delhi



With Family Members in Havelock



With Family Members



With Nephews



With Niece and Grand niece



With Nieces and Nephews



With Cousin Sister in Bangalore



With the Family Memebrs

Felicitation



At DSA Mother House in Ranchi



With Holy Family Sisters



With Jesuits in Ranchi



With Carmel Sisters



With CBCI Staff in New Delhi



With Diocesan Priests



With MC Sisters



Felicitation by Consultors



With Salesians in Chennai



With SJA Sisters

Visiting Places



At Pisa Tower in Italy



In Austria



In Rome



In Colusiam, Rome



In Canada



In Rome



Outside St. Peter's Square, Rome



With Friends



In Canada



In Rome

Active & Enthusiastic



Blessing of the Altar at Radha Nagar

With Salesian Fathers



With Ferrargunj Parishners



Donating Blood



During Tsunami



Felicitation



Lighting the Lamp



With Bishop Alex Dias



With Bishop Alex Dias



With a Friend

Felicitation



In Citadel, Chennai



Pilar Father New Delhi



With Helpers at Prerna Deep



In Vienna, Austria



In Germany



With DSA Sisters



With Arch Bishop Madras Mylapore,
Bishop George



With Apostolic Nuncio



With Diocesan Fathers



With Cardinal
Telephore P. Toppo



With PMO Office Community in Bangalore



With Apostolic Nuncio

Most Rev. Bishop V. Selvaraj,

We offer our Hearty congratulation from the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Kristu Jyoti province- India. Dear Bishop, We Thank the Almighty for calling you to this shepherding responsibility of the Church in this Diocese of Port Blair. We have completed our presence and ministry in olaikuda mission on 11th July 2021. We are grateful to Bishop Emeritus Alex Dias S.F.X who invited us to take up this Parish. Dear Bishop Selvaraj you have been one true guide and support along with other fathers from day one till now' We experienced you accompaniment and encouragement in these fivers years of our Journey here. As you have taken over as a new Bishop of this diocese, we are confident that you will be our true Shepherd in leading this Diocese towards next step. You are faithful and committed to your regular visit. You have inspired many through your thoughtful approach. Dear Bishop, you are born and grew up in Main Land, but you have truly become one with this island soil of Andaman. You are in live with its culture, people and lifestyle. This has made you what you are now. The Almighty God, who has chosen you and blessed you with many gifts, May continue to guide and accompany you in your efforts for this Diocese of port Blair. On behalf of all our Religious of Kristu Jyoti Province, I join Fr. Joachim Rodriques, SSS, in assuring you of our prayers and collaboration in your every endeavour. We will continue to remember you in our Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. We are glad to express our Charism of Adoring, proclaiming and living the Eucharistic Lord with your Leadership guidance.

Yours in the Eucharistic Lord

Fr. D. Peter Jayakanthan SSS
Provincial Superior
Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament
Kristu Jyoti Province-India

Fr. Joachim Rodriques SSS
Our Lady of Rosary Mission

Oralkatcha

Isaiah 12:4-5

And on that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done glorious things; let this be known throughout the earth.

Your Excellency, Bishop Visuvasam Selvaraj,

I extend my Heartfelt Congratulations to you on behalf of Sisters of Charity of St. Anne- Fr. John Bonal Province, India



God has chosen you as a true witness to Christ, the Good Shepherd. May He endow you with wisdom and ever deepening holiness as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care.

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jer. 3:15

Your twenty seven long years of commitment to the people of this island at various capacities in the Diocese has made you the most fitting person to carry out this service to the holy people of God in this Diocese of Port Blair as Bishop, and serve the Church as Successor of the Apostles.

We pray for God's continued blessings and protection upon you as the Bishop-elect; and that you may continue to be a source of inspiration to all the Catholic faithful in the region, as well as to all men and women of peace and goodwill throughout this island.

Yours faithfully in Christ

Sr. Germinal Melkias

Provincial Superior

Sisters of Charity of St. Anne

Divya Jyoti, Provincial House, Mumbai

22nd July 2021

Congratulations Msgr. Visuvasam Selvaraj!

It is with joy that I congratulate you Father Selvaraj on behalf of all the Sisters in the South East Province of India of the congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. We rejoice with you on your appointment as Bishop of Port Blair Diocese. I offer you our support and best wishes. Our community of Sisters have been in Port Blair since 2004 and now support your leadership of the diocese.



We pray that your leadership in the Church in the Andamans will bring in new life and hope in the faithful which faces the challenges of multi religious society.

May the Holy Trinity bless you with all the joy, strength and courage you need for this responsible ministry in the Church of the Andamans!

We pray for Almighty God's blessings on you!

Sr. Lorraine

Provincial Superior, Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny

My dear readers and diocesans of Port-Blair,

I am immensely happy to share with you through this souvenir on the occasion of consecration of Bishop elect Msgr. Visuvasam Selvaraj. As a friend I have journeyed with him for past 40 years. I have admired the following qualities in Msgr. Visuvasam Selvaraj.



