



# Newsletter- December 2024

## Rev. Fr. John Suresh Social Projects

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." - 1 John 4:11

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*Prayerful Christmas Greetings from Rev. Fr G Backia Regis, Rev. Fr. Charles and Ms. Nandhini Krishnan, Staff and students from St John's Campus. Hoping that our Newsletter finds you all in good health.*

*Here are some highlights from our project activities. This year has been truly remarkable for our project, bringing many positive outcomes and unforgettable experiences. We had the pleasure of hosting several European friends who visited us, sharing their knowledge and gaining unique insights into our culture. Their presence has opened up valuable learning opportunities for all of us.*

*In our school, we achieved a significant milestone with the construction of a new building for the girls' toilets – a long-awaited and essential improvement that ensures better facilities for our students. Additionally, with the generous support of our German friends, we gave Dr. Arulappa Higher Secondary School a fresh coat of paint, transforming the campus into a vibrant and beautiful space. We are deeply grateful for this unwavering and unconditional support, which continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. We firmly believe that these accomplishments are blessings from above, and we feel the guiding presence of the late Rev. Fr. John Suresh in all that we do. As we celebrate this festive season, we continue to pray for everyone's health and prosperity.*

### Dr. R. Arulappa Higher Secondary School Children's Day Celebration



Every year on the 14th of November, India celebrates **Children's Day** to honour the birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about children's rights, education, and welfare. It also serves as a reminder to create a nurturing and supportive environment for children to thrive.

This year, our school celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm. Teachers organized various sports activities for the students, ensuring an enjoyable and memorable day for everyone.

## Honouring the Guest: 6th December 2024



We were delighted to welcome a special guest, **Mr. Bastin**, a world traveller from Germany and an alumnus of Mariano Josephinum, Hildesheim. He visited **Dr. R. Arulappa Higher Secondary School** from the 5th to the 8th of December and stayed for four days at St. John's Home. During his visit, he shared his fascinating experiences and inspired our students with his stories from around the globe. It was a truly enriching experience for everyone.

## Free Spectacles Distribution: 20th December 2024



In recent times, there has been an increasing concern about students experiencing vision problems due to various factors. To address this issue, our school organized a **Free Eye Check-Up Camp** in collaboration with the **Government Hospital, Nallamur**. The camp provided comprehensive eye screenings for all our students. Spectacles were distributed free of cost to those diagnosed with vision issues. This initiative has been a significant step toward ensuring the health and well-being of our students.

## Christmas Celebration



The Christmas celebration at our school was held on the 23rd of December. Rev. Fr. Charles and Fr. Antony from Porur village celebrated the mass, making the occasion solemn and spiritual. Following the mass, students performed a variety of cultural events that showcased their talents and festive spirit. Lunch and gifts were distributed to all the staff and students, adding joy and warmth to the celebration. The school will remain closed for Christmas holidays from the 23rd of December to the 2nd of January 2025.

## St. John's Home

### Students' Outreach Program – Loyola College



From the 24th to the 30th of November, 80 students from Loyola College's Chemistry and International Studies departments stayed at our St. John's campus as part of their curriculum activities. During their stay, they conducted various engaging activities for our students while simultaneously gaining valuable experiences and learning from them. The program culminated with a cultural performance by our students, which was well-received and highly appreciated by the Loyola students. This exchange was a wonderful and enriching experience for everyone involved. A heartfelt thank you to the professors and students of Loyola College for their participation and support.

### Christmas Program at St. John's Home



On Saturday, the 21st of December, the students of St. John's Home celebrated a vibrant and meaningful Christmas program. The event was organized by Rev. Fr. Charles, Assistant Priest Fr. Berna, and Bro. Kabilan. The celebration featured a variety of cultural events that brought joy and festivity to the occasion. The program began with a prayer song, followed by the blessing of the infant Jesus and the crib by Rev. Fr. Charles and Fr. Berna. During the celebration, gifts, clothes, and bedsheets were distributed to all the students and staff. Special thanks to Mr. Dirk Portier from Belgium and Mr. Prabhu from Facilio for their generous support in providing gifts for the school staff and students, as well as for St. John's Home.

### True story



Dear Friends,

I am Kishore, currently studying in the 11th standard at Dr. R. Arulappa Higher Secondary School, Neerpair, while staying at St. John's Home. My native village is Periya Thatchur, near Tindivanam, next to Chingleput District.

I have two younger brothers who are studying in the 7th and 9th standards at a government high school. In my village, the school facilities are available only up to the high school level. My father passed away five years ago, and since then, my mother has been the sole breadwinner of our family. She works as a daily wage labourer, but during times of natural calamities, her work becomes uncertain, and we often struggle to afford food.

After completing high school, it became difficult for my mother to support my higher education. One of the villagers recommended St. John's Home, and with their support, I was able to join and continue my studies. Here, I am not only receiving a good education but also enjoying the stability of three meals a day and a supportive environment.

