

Mariadas Thomas, SJ
(1922 - 2012)

Dr Mariadas Thomas passed away at about 6.30 p.m. on 15th June 2012 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul. He was 89. He hailed from a traditional Catholic family in Malayadipatty of Trichy diocese. He joined the Jesuits at the age of 20. After his ordination, he was the assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Madurai.

He taught for two years at St. Xavier's High School, Tuticorin and then became the warden of St. Mary's Hostel, Dindigul. From there he went to Carmel High School, Nagercoil as its Superior and Headmaster. For two years he was the Socius to the Novice Master at Beschi Illam, Dindigul. For three years he was the Headmaster at St Mary's, Madurai and later he became the Headmaster at St Mary's School, Dindigul. He was sent to Andhra to serve as the Headmaster in Vinukonda High School. For 11 years he was the Chaplain to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pondicherry. From there he came to Beschi Illam where he spent his last years.

The funeral was held on 16th June. Fr. Provincial presided over the Eucharist. The younger sister of Fr. Mariadas, a Sister of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception, was present. In his funeral homily, Fr. Stephen Gaspar, Vicar Forane and pastor of Kosavapatty, who knew Fr Mariadas well, related how he had taken Fr Mariadas, a few days before his death, to his ancestral home in Malayadipatty which he had not visited ever since his entrance into the Society of Jesus.

It was an emotional moment for Fr Mariadas and tears rolled down his cheeks. After the Eucharist the body was blessed by Fr. Maria Ignaci, Director of Punitha Thoma Pastoral Centre of Dindigul diocese. The eternal rites at the cemetery were performed by Fr. Stephen Gaspar of Dindigul diocese. May the soul of Fr. Mariadas rest in peace.

- Xavier Mampra, SJ