

# Migrant Voice

10 January, 2024

## Manipur Community Embraces Christmas

#Manipur



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# CHRISTMAS JOY UNITES CHILDREN



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# CYCLONE RELIEF SHINES IN COLLECTIVE COMPASSION



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# CHRISTMAS JOY UNITES CHILDREN

**24 DEEMBER, 2023:**  
**DON BOSCO DISPLACED PERSONS WELFARE CENTRE OMR-CHENNAI**

**O**n the afternoon of December 24, 2023, at precisely 4:30 PM, the Don Bosco Displaced Persons Welfare Centre in OMR-South Chennai was abuzz with festive cheer, holding an uplifting Equality Christmas Celebration. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Parthiban, a distinguished Social Activist from MGR Medical



University.

The celebration was attended by sixty children and twenty parents, all of whom revelled in the joyous occasion. A special moment of the event was the presentation of new clothes to nine orphaned children, a heartfelt gesture made possible by the generosity of Don Bosco School Egmore.

The atmosphere was

electric with joy and excitement, further amplified by a lively group dance performance by the students from Ezhil Nagar. The air was filled with the melodious strains of group songs, which resonated with the spirit of the season.

Adding to the festivities, Mr. Parthiban distributed cake to all attendees and extended warm Christmas wishes, further fostering a sense of unity and delight within the community. The event served as a memorable occasion that truly embodied the essence of Christmas, bringing joy and equality to the forefront.



# MANIPUR COMMUNITY EMBRACES CHRISTMAS

15 DECEMBER, 2023

MANIPUR

**A**tendees: ArchBishop of Chennai, Rev. Fr. George Antonysamy and over 100 members from 55 families of the Manipur community

On the joyous occasion of Christmas, the ArchBishop of Chennai, Rev. Fr. George Antonysamy, celebrated this revered festival with the people from Manipur. This marked the first Christmas celebration for the ArchBishop with the Manipur community, an event that was attended by more than 100 people across 55 families.

The event was filled with love, solidarity, and the spirit of Christmas. It commenced with a warm welcome to the ArchBishop, followed by the cutting of the Christmas cake,

symbolizing the joy and sweetness that the birth of Jesus Christ brings to the world. A sense of unity and fellowship was palpable as the cake was shared among all attendees.

In the true spirit of giving that Christmas embodies, gifts were exchanged as a token of love and solidarity. These gestures further strengthened the bonds within the community and with the Arch-Bishop.

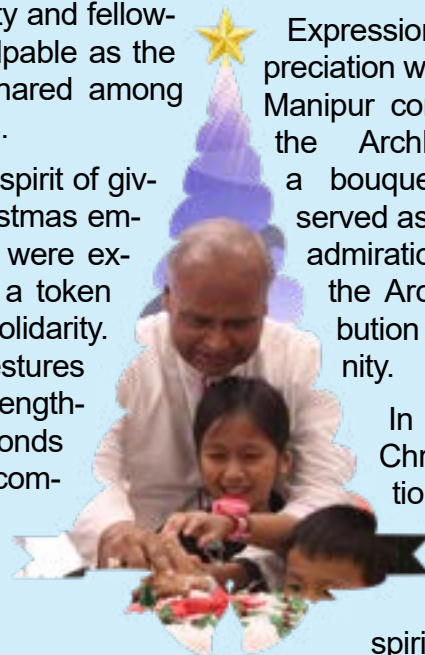
ArchBishop Rev. Fr. George Antonysamy graced the occasion with his Christmas message. His powerful and uplifting words resonated with the attendees, reminding them of the essence of

Christmas and the message of love, peace, and goodwill towards all.

Expressions of love and appreciation were shared by the Manipur community towards the ArchBishop through a bouquet. This gesture served as a symbol of their admiration and respect for the ArchBishop's contribution to their community.

In conclusion, the Christmas celebration was a successful gathering that embodied the true spirit of the season.

It served as a testament to the unity and love within the community, and marked a memorable first Christmas celebration for ArchBishop Rev. Fr. George Antonysamy with the Manipur community.







