

Girls' Orphanage



Maria Philomena, a recent addition to the girls' orphanage, was baptised on the Feast of the Sacred Heart.



Also on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, Sr. Maria Immaculata renewed her vows during the Mass.



Camroon and Simroon (sisters) and the newly baptised Maria Philomena (centre) made their First Holy Communion on the Feast of the Sacred Heart too. If only we could recapture for ourselves the innocence radiating from their faces! Here they are preparing to receive the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

NEW ARRIVALS

Since the beginning of the year there have been seven new arrivals at the orphanage bringing the number of girl orphans to 23. It is very difficult for Sister Maria Immaculata to turn away children when they are presented by relatives at the orphanage gates. Usually the young children have large doleful eyes and, with heads slightly bowed