

Meet our new Administrator, Rev Fr Irudayam Thamathiruthuvam, sdb



If you walked into our school on any workday, you would have seen a young, vibrant and cheerful priest in the quadrangle or in the corridors checking out things to be repaired or replaced; or you might have seen him having a friendly chat with the boys or teachers.

He is Rev Fr Irudayam Thamathiruthuvam, or Fr Thama as he is fondly called. His kind, friendly and gentle disposition has won him over to our hearts as one who projects the concern and care of youth, which is the message of Don Bosco. This scholastic year has seen every classroom fitted with additional fans at vantage points for maximum benefit. Potted



palm fronds add a splash of green to the quadrangle and assembly stage. With every essential provided, the school and the classrooms present a pleasant ambiance for the students and the teachers. When *The Marian Star* team made it to his modest office, Fr Thama greeted us with a friendly smile and a warm welcome. What follows is the conversation we had had with Fr Thama, our Administrator.

They say that first impressions are the best impressions. What was your impression of our school, when you interacted with the boys and teachers on the first day?

I am very happy to be here at St Mary's. I love to be with the boys and interact with them. It gives me great joy. Spending time with the boys and the teachers gave me the impression that St Mary's is no ordinary school.

Looking around the campus and the infrastructure, do you have any plans that might call for attention in the future?

This school is very old. We must maintain it well. Incidentally, the construction of a canteen is on the cards. The Management and the teachers are discussing various options in the best interest of the students.

On the present-day youth

The present-day youth are not always patient. Seldom do they listen to their teachers and elders. Consequently, they get involved in wrong practices. They may be taught the essential characteristic of obedience to their elders and teachers. We must also tell them about the importance of prayer.

What buoyed you on to become a Salesian?

I joined the Salesians of Don Bosco in 1987 and became a priest in 2005... I like to interact with the youth and help them in their struggles. That is why I became a Salesian priest.

On his favourite dish, book, hobby, game....

"My favourite dish is everything," he says. Perhaps, we may say he is not 'fussy' about his food! And the book that he likes best would be, naturally, "*The Life of Don Bosco*". His favourite hobby? Fr Thama, replies with a gentle smile: "Singing."

His favourite games are hockey and football. When he was young, he was on the school hockey team. Recently, he's taken to volleyball as well.

His message to the students

Students must be filled with godliness. Nevertheless, being good is very challenging these days. Students must be good in life. They must think of God always, i.e., they must be God-conscious.

His message to the teachers

Teachers are hardworking and interested in the well-being of the students. Nevertheless, they should be present with the boys, not only in the classroom, but also outside the classroom. When we are with the boys our relationship will be healthier, and the chances of the boys falling into wrong-doing would be lessened. The boys must be motivated and encouraged to do good.

THE TEAM

Masters Hatheem Ahamed, XI 'B' Talal, XI 'B' Raghuram, XI 'B' Neeraj, XI 'C' Joe Gilbert, XI 'C' Timothy, XI 'C' Syed, XI 'C'

TO GOA, WITH LOVE...

The day arrived, and we arrived
In the morning at Goa.
The weather was good
As I stood
On the golden sands of Goa.

I played a game
It was not the same,
Way back in Chennai.
Here it was green



So nice and clean
With such beautiful weather!
That brought our family together
To share love and respect
And good times with each other.
We took home memories
Of Goa, with love.

Y. Mohammed Sabir
Std XII 'C'



PRIMARY SECTION SPECIAL ASSEMBLY
ON PATRIOTISM