

# FUNERAL PROGRAM

**Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

- 11:30 am:** Mortal remains of Fr. Joy arriving at VPH, Lavington.
- 12:00 pm:** Holy Mass at VPH Lavington, presided by His Lordship Bp. David Kamau, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Nairobi.
- \* **Office for the Dead** (in Malayalam language)
  - \* **Eulogy:** Fr. Antony Vadakkemury V.C., Director, VPH Lavington.
  - \* **Message of Condolence:** Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thundathikunnel V.C., Superior General of Vincentian Congregation.
  - \* **Message of Condolence:** Rev. Fr. James Kallumkal V.C., Provincial Superior of Marymatha Province of the Vincentian Congregation.
  - \* **Thanksgiving Message:** Fr. Biju George Moonjely V.C., Regional Superior, SH Region, East Africa.
- 01:30 pm:** Cortege leaves from VPH, Lavington to *Uzima*, Ngong.
- 02:30 pm:** Funeral rites at *Uzima* Vincentian Study House, Olkeri, presided by His Lordship Bp. John Oballa Owaa, Bishop of Ngong.
- 03:30 pm:** Refreshments.

*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."  
(2 Timothy 4:7-8).*



*In loving Memory of*



*Rev. Fr. Joy Luka V.C.*

*Birth: 07-08-1969. Ordination: 02-08-2000*

*Death: 10-04-2021*



## A CELEBRATION OF A JOYFUL LIFE OF FR. JOY LUKA V.C.

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master’” (Matthew 25:23). Today, we believe Fr. Joy is the greatest joy of the master, because what he was entrusted with was multiplied and used in service of the people of God in Africa for the past 21 years as a priest and along with St. Paul, Fr. Joy can say “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, will give me on that day” (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Fr. Joy was born as the 12<sup>th</sup> child of V.T. Luka and Annamma Luka on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1969 in Vellaramkalayil family in Kuravilangad in the district of Kottayam in Kerala, South of India. He received St. Sebastian as his patron saint during his baptism. He was a brilliant student during his school and college days which made him to score always the best results. Thus, he continued his studies until 1990 as he obtained a Bachelor Degree in Physics from Mahatma Gandhi University with a notable rank.

God is never late to call “those whom he wanted to be with him and to be sent out to proclaim the message” (Mk 3:14). In 1991, he received that great call to follow Him and joined the minor seminary of the Vincentian Congregation in *Christunivas*, Thrikkakara. After completing one year of minor seminary, he was sent to do his novitiate at the end of which, he committed himself to the Lord through his first profession in 1993. He was later on sent to Aluva Pontifical Seminary to study Philosophy and where he attained his second Bachelor degree in Philosophy in 1995.

After one year of pastoral experience in Thottakam community, which is the Mother House of Vincentian Congregation, he experienced like St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta a second vocation or ‘call within a call’. It was in the same year that our Superiors, seeing the emerging need of priests in African mission, decided to send few seminarians who have completed Philosophy to continue with their study of Theology in East Africa and later on to be working as missionaries in this land. Thus, 26 years ago, Fr. Joy said ‘Yes’ to the Will of God, having his knees bent in trust and he became the first seminarian from Vincentian Congregation to step into this land of Africa in the year 1995, precisely on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. He began his Theological studies in the then called Salvatorian Seminary, Morogoro in Tanzania and completed his Degree in Theology in the year 2000 and was ready to be ordained as the servant of Christ.

Dn. Joy was ordained a priest on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2000 in his own home parish in Kerala and was later sent back to begin his missionary work in Tanzania. Among the 20 years and 10 months as a priest, Fr. Joy’s commitment to the African soil is very much evident as we briefly see his assignments in various parts of East Africa. As a young newly ordained priest, he was first assigned to St. Vincent de Paul Parish and Vincentian House, Katubuka, Diocese of Kigoma, Tanzania as Asst. Parish priest and Finance in charge. With much zeal and energy, he did a remarkable pastoral work in that parish from the year 2000 – 2003. In 2003, he was transferred to St. Vincent de Paul Parish Vikindu, Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with the same responsibilities of Asst. Parish Priest and Finance in charge of the community of priests. Considering his academic capability, our superiors sent him for higher studies to India and he spent two years from 2005-2006 doing a Post Graduate Degree in Computer Science from Madurai Kamaraj University.

From January – December, 2007, he served as Superior of the Vincentian Fathers in Vikindu, Dar es Salaam. He then moved to Kenya in his first assignment in St. Theresa’s Parish Church, Kalimoni in December, 2007 as Parish priest and served the people of God and the Archdiocese of Nairobi for 3 years before he moved to Uganda. In 2011, he was appointed as Superior and Finance in charge of the community of Vincentians in Entebbe and served there till 2013. His superiors saw his pastoral zeal was admirable and was sent back again to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Katubuka, Diocese of Kigoma, Tanzania as Superior and Parish Priest. During his 4 years of service there in the diocese, he was also elected as Dean of the deanery of Kigoma. In 2017, he moved again to Uganda to Vincentian House, Kabulassoke, Diocese



of Masaka as Asst. Director of the Retreat Centre and Finance in charge. It was from there, that in 2019, he was appointed to Vincentian Prayer House, Lavington, Nairobi as Asst. Director. He did an outstanding contribution in the past two years of service in this place of worship until the Lord called him two days ago.

Fr. Joy Luka VC is our elder brother, the one who introduced African mission to us, his younger ones. He led us through his great insights and visionary life. He was a man of prayer, wide range of reading habits which always influenced his preaching ministry. His eloquence in English, Swahili and Malayalam has always surprised us and also treasured an immense amount of Word of God in his memory. He had his own way of preaching the Word of God and making the message of the Gospel enter into the people of God. He spent hours in listening to people in counselling ministry and always readily available for the sacrament of reconciliation. He always tried to make his name ‘Joy’ more meaningful by being joyful in his appearances and ministry as we can see him in most of his pictures and he is an inspiration for all of us to have an inner joy even in the midst of difficulties and pains.

Fr. Joy was admitted in M.P. Shah hospital on 23<sup>rd</sup> March due to respiratory issues which was developed due to covid-19, and the situation became worse since Easter Sunday when he was put on ventilator support. In spite of all the available medical assistance, his situation did not improve until he left us at 9.15am on Saturday, 10th April, leaving us all in great pain.

St. Paul reminds us, “If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord” (Romans 14:8). It is our strong belief that his passing on, on the Saturday in the Octave of Easter has a great meaning and encouragement for us that He lived for the Lord and died for the Lord and a clear indication that He belong to the Risen Lord. Let us continue to offer our prayers for the departed soul of Fr. Joy and support one another with our prayers.

*Eternal rest grant unto Fr. Joy, O Lord.....and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May Fr. Joy's soul rest in Eternal peace..... Amen.*

