

Reaching The Unreached

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

Happenings of April 2026

Dear Well-wishers,

Greetings from RTU. During April, all our school children were busy sitting their annual exams. They have now broken up for the summer holiday during the hottest month of May and will be returning to our schools at the beginning of June for the start of the new academic year.

Computer skill training for the children



On 20th April, we started special summer training in computer skills for the children who are with us all year round as they have no relatives to stay with during the summer holidays. The training sessions are focussing on fundamental computer operations, such as Word and Excel. This has boosted their self-confidence and interest in modern technology. In the afternoons, the children do craft

activities and are learning to knit. The children are taking part in these classes with great enthusiasm and are enjoying the opportunity to learn both digital and creative skills. We will also be organising special days out for our children.

New arrival

Thavasri's (name changed) life has been marked by a series of unhappy events from her very infancy. She never knew the warmth of a mother's love, as her mother, Thatchayani (name changed), died when Thavasri was only three months old. She was raised under the care of her father, Valavan (name changed), but tragedy struck again a year ago when he was killed in a road accident. For the past five



years, Thavasri had been living in a government-run hostel and attending the state secondary school as there was no secondary school near her village. However, during the Pongal holidays in January 2026, she returned to her native village to stay with relatives and became involved in a love affair with a local youth and eloped with him. Her relatives immediately called the local police who acted swiftly, tracing them to a remote village the following day. As Thavasri was a minor, the youth was apprehended and imprisoned. The local Child Welfare Committee has placed her in our protection, and she is now living in one of our Girls' Hostel, where she is being provided with a safe haven, nutritional support, and counselling to help her overcome her recent trauma. She will be enrolled in the 10th Standard at St Peter's Higher Secondary School in June 2026.

Organizing mobile IT training completion ceremony



On 13th April, Fr Antony and the mobile IT teaching staff paid an official visit to the Panchayat Union Middle School in Batlagundu to distribute certificates to 47 children who had successfully completed their IT training programme. Our mobile IT lab takes all the laptops, keyboards, modems, tables and chairs so that the children in poor rural government schools can benefit from learning IT skills. The ceremony was

conducted in the presence of the headteacher and the teaching staff, all of whom, along with the students, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to our mobile IT training programme for providing such a valuable opportunity. Following this successful event, the mobile IT team distributed certificates to 587 students across 19 different schools in Theni and Dindigul districts. Every student received their certificate with great enthusiasm.



Review and action plan for schoolteachers



Now that the schools are closed, the annual review and action plan sessions for all school and balwadi (pre-school) teachers was held on the 28th and 29th April. The programme commenced with an address by Fr Antony who expressed his sincere gratitude to the teachers for their dedicated service and the extra care extended towards the education of vulnerable children. During the annual review, Fr Ruban conducted an insightful session on maintaining emotional balance when dealing with children and the importance of not being overcome by personal emotions. On the following day, Fr Arockiaraj led the action planning session, utilising a series of appropriate questions to guide the teachers in elevating their teaching standards to the next level for the welfare of the children.

Admission process started for Balwadi and DCC

Throughout April, we started the admissions process for new children in our balwadis (pre-schools) and day care centre. We received 125 applications from poor rural families where the parents are working for this upcoming academic year.

Housing:



Amutha, a 37-year-old widow from G. Kallupatti village in Theni District, is the sole provider for her three children: Yugashri (18), Preethi Jintha (16), and Prathesh (11). For 15 years, her husband Sekar worked as a driver but provided no financial support to the family, spending his earnings on alcohol. Following his death six months ago due to kidney and liver failure, Amutha was forced to sell their family home to settle the debts incurred from his medical treatments. Now working in a tea stall and living in a rented house, she struggled to provide for her children's education and basic needs. During this critical situation, she approached us to help build a house for her family. Recognising the urgency of her situation, our housing team prioritised her case. Through the dedicated efforts of RTU's construction crew, Amutha and her family now have a secure and stable home on a small piece of land she owned. This new home, complete with a main room, kitchen, veranda, toilet, and electrical wiring, represents a monumental improvement in their quality of life, offering them a sanctuary from the harsh realities they had long endured. Amutha views this new home as a wonderful gift and expresses her deepest gratitude to RTU and the donor for their life-changing support.

Community Development

From April 2026, Fr Ruban has taken on the management of our Community Development and outreach programmes following the resignation of Mr John Amos. We place on record our appreciation for the services rendered by John Amos and we wish Fr Ruban the very best in his new role and pray that he continues to serve the community with great zeal and dedication.

Our students were busy with the annual exam and wrote the exam well. All the children are looking forward to their result next month. We thankfully remember your great support extended to give better education during this academic year. Our children really overwhelmed by your support and love showed on them during this year. We are thankful to all the members who have made contributions towards the welfare of the poor children under our care. Your act of kindness will help to brighten the future of these children and poor people. Your support really helps us change the future of many underprivileged children by providing them with a good education. We can continue to give good care and support to children and families because of supporters like you. Thank you again for your compassionate support; it is invaluable, and we hope to continue this meaningful journey with you.

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