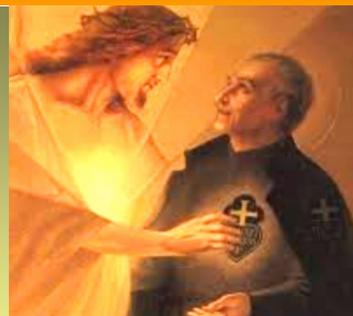




## Life's Mysteries

Dear Friends,



Greetings from Bhopal. I am visiting our community here after a long time. In fact, my last visit to the community was several months before the pandemic hit the world. I am having a nice time with our brothers and tomorrow I am off to a seven-hour long journey to visit our deacon Binod ministering in a remote village in the Diocese of Khandwa.

For this month's reflection, I am taking a story of Fr. Anthony De Mello about evil and suffering in the world.

It is about the story of a little boy walking along the bank of a river. He sees a crocodile trapped in a net and who asks the boy to help him out of the trap. The boy hesitates and says to the croc: "If I were to help you out of that trap, you'd grab me and kill me." But the crocodile asks: "Do you think I would do that to my benefactor and liberator?" So, the boy is persuaded to help the crocodile out of the net and the moment the crocodile got out he grabbed the boy. As he is being forced between the jaws of the crocodile, the boy says: "So, this is what I get for my good actions?" And the crocodile says, "Well, don't take it personally, son, this is the way the world is, this is the law of life". The boy disputes this, so the crocodile says, "Do you want to ask someone if it isn't so"? The boy sees a bird sitting on a branch and says, "Bird, is what the crocodile says right"? The bird says, "The crocodile is right. Look at me. I was coming home one day with food for my fledglings. Imagine my horror to see a snake crawling up the tree, making straight for my nest. I was totally helpless. It kept devouring my young ones, one after the other. I kept screaming and shouting, but it was useless. The crocodile is right, this is the law of life, this is the way the world is". "See", says the crocodile. But the boy says, "Let me ask someone else". So, the crocodile says, "All right, your last chance". The boy sees a rabbit passing by, and he says, "Rabbit, is the crocodile right"? The rabbit sits on his haunches and says to the crocodile, "Did you say that to the boy?"

The crocodile says, "Yes, I did". "Wait a minute", says the rabbit. "We've got to discuss this". "Yes", says the crocodile. But the rabbit says, "How can we discuss it when you've got that boy in your mouth? Release him; he's got to take part in the discussion, too". The crocodile says, "You're a clever one, you are. The moment I release him, he'll run away". The rabbit says, "I thought you had more sense than that. If he attempted to run away, one slash of your tail would kill him". "Fair enough", says the crocodile, and he released the boy. The moment the boy is released, the rabbit says, "Run!" And the boy runs and escapes. Then the rabbit says to the boy, "Don't you enjoy crocodile flesh?"

Wouldn't the people in your village like a good meal? You didn't really release that crocodile; most of his body is still caught in that net. Why don't you go to the village and bring everybody and have a banquet". That's exactly what the boy does. He goes to the village and calls all the men folk. They come with their axes and staves and spears and kill the crocodile. The boy's dog comes, too, and when the dog sees the rabbit, he gives chase, catches hold of the rabbit, and throttles him. The boy comes on the scene too late, and as he watches the rabbit die, he says, "The crocodile was right, this is the way the world is, this is the law of life"

There is no explanation you can give that would explain away all the sufferings and evil and torture and destruction and hunger in the world! You'll never explain it. You can try gamely with your formulas, religious and otherwise, but you'll never explain it. Because life is a mystery, which means your thinking mind cannot make sense out of it.

In the midst of the complexities of life, we are invited to a contemplative stance, the kind that Paul of the Cross and the saints of the Passion learned and practised in their lives.

As we continue treading along the Jubilee path and as we enter the month of October when we celebrate the feast of our founder, I wish you all the graces and blessings of this Kairos moment!