With the help of the WE group; I am confident that I will be able to pursue my university degree and achieve my dream job. I am deeply grateful for your unwavering support and kindness. Your love and care have enabled students like me to live with dignity and hope for a brighter future.

Thank you, dear Pappa, and all my friends, for your generosity. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Success story

My Dear friends,

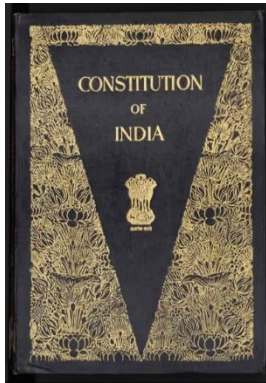


I am Suba from Pazhavur village nearby Neerpair and a member of our WE group. I strongly believe that my success story finds you all in good health and joyous mood of Christmas. First of all, I thank and proud of my WE group as it has given me good education and leading me in growth of my life. My parents are not that much educated and they go for daily wages. I have one sister and both of us completed our school education in Dr. R. Arulappa Higher Secondary School. After that my sister and myself pursued our college studies in Vidhaya Sagar Women's college with the help of Rev. Fr. Dr. John Suresh and our kind hearted sister Nandhini Krishnan. I studied Bachelor Degree of Computer science (B.Sc.) and I completed successfully. Then I pursued my higher studies in BL (Bachelor of Laws) and I am about to finish my studies in Laws next May 2025. Since I secured good percentage of marks in B. Sc, I got admission in Laws in government college in merit and I need not pay much fees. At this juncture I would like to thank Rev. Fr. John Suresh, and Ms. Nandhini Krishnan who have dedicated themselves in providing good education for the poor and needy people. Of course I must specially thank our Loving Pappa Mr. Johannes Mispagel and all our friends from Germany and Europe who help us through Rev. Fr. Dr. John Suresh and Ms Nandhini Krishnan. I am very happy to say that next year I will be a lawyer. Once again I sincerely thank each and every one of you for helping me to achieve this success. I also wish you on behalf of my family "MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025." Thanking you.



## Editorial Desk

### 75th Constitution Day - India



In India, from beginning as mere traders to eventually ruling all of India, the English employed a series of harsh and exploitative measures to seize the country's wealth and dominate its people. However, the relentless freedom struggle, which gained momentum in the late 19th century, ultimately culminated in India's independence in 1947. The journey from seeking dominion status to achieving complete independence was marked by continuous and determined efforts by freedom fighters against British Crown rule.

As the fight for independence intensified, the British proposed that India drafts its own constitution. Recognizing the enormity of the task, they suggested Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a distinguished economist, jurist, social reformer, and political visionary, as the ideal candidate to lead this monumental effort. In line with the British Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, the Constituent Assembly was formed to draft the Constitution of India. Dr. Ambedkar, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, played a pivotal role in shaping the document that would define the nation's democratic framework. Over a period of 2 years and 11 months, the Assembly held 11 exhaustive sessions to discuss and finalize the draft constitution.

Dr. Ambedkar was deeply committed to uplifting marginalized communities, including the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs). He believed that true equality could only be achieved by incorporating special provisions for these communities within the constitution. Through his vision, he ensured that the document upheld social justice, individual dignity, and equality for all citizens. On November 26, 1949, the fully drafted Indian Constitution was formally adopted—a momentous occasion now celebrated as Constitution Day across the nation. This living document has empowered generations of Indians with rights, freedoms, and the promise of equality.

As we mark the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution this year, I feel immense pride and gratitude for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, whose foresight and tireless efforts granted us the privilege of living with dignity under a framework that protects and uplifts us all. Today, we honour his legacy with a heartfelt salute, acknowledging that we stand tall because he laid the foundation for a just and equitable India. I feel immense joy and pride in proclaiming to the world that we stand here today with dignity and equality because he was there to lay the foundation by framing our Constitution.

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*Christmas is a season of joy, love, and togetherness – a time that unites families, friends, and*



*loved ones near and far. It brings not only happiness but also a heartfelt opportunity to remember and reach out to those dear to us, even if we cannot be with them in person. As we celebrate this blessed season, we wish you and your loved ones the peace, joy, and love that Christmas symbolizes. "May the joy*

*that filled the world at the birth of Jesus Christ be found in your home."*

*May the Infant Jesus lighten your burdens, strengthen you in times of need, and guide you in every aspect of your life. On this Christmas Eve, we fondly remember Rev. Fr. John Suresh, praying for his blessings to touch each of our lives.*

*We Wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025.*

*We pray that God may shower his abundant blessing and keep you all in his providence all through this year*



*Rev Fr G Backia Regis,  
Rev Fr Charles  
Ms. Nandhini Krishnan &  
Editorial Team ( Shravanti &  
Nivi)*