



**REV. FATHER**

**Jose Pallikunnath**

**S.D.B.**



**Born at**

**MANNALUR, TRICHUR Dt.**

**KERALA**

**On 28th March, 1944**

**Died on 29th November 1986**

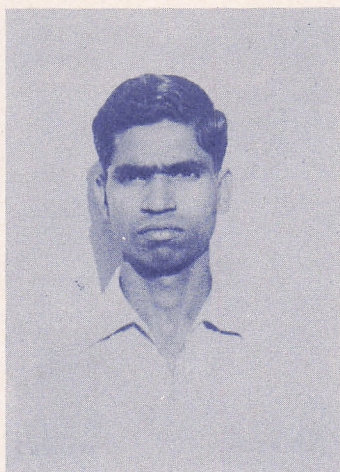
**at**

**LITTLE FLOWER HOSPITAL**

**ANGAMALI, KERALA.**

**R. I. P.**

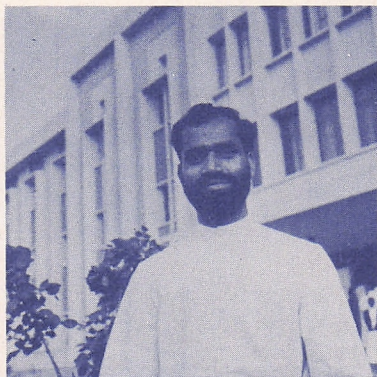




ASPIRANT  
1958 - 1964

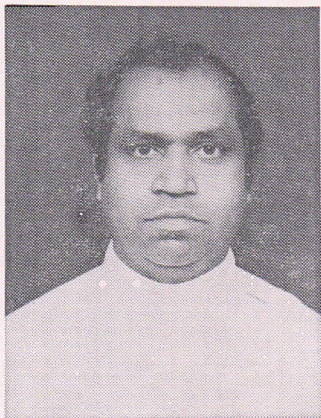
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STUDENT OF THEOLOGY  
1971 - 1975  
BANGALORE



PROFESSION AT SUNNYSIDE : 18.04.1965

*In Loving Memory of*



REV. FR.

**Jose Pallikunnath,**

S.D.B.

**Born** : 28.03.'44 at Mannalur, Kerala  
**Professed** : 18.04.'65 at Shillong.  
**Ordained** : 21.12.'74 at Irinjalakuda, Kerala.  
**Died** : 29.11.'86 at Angamali, Kerala.



*“The memory of departed confreres unites, ‘in a love that will not pass away’, those who are still pilgrims with those who are already resting in Christ.”*

(Const. 54)

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Merciful Father,

hear our prayers and console us. As we renew our faith in your Son, whom you raised from the dead, strengthen our hope that our departed brother Jose Pallikunnath, who shared in your Son's priesthood, will share in His resurrection, Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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CHRIST KING COLLEGE  
SHILLONG 793 003  
MEGHALAYA

19th March 1987

**My dear confreres,**

The Lord called Fr. Pallikunnath Jose (P.P.) to his eternal reward on 29th November 1986. He was just 42 at his death. His death came as a shock to all of us, especially as it came after reports about his improvement. He celebrated his last Mass on Wednesday 26th November. Since then he was not feeling too well; he found difficult to retain any food; he was having nausea continuously and his blood pressure was constantly high. On 29th November 1986, Saturday morning, Fr. P.P. Jose expressed his desire to go to Angamali Little Flower Hospital, to undergo dialysis to his cousin brother Devassy. His cousin brother arranged for a taxi and around 9 a.m. they started for Angamali from Trichur. They reached Little Flower Hospital at Angamali at about 11 a.m. His cousin brother noticed that Fr. P.P. Jose's condition had deteriorated very much. So he was rushed to the casualty ward, where a doctor was immediately summoned. He found Fr. P.P. Jose in a critical state and advised to call a priest. He was given the anointing of the sick, and expired soon after that. He was conscious upto the last moment, in fact he asked what day it was, the date and the time. The death certificate of the Little Flower Hospital states "Rev. Fr. Jose brought to the casualty in a very serious condition this morning around 11 a.m. Patient expired after a few minutes". Thus the sufferings of the past six months came to an end for Fr. P.P. Jose.