• **A man of simplicity and humility**

Many of us know that Fr. Selvaraj is from a hard working pious family. God has blessed his family with the decent economical status in the city of Chennai. But I haven't seen in Msgr. Selvaraj the attitude of rich and wealthy. Always he is simple in all walks of life. Moreover he is always humble without pride handling heavy responsibilities with humility.

• **A man of prayer and piety**

Even though we see Msgr. Selvaraj with the laptop and computers he always has time for his spiritual duties. Every day he used to get up early morning at 3'o clock, checks his correspondence and sits in prayer. Never misses daily Mass when he comes to Chennai whenever he visits me in my ministry place he was available to celebrate the Holy Mass.

• **A man of varied talents and experiences**

I have travelled with Msgr. Selvaraj to many places within the country and outside the country. It is amazing to see Msgr's clear planning and knowledge in all his undertakings. I must thank God for blessing Msgr with varied talents which he uses for the ministry and for the Church at large. Unassumingly he does everything without exaggeration and pride, always looks calm and serene.

• **A man of relationship**

He respects elders especially the formators and friends from his minor seminary onwards who have journeyed with him for past 40 years always shows much interest in reaching them and helping them in the time of need. Even though he is far away in the islands he contacts each one of his friends and keeps up his friendship. With the laity, religious and well wishers of the diocese he is very genuine and through his outgoing gestures he attracts them.

I feel great and fortunate at this moment to mention these qualities of appreciation of Msgr. Selvaraj.

May God bless him and guide him in this great shepherding responsibility!

Thanks to Jesus and praise to Mother Mary.

Fr. Roche Chinnappa

God blessed us so greatly.....



God blessed us so greatly when He made Most Rev. Alex Dias, S.F.X., the first Bishop of Port Blair Diocese. We have been praying for Port Blair Diocese ever since the same See became vacant. Finally the Diocese of Port Blair has a Bishop. God blessed us immensely when the Holy Father appointed Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj, of the clergy of Port Blair, as Bishop of the Diocese of Port Blair. On behalf of the Diocesan Clergy I wish to extend my hearty congratulations to the new Bishop, Most Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj. Let us pray for the new Bishop that he may have God's Grace, good health and all the cooperation he will need to take care of the sheep of Jesus in this far-flung diocese. May the power of His hand support the new Bishop all the days of his life!

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart" (Jer.3:15). In these words from the prophet Jeremiah, God promises his people that he will never leave them without shepherds to gather them together and guide them: "I will set shepherds over them [my sheep] who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed (Jer. 23.4). The Church, the People of God, constantly experiences the reality of this prophetic message and continues joyfully to thank God for it. She knows that Jesus Christ himself is the living, supreme and definitive fulfilment of God's promise: "I am the good shepherd" (Jn. 10:11). He, "the great shepherd of the sheep" (Heb. 13:20), entrusted to the apostles and their successors the ministry of shepherding God's flock (cf. Jn. 21:15ff.; 1 Pt. 5:2). (St. Pope John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis: I Will Give You Shepherds,1).

We are a pilgrim people. May Our Guiding Star, Mother Mary, illumine our path. When we journey with God, we will always reach our destination. Let us journey together as Bishop and People of God. We need to walk hand in hand. When we walk hand in hand we become effective. It is necessary to walk hand in hand. We are a Catholic Community in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, made up of individuals and families who have discovered the joy of a rich shared life in Christ. We have experienced a call to serve the Lord together in the ordinary circumstances of our lives as a people. Our call is to know and love Christ and to make him known and loved by others. We belong to One Church. Unity in Diversity is needed very much. We have to march ahead. We must work together. We are members of one Local Church. We must respond to the call and needs of the local Church. We have to do more so that we become worthy Church of the Lord. Our dream: The New Church should be a Participatory Church. We have a vision statement in

our Diocesan Policy.

The Bishop accompanies his people not only in their spiritual journey but also in their daily life with all their struggles, joys, sorrows and preoccupations. The relation with the Bishop is the integral part of our life. Eucharist is not authentic without communion with the Bishop. Communion of open hearts and open minds is important to fulfil our priestly ministry. Our priesthood grows in this wider perspective. If there is communion with the people, priests and bishop then the Holy Spirit is working with us.

Fr. Maria Benziger Gabriel

Parish Priest, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Adajig.

A Wish and a Prayer from My Heart!

It was time that we were given a Bishop for the diocese of Port Blair! Our prayers were heard by the Lord! And thus, our beloved Pope Francis appointed two Bishops for the Indian Church on the same day; for Tiruchirapalli and



Port Blair. The lot fell and the cross-bearing apostle elected and manifested for our diocese was Rev. Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj! I thought, it was very symbolic that Pope chose to give these appointments on the 29th June 2021, the day the Universal Church marks the solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, the patron saints of Rome, the day when we commemorate the martyrdom of the two great stalwarts of Christianity, both of whom were killed for the sake of their faith.

