

# Holy Rosary Shrine

Karumathampatti, Coimbatore

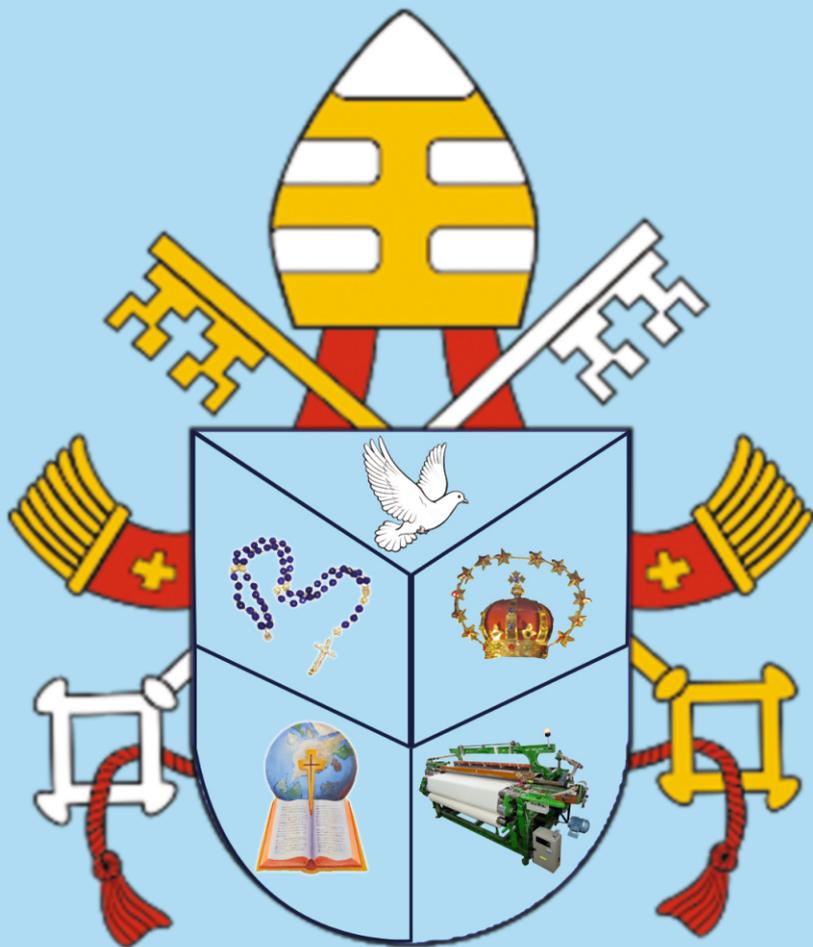


## Church Built in 1840



# Holy Rosary Shrine

Karumathampatti, Coimbatore



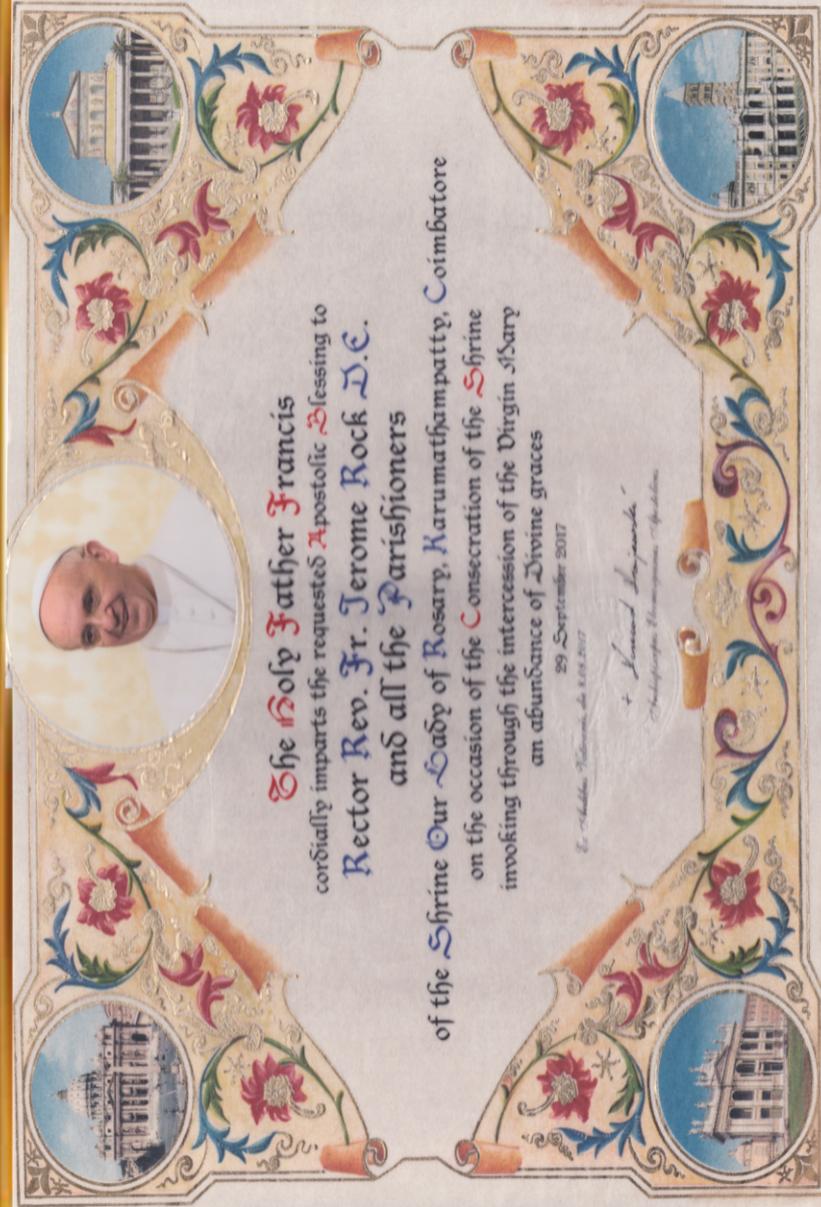


**His Holiness FRANCIS**



**Most.Rev. Dr. L. Thomas Aquinas**

**Bishop of Coimbatore**



The Holy Father Francis  
 cordially imparts the requested Apostolic Blessing to  
 Rector Rev. Fr. Jerome Rock D.C.  
 and all the Parishioners