## **THE FUNERAL**

Father Provincial and I reached Don Bosco Bhavan, Mannuthy on 30th November, Sunday at about mid-night. Next morning together with some of the confreres from Don Bosco, we went to Fr. Jose's house at Kandassankadavu. The body was kept in his



brother's house where he had been staying since September 24th last. There was continuous stream of people coming to pay homage to Fr. P.P. Jose and to pray for his soul. Around 10.30 a.m. Father Provincial together with the priests, the religious and the faithful present, started the Funeral Service in the house. The mortal remains were taken in procession to the parish church, St. Mary's Forane Church, Kandassankadavu, and the solemn office of the dead was celebrated, with 24 other priests, who had known Fr. Jose personally or who had worked in Kandassankadavu parish. After the service the body was taken in an ambulance to Don Bosco Bhavan, Mannuthy. Fr. Rector of Don Bosco had sent the Don Bosco School-bus to take the mother and other relations of Fr. P.P. Jose. Other vehicles were also provided to take all the priests to Mannuthy.

The funeral mass began at the chapel of Don Bosco Bhavan at 2 p.m. Bishop of Trichur Rt. Rev. J. Kundukulam was the main celebrant, upto the end of the liturgy of the Word, with Bishop of Palaghat, Father Provincial and other priests as concelebrants. At the end of the liturgy of the Word, the bishop left to attend the Kerala Bishop's Conference at Ernakulam that evening.

After the Holy Mass, the body was taken to the cemetery. During the funeral oration Father Provincial spoke of some of the outstanding qualities of Fr. Jose. He was a great devotee of our Blessed Lady, of St. Joseph and of Don Bosco. He was a healer who cared and nursed the sick confreres while at the Provincial House, and later sick seminarians at CKC. He was a man of peace. By 4.30 p.m. his mortal remains were laid to rest.

## **FUNERAL MASS AT CHRIST KING COLLEGE**

Fr. K.J. Thomas, the dean of studies of this seminary, organised a requiem mass here at Christ King College, on 1st December. The mass was celebrated at 2 p.m. to coincide with the funeral mass at Don Bosco Bhavan, Trichur. His Grace, the archbishop of Shillong was the main celebrant, with twenty priests as concelebrants. The seminary auditorium was packed with religious and faithful from all over Shillong.



In his homily, His Grace expressed his sentiments of gratitude to God, for the work that Fr. Jose had rendered to the seminary, and so to the eight dioceses of the region. Fr. K.J. Thomas, in his introduction to the mass, expressed the profound sense of loss that each and every member of the seminary felt at the passing away of Fr. Jose. In the prayer of the faithful the seminarians spontaneously brought to the notice of the worshipping community those virtues and qualities of their departed superior which touched them most, and prayed for the repose of his soul.

### **FATHER P.P. JOSE'S SICKNESS**

On July 19th towards evening, Fr. Jose told me that for the past 3 or 4 days he was having constant headache and had very little sleep. Besides, he was having nausea and his ankles were swollen and very painful. So, we went to the Nazareth Hospital and he was immediately admitted as he was suffering from very high blood pressure. After various tests Sr. (Dr.) Angelis informed Father Provincial on 12th July, that we should take Father Jose to Calcutta, as she suspected kidney disorders.

Arrangements were made by our confreres in Calcutta especially by Fr. T.P. George, the Provincial Economist of Calcutta, to have Fr. Jose admitted at Belle Vue Clinic. And on 16th July Fr. Joseph Thelekkatt (T.M.) took Fr. Jose to Calcutta. He was taken straight to the Clinic and admitted there. Further tests at Calcutta revealed that both his kidneys had stopped functioning, that the only possible cure was through a kidney transplant; and we were informed that it would be best to take him to Vellore. Father Provincial asked Fr. Joseph Nellanatt to go to Calcutta from Shillong, and to accompany Fr. Jose to Vellore.

