

Merry Christmas



The Newsletter
of the
Pallottine
Social Welfare Centre

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... In This Issue

Editor's Note	03
Activities and Report	04
Real Meaning of Christmas	08
From the desk of Community College	11

EDITORIAL...

Pope Leo XIV in his first apostolic exhortation "Dilexi Te" ("I Have Loved You"), exhorts all Catholics, saying that "God has a special place in his heart" for the poor and oppressed. He asks them "to make a decisive and radical choice in favour of the weakest." Similarly, our Founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, proclaims that the spirit of preferential love for the poor as the central tenet of Pallottine life and mission. On the personal level, preferential love for the poor was central to St. Vincent Pallotti. It stemmed from his deep awareness of God's love, and led him to serve the marginalized in Rome through spiritual care; providing food, clothing, education (free schools for workers), and vocational training; direct aid during epidemics like cholera; and founding the Union of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) to unite clergy, religious, and laity in active charity. St. Vincent Pallotti believed that every Christian is called to be an apostle of God's love through action, and not just words.

Today our country is filled with many social evils, such as poverty, oppression of women, child labour, exploitation of the poor, caste discrimination and religious fundamentalism. As we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Pallottine presence in India, we may revisit the spirit of our founder, St. Vincent Pallotti, and read the signs of our times and make the poor the centre of all our apostolates and ministries. We, the confreres at Pallottine Social Welfare Centre, Salem, try to practice the spirit of our founder, by trying to empower the rural women through St. Vincent Pallotti Community College; educating the unfortunate and Dalit children by establishing three tuition centres; and serving the sick and the abandoned by caring for HIV-AIDS affected people. As we are in the season of Christmas, may the cry of "little and helpless Child Jesus in a Manger at Bethlehem" remind us to give always preferential love for the poor and the weakest in the society.

I thank Fr. Vensus George, my community member, for his support and help. I also thank Very. Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Savariaradimai, the Provincial, and his team for their continued support and encouragement. I thank friends and benefactors both from Germany and India. May God bless their generosity! I take this opportunity to wish you all "Happy Christmas and Hope-filled New Year 2026".

Fr. Dr. **Jerome Mariadhasan** SAC (Director)
Pallottine Social Welfare Centre, Salem.



Activities and Report

Inauguration of Tuition Centres:

Education is key tool to empower the society, especially for the people of the backward class and scheduled caste. Keeping in mind the above-mentioned goal, on 17th June, 2024, we inaugurated three Tuition Centres in three Dalit villages of Koottathupatti, Yeripudur and Vellalapatty. Government School Children are given tuition from Monday to Saturday from 6 pm to 8 pm. 95 students benefit from this programme. At the end of their study, they are also given snacks. On Sunday, they are given opportunities to play games. They are also given periodically study materials and other helps related to their studies. During the tuition, they are also taught moral and civil lessons, which will make them more responsible citizens in the future. Four teachers help to carry out this





Caring for the Sick and the abandoned HIV-Positive People:

Pallottine Social Centre cares for the sick and the abandoned especially HIV-AIDS people over the years. We take care of seventy AIDS affected families. We distribute food materials, nutritious food, cloth, and pocket money once in three months. They are also given counselling and motivational talks by the invited resource persons, during the tri-monthly gatherings. In addition, we also give educational scholarship for the college going youth to pursue their college studies. We have two field workers who take care of them. Thus, this program helps these abandoned people to feel a sense of dignity and respect. I take this opportunity to thank all friends for their help, especially Heart of Jesus Province, Germany, for their steadfast support and help.



Empowerment of Rural and Poor women:

Women in the surroundings of Salem face two major problems: first, they are given in early marriage, and second, they are not allowed to work. As a result, they are treated as second class citizens and asked to take care of the children and cooking. Economic self sufficiency plays the crucial role in empowering women in the society. Hence, St. Vincent Pallotti Community College is established to give the skill-based education to these unfortunate rural women. The Community College offers three courses namely Tailoring, Embroidery (Aari work) and Beautician. After, successful learning, they are given Central Government certificates and Tailoring Machines and other work materials. Thus, we have made an attempt to make them economically self-sufficient, paving the way to restore their respect and dignity both in their families and in the society. Special thanks to Fr. Xavier Alphonse and team members of ICRDCE, Chennai, for their partnership, help and guidance.



“Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies”

- Steve Moraballi

Christmas Celebrations:

Christmas is the celebration consists in sharing the resources with the poor, sick and the needy. Pallottine Welfare Centre celebrated Christmas on 21st December, 2024. Mr. M. Selva Kumar. (MD. VS. Selva Maligai, Salem) was the chief guest of the celebration. On that day, we distributed Central Government Certificates along with work materials, such as tailoring machines, embroidery work materials, and beautician's basic items, for those students, who successfully completed their courses. Tailoring Machines were distributed to 20 Tailoring students, Aari work materials to 15 students, and beautician's basic items to 13 students. The students of St. Vincent Pallotti Community College performed cultural and Christmas programmes. The celebration ended with a sumptuous meal.

On 18th December, 2024, we organised Christmas celebration for the children of three Tuition Centres. They were given study materials as gifts. Children performed various cultural programmes. About a hundred students and teachers participated in the programme. The children's Christmas celebration ended with a tea-party, during which the children were given cake and tea.

Over all, the celebration of Christmas, reminded us the joy of sharing with the less privileged and poor women, children and the sick. It was a meaningful and memorable one.





Real Meaning of Christmas

At Christmas Christ comes to us like a little child, small and helpless, so much in need of all that love can give. Are we ready to receive Him? Before the birth of Jesus His parents asked for a simple dwelling place, but there was none. If Mary and Joseph were looking for a home for Jesus, would they choose your house and all it holds?

Today there is so much trouble in the world, and I think that much of it begins at home. The world is suffering because there is no peace in the family. We have so many thousands of broken homes. We must make our homes centers of compassion and forgiveness, and so bring peace.

Make your house, your family, another Nazareth, where love, peace, joy, and unity reign, for love begins at home. You must start there and make your home a center of love. You must be the hope of eternal happiness to your wife, your husband, your child, to your grandfather, your grandmother, to whoever is connected to you.

The home is where the mother is. Once I found a child on the streets. I took him to our children's home and gave him a bath and some clean clothes, but he ran away. He was found again by somebody else, but he ran away a second time. After we found him, I said to the sisters, "Please follow that child and see where he goes when he runs away."

When the child ran away a third time they followed him, and there, under a tree, was his mother. She had put stones under a small earthenware vessel and was cooking some food she had found. The sister asked the child, "Why did you run away from the home?" And the child answered, "But this is my home because this is where my mother is."

That was home. The food that was found was all right because Mother had cooked it. It was Mother who hugged the child, Mother who wanted the child—and the child had his mother. And between a wife and a husband it is the same... Let us pray that we shall be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas—not in the cold manger of our heart but in a heart full of love and humanity, a heart warm with love for one another.

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta





The Visit of Mrs. Christina Berger:

Mrs. Christina Berger from Germany visited our Centre and various projects from 19th to 22nd November, 2025. She was impressed with our projects, works and hospitality. We sincerely thank her for her friendly visit.



The Visit of St. Vincent Pallotti Matric Higher Secondary School, Salem:

On 8th December, 2025, Fr. Arokia Samy, Manager of St. Vincent Pallotti School, Principal, teachers and students visited three Tuition Centres namely Koottathupatti, Yeripudur and Vellalapatty and distributed study materials. We appreciate and thank the management and students of St. Vincent Pallotti School for their visit and help. May God bless their generosity!



Let everyday Be Christmas

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
For loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away,
Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Norman Wesley Brooks



From the Desk of St. Vincent Pallotti Community College:

Hearty Congratulations

At the end of the academic year 2024, 20 tailoring students, 13 beautician students successfully completed their Government Exams and 15 Aari Students completed their course successfully. They were given Certificates on 21st December, 2024. St. Vincent Pallotti College and its management, staff and teachers congratulate these students and wish them all the very best for their future endeavours. May these studies help them to empower themselves!



Inauguration of New academic year at St. Vincent Pallotti Community College

On March 24, 2025, a new academic year was inaugurated at St. Vincent Pallotti Community college with a short prayer invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There were totally 65 students enrolled for the Tailoring, Aari work and Beautician courses. We wished them all the very best for the successful completion of the courses and prayed for God's blessings on them!. May our community college education empower more and more rural women socially and economically!





DONATE TO A CAUSE

**Yes I want to be a friend of Pallotti Social Mission.
I would like to:**

- A. Your Contribution worth Rs. 3,500 annually could transform a child school Education.**
- B. Your Contribution worth Rs. 7,000 could help a poor woman to buy a Tailoring machine**
- C. Your Contribution worth Rs. 7,000 annually could help to transform HIV affected family.**
- D. Your Contribution worth Rs. 7,000 annually could help to transform HIV affected family.**



*The management, staff of
Pallottine Social Welfare Centre wish you
A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous
and Successful New year 2026.*