of the Shrine Our Lady of Rosary, Karumathampatty, Coimbatore  
 on the occasion of the Consecration of the Shrine  
 invoking through the intercession of the Virgin Mary  
 an abundance of Divine graces

29 September 2017

† Leonard Jayaram  
 Parish Priest, Karumathampatty, Coimbatore





**The Holy Sanctuary**

## **Contents**

<b>Foreward</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Bishop's Message</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Map</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Administration and Evangelization of Coimbatore Diocese</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>The Bishops of the diocese</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>History of the Church of Our Lady of Rosary, Karumathampatti</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Indian Priests of the Shrine</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Miracles of Our Lady of Rosary at Karumathampatti</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Devotion and Pilgrims</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Evangelization</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Charitable activities</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Consecration of the New Church</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>The activities of the shrine</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Future Plans</b>	<b>41</b>

## FOREWORD

The Shrine of Our Lady of Holy Rosary is situated 27 Kilometers from the town of Coimbatore in a quasi village called Karumathampatti, in the Diocese of Coimbatore. The village Karumathampatti has a rich history with its origin tracing back to 1640. In 1640 Sathiamangalam, which is about 35 kilometers from **Karumathampatti**, was an important Catholic centre from which the light of faith spread around in Kanavakarai, Pasoor, Vaniputhur, Puthambadi, Karumathampatti, Mettur and Kuthalpur. In 1666 Kanavakarai was divided from Sathiyamangalam into a separate district with the following sub stations; Visapoor, Yellaimangalam, Kalipatti, Moudouporai, **Karumathampatti**, Valipalayam and Yerakalipalayam. Some years later, with **Karumathampatti** as a centre, a third district was formed including the following sub stations Somanur, Vettupalayam, Kombaikadupudur, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris.



It is amazing to learn that already in 1640, the church at Karumathampatti, dedicated to Our Lady of Rosary, became a pilgrimage center. Different kinds of people were living there. Among them, the weavers formed an important part of the catholic community. They embraced Christianity as early as 1662. History says that St. John De Britto visited this church and offered mass on three occasions between 1676 and 1683. The evangelization by the Portuguese Jesuit Missionaries and Paris Foreign Missions Society had strengthened the faith of the people of this area. They also developed the devotion to Our Lady of Rosary. In 1710, Karumathampatti became a permanent residence of the missionaries.

The Church at Karumathampatti faced lots of struggles and persecutions. During the invasion of the king of Mysore in 1684, the church was destroyed. The church was rebuilt as soon as the war was over. The church was once again destroyed during the Muslim invasion, by Tipu Sultan in the year 1784. Only after the British army defeated Tipu's army and captured the area, people

could live peacefully. It became easier to the missionaries to approach the government for any favors or demands

In 1803, Fr. Dubois MEP obtained from the British government, a large plot of land for the construction of a church as well as for the development of the society. He drew a plan for a new church but unfortunately he could not build it. Fr. Gnanapragasam, an Indian priest, built the church according to the plan and instruction of Fr. Dubois, in 1840. That church remained intact for a long time. It was a small church with a fort in front. Still lots of people visited this church during the feast of Our Lady of Rosary as well as throughout the year. People from Ottacamund, Salem, Mysore and Mumbai visited this church regularly in large numbers. Since the number of pilgrims increased day by day and the church was not sufficient for them Fr. Maria Muddiappan, a diocesan priest, extended the church, keeping the old sanctuary as it was. The church was consecrated in 1995.

Though the newly extended church was 20 years old, the roof of the church was in bad shape. It was repaired twice. The number of pilgrims increased all the more. There was a dire need for a large new church. It was planned to retain the old sanctuary, but when the front portion of the church was demolished, the sanctuary fell by itself as it was very weak. Hence, in consultation with the Bishop of the diocese and the people of the shrine, a plan was drawn for a new and large church. With the help of the Diocese, Propaganda Fide, Paris Foreign Mission Society and the generous contribution of the devotees and parishioners, a new church was constructed in 2017 by the Rector of the shrine Fr. R. D. E. Jerome, a diocesan priest. It was consecrated on 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 by five Bishops, in the presence of the Bishop of Coimbatore Most Rev. Dr. L. Thomas Aquinas D.D., D.C.L

The church is built in Roman Gothic style. It is 140 feet long and 60 feet wide. It could accommodate more than 1500 people. The holy relic of St. John the Evangelist is fixed in the altar. The Assumption of our Blessed Mother, all the sacraments and the Queen ship of Mary are painted in the domes, above the

altar and in the Rosary tower respectively. The pictures of the four evangelists are painted under the dome. The Stations of the Cross are made of glass mosaic. The pictures of 12 apostles and that of the saints, who worked in India and Tamilnadu, are painted in the front dome and bell towers, in front of the church. The statue of Our Lady of Rosary with a golden crown is placed in the middle of the sanctuary. The Tabernacle is placed in the prominent place in the middle of the sanctuary with complete security. There are also statues of Our Lady of Rosary. Our Lady of Vellankanni, St. Joseph, St. Antony and Divine Mercy. In general people are very happy with the new church.