On behalf of the Diocesan Clergy, I wish to offer my hearty congratulations to the new Bishop, Most Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj. I am happy to call Bishop Selvaraj the first after Bishop Alex Dias to be the Shepherd of Port Blair as his successor in the same office.

Pope Francis who appointed our new Bishop has this desire for all the bishops in the world; and had expressed it while addressing the Bishops of United States of America on 24th September 2015.

Pope Francis' vision of a bishop calls for loving responsibility toward the local church. He encouraged the bishops to engage in practices that bear witness to Christ's love, particularly for those who are suffering. He went on to recognize the need for courage, self-criticism, trustworthiness, single-heartedness, joy, humility, creativity and "trusting union with Christ" in all bishops, and that they are to be sacraments and witnesses of God's generous love.

In the spirit of Vatican II, Pope Francis sought to advocate for dialogue as a method for Episcopal ministry. He called for compassion and warned against "harsh and divisive language." And finally, Pope Francis wants bishops to foster communion and act collegially. "Be pastors close to people," he said. "Be pastors who are neighbours and servants." In his reflection, Pope clearly defined the sort of bishops he hopes will serve the church, and he demonstrated a commitment to finding bishops whose style is pastoral and reflects a commitment to the poor (as read in the article written by Angela Senander).

I think it has always been a great challenge to be an apostle and, in our age, to be the apostle in any given diocese, the task needs to be taken seriously. The Apostle Paul urges the bishops of his time, which is applicable even today. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood....." (Acts 20:28-32)

For those of us who are called to collaborate with the bishop, as priests and lay faithful, the Word of God reminds us what we ought to do, in these words: "But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labour among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another." (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

Our prayer today for the new Bishop is that he may live by the Word of God, lifting his heart and hands to the Powerful God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, so that, he may be granted the willingness to offer himself fully for the people of God entrusted to his care. May his Episcopal ministry of teaching and preaching, as the first representative of Christ in our diocese, be always exemplary! God, as the source of all authority be his constant guide, that his service be ever directed by Christ the Lord, the sacrificing High Priest; the Shepherd always wanting to lay down his life for his sheep all in love and may he be under the sacred advocacy and influence of Holy Spirit throughout his ministry!

May our Patroness, Stella Maris, the Star of Sea, beloved heavenly Mother Mary, assist him with her powerful intercessions!

Fr. Cyprian Xalxo

Parish Priest, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Radha Nagar, Parochial Administrator, St. Thomas Catholic Church, Mayabunder & Diocesan Director, Apostolic Union of Clergy, Port Blair

Congratulations Msgr. Visuvasam Selvaraj!

It is with gladness in my heart that I congratulate dear Most. Rev. Fr. V. Selvaraj on behalf of Fr. Ajit Kumar Xess, SJ, the Provincial Superior, all the Jesuits of Ranchi Jesuit Province, and in particular, Jesuits of Ranchi Province working in Andamans. First of all, we rejoice with you in your appointment of Bishop of Port Blair Diocese. Your appointment to this new position and your strong conviction to take this role represent an important new phase in the history of the Church in the Andamans. Your appointment comes at a pivotal time in the history of Church as it seeks ways forward in the light of numerous challenges and as it is discerning anew by redefining its place and identity in the light of the reality of our increasing multi-religion society. We know that with your proficiency in community building and collaboration, you will have much to offer to the Church and society in general in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. We are convinced that you will bring unique competence and experience to this mission from your years of strategic leadership in the Church. We assure you of every support of the Jesuits and look forward to your contributions to every sector of our life and mission.



On behalf of Ranchi Jesuit Society, I offer our encouragement, support and best wishes to your leadership during these challenging times when you need to see in these dynamics the potential for a transformative Gospel witness.

May the Triune God give you all the strength and joy you need for this very important ministry in the Church of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

With every good wishes for God's blessings and with our prayers,

Fr. David Bara S.J.

Parish Priest, Diglipur, North Andaman

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

"God is good all the time"

Truly God has been gracious to our Port Blair dioceses for blessing us with a gift of Bishop Selvaraj. Congratulations Fr Selvaraj and May God bless you abundantly. "Faith is not knowing what the future holds, but knowing who holds the future."



May God take care of all your needs,

Touch your life with joy and contentment, Bless your heart with love and faith, Comfort your soul with gladness and inner peace and grant you good health and relief from the burdens of life. Remember God uses the broken things beautifully. Broken clouds pour rain. Broken soil set us fields. Broken crops yield seeds. Broken seeds give life to new plants. So when you feel that you are broken, be assured that God is planning to utilize you for something great.

God bless you!