Fr. Nellanatt went down to Calcutta on 21st July and he took him to Vellore on 30th. Fr. C.T. Lukose joined them from Madras to Vellore. Father Lukose had made previous arrangements at CMC Vellore for Fr. Jose admission there. So that on 30th July, on his arrival at Vellore, he was admitted at CMC. Father Lukose remained with him for some more days, while Fr. Nellanatt had to come away, in order to attend classes in the University. At CMC they put him on dialysis in order to bring down his blood urea



and to stabilise his condition. Once his blood urea was brought down to the near normal level, Fr. Jose was given dialysis twice a week, and he was on restricted diet.

On 3rd August Father Thomas John of Tangla reached Vellore to look after Fr. Jose and Fr. Lukose started back on his journey to the Province on 4th August. The doctors advised that his relations should be contacted to find donors for the kidneys. They wanted 3 donors out of whom they would chose the healthiest and the most suitable donor to donate a kidney. His elder sister who is a nun came forward first, but she was found unsuitable because her blood group was different from that of Fr. P.P. Jose. Next his elder brother Paulose, who is a bachelor, came forward. In the beginning he looked a suitable donor, but later tests showed that he had beginnings of diabeties. Further attempts at getting a suitable donor from among his blood relatives were not successful.

In this delicate situation Fr. P.P. Jose himself suggested that he would like to try Ayurvedic treatment, if such treatment was there. His cousin brother who had an Ayurvedic medicine shop in Trichur town, contacted a physician and brought him to Vellore. The ayurvedic treatment started on 4th September. His sister, Sr. Maria SMI, had come down from Bihar on 1st September, to Vellore.

From 20th August Fr. P.P. Jose was discharged temporarily from CMC. He was going to the hospital on Wednesdays and Saturdays for dialysis as an out-patient, while staying at Don Bosco, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore. His sister remained at Vellore to look after him and prepare the ayurvedic medications. After a week of ayurvedic medication there was a marked improvement in his condition, and after 2 weeks of it, Fr. P.P. Jose felt so confident that the dialysis was stopped. On 24th September he was taken home for continuing the Ayurvedic treatment.

Initially the results were very encouraging, so much so he was planning to return to Shillong about the middle of November. But slowly problems began to crop up. He lost his appetite, nausea began to reappear as well as his blood pressure. Still he did not consider these as danger signals and his physician was optimistic of a total cure. Then about the middle of November he



had an attack of jaundice, which made him weaker still. His health declined day by day. On November 29th he was rushed to Little Flower Hospital Angamaly. But even before he could be treated, he passed away peacefully.

## **LIFE SKETCH**

Fr. Jose was born on 28th March 1944 of Porinchu Pallikunnath and Elia, at Manalur near Kandassankadavu. His father was a man of deep piety, he spent long hours praying in the church in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Hence it was no wonder that one of his six sons become a priest, and two out of his three daughters became nuns. The homilist at the funeral mass attributed Fr. Jose's priestly vocation to his father's faith and prayer life. Mr. Porinchu longed to see his son a priest. But his desire was not to be fulfilled, seventy days before Fr. Jose's ordination he died of heart attack. His mother Elia too is a woman of piety and resigned to God's Holy Will. She lost her husband in 1974, her third son Vareed died in 1984 due to cancer and now she lost her priest son. But in all these sufferings and trials she is resigned to God's will.

After completing his studies upto standard VI at Kandassankadavu, he joined the aspirantate at Bandel on 13th March 1958. He was known to his companions for his friendliness, joviality and for his ability to bring peace and harmony among them. Even from those early years he was of a very peaceful disposition. He did his aspirantate at Bandel, Sonada and Siliguri. He made his noviciate at Sunnyside from 16th April '64 to 18th April 1965, with late Fr. Joseph Bacchiarello as his Master of Novices. On 18th April 1965 he made his first profession. He did his philosophical studies at Sonada. There we, his companions, knew him as a lover of books and reading. He learned from Fr. Joseph Verzotto the Dewey system of cataloguing library books. During the winter holidays both Fr. Verzotto and he would be called by various houses of the two Provinces of Calcutta and Gauhati to put the books of their libraries in order.