# MIGRANT CHRISTMAS JOY UNLEASHED

**24 DECEMBER, 2023:**  
**SRIPERAMBATHUR**

**A** wonderful and heart-warming Christmas celebration organized by the Don Boaco Migrant Services team for the migrants at Perumbakkam! It's inspiring to hear about the efforts made to bring joy and a sense of community during the festive season. Here's a summary of the event. The event took place on December 24th and was organized by the Don Boaco Migrant Services team. The main celebrant for the Christmas celebration was Fr. Antony OMI, with Dn. Neelam OMI delivering the homily. Fr. Roshan OMI assisted them during the event. The celebration began with a holy mass, followed by a short program for the migrants. During the pro-

gram, the OMI Bros. performed dances and sang Christmas songs. The migrants enthusiastically participated in the dance performances. Mr. Deepak delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude on behalf of the migrants, while Mr. Selbestern managed the role of Master of Ceremonies (MC). The event concluded with a chain dance involving everyone present, creating a joyous atmosphere. Approximately fifty migrants from different locations such as Katrambakkam, Oragadam, Araneri, and Mambakkam attended the cel-



ebation. The migrants were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and expressed their happiness and appreciation for the arrangement. Many shared that having the chance to attend a Hindi holy Mass was a wonderful and rare opportunity for them. They expressed a desire for such Christmas celebrations to be organized annually for the migrants. The event not only brought joy and festivity but also highlighted the importance of creating inclusive celebrations for migrants, ensuring they feel valued and connected during significant occasions like Christmas.

# CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT'S DAY-2023



## 17 DECEMBER, 2023: MAMBAKKAM

**O**n December 17th, 2023, the global community came together in Mambakkam to celebrate International Migrant's Day. The event, which was themed "Promoting Safe Migration", was attended by a significant gathering of approximately 140 migrant laborers from various regions including Araneri, Katrambakkam, and Tandalam.z

The attendees were greeted and welcomed traditionally at the grand event held at Sriperumbuddur, under the auspices of the United Nations' International Migrant's Day. The event was presided over by Fr Simolin, Director of Don Bosco Migrant Ser-



vices, and a host of distinguished guests and VIPs.

The central discussion during the event was the critical importance of compulsory registration in the ISM Portal. The attendees were encouraged to complete their registration on relevant welfare portals. The event also aimed to assure the mi-

grants of the support mechanisms in place to safeguard their interests.

The event was graced by the presence of an array of distinguished personalities, who each addressed the gathering and shared their insights on various aspects of migration, safety, and community development.





## GUEST LIST

**Thiru. R. Raja Gopal**, Dy. Acl, Labour Department Kancheepuram, addressed the importance of ISM portal registration and assured workers of departmental support in the event of non-payment of salaries.

**Mr.Perumal, Karthik, and Sudhan**, from the Police Department of Sriperumbudur, assured the workers of their safety and protection throughout their stay in Tamilnadu.

**Thiru. Venkatesan**, VAO of Mambakkam, commended the guest work-

ers for their contribution to regional productivity and development.

**Prof.Dr.Kumaravel**, HOD, Social works Dept, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, shared his views on Safe migration and the importance of saving money.

**Prof. Dr.Arif Rashid**, Faculty, Social works Dept, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, highlighted the importance of unity, acceptance, and appreciation of diversity.

**Dr.John Arokyaraj**, Mgr, Caritas India, spoke about the support mechanisms for the better development of the community and society.

**Thiru. Kaliya Perumal**, from India Labour Line, shared the emergency helpline number for migrant workers.

**Thiru. Haadhithaa K.V.**, from the Unorganised Workers Federation, assured of their support for the betterment of migrant workers in times of emergency.

# CYCLONE RELIEF SHINES IN COLLECTIVE COMPASSION

**11-16 DECEMBER, 2023:**  
**PERUMBAKKAM, KANNAGI NAGAR, PERIYAPALAYAM AND MANALI.**

In early December, the Michaung Cyclone swept through Chennai and the surrounding areas, causing widespread devastation. The cyclone, accompanied by heavy rainfall, resulted in severe flooding, particularly in low-lying areas such as Semmacherry, Perumbakkam, Kannagi Nagar, Burma Nagar, and Sadyankuppam. The residents, primarily settlers in these regions, were forced to evacuate their homes for safer locations. Upon their return four days later, they were confronted with the enormous task of cleaning and restoring their living spaces.