Fr. Agnel Joseph Fernandez, SFX

Local Superior, Pilar Fathers, Port Blair.

Psalms 95:1-5

Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the LORD is the great God, and the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

Felicitations

Salesians in this picturesque archipelago have the immense pleasure of felicitating the New Bishop of the Diocese of Port Blair Rt. Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj. This small diocese of Port Blair has always had a focus on the missionary dimension as a heritage right from the inception. The former Bishop Rt. Rev. Alex Dias, had been a great shepherd, animating and governing this diocese with this focus till he stepped down a little over a couple of years ago. People of this diocese have been imploring the Lord to bless us with a new Bishop who knows his sheep well and be able to lead with great vision, enthusiasm and dynamism and above all with love and compassion that is modeled on the heart of the Good Shepherd. The news of the announcement that was broken on 29 June 2021, on the Feast of St. Peter and Paul brought great joy to the catholic Missionary Diocese of Port Blair. We Salesians also rejoice and thank God along with the people of this diocese.



We Salesians, by the way, dear friends, are at the 25th year of our presence in these Emerald Islands. We have been well received into this missionary diocese, as we ourselves are a missionary congregation of international repute. Our endeavours based on our charism have always been well supported in this Diocese. Therefore, at this juncture, we are delighted to be able to say a big thank you to the former bishop and his team and all the clergy and religious and the faithful at large.

Hereby, we should like to welcome the New Bishop, Rt. Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj to our beloved diocese and felicitate him whole heartedly at his being chosen by God to be our Shepherd. We thank God for him. He is from one among the clergy of this beloved diocese and appointed by the Holy See to lead us. We Salesians are grateful to him for his support in the past and we look forward to his blessings and support in all our apostolic endeavours and his shepherding us in faith and morals.

We pledge our loyal support to him as the constitutions of the Society of St. Francis de Sales says: "The Salesian vocation places us entirely at the heart of the Church and puts us entirely at the service of her mission". With this in mind we Salesians at Lalpahad and at Ferrargunj, as a community, pledge to support the new shepherd in every possible way. We assure the bishop of our prayers for his wonderful ministry of leading this missionary diocese to greener pastures. We greet him all the best, while always seeking his apostolic blessings.

Fr. Patrick Alphonse SDB
Rector, Don Bosco Mission, Andaman

Congratulations on this historical occasion!

Congratulations on the historical occasion of the consecration of Most Rev. Bishop Visuvasam Selvaraj, the long awaited Shepherd for the Diocese of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Through this message we join the palmist 'to give thanks to the Lord for he is good for his love endures forever.' (Psalm 118:1)

First and foremost we would like to thank the Almighty God, for the blessings shown to us in a new Bishop for the Diocese; this is indeed a beautiful opportunity for the Claretian family to witness the significant moments of the Diocese.

We would like to recall the words of the present Holy Father Francis: "All the consecrated men and women he says, "Look at the past with gratitude, live the present with passion, and embrace the future with hope." Since long time we have been waiting and praying for a new Bishop in the Diocese and finally God has heard our prayer. I believe God has given such a wonderful personality to lead this Diocese in the time of pandemic and challenges. We also take this opportunity to congratulate and pray for him that God be with him to support his entire endeavour for this Diocese.

We Claretian family recall on record the sincere thanks to all for your co-operation and collaboration with us. Your affectionate brotherhood is felt much in our Missionary journey in Betapur Parish. May the good Lord shower His graces upon you as newly consecrated Bishop and good shepherd of the beautiful vineyard of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Walk forth on the Charismatic path trod by our former Emeritus Bishop Aleixo Dias SFX. I wish you and your further journey to "Our beloved Lady, Star of the Sea", the patron saint of the Diocese may intercede always.

God Bless You!

Fr. Richard Soreng CMF
Parish Priest, Betapur,
Middle Andaman

17th June 2021

Hebrews 13:15

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess His name."

'I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep.'
(John 10:11)

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part. Yet what can I give Him? I give my heart was the sincere surrender of Rev. Fr. Visuvasam Selvaraj when he accepted his call of God to serve Him in the diocese of Port Blair. God has called and chosen him to be the leader of His flock in the diocese of Port Blair at the most challenging and unprecedented time when the whole world is still under the pandemic of Covid -19.



God rewards our sincerity and our work in His time. It is the dedication of Fr. Visvasam Selvaraj in the assignments that were entrusted to him has brought him this honour. He has been serving the diocese in various capacities, giving his utmost best to lead the sheep of God to the Green Pastures with his dedication and determination. God has chosen you as a witness to Christ, the Good Shepherd. May He endow you with wisdom and ever deepening holiness as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care.

Once again on behalf of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation, our heartiest Congratulations as you begin your service to the holy people of God, as the Bishop of the diocese, the anointed one of God. The Apostolic Carmel Sisters will continue to render our responsible and committed pastoral service to the diocese.