I respectfully acknowledge the initiative of our Bishop in bringing out this booklet and thank him most sincerely. His keen interest in the development of the shrine and very specially in elevating this shrine into a Minor Basilica is admirable. I also thank him for his constant guidance and support to do my ministry in this shrine enthusiastically.

The shrine or Holy Rosary has always been a center for prayers, petitions, favors and blessing from 1640. It is also a cradle of faith for our Christians and a center for evangelization. Numerous non Christians come to this shrine regularly and get favors from our Blessed Mother. They give an open testimony to it. Our Blessed Mother attracting millions of people to this shrine is a proof for all the miracles she does to her children. I cordially welcome all the devotees to this historical and popular shrine of Holy Rosary.

We, the Bishop, clergy, religious and the laity of the diocese of Coimbatore eagerly wait for the day of the elevation of this shrine into a Minor Basilica. May Our Lady of Rosary intercede for us to her Son and bring us all the graces and blessings.

**V. Rev. Fr. R. D. E. Jerome**  
Rector, Shrine of Our Lady of Rosary  
Karumathampatti  
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Devotion to Rosary was started in the year 1208 in the Church of Prouille. The claim of place and time are most strongly supported by the tradition of the Dominican order. Pope Leo XIII affirmed over and over the Dominican origin of the Rosary and in a letter to the Bishop of Carcassone in 1889, he accepts the tradition



of Prouille as the place where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic revealing this devotion. The tradition that Mary first revealed the Rosary devotion to St. Dominic is supported by 13 Popes.

The battle of Murat was fought in 1213 between the Catholic forces, led by Simon de Montfort and the Albigenses forces, led by Raymond of Toulouse. The Catholic forces were in the habit of praying the Rosary, at the suggestion of St. Dominic. The Catholic force won the battle of Murat, looked upon the victory as miraculous and counted it as a fruit of prayer. The first chapel in honor of the Rosary, was built, out of gratitude, by Simon de Montfort in the town of Murat.

On October 7, 1571, member of the confraternity of the Rosary in Rome processed praying the Rosary for a blessing on the Christian fleet fighting the Turks at Lepanto. Pope St. Pius V, a Dominican, joined them and God revealed to him that Mary had, at that hour, obtained a glorious victory for the Christian fleet. This great victory saved Europe from the Mohammedan Peril. This day is celebrated as the feast of Holy Rosary.

Each time the Blessed Virgin has appeared, whether it is to meet Bernadette Salubrious at Lourdes; to Lucia, Jacinta and to Francisco at Fatima or to Mariette Beco at Benelux, she has

asserted the importance, saving grace, and the power of praying the Rosary on a daily basis. Based upon her words the Rosary is used as penance and for conversion of sinners, a pathway for peace, and end to war and a powerful act of faith in Jesus Christ, Pope Paul VI presented the Rosary as a powerful means to reach Christ, "Not merely with Mary, but indeed, in so far as this is possible to us, in the same way as Mary, who is certainly the one who thought about him more than anyone else has ever done."

Cardinal Newman wrote "The great power of rosary consists in the fact that it translates the creed into prayer. Of course, the creed is already in a certain sense, a prayer and a great act of homage towards God, but the rosary brings us to meditate again on the great truth of His life and death and brings this truth close to our hearts."

This great devotion to rosary was brought to our diocese right from 1640 by the missionaries. Jesuits of Madura Mission were the first ones to sow the seed of faith in the region. They were staying in Kanuvakarai , near Sathiamangalam, which is about 35 Kilometers from Karumathampatti. Then MEP missionaries took up the mission of spreading the faith. Quite a number of people embraced Christian faith and as a result in 1640 Karumathampatti already became a pilgrim center for the devotion to rosary. From then on lots of miracles take place here and people bear witness to it. It was the first cathedral of the diocese and the first Bishop of Coimbatore Msgr. Marion de Bresillac was consecrated in this shrine. The second Bishop was also consecrated here. Then cathedral was shifted to Coimbatore after a new Church was built there

The church of Karumathampatti has a big history behind. There were Muslim invasions twice and the church was

destroyed. But the people kept up their faith and the church was rebuilt. The statue of Our Lady was preserved (buried under the earth) by the people at the time of wars. That statue is still there in the church. People take this statue in a procession during the feast. So people have great devotion to Our Lady of Rosary. Lots of miracles take place there. People of all religions visit this shrine and pray to Our Lady of Rosary and receive favors. The feast of Our Lady of Rosary is celebrated on the first Sunday of October every year and concourse of people from the diocese, region and nation come to the feast. Novena to Holy Rosary is conducted for 9 weeks and there is grand celebration of 9 days with special preaching, prayers, car procession and there is a grand cultural program on the last day. The Bishop stays in the shrine for the last three days of the feast. The cultural program is arranged precisely to propagate faith. People of all religions attend the program.