Don Bosco Migrant Services (DBMS), in collaboration with TNUHDB officials and generous sponsors, Ms. Jayalaxmi Amma and Mrs. Nishath ECR, provided significant support to these flood-affected communities.

## **PERUMBAKKAM KANNAGI NAGAR RELIEF EFFORTS**

On December 4, 2023, DBMS distributed essential food packets to 250 families affected by the floods in Perumbakkam. In addition, 1000 loaves of bread were distributed within the Perumbakkam Housing Board area, demonstrating the team's



commitment to providing immediate assistance. This effort was championed by dedicated field personnel, notably Mr. Gopal, and supported by young volunteers. DBMS further distributed 100 prepared food packets in Kannakinagar,

thanks to the sponsorship from Chennai Roti Bank, Mrs. Jayalaxmi Amma, and Rtd. D.G.P. Lathika Charan. The support from these organizations has been instrumental in meeting the needs of the community.





## MANALI SADYANKUPPAM RELIEF EFFORTS

DBMS extended its services to the flood-affected community of Manali Sadyankuppam, with a particular emphasis on the Irular people. The Irular community in Sadyankuppam was subjected to the devastating effects of the cyclone. After the storm, the residents returned to find their homes washed away and filled with debris. A team led by Fr. Simolin, and including Sr. Madhu, Sr. Malliga, and Mr. Macklin, sought to understand the specific needs of the affected residents.

In the spirit of kindness and generosity, DBMS continued its support by distributing 150 food packets to the construction workers at the Manali New Town Construction site on December 10, 2023. Furthermore, on December 12, 2023, DBMS distributed 200 essential food items such as bread, jam, biscuits, and water bottles in Manali, specifically in areas like Sadaiyankuppan, Ernaur, and Burma Nagar. This initiative was made possible through the



generous sponsorship of Ms. Letitia Saran, the Managing Trustee of Chennai Roti Bank, and the invaluable assistance provided by Mrs. Nishath.

On December 16, St. Joseph's School, Assisi Nagar, offered their support. Accompanied by teachers and students, they distributed dry rations and clothes to the affected families. Each family received approximately forty bags. The event was marked by joyful celebrations, with Christmas carols and dances bringing cheer to the people. The involvement of the school's management, principal, staff, and students was

truly commendable.

Further assistance was provided by the Mathur Parish on December 29. Accompanied by the parish priest, Fr. Nambikkai Nathan, and the parishioners, DBMS distributed dry rations worth 750 Rupees to the Irular community.

This report highlights the collective commitment of DBMS, various individuals, and organizations towards alleviating the struggles of those affected by the floods. Their dedication and compassion have truly made a positive impact, and their commitment to providing ongoing assistance is invaluable.

Since the aftermath of Cyclone Michaung our team has been actively involved in providing service to the flood-affected people. From 11.12.2023 to 16.12.2023 with the collaborative efforts of DON BOSCO MIGRANT SERVICES, supported by ZOHO IT Company, we have successfully distributed 3,800 packs of dry groceries to the people of the following places:

This significant distribution was made possible only because of the dedicated work of our field staff, and the enthusiastic participation of our young volunteers. ZOHO IT company's generous sponsorship played a pivotal role in facilitating this impactful initiative, for which we are immensely grateful.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all our supporters who have consistently backed our cause. Together,



er, we are effecting positive change in the lives of those grappling with the aftermath of the floods. Our primary objective was to engage with the residents directly, comprehend their urgent needs, and offer assistance through our Don Bosco Migrant Services camps. Our aim remains centred on providing

essential support, especially to those encountering difficulties in accessing food and basic necessities due to the flood's impact. These interactions and visits underscore our commitment to extending aid and ensuring that the affected individuals receive the vital assistance they require during this challenging period.

## SUCCESSFULLY DISTRIBUTED 3,800 PACKS OF DRY GROCERIES