We ask Mary, the Star of the Sea, our Mother and Model and our patroness of our diocese to accompany you as you shepherd the flock of the diocese of Port Blair.

Good wishes, prayers and blessings,

Sister Leena Mary A.C.
Superior
Carmel Convent, Port Blair

1 Chronicles 29:13

"Now therefore, our God, we thank You and praise Your glorious name."

We do pray for you!

Your Lordship!

It gives us great joy and immense pleasure to congratulate Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj, as Bishop of Port Blair diocese. First and foremost we are grateful to God for appointing you to lead and guide the Church of God and to lead the sheep with constant infilling of the Word of God.



We as Sisters of Missionaries of Charity, Port Blair Community are enriched by your outgoing performance especially visiting the families and strengthening them courageously in faith, moreover comforting and consoling the lost ones during Corona pandemic. You also insisted Holy Masses in our convents even during the lockdowns.

With this we wind up with trustful prayers. May you be a blessing to the flock entrusted to your care. We do pray for you. May God's blessings be with you always and in every step of your living!

Sr. Rose Bella MC
Sr. Superior
Missionaries of Charity, Port Blair

'I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.' Phil. 1:6

Most Reverend Bishop, Visuvasam Selvaraj,

With immense joy and gratitude to God, I wish you Hearty Congratulations. My best wishes for you. The Almighty has chosen you and given you as the shepherd of his people. He has entrusted His people in your loving care. May God bless you and make you worthy of your calling and fill you with the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Your leadership will bring about much fruit in the diocese.



Hearty Congratulations.

May God bless you!
With prayers and best wishes

Sr. Matilda Dung Dung OSU
Ursuline Provincialate Kanke Road Ranchi

Our Heartiest Congratulations!

We, the Holy Family Sisters are overjoyed to extend our heartiest congratulations and prayerful wishes to our Bishop Most Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj on the joyful occasion of your Episcopal ordination. God has chosen you as a true witness of Christ, the Good Shepherd. May He endow you with wisdom and ever deepening holiness as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care. Praying that the spirit of God may guide, enlighten and strengthen you in your ministry of shepherding your flock!

With prayerful wishes!

Sr. Elsy SFN

Sr. Superior

Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth

We rejoice with you!

It is my privilege to extend the heartfelt congratulations to you on behalf of Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition, Port Blair. We rejoice with you in your appointment as the Bishop of Port Blair Diocese. We are sure that you will bring unique accomplishments and achievements for the Diocese. You have proven yourself to be a man of prayer, blessed with a heart that is ready to lend a helping hand, great administrator, a powerful decision maker with exceptional memory power and pastoral zeal. Your intelligence and brilliant organizing capacity will enable you take the Diocese forward in challenging times. It is a matter of great joy to welcome you as our Bishop, as you have played significant role as Director of Small Christian Community(SCC) and specially to us as a congregation engaged in Pastoral mission in Andamans which we consider as a God given opportunity to contribute towards evangelization. We thank you for the trust you placed on us and our mission. We experienced your genuine concern in times of need, guidance, appreciation and encouragement of our work which boosted our morale to give our best for the growth of the church. May the triune God give you the strength, knowledge and wisdom you need for this very important Ministry. We once again express our warm welcome and prayerful wishes to you Most Reverend Bishop Visuvasam Selvaraj.

May the Diocese of Port Blair rise to a new horizon under your leadership!

Sr. Marita Hembrom

Superior,

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition

नवअभिषिक्त धर्माध्यक्ष को ढेर सारी बधाइयाँ

नीले अंडमान सागर में तैरते हुए द्वीप समूह प्राकृतिक सौन्दर्य से आच्छादित सदाबहार जंगल सबको अपनी ओर आकर्षित करती है। द्वीप समूह के ये खूबसूरत घने ऊँचे वन, नारियल सूपाड़ी के झूमते वृक्ष और पक्षियों का कलरव ऐसे प्रतीत होते हैं मानो सागरीतारा माता मरिया के नीले आँचल में मस्त झूमते हुए अत्यधिक आनन्दित हैं। दिल को हरा-भरा कर देने वाली इन्हीं वनों की हरियाली के साथ पोर्टब्लेयर धर्मप्रांत माता मरिया के संरक्षण और आदरणीय बिशप अलेक्स डायस की अगुवाई में आध्यात्मिक रूप से हरा-भरा है साथ ही यहाँ की कलीसिया में नवजीवन का संचार हुआ है। मान्यवर बिशप अलेक्स डायस की छत्रछाया में यह धर्मप्रांत बाल्यावस्था से अब युवावस्था को प्राप्त किया है। फादर विसुवासम सेल्वाराज की धर्माध्यक्षीय अभिषेक पोर्टब्लेयर धर्मप्रांत की ऐतिहासिक अविस्मरणीय व गौरवमय सुखद घटना है क्योंकि पोर्टब्लेयर धर्मप्रांत के द्वितीय धर्माध्यक्ष विसुवासम सेल्वाराज धर्मप्रांतीय पुरोहितों में प्रथम धर्माध्यक्ष हैं।



