



# Simla Chandigarh Diocese

Bishop's House, P.O. Box No: 709, Sector 19-A Chandigarh - 160 019, INDIA.

† Ignatius L. Mascarenhas

Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh

TEL: 0172-2775777, 2773777

FAX: 0172-2781630

EMAIL: bpignatius@gmail.com

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## UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Greetings!

1. Neelakanda Pillai was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1712 at Palliyadi in Kanyakumari District in the then Kingdom of Travancore. He was raised by his maternal Uncle and his family had a lot of influence with the Maharaja of Travancore and his family. As a young person, Devasahayam started his carrier in the royal palace. When the Dutch army was defeated, two Dutch soldiers surrendered themselves to the Travancore king and thus they were imprisoned and gradually were pardoned with the condition of working for the Travancore armed forces as well. Eustachius De Lannoy was given the incharge and he fought and won many battles for Travancore Maharaja and there Devasahayam came to know about Eustachius, who sowed the Christian faith in Devasahayam. Thus, Devasahayam was attracted to the teachings of the Christian faith and was baptized in 1745 and was named as Lazarus which means God is my help.

His conversion infuriated the local king and Devasahayam was asked to renounce the Christian faith but he would not give up. He stood for faith and as a consequence, he had to face persecutions and tortures in his life. Finally, he was killed in 1752 in the Aralvaimozhi forest ranges. His tomb is in the Cathedral Church of St. Francis Xavier, Kottar in Tamil Nadu.

The Church in India is eagerly looking forward to have a new saint in Martyr Devasahayam. As we all know, our beloved Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Devasahayam on 15th May 2022 at 10.00am (Italian time) at the Vatican, together with six others. In Martyr Devasahayam, we have the first Indian who is acknowledged to have won the crown of martyrdom on Indian soil. He is also the first lay person and the first married person from India to be conferred sainthood. This Canonization, therefore, has a special significance for the Church in India. Let us join in the canonization programme virtually.

2. We will have the Priestly Ordinations of Deacon Lenin Henry on Monday, 16.05.2022 at 5.30pm at Yesu Daya Sagar Parthana Bhawan, Kauli. Please confirm your participation to Fr. Powlish (9779868981).

The ordination of Deacon Robert will be on 19.05.2022 in Meerut Diocese and Deacon Arul Raj will be on 28.05.2022 in Kottar Diocese.

3. I request the Priests to update the records, registers and accounts and handover them to the new parish priests and specially keep the register of the participants in the Synodal procedures in your parish with the phone numbers, signatures of the people who participated in the parish synodal procedures.

4. Holy Eucharist will be offered for the departed soul of Late Bishop Gilbert B. Rego on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at 6pm at Christ the King Cathedral and the month's mind Mass for Late Fr. Henry Lewis will be offered on 30.05.2022 at 6pm at Christ the King Cathedral, Chandigarh. Please inform Fr. Manoj for food and accommodation.

Given on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Feast of St. Ignatius of Laconi.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+Ignatius Mascarenhas  
Bishop of Simla Chandigarh



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