The first two years of his practical training were spent at St. Paul's Seminary, Upper Shillong, whereas the final year of his practical



training was at Don Bosco, Shillong, looking after the Salesian Brother aspirants. He did his theological studies at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore, from June 1971 to March 1975. During the fourth year of his theological studies, he was ordained a priest at Don Bosco, Iringalakuda on 21st December 1974. He celebrated his First Mass the following day at his home parish Church. His only regret on that day was that his father, who loved him so much, was not with him to share his joy.

The first assignment he was given as a priest was to be the warden of Stephen Hall Hostel, at Shillong. Hardly after a year he was asked to take up the responsibility of the Provincial Secretary, in June 1976. That was the year when Sacred Heart Theological College was being reopened at Shillong. So we find Fr. P.P. Jose accepting the additional responsibility of being the Administrator of the newly opened theologate for some months. He remained as the Provincial Secretary till 1983. From 1983 onwards Fr. Jose was in the Community of Christ King College, Shillong, as Administrator. He was truly for this community a man of peace and serenity, always ready to oblige any one. Besides, he was a man who suffered a lot silently. This aspect of his character was noticed by us only during his sickness. Doctors say that he must have been suffering from kidney troubles for the past 9 years at least. Yet he never complained, never looked for exceptions from the community life. Like St. Joseph he suffered in silence.

## CONCLUSION

Before I conclude this letter, I would like to thank all the confreres and communities who looked after Fr. Jose. I extend my sincere thanks in a very special way to the confreres of Provincial House, Calcutta, St. Joseph's Home, Katpadi, Don Bosco Orphanage, Gandhinagar - Vellore, and Don Bosco Bhavan, Mannuthy, who all helped Fr. P.P. Jose in various ways trying to lessen his pain. His mother and his dear ones looked after him tenderly during his illness, especially during the last two months of his life. May God bless them all.

As many confreres have said, "we miss Fr. P.P. Jose or 'P.P. Sar', as we used to call him. We find it difficult to believe



that he is no more. We miss his pleasant company, his soothing words 'don't worry man' ". May his soul rest in peace. May the sacrificial life and death of Fr. P.P. Jose obtain the grace of Salesian vocation for many young men.

Yours fraternally in Don Bosco,

FR. FRANCIS CHEERAMBEN, SDB  
Rector

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#### **FOR NECROLOGY**

FR. JOSE PALLIKUNNATH

**Born :** at Mannalur, Trichur, Kerala, on 28 March 1944

**Professed :** at Sunnyside, Shillong, on 18 April 1965

**Ordained :** at Iringalakuda, Kerala, 21 December 1974

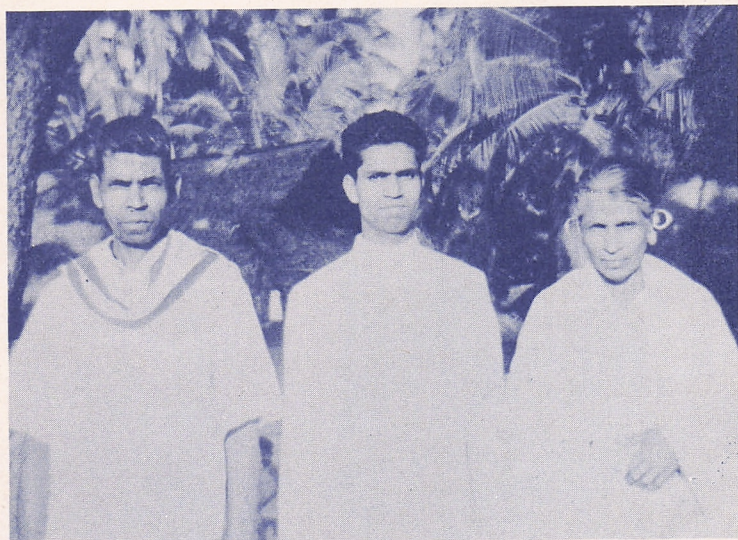
**Died :** at Angamali, Kerala, 29 November 1986