हम संत अन्ना की पुत्रियाँ (राँची) धर्माध्यक्षीय अभिषेक की खुशी में सरीक होते हुए नवअभिषिक्त धर्माध्यक्ष को ढेर सारी बधाइयाँ देती हैं। हम धर्मबहनें अपने को अहोभाग्य समझती हैं कि धर्मप्रांत ने हमें 7वें समुदाय के रूप में 34 धर्मबहनों को सेवा कार्य करने का सुअवसर प्रदान किया है, हम हमारी आदरणीय मदर जेनेरल सि. लिली ग्रेस तोपनो, प्रोविंशियल सि. मंजूला किंडो और धर्मसंघ की समस्त धर्मबहनें दिल की मंगलमय दुआएँ देती है कि नवअभिषिक्त धर्माध्यक्ष के आध्यात्मिक मार्गदर्शन में पोर्टब्लेयर धर्मप्रांत फलता-फूलता जाए। सागरीतारा माता मरिया की ममतामयी छाया धर्माध्यक्ष को मिलता रहे जिससे वे अपने कार्यों को दूने उत्साह, निष्ठा, प्रेम एवं समर्पित भाव से कर सकें। ईश्वर की कृपा और पवित्र आत्मा की प्रज्ञा उन्हें हर परिस्थिति में मिलता रहे।

शुभकामनाओं सहित

Sr. Subhashini Xalxo DSA

Delegate Superior

Andaman Mission

Philippians 4:4-7

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I implore God's blessings upon you!

Our Holy Pope Francis says, "A shepherd who is meek and humble has hidden treasure and he is guided by the tenderness and closeness of Good Shepherd to unite the sheep"



The time of grace has dawned upon you and our hearts are bubbling with joy and gratitude to God of Surprise for choosing you to enter into the holy ministry to serve God's people. I can greatly affirm that you are a fitting and worthy person to this call of holiness. Rightly your journey takes you to the path of goodness as well as to the greater vision for mission. I implore God's blessings upon you thus you may continue to be a blessing to the people of God.

The Creator has chosen you as a true witness to Christ, the Good Shepherd, may He endow you with His wisdom and ever kindled holiness as you guide the flock entrusted to your loving care. I earnestly rejoice with you to redouble your happiness as you begin the journey of holiness.

Congratulations and Best wishes as you begin your service to the holy people of God.

Sr. Victoria Soreng Fmm
Navadeep Convent, Ferrargunj

"Behold, I will do a new thing." - Isaiah 43:19

We are eternally grateful to God for all the blessings he has bestowed upon the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Ever since the vacancy of Bishop Most Rev. Alex Dias, we like a flock of sheep, have been longing for our Shepherd, especially during these times of trial, when it is easy to go astray. The Lord Almighty kept his promise to us, when he blessed us with a new Bishop, Most



Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj. By doing this, the Lord has assigned an important duty to "tend my sheep" (John 21:16) as our beloved Bishop, receives his staff to lead a new people, into the narrow gates of the Lord's Kingdom. In this mission, of His Grace, let us all join hands, to make a better community, and to live life that pleases our Heavenly Father. Further, I being the President of Andaman and Nicobar Catholic Association, on behalf of the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands, extend my hearty welcome to the new Bishop, as I congratulate him, on his novel endeavour. I promise to extend my absolute support, to help you in the development of our catholic community, in all fields. I also ask our Mother, Blessed Virgin Mary, to intercede for us, on our mission. I wish you the very best, dear Father, and may God bless you abundantly!

Sanjay Meshack
President, Andaman and Nicobar Catholic Association

"तुमने मुझे नहीं चुना, बल्कि मैंने तुम्हें इस लिए चुना और नियुक्त किया कि तुम जाकर फल उत्पन्न करो, तुम्हारा फल बना रहे।" (संत योहन 15:16)

पोर्ट ब्लेयर धर्मप्रान्त के लिए बड़े ही हर्ष की बात है कि धर्मप्रान्त को धर्माध्यक्ष के रूप में अति माननीय रेभ• विशुवासम सेल्वाराज मिले हैं जो निश्चय ही धर्मप्रान्त को उंचाई तक ले कर जाएंगे। अंडमान तथा निकोबार काथलिक महासभा की कार्यकारिणी समिति सदस्यों की ओर से आपको ढेरों बधाइयां एवं शुभकामनाएं।



हम ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करते हैं कि आपको सुस्वस्थ एवं सुरक्षित रखें ताकि धर्मप्रान्त की सेवा एवं भलाई के लिए हाप उचित कदम उठा सके। माता मरियम आपको बल प्रदान करें ताकि द्वीप समूह की काथलिक कलीसिया आपकी अगुवाई में निरंतर अग्रसर होती रहेगी, ऐसी हमारी कामना है। पुनः आपको हार्दिक बधाइयां एवं शुभकामनाएं।