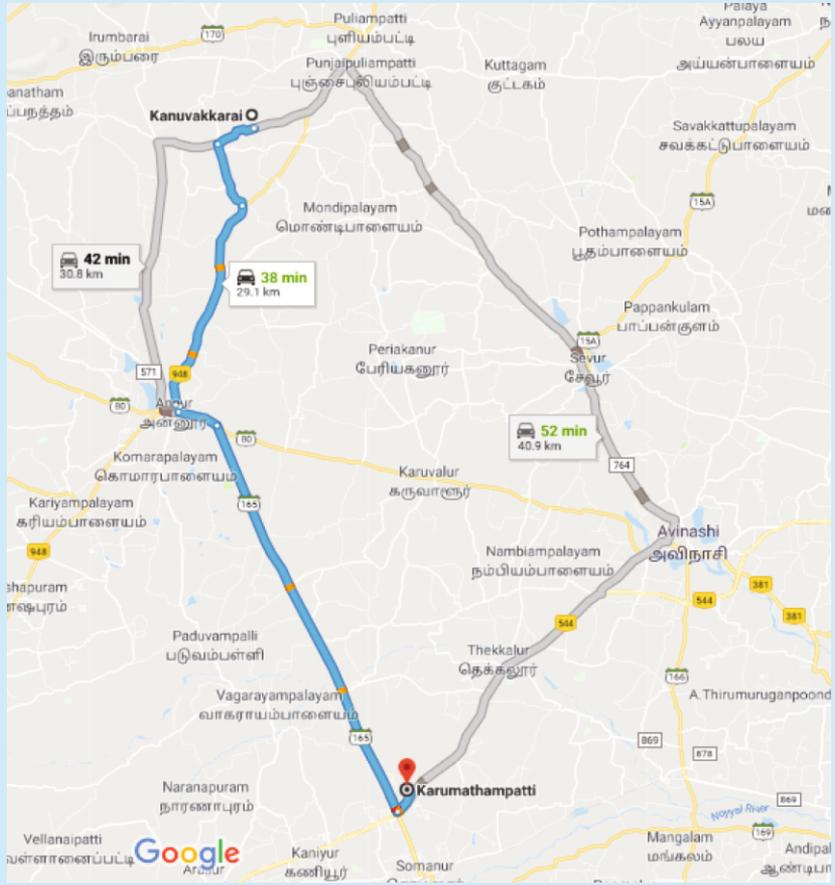
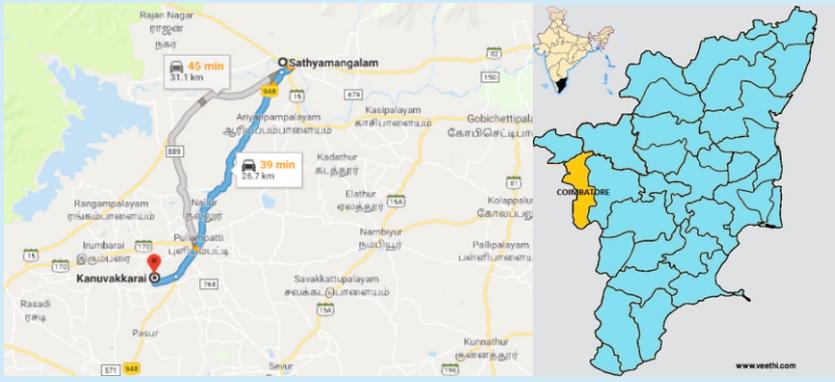
The number of pilgrims coming to the church increases day by day. So there was a dire need for a big and spacious church. So a new church was built and consecrated on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 by 5 Bishops. It is the desire of the Bishop, clergy, religious and the laity that such an old church of 378 years and a popular one in the region and nation should be elevated into a Minor Basilica. Hope this desire and dream will come true soon.

I appreciate the Rector and the parish priest who take lots of efforts to cater to the needs of the pilgrims, to evangelize the people of other faith and to develop the shrine. I am pretty sure that this book let would give a clear picture of the history, development of the shrine and the devotion of the people.

**Dr. L. Thomas Aquinas M.A., Ph.D.,**

Bishop of Coimbatore

# 1. MAP OF MISSIONARY JOURNEY FROM SATHYAMANGALAM, KANUVAKARAI TO KARUMATHAMPATTI



## **2. The Administration and Evangelization of Coimbatore Diocese**

South India, including the province, which now constitutes the Coimbatore Diocese, was Evangelized by the Portuguese Jesuit missionaries of that mission. Prominent among them were Fr. Robert de Nobili SJ in 1606 – 1656 and St. John de Britto SJ in 1675 – 1693. In 1775, by a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda, the mission of Coromandal and Malabar, known as the Carnatic Mission, was transferred from Jesuits to the Society of Paris Foreign Mission.

Fr. Dubois MEP, the well known author of "Customs and Manners of India" was one of those valiant pioneers. He became so popular that the people used to call him "the great prince of Mysore" or the "piraboo (noble) of Karumathampatti". Fr. Pacreau MEP and Fr. Goust MEP were the first missionaries of the Paris Foreign Mission to reside permanently at Karumathampatti in 1836. Fr. Luguet MEP presented a plan to the propaganda and proposed Coimbatore as a separate Vicariate. This was accepted and sanctioned by the Sacred Congregation on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1845. However Coimbatore remained a Pro Vicariate till 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1850. When it was erected into a Vicariate Apostolic, Msgr. Melchior Marie Joseph Marion de Bressillac MEP was elected Bishop of Prusa and Pro vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore and was consecrated at Karumathampatti on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1846. He shifted his headquarters from Karumathampatti to Coimbatore in 1850. He resigned his See in 1855. As the election of a new Bishop was pending, Msgr. Bonnand MEP, Vicar Apostolic of Pondicherry, administered the mission of Coimbatore from 10<sup>th</sup> July 1855 to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1857. In

1857 Fr. Metral MEP was elected Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore but unfortunately he died before the news reached him. Then Msgr. Godelle MEP was appointed as Administrator of Coimbatore. (He was consecrated at Karumathampatti on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1857.) Msgr. Claude Marie Depommier MEP was elected Bishop of Chrysopolis and Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore and was consecrated at Pondicherry on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1865. The construction of the Cathedral of Coimbatore, started by Msgr. Melchior de Bresillac MEP in 1850, was completed on a reduced plan and consecrated by Msgr. Depommier MEP on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1867. He led the diocese till 1873. He died in the house of the Jesuits Fathers at Nagapatnam on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1873. His remains were brought back to Coimbatore in 1883 and buried in the cathedral.

Msgr. Joseph Bardou MEP was elected Bishop of Telmesse and Vicar Apostolic of Coimbatore on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1874. He was consecrated at Coimbatore on 23<sup>rd</sup> August the same year. The hierarchy was established in India by Pope Leo XIII on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1886. The Vicariate Apostolic of Coimbatore was erected into a diocese and Msgr. J. Bardou MEP, hitherto Bishop of Telmesse became the first Bishop of Coimbatore. The first Diocesan Synod was held at St. Michael's Cathedral, Coimbatore, on 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August 1891. Msgr. Bardou died on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1903. Fr. Denis Peyramale, Parish Priest of Coonoor, was elected to succeed him but died on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1903, a few days before his consecration. During the vacancy of the See, Fr. Noel Rondy, Vicar General, administered the diocese. On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1903 Msgr. A. Roy MEP was elected Bishop of Coimbatore and consecrated on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1904. He led the

diocese till 1931. On 12<sup>th</sup> January 1931 he announced his resignation to his clergy. Mgr. L. Tournier, successor of Mgr. Roy was elected on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1932 and was consecrated on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1932. He resigned his See on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1938 and died in St. Martha's Hospital, Bangalore, on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1938. He was buried in the Cathedral of Coimbatore. On 8<sup>th</sup> of March 1938 Fr. L. Bechu was elected Vicar Capitular as the election of a new Bishop was pending.

On 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1940, a priest from the arch diocese of Pondicherry-Caddalur, Fr. Bernadeth Ubagarasamy, was elected and consecrated on 5<sup>th</sup> of July as the first Indian Bishop of the diocese of Coimbatore. He led the diocese till 1949. He died on 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1949 in Salem on his way to Pondicherry and was brought to Coimbatore and buried in St. Michael's Cathedral. Fr. Francis M. Savarimuthu, a local priest of the diocese, was elected as the Bishop of his own diocese on 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1949 to succeed Bishop Ubagarasamy. He was the first native priest to become the Bishop of Coimbatore. He was consecrated on 26<sup>th</sup> of April 1950. His reign lasted for 22 years and he died on 23.11.1971 and was buried in the Cathedral. In 1972 Fr. Visuvasam, a priest from the arch diocese of Madurai, was elected as the Bishop of Coimbatore on 26.02.1972 and was consecrated on 03.05.1972. He led the diocese for 7 years and died in Belgium on 02.06 1979 and his body was brought to Coimbatore and buried in the Cathedral on 10.06 1979.. Then Bishop Ambrose, who was the priest of the diocese of Coimbatore, was elected as the Bishop of Tuticoron on 30.08.1971 and was consecrated on 28.10.1971. He led the diocese of Tuticorine for 9 years and was transferred to

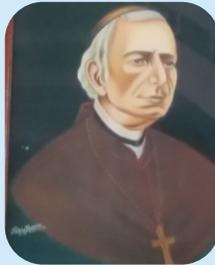
Coimbatore. He took charge of the diocese of Coimbatore on 15.01.1980. He led the diocese for 22 years and got retired in 2002. He died on 15.11.2009 and was buried in St. Michael's Cathedral. In the year 2002 the present Bishop Thomas Aquinas was elected as Bishop of Coimbatore from the diocese of Vellore and was Consecrated on 29 08 2002. He is the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Coimbatore diocese.



### 3. THE BISHOPS OF THE DIOCESE



**Msgr. Marion de Bresillac  
(1845- 1855)**



**Msgr. C. Bonnand  
(1856- 1857)  
(Administrator)**



**Msgr. J. Godelle  
(1857- 1864)**



**Msgr. C. Depommier  
(1864- 1874)**



**Msgr. J. Bardou  
(1874- 1903)**



**Msgr. A. Augustine Roy  
(1904 - 1932)**



**Msgr. L. Tournier  
(1932 - 1938)**



**Msgr. B. Ubagarasamy  
(1940 - 1949)**



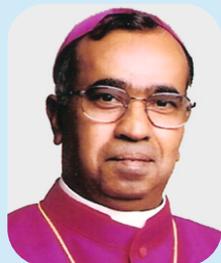
**Msgr. M. Savarimuthu  
(1950 - 1971)**



**Msgr. C.M. Visuvasam  
(1972 - 1979)**



**Msgr. M. Ambrose  
(1980 - 2002)**



**Msgr. L. Thomas Aquinas  
(2002 -**

## **4. HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF ROSARY, Karumathampati**

History says that as early as 1640, the church of Karumathampatti, dedicated to Our Lady of Holy Rosary, became a place of pilgrimage. There were people of different communities residing in the area of Karumathampatti. Chettiars, also known as Sheddars, were weavers and cloth merchants by profession. Many worked on hand looms at home. They formed an important part of the Catholic Community of the Diocese. Many Sheddars embraced Christianity as early as 1662 in the Karumathampatti mission. French missionaries Fr. Noguera and Fr. Pereira were in charge of the Karumathampatti district in 1684. It was between the year 1676 - 1783. St. John de Britto visited Karumathampatti on 3 occasions. In 1710 Karumathampatti became a residence of that mission.

The church was destroyed by the soldiers of the Mysore Rajah in 1684, but was rebuilt soon after. The church was again destroyed in 1784 during the persecution of Tipu Sultan. In 1803 Fr. Dubois MEP obtained from the British Government not only the site of the old church, but also a large plot of land around it and made arrangements for the construction of a new church. Fr. Gnanapragasam, an Indian Priest, built it according to the plan and instruction of Fr. Dubois MEP. The church steeple was erected by Fr. Pacreau MEP in 1840. In 1995, as the church was not sufficient for the pilgrims, an extension was made by Fr. Mudiappan, a diocesan priest and it was consecrated. Since the number of pilgrims increased there was a necessity for a new church and in 2017 a new church was built by Fr. R. D. E. Jerome,

the present Rector and was consecrated by 5 Bishops in the presence of the local Bishop Most Rev. Dr. L. Thomas Aquinas on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### 5. INDIAN PARISH PRIESTS OF THE SHRINE



Fr. Chinnappanathar



Fr. Soosainathar



Bishop P. Arokiasamy



Fr. Chinnayan



Fr. Joseph Prakasam



Fr. Swaminathar



Fr. R. Selvaraj



Fr. M. Manthara



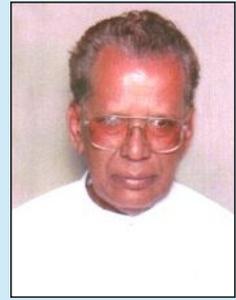
Fr. Dharmanathar



Fr. M.Gurusamy



Fr. Mudiappan



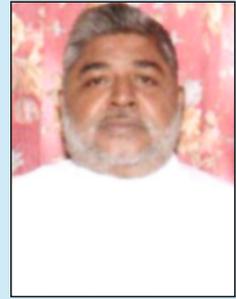
Fr. C.S.Madalaimuthu



Fr. Pancras Joseph



Fr. P. Oubagaram



Fr. M. Oubagarasamy



Fr. R.D.E. Jerome



Fr. P.Irudayaraj



Fr. Stephen Arokiaraj



Fr. R.D.E. Jerome  
First Rector of the Shrine

## 6. Miracles of Our Lady of Rosary at Karumathampatti

- History says that one day a poor Christian widow of Somanur was selling thread to some pagan merchants who, by means of spells, tried to cheat in the weight of her goods. She invoked the holy names of Jesus and Mary and the scale or balance, which, containing the precious thread, came down immediately and justice was done. (From the book of Fr. Bechu)

- According to the oral tradition, at the time of the persecution of Tipu Sultan, the King of Mysore, the Catholics of that shrine realized that King Tipu would destroy the church. They wanted to save the statue of our Blessed Virgin Mary. Hence they took the statue and hid it under the earth. As they expected the church was destroyed. When the king left the place the priest and the people wanted to rebuild the church. After the construction was over they wanted to bring the statue of Blessed Virgin Mary back to the church. When they unearthed, they found the statue intact. They happily brought the statue back to the church and started venerating it. It is still preserved and carried in procession every year on the occasion of the feast of the Holy Rosary. (From the book of Fr. Bechu)



- Our Diocesan magazine "Sarprasadathoothan,, in the

issues October 3, 1993 & October 10 1993, quoted the following incident of Pullupalayam. The Maniakaran (head of the clan) and peasants planned to rob the doors of Karumathampatti church and place them in their Muniswaran Temple because they were special doors made of fish bones. So the carpenters and building contractors met secretly and found a way to detach the door from the church. One night, nearly 60 people went to the church and broke the wall in which the door stood and removed the doors. Since the doors were heavy, each door was carried by 20 people. They placed them in 2 bullock carts and took them to their temple and fitted them there that very night and went back to their homes. On the following day when the 'pusari'(Hindu Priest) tried to open the door he was not able to do so.. The key rotated in the key hole but did not open. The news was sent to Maniakaran (Head of the clan). He came and ordered the people to break the lock. Even after breaking the lock they could not open the door. The people tried to open the door with huge stones but failed. The people got frightened and many left the village. Those who remained in the village died of diseases. The door remained closed. Since the people left the village and abandoned the temple the doors were stolen by some thieves and sold. The temple remains abandoned till today and this story is very prevalent in the village even today.

- A boy of 12 years of age fell seriously sick. His parents took him to many doctors and gave various treatments in Erode town. ( 80 K.M.



from karumathampatti ) Finally they took him to a famous hospital in Coimbatore. After checking the boy the doctor said the boy was attacked by a serious sickness and it has reached the final stage and he would not be able to save his life. He added that he might die anytime and asked the parents to take him back home. When the parents were taking the boy back home to their city Erode, on the way they visited the shrine of Our Lady of Rosary since they knew that lots of miracles took place in that shrine. They placed the boy in front of the statue of Our Lady of Rosary and said "Either save the boy or you take him yourself. We will not take the boy home". As they were praying, the limbs of the boy moved and after sometime he got up and asked for food. When food was given he became alright and started walking. They thanked Our Lady of Rosary and took the boy home. This same boy, after 45 years, came to the shrine and bore witness to the public. He is a living witness today



- A staunch woman devotee of Our Lady of Rosary was admitted in the hospital for child birth. The time came for delivery but had no pain came. The doctor waited for sometime and finally said that caesarian surgery should be done immediately, without delay. Otherwise both the mother and the child would die. The girl said that Our Lady of Rosary would give her a safe and normal delivery. The time went on but there was no sign of labor pain. Doctor advised that if they waited for some more time there would be danger for the life of mother and child. So the doctor and the parents

persuaded the girl to accept for the surgery. Half heartedly she accepted. As she was taken to the operation theater, she asked her mother for a rosary and kept it on her stomach and prayed to Our Lady of Rosary and immediately she got the labor pain and had a safe and normal delivery. She also bore witness to the public very recently



- A woman, who did not have a child for 12 years, came to the shrine and prayed fervently to Our Lady of Rosary that she should have a male child on the following year just as Blessed Mother has one in her arms,. As she prayed she got a baby boy on the following year and brought the child to the shrine and bore witness.



Thus on first Saturday of every month people come and bear witness to the favors they receive.

## 7. Devotion and Pilgrims

The devotion to Our Lady of Rosary started already in 1640. Devotees from all parts of the diocese and the neighboring dioceses and states come to this shrine at Karumathampatti with great faith and devotion. Fr. Metral MEP, the missionary, writes "Karumathampatti district is the most important of the mission. It is the leading centre which gives the tone to all other districts. People gather from all parts of the vicariate on the



occasion of the feast of the Holy Rosary, for the parochial feast of the church of Karumathampatti.



### Saturday Devotions:

On all Saturdays there are 3 masses and Novena at 6.15 am, 11.00 am and 6.15 pm. After the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> mass there is a car procession. Devotees from all parts of the diocese take part in the mass and car procession.

On first Saturdays, after the first mass at 8.00 am, there is a half a day fasting prayer, special preaching, witnessing, healing session, adoration and mass (from 9.30am to 2.00 pm). More than 500 people attend the fasting prayer every month and lunch, which is sponsored by devotees, is served to all. Four priests hear confessions. Many people make a good confession.

### Marian Feast celebrations

On all Marian feasts, like 15<sup>th</sup> August, Feast of Assumption, September 8<sup>th</sup>, Birthday of Our Mother, 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 7<sup>th</sup> of October feast of Our Lady of Rosary, there is a special and grand celebration, prayer and car procession on the streets. Lots of people take part in it.

## 8. Evangelization

- A monthly magazine, called "Jebamaliyee Jeyam" (Rosary is Victory) in Tamil, is published from the shrine. Different articles on Mary, Bible, sacraments, family life and themes for the



liturgical seasons are written by famous writers and by the people. There are about 650 annual subscribers. The parishioners and pilgrims and people of other religions buy the magazine from the shrine boutique. Nearly 1000 copies are sold.

- A hymn album (CD ), containing devotional songs, was produced by the shrine and sold to all the people.
- Steps are taken to promote the devotion to Rosary and Christian faith through schools, orphanage and college which are functioning in the Church campus. where students of different religions study. There are 2 schools consisting of 800 and 500 children 1 orphanage with 150 students and a College of Education with 80 students.
- There is a Marian arch at the entrance of the village which bears witness to our Christian faith. All passersby, irrespective of religions, look at Mary and say a prayer.
- A cordial relationship is maintained with the people of other religions. It helps us to have a dialogue with them. At times they call the priests to their homes for prayers and blessings. They participate in the fasting prayer meetings of First Saturdays. Invariably the whole village attends the Feast of Our Lady of Rosary in the month of October. Many people of other religions come to the shrine throughout the day and light candles in front of the statue of Holy Rosary and pray. They get lots of favors and bear witness to it.
- We arrange a Bible Exhibition and people of other religions visit the stalls and we explain to them about Bible.



- As the disparity of cult marriages become common, steps are taken to convince the non Christians to get converted to Christianity.
- On the second Sunday of the month, the Sunday mass of the shrine is telecasted on Madha TV (our Regional Catholic Channel)
- On the previous day of the parochial feast a grand cultural program is conducted in the shrine with Christian themes in the form of dance and drama. Quite a number of non Christians attend the program. Thus we propagate our faith.
- Prayer meetings and anbiyam (Small Christian Community) meetings are conducted in the house. On many occasions we could see the neighbors of other religions attending the meetings.
- During the three days of our feast, when concourse of people come to the church we arrange a big stall in the ground precisely to propagate our faith. A prayer group of our diocese, called "Jireh" takes in charge of this activity with help of the diocesan director of Prayer groups.
- A Marian Museum is kept in the Shrine. Explanations are given to the people about different apparitions of Mary.



## 9. Charitable activities

- An orphanage is run by the diocese in the shrine for the total and semi orphans and for the poorest of the poor. It is a great help for the people of this area. The past students of this institution are in a good position in the society. Recently a platinum jubilee was celebrated and the past students participated in large numbers showed their gratitude and love for the institution.
- A dispensary is run by presentation sisters. Many poor people are benefitted by it.
- The contribution of the people through Lenten dumb box is distributed to the poor students as education scholarship.
- Medical aid is given to the people through the diocese with the recommendation of the parish priest.
- Free medical camp is arranged now & then. An awareness is created for job opportunities and blood donation.
- Vincent de Paul Society organizes to distribute rice to the poor families



every month, Arrangements are made to supply coffins for a cheap rate to the poor people. Goats are given freely for the maintenance of poor families. Steps are taken to supply wheel chairs to the physically challenged. Every Sunday a small amount of money is given from the shrine boutique to the poor, as alms.



- The houses belonging o the shrine shrine are given to the poor for a very minimum rent.
- People are encouraged to bring offerings in the mass which are helpful to the poor people like toilet things, towels, dresses, note books etc and distributed to the needy.
- During the season of advent various things are collected from the people and given to various groups like home for the aged, orphanages, polio center, home for the children of the prisoners by our youth group conduct a cultural program to share the joy of Christmas
- Our legionaries visit hospitals visit and pray for the sick. They extend also some help to the most deserving cases.
- Special collections are made and given to the people suffering from natural disasters like flood and draught.
- Our Shrine parishioners contribute a good amount of money, whenever priests from other parishes come for collections for the construction of a new Church.
- Some of our Parishioners contribute on monthly basis to the African Mission Society (SMA Congregation)

## **10. Consecration of the New Church**

Since the old church was not in good condition and not enough for the parishioners and pilgrims, a need arose for a new church. A wider consultation was made with the people and with their consent and suggestion, a plan was drawn for a new church which was approved by the Bishop.

The foundation stone was laid on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015 by the Bishop of Coimbatore in the presence of Superior general of the presentation Convent, Superior General of St. Michaels Brothers, MP (Member of Parliament), MLAs (Members of Legislative Assembly) a great crowd of pilgrims, Parishioners and well wishers of other religions, during the feast of Our Lady of Rosary. Help was received from the diocese, propaganda fide and MEP congregation. Major contribution was made by the devotees, in kind and money. The consecration took place on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Four Bishops, along with the Bishop of Coimbatore consecrated the church and lot of people from different states of the nation participated in the celebration and it was grand.

The following special things were released from the shrine on the occasion of the consecration of the new Church.:

### **From the Indian postal Department**

- A special first day cover, with and without first day cancellation was released
- Postal stamps, with different colors and designs, having the image of Our Lady of Rosary church were also released
- A permanent pictorial cancellation for our post office was also introduced and released by the Post Master General of Indian post, Tamil Nadu circle, in the presence of the Bishop of

Coimbatore and other four Bishops. From that day onwards the image of Our Shrine is used for the postal cancellation everyday in the post office at Karumathampatti. It is a milestone, a great record in the history of the shrine.

According to the statement of the Post Master General himself, it is very rare to release all the three at one time.

So this is a great recognition given to the shrine of Holy Rosary, Karumathampatti, by the Government of India. Hence it has a national popularity and recognition.

### **From the Shrine**

- A small statue of Our Lady of Rosary which is special to this Shrine, was made for the first time and was released on that occasion. So far people had only the picture of Our Lady of Rosary. Now a small statue is available to them to pray.
- A Hymn album (CD) called "Anbu Thai Mari" (Beloved Blessed Mother) prepared for this occasion, was also released. It contains 11 songs and is very helpful to the people to pray.
- A special Rosary, having the picture of Our Lady of Rosary of Karumathampatti after each decade, prepared specially for the shrine, was released
- A souvenir of the consecration, consisting of the history, activities of the shrine, some articles and the photos of the consecration, was also released.
- The model of the new Church, made in Crystal was another item that was released on that day.



**Reception  
to Bishops**

**Releasing of  
Stamp &  
First day cover**



**Releasing of  
Permanent  
Pictorial  
Cancellation  
by  
Indian Government**

**The Relic of  
St. John the  
Evangelist**





**Traditional  
Welcome  
given to  
Bishops &  
Priests**

**Priests  
Gathering  
in front of the  
New Church**



**Blessing  
of he  
Main Door**

**People's  
Participation  
in he Consecration  
of the  
New Church**





**Anointing  
of the  
New Altar**

**The Choir**



**Blessing  
the New  
Tabernacle**

**The Final  
Blessing**



# Special Releasing on the Consecration Day



The Crystal Model of the Church



The Statue of O.L.of Rosary



Audio Album



Souvenir



Rosary of O.L. of Rosary

# 11. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SHRINE

## a. Parish council

The parish council was formed in 2014. It consists of 40 members having the parish priest as the president and the coordinators of Basic Christian communities and nominated members. The parish council meets at least once in two months and on special occasions. All the major decisions are made there.



## b. Pious Associations

The following pious associations are formed in 2014



Liturgy committee



Prayer group



Legion of Mary



Vincent de Paul Society



Youth Girls



Youth Boys



Catechism Teachers



Daughters of Mary



Alter servers

### c. Campus:

The campus of the shrine has

- St. Peter's College of Education,
- St. Mary's High School,
- St. Mary's R.C. Model School,
- St. Mary's Home for boys,
- Marriage hall,
- Rooms for pilgrims
- Marian Museum
- Convent
- Dispensary
- St. Michael's brothers
- Boutique
- Marian Grotto



### d. Mass timings

Sundays : 8.00 am and 5.30 pm

Weekdays: 6.15 am and 6.15 pm

Saturdays: 6.15 am, 11.00 am, 6.15 pm

First Saturdays: 8.00 am followed by half a day fasting prayer,  
01.00 pm and 6.15 pm

### e. Celebrations

Christmas, Epiphany, Pongal, Easter, May 31<sup>st</sup> Corpus Christi,  
Assumption of Our lady, Birthday of Mary, Feast of Our lady of  
Rosary, Mission Sunday, Bible Sunday, all Marian feasts.



Pongal



Mission Sunday



Christmas



Corpus Christi



Marian Feast

## 12. Future Plans

- Plans are drawn to extend the area of the shrine and it will be done soon
- More rooms and basic amenities will be provided for the pilgrims.
- Suggestions are given for closed retreats and counseling centers for the pilgrims.

- Soon a Center for Evangelization will be opened for the faith formation for the devotees and people of other religions.
- A shrine exhibition will be available for the devotees very soon.
- Steps are taken to propagate the devotion to Rosary and one hour adoration through Madha TV (Our Lady's TV, a TV channel of the Tamil Nadu Catholic Church,) every month on 3<sup>rd</sup> week.
- Soon a cultural committee will be formed to go around the parishes & institutions to propagate faith and devotion to Mary through cultural program
- Bible, religious books, Rosaries and religious articles will be made easily available to the people in the Shrine.

# Church Built in 1995



# The original Sanctuary of the Church