**Fraternally,**

**Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.  
Vice Provincial**

**UPDATES**

**OCTOBER**

**Birthdays**

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Siby     | 03 |
| Dennis   | 03 |
| Rajan    | 03 |
| Binu     | 07 |
| Mahendra | 10 |
| Sony     | 14 |
| Abiyouth | 18 |

**Feast Days**

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| BL. Isidore de Loor   | 06 |
| St. Innocent Canoura  | 09 |
| St. Paul of the Cross | 19 |



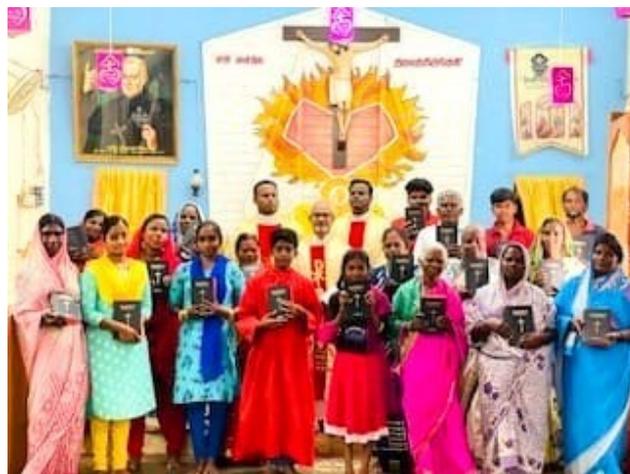
Fr. Paul Visited Gynanilaya Community at Bophal after the Pandemic. (Above)

Fr. Paul presided over the First Holy Communion Eucharist for the children of the members of Domestic Workers Movement (Below)





Fr. John Varghese CP was commissioned for ministry in St. Patrick's Province. The liturgy was presided over by Fr. Paul at Jeevadhama, Bangalore joined by Carmelaram community and Sisters from neighbouring communities. (Left & below)



Thanks to Mr. Vimal Ignatius from Bangalore, sponsored 300 copies of the Bible on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Year of the Passionist Presence in Randham Mission. Fr. Paul blessed and distributed the copies to the people. Fr. Nambikairaj CP, the parish priest organized the distribution in the substations of Ladapadi and Vellambi.



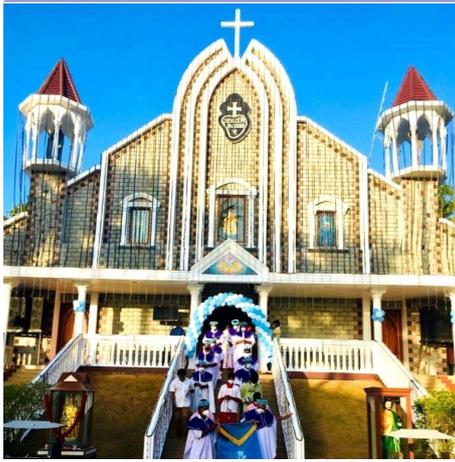


Fr. John Varghese CP joins the Passionist Community at Belfast of St. Patrick's Province and would spend some time of initiation. He is appointed to the community at Glasgow and will move after few weeks. All the best and Prayers dear Fr. John. (Above) Students of Theology participated in the Inter-Seminary Soccer Match in Bangalore in collaboration with the neighbouring Benedictine Community. (Below)



Teacher's Day celebrated at St. Gemma School at Randham Mission (Above). Frs. Nambikai Raj & Rajan leads the Special Days of Prayers in Randham for the construction of the Jubilee Church. (Below)





**Palliport Parish celebrated the Annual Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni. The feast was celebrated on a low key and with restricted participation of the faithful.**



**Goodness TV Channel Broadcasts one week daily Eucharist, celebrated by the Passionists. Thanks to the initiatives of Fr. Jackson, Palliport Community and the Crew of Goodness TV. Passionists around Kochi took their turn to celebrate the Eucharist. (above)**

**MFC– Bangalore continues to support with monthly dry ration to the destitute and the sick people of Randham Mission. Thanks to all the members for your generous support. (above & Below)**





Fr. Paul visited Dn. Binod ministering at Divine Mercy Parish at Jalkheda, Diocese of Khandwa. Fr. Stanis Turkey, the Parish priest is happy to have Dn. Binod to assist in the Mission station. (Left above) Carmelaram Community installed a New Cross with the Passionist Sign at the drive way of Passionist Jyothir Bhavan, Bangalore. (right above)



Thanks to the Generous donors! The construction work the Jubilee Church at Randham Mission resumes after three months. (Left & below) May the Divine Providence continue to inspire many more donors to contribute in order to complete the Jubilee Church.

St. Thomas the Apostle, Vice Province, (THOM)  
Congregation of the Passion,  
Passionist Jyotir Bhavan,  
Carmelaram, P.O. Bangalore - 560035.  
Karnataka, India. Mob: +91-8129195929  
Website: [www.indiapassionists.org](http://www.indiapassionists.org)  
Email ID: [thomviceprovince@gmail.com](mailto:thomviceprovince@gmail.com),  
[clpaulcp1@gmail.com](mailto:clpaulcp1@gmail.com)  
Verba volant, scripta manent!