अजीत कुमार टोप्पो
महासचिव
अंडमान तथा निकोबार काथलिक महासभा
पोर्ट ब्लेयर धर्मप्रान्त

"भला गड़ेरिया मैं हूँ।" (संत योहन)

हमें अत्यंत प्रसन्नता हो रही है कि हमारे पोर्ट ब्लेयर धर्मप्रान्त से धर्मप्रान्त की अगुवाई के लिए एक चरवाहा को चुना गया है। हमारी कार्यकारिणी समिति सदस्यों की ओर से महामहिम धर्माध्यक्ष विशुवासम सेल्वाराज को हार्दिक बधाइयां एवं शुभकामनाएं।



धर्मप्रान्त की संरक्षिका सागरी तारा माता मरियम आपको धैर्य, शांति, प्रेम एवं क्षमा की कृपादानों से भर दें ताकि इस द्वीप कुंज की काथलिक कलीसिया को एक भले गड़ेरिए की भांति एक जुट वा संगठित रखते हुए, अपने इस रेवड़ को प्रभु के बताए हुए मार्गों पर अग्रसर करते हुए एवं विश्व समुदाय की हित को ध्यान रखते हुए, सेवा वा समर्पण का भाव जागृत करते हुए आप सभी विश्वासी गणों को शिखर की ओर ले चलें ईश्वर से हमारी यही कामना है।

बिमला टोप्पो
सभानेत्री
काथलिक महा महिला संघ
पोर्ट ब्लेयर धर्मप्रान्त

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

On behalf of the Malayalee Catholic Community, I pray fervently for Blessings upon you as you are consecrated Bishop of Andaman and Nicobar. God has chosen you to Shepherd His church and share His sacred ministry. May the grace of the Lord be your ever present inspiration and guide as you nourish your flock with the word, strengthen with the Sacraments, and lead them deeper into the mystery of faith! May God lead you and give you many more years of value in serving the sheep, he has bestowed in your hands. We are together in your journey. God Bless you always!



Daniel Antony
President MCA

"You did not choose me, I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit. (John 15:16)

With deep gratitude to Almighty God, the Tamil Community rejoices at the appointment of Rev. Fr Visuwasam Selvaraj as the Bishop of Port Blair Diocese by our Holy Father Pope Francis on 29th June 2021 at 3.30 pm. For the past 27 years Rev. Fr Visuwasam Selvaraj has served the faithful of the Diocese of Port Blair with great zeal. He has a truly pastoral heart, a keen intellect and an exceptional ability to administer well. Along with his many gifts, he has great rapport with people of all ages and in particular young people. He has tremendous capacity to take the Churches forward in challenging times. We are happy that the Diocese of Port Blair will be served by such a humble servant of Lord Jesus Christ.

The Tamil Community wishes our dear Rev. Bishop Visuwasam Selvaraj God's abundant blessings on his works as he assumes his new ministry to lead the Catholic Community of the Islands. On this joyful occasion let us 'Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.' Psalm: 98:4

May Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the nations and His mother, Mary, the star of the new evangelization, guide and protect him!

With prayers and good wishes from
Tamil Catholic Community
Stella Maris Cathedral

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will counsel you with my eye upon you". Psalm 32:8



Most Reverend Bishop, V. Selvaraj,

It is with gladness that I congratulate you on your Episcopal ordination on behalf of the Local community of Port Blair associated with Stella Maris Cathedral.

Your dedication and devotion to every task evoke love, admiration, appreciation and respect in the hearts of common people. God's generosity is visible in the way you make yourself available to the people. Your skills in community building and collaboration will definitely go a long way in the growth and uplifting of values the Church stands for and for the development of the society as a whole.

God has set His eyes on you to be a shepherd after His own heart in tending His flock with utmost care. He has chosen you to be His living presence among us and we feel highly privileged to have you as our shepherd.

May the good Lord endow you with wisdom and ever deepening holiness as you tend the flock entrusted to your care!

May the Lord be gracious unto you. May His grace be sufficient for you. May He sustain you with His love and guide you along as you will be nourishing the flock with the Word of God. Rooted in Him, may you strengthen the faith of the faithful to lead the flock to a deeper experience of God's love!

I on behalf of the members of my community we extend our whole hearted support in all your endeavours. We hold you in our prayers as you assume the new responsibility.

Once again heartiest congratulations dear Bishop and wish you a smooth sailing with Jesus as your Captain!