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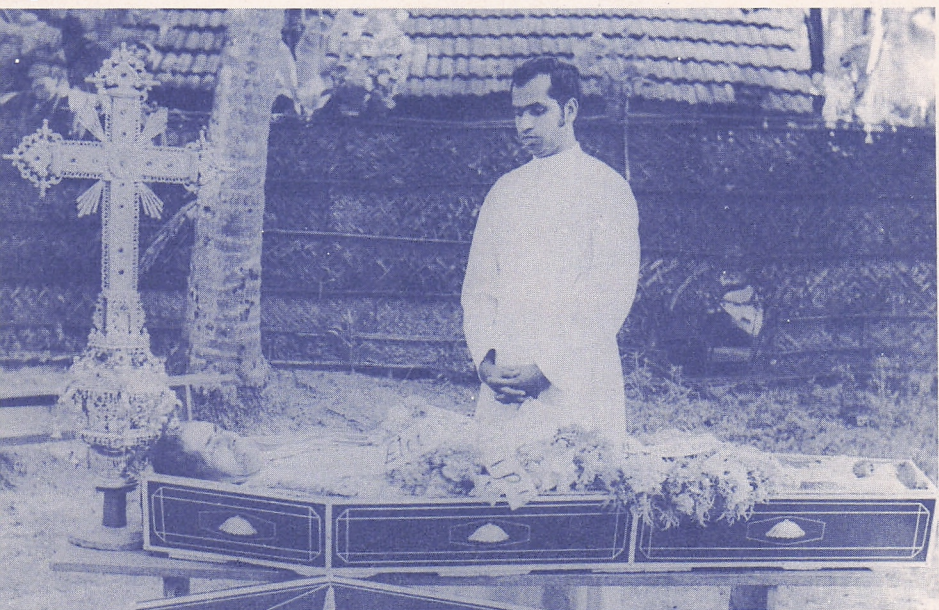








WITH HIS PARENTS AS A CLERIC



DEATH OF HIS FATHER : 14.10.1974



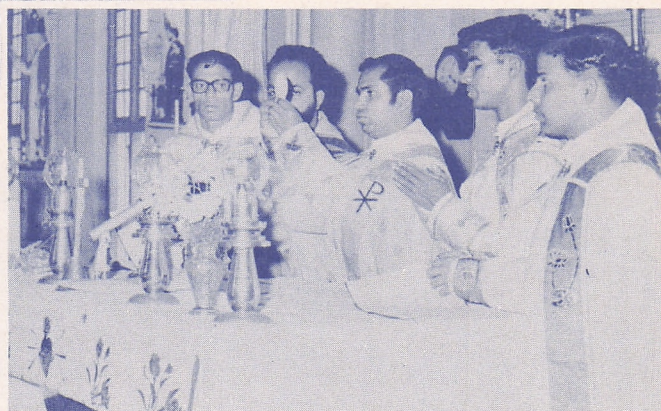


## ORDINATION

at

Don Bosco Irinjalakuda

21.12.1974

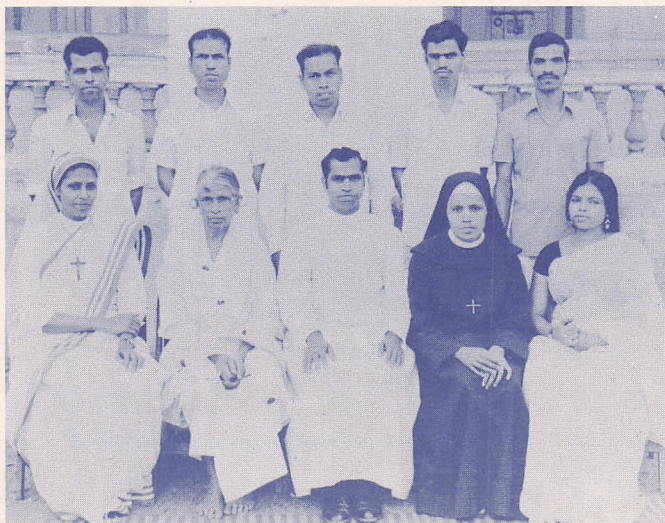


## FIRST MASS

at his Parish Church

in Kandassankadavu

22.12.1974



With his Mother  
Brothers and Sisters  
on the occasion  
of his Ordination  
and Mass.