

# Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625 203

## Happenings of March 2026

Dear Well-wishers,

**Greetings from RTU.** Firstly, I want to send my blessings and good wishes to you this Easter and wish you a joyful weekend. Thank you to all of you who have generously supported us during Lent. We send our heartfelt gratitude to you for your kindness and compassionate support. As usual, we have some happy news to share with you.

### International Women's Day celebrations



On 8<sup>th</sup> March, we celebrated International Women's Day for the women who belong to our Self-Help Groups bringing together around 350 women representatives from 28 rural villages. Mrs Shanthini, advocate and founder of SVEST Trust, talked about women's legal protection and their access to the justice system. The celebration also featured games, community songs, cultural performances, and a unity pledge, reflecting the strength and solidarity of women's Self-Help Groups. Fr Antony and the chief guest distributed prizes and mementos to the winners.



On the following day, we held a special International Women's Day celebration for all the foster mothers and wardens. This day-long programme featured a vibrant mix of fun games, an engaging conference, and various recreational activities.



In the evening, we gathered at the Rajagopalan Auditorium to commemorate International Women's Day. All the children in our care and at our schools honoured our women teachers and staff members, whose daily dedication and strength serve as a constant source of inspiration. A particularly moving highlight was the special recognition of Mrs Latha Mangeshkar, Mrs Chandra and Mrs Lakshmi, who were honoured by Fr Antony ahead of their retirement this May. Mrs Eric and family from Australia and Mr James from the UK were the chief guest for this function. The programme also featured an inspiring address by Mrs Gnanambal, who spoke of the "good hearts" of our female alumni who have come forward to support the children currently under our care.

## Hotels' Students Academic Milestone Celebration



Following the successful completion of their rigorous Higher Secondary Board Examinations 42 of our 12<sup>th</sup>-standard students in our care from David, Velankanni, and Rotary hostels have officially concluded their school journey with RTU. It was heartening to witness the students reunite with their relatives, departing for their native villages with a deep sense of accomplishment. We carry immense pride in their progress and extend our warmest wishes as they step forward into their future careers and higher studies. The results of the exams will be announced in May, when we will help them gain places at various colleges, and sponsor them until they graduate.

A total of 83 12<sup>th</sup> standard students sat their 12<sup>th</sup> Board Examinations, including the day scholars living locally, and 91 students sat their 10<sup>th</sup> standard Exams.

### A farewell ceremony for Mrs Devi

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, the Childcare Department hosted a poignant farewell ceremony to honour Mrs Devi, the warden of Velankanni Girls' Hostel, as she concluded an extraordinary 26-year legacy of service at RTU. She first came to RTU in 2000 with her 2 children as a foster mother, and then became a warden looking after the older teenaged girls in standard 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. The event was a testament to her profound impact, as staff from various departments gathered to offer tokens of love and heartfelt gratitude for her decades of dedication.



### School Sports Day



On 18<sup>th</sup> March, Nirmala Middle School hosted a vibrant annual sports day where the children had a lot of fun and displayed much enthusiasm. The event concluded with an inspiring address from Fr Antony, who commended all the participants for their spirit and sportsmanship. He presented prizes to 45 winners, celebrating their achievements and the collective success of the school.

And then, on 20<sup>th</sup> March, St Peter's & Arul Malar Primary and Higher Secondary Schools held their Sports Day commenced with a parade led by the school band, set against a backdrop of colourful flags. The lighting of the Olympic torch officially opened the games on the school's

newly developed, professional-grade track. Students showcased remarkable versatility and grit, competing in everything from high-energy football and basketball matches to strategic rounds of chess and carom. The day concluded as a resounding success honouring 443 prize winners for their outstanding achievements.



### Medical Care – and the launch of our new dental service



On 13<sup>th</sup> March, we inaugurated a new dental clinic at our Pushparani Medical Clinic. This vital healthcare initiative was spearheaded by Dr Bala Barathi, a dedicated local dentist who will

now hold a free clinic for the children and local village people every Friday afternoon. To support this expansion, we have equipped the clinic with a professional dental chair and the necessary instruments to provide high-quality treatment for up to 25 patients every visit.

This month, a comprehensive BMI check-up was conducted at St Peter's and Arulmalar Primary Schools. Of the 436 children assessed, 113 were identified as underweight, 287 as normal weight, and 36 as overweight. We have initiated the necessary follow-up protocols to address these findings and support the health requirements of these students.



We also held a free physiotherapy camp in G. Thummalapatti village providing specialised care to 115 residents. The initiative addressed diverse conditions ranging from osteoarthritis, pain and paralysis earning sincere gratitude from village leaders for its significant community impact. To ensure clinical continuity, 26 patients were referred to our main physiotherapy unit for ongoing rehabilitation,

marking the event a resounding success in accessible healthcare.

## Community Development

### Women Celebrate Completion of Tailoring Course



On 10th March, a ceremony was held at RTU's JK Hall to celebrate the completion of the mobile tailoring course. A total of 84 women attended the event, including 28 participants each from the villages of D. Vadipatti, Endapulli, and E. Pudukottai in Periyakulam. During the ceremony, Fr. Arockiaraj and Mr. Ragunathan commended the

graduates for their hard work and presented them with their course completion certificates. The women also proudly exhibited their handicrafts, showcasing handmade items such as wire bags, embroidery, and custom-made dresses. Following the graduation, the sewing machines and instructors were moved to begin new training sessions. These upcoming courses will support 106 rural women, including 44 in Jeyamangalam, 32 in D. Vadipatti, and 30 in E. Pudukottai.

### Providing free houses for rural people

This month, we celebrated the completion of two new homes in J.K. Nagar village. The houses were officially inaugurated by Fr Ruban, joined by the beneficiaries and the construction team. The families took great pride in organising the opening ceremonies, marking a joyful transition into their new residences. We are moved by their sincere expressions of gratitude toward RTU and the generous benefactors who made these safe, permanent homes possible.



### Case Study:



Mariaselvi, a 43-year-old mother from Arulanandhapuram, has had a harrowing year. Already grieving the tragic loss of her son in a road accident, her family's stability was further shattered when her husband, suffered a debilitating snake bite while working as a contract

labourer in Kodaikanal. Left unable to work and requiring ongoing medical treatment, he returned to the family - makeshift hut made of rusted metal sheets. This cramped shelter lacked even the most basic facilities, leaving them exposed and vulnerable during the heavy monsoon rains. Despite their hardships, the family's hope remained anchored in their daughter, Therasa, who continues her 12th-standard studies under the care of RTU at our St Peter's Higher Secondary School. Recognising their urgent need, we prioritised Mariaselvi and her family for a new home. This month, that vision became a reality as RTU's construction crew completed a permanent residence featuring a main room, kitchen, verandah, and private toilet. With a heart full of hope, she expresses her deepest gratitude to RTU and the donors for providing this monumental gift of a fresh start.

Our students have successfully completed their public examinations, and we are looking forward to a 100% result this May 2026. The immense potential of our students is a testament to their hard work and the quality education and loving care they receive in our schools. Your kindness shines a light on their path, giving these children in rural areas the strength they need to succeed and the happy childhood they truly deserve. Your great support directly empowers us to create a thriving, safe community for abandoned and orphaned children. Words cannot fully express our gratitude for your compassionate support, which is absolutely vital in helping our vulnerable and disadvantaged students conquer challenges, chase their dreams, and believe in themselves. Your unwavering commitment has made a profound, positive impact on their lives, and we are deeply grateful for the way you help us transform their futures.

Yours fraternally,  
Fr J Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.  
Director