With Regards,

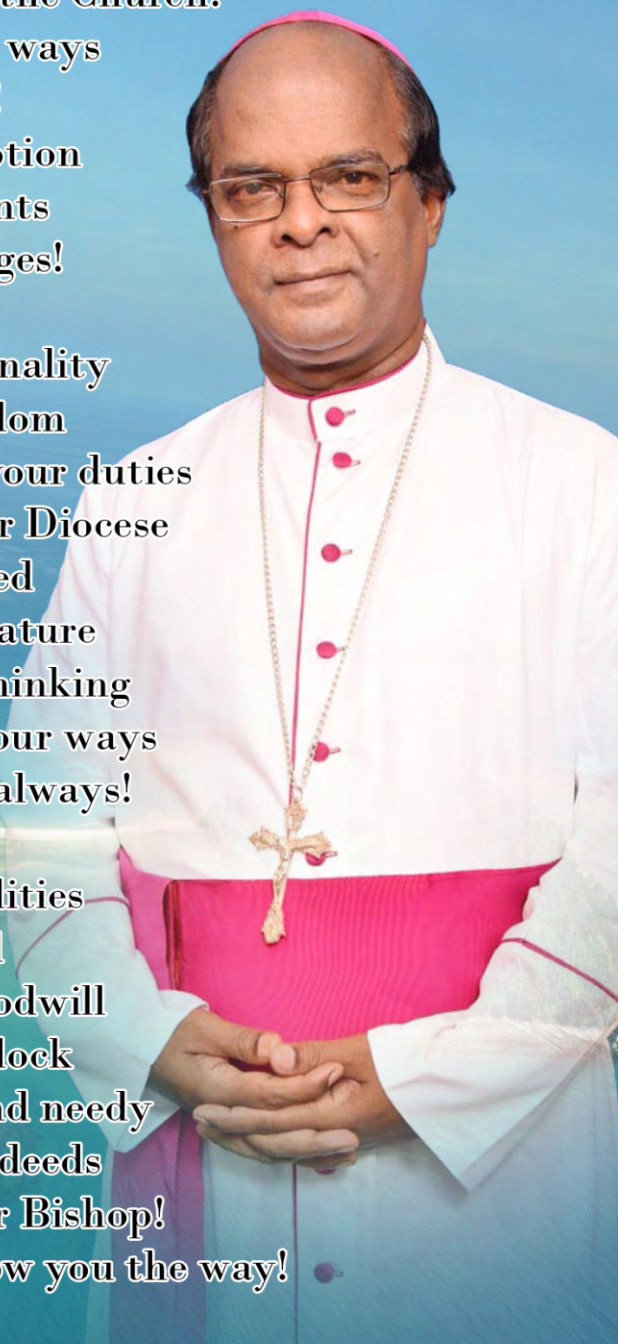
Bindiya Banerjee
President
Local Catholic Association

God Bless Our Bishop Rt. Rev. Selvaraj!

Radiant and prudent are your ways
Expressing your kindness at a gentle pace
Vehemently toiling for growth of the Church!
Encouraging your people to God's ways
Rational are you in your thinking!
Ever rooted in your faith and devotion
Never bending down to impediments
Daring ever to accept new challenges!

Various abilities adorn your personality
Industrious you are wise with wisdom
Sincere and dedicated are you to your duties
Unconditional is your love for your Diocese
Visionary you are always farsighted
Amiable and humble are you by nature
Simple in living yet high is your thinking
Agile and devoted are you in all your ways
May the love of God dwell in you always!

Smilingly you shoulder responsibilities
Embellished with the Love of God
Lighting the lamp of Love and goodwill
Venerating your services to your flock
Always willing to help the poor and needy
Radiating benevolence in all your deeds
Almighty God may bless you Dear Bishop!
Jesus the Good Shepherd may show you the way!



21st August 2021

*With Prayers, Love & Wishes From
Dr. (Mrs.) Caroline Mathew
On behalf of all parishioners of the Diocese of Port Blair*



"Rooted in the word of God I lift up my hand to the Triune God, to grant me the generosity to give my self for the people of God entrusted to my care, under the guidance and protection of Our Mother, Star of the Sea, like Jesus who emptied Himself on the Cross through proclamation of the Word and celebration of Eucharist.....



"मैं, ईश्वरीय वचन की गहराई में से अपने हाथ त्रिएक परमेश्वर की ओर उठाता हूँ ताकि मुझे उदारता मिले जिससे मैं मुझे सौंपी गई प्रभु की प्रजा की रखवाली के लिये स्वयं को पूर्णतयः अर्पित करूँ; सागरी तारा, हमारी माँ के मार्ग दर्शन और संरक्षण में जैसे येशु ने ईश वचन के उद्घोषणा और यूखरिस्तीय समारोह द्वारा अपने को क्रूस पर खाली कर दिया। "



2 Corinthians 9:15

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"

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Fr. Dharampal Tirkey,
Financial Administrator

For the Diocese of Port Blair.

Do you feel like becoming a Priest to serve the Church and the Society? Come and See!
Do you know someone who would like to become a Priest and offer his life? Help him!

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