



Friends of India

Covid Emergency Appeal



In May 2021 we were in contact with our good friend Fr. Anthony, who is ministering in India and who highlighted just how frightening the situation is in India, and the hardships his parishioners were experiencing due to the Covid pandemic.

Fr. Anthony appealed for our help, with his food and rations distribution of basic foods and hygiene products to the people of his parish.

On 13 May 2021 Cappagh Parish sent a donation of £31,000.00 to Fr. Anthony's Diocese of Simla Chandigarh. Such a large amount of money would not only help Fr. Anthony's parish but the other parishes within his Diocese.

At the beginning of June we received a letter (*enclosed*) from Bishop Ignatius, of the Diocese of Simla-Chandigarh.

In it the Bishop thanks the parishioners of Cappagh for our generosity. After consultation with Fr. Anthony he also gave an indication of how the money would be distributed within the Diocese.

The Bishop promised that regular updates and photos of the good work that was being done with the donation would be forwarded to the parishioners of Cappagh.

UPDATE ON HOW THE DONATION IS BEING USED:

Donation from Cappagh is equivalent to = Rs.31,17,495 (rupee)

- Donations have been given to 28 parishes.
- Fr. Anthony has permission to take whatever he needs for use in his mission station.
- With the help of two religious sisters, Fr. Anthony has completed a Ration distribution to nearly 80 families in his mission station.
- Once lockdown restrictions ease, they will go to the eastern part of his station (about 40 kilometers away) and distribute to the villages there.
- An Emergency Clinic has been set up for people to see a doctor and receive free medication for other ailments.
- Help will be given towards rebuilding the home of a parish Catechist (*pictures enclosed*) which collapsed in heavy rain - he currently is living in one room with his wife and four young children.

Home of the Parish Catechist

Dear Sister Superior,
I am making a humble & sincere appeal for financial assistance to my dear sister, who is presently in a small rented room in a single old building in the parish. I am making a humble & sincere appeal for financial assistance to my dear sister, who is presently in a small rented room in a single old building in the parish. I am making a humble & sincere appeal for financial assistance to my dear sister, who is presently in a small rented room in a single old building in the parish.

Yours truly,
Catechist
12/05/2021.

Financial Administrator
Little Flower Parish



Distribution in Little Flower Parish









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

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Ref. DSC/L 081/2021

Dated: 31.05.2021

Dear Fr. Kevin and the parishioners,

Greetings from Bishop Ignatius Mascarenhas of Simla Chandigarh Diocese, India. My sincere apologies for the delay.

I sincerely thank you for your generous donation of 31667 pounds equivalent to Rs.31,17,495/- and this has been credited to our SBI main account at New Delhi for the less privileged of our Diocese. The said amount was received on 27th May 2021. Without your generous and timely help, we would not be able to give the less privileged a sense of belonging and hope for a better future.

As you have very clearly mentioned, I have consulted Fr. Antony and agreed to use the money to help the poor in the entire diocese with ration for a month or more according to the needs of the family and the situation. Fr. Antony is free to take whatever he requires for his mission station and for his people. As far as I know, he has already started the ration distribution.

My secretary has already sent out a formal letter to all the priests in the Diocese to come up with the names and numbers of very poor families in their respected mission stations. As soon as these pieces of information arrive, the financial administrator will send the money out to their accounts directly. I have also mentioned that they should be sending pictures and videos to me to be forwarded to you and your people.


Part of the money, I am using to make an emergency clinic for people to come and consult a doctor and get the free medication for other health issues. Since the Covid is rapidly spreading, the hospitals are full, many people are staying on the grounds outside the hospitals or even staying in their own cars and receiving the treatment. In fact, many who are having other health issues are not permitted to enter the hospitals and they have no option to seek medication anywhere else.

At this time, a clinic would be very helpful for the people to come and seek medication for other sicknesses.

I would also like to inform you that some amount would be given to one of the catechists whose house has collapsed due to heavy rain and breeze last week. His only earning is his salary which is Rs.17018/- He has requested for some help and we will help him out with your generous contribution. Please find the Parish Priest's letter and the photos attached.

Once again, thank you for your kind and generous support. God bless you all and I pray for you and your people.

Yours sincerely in Christ,


† Ignatius Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla Chandigarh


Ignatius L. Mascarenhas
Bishop of Simla-Chandigarh





LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH PANCHKULA

C/o Catholic Church, Sector 19-A, Chandigarh - 160 019

29th May, 2021

Very Dear Fr. Kevin, Fr. Declan, Fr. Donal, and all the dear people of Cappagh Parish,

I had been busy taking classes on the Eucharist for the Clarist Congregation Nuns in the diocese. This is the reason, I could not write to you earlier.

I can't thank God enough for all that He has done to me through you all over the years. The love and support you have rendered to people facing hardships in this part of the world is greatly appreciated and I want to express my deepest appreciation to everyone involved in this great effort. I am so thankful to have friends like you. Many of you may have made great sacrifices to help me and the people here. Please be assured that this money will be put into good use for the most needed people.

This is a terrible time for all of us here in India even now. The death rate officially reported this morning is 3600, but it is actually much more. Nobody ever predicted its severity and the government was clearly not well prepared for it.

The most affected ones are the poor migrants in my mission station and in other parts of the diocese, who left their loved ones back in their villages in search of a better life here in this part of the world. Most of them are daily workers, lost their jobs, and are housebound. Your help has come at the right time. God has his own plans for each one of us. He worked through you all for these people.

One two days ago, Bishop informed me about the money. He has promised to give me what I need for the people. Rest of the money, he is sending it out to other mission stations where there are lots of poor people and who are equally desperate for help. Bishop is also making an emergency clinic to help people with medication.

Its strict lockdown here at the moment to bring down the rising curve of the covid patients. I managed to get out to a wholesale grocery shop ten days ago and purchase rations for 100 families. I also, by God's grace, managed to get out and distribute it to very very poor families who were first on my list and are well spread in the 60 millometers range distance. I took two of the religious sisters with me for the distribution. Four times, the police stopped us and the religious nuns managed to get through all the barricades through their influence with the police personals whose children study in their schools. Every time, I saw the police, my heart was pumping faster. The police have been given the power to random check anyone for covid symptoms and if tested positive, they can retain you and put you under quarantine anywhere they like. It was risky, but I had to do it. I attach few photographs here in this email. Rest, I will send as I continue the ration distribution.

"THE BLOOD OF JESUS CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN" 1 JN 1:7



LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH PANCHKULA

C/o Catholic Church, Sector 19-A, Chandigarh - 160 019

Tomorrow is Sunday, I will distribute it to some more people. I have asked also our Bishop to ask the priests to take pictures to send to you as they distribute ration in their mission stations. It's just a matter of time when everything will be properly organized.

God bless you all. Once again please accept my sincere gratitude for your help during this great crisis and at this most needed time.

I hope one day some of you will plan to come to India especially when we are free of this virus. Please do not forget to visit my mission station. You are all always welcome here at any time and I could organize a great trip to the Taj Mahal, the Himalayan Mountains, Goa, and the backwater cruises of Kerala. Moreover, you will get an idea of how I work among the most backward people in this mission station.

God bless you, and I pray for you. Please pray for me. Once again sorry to have kept you waiting.

Fr. Manoj Prabu (Anthony)



"THE BLOOD OF JESUS CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN" 1 JN 1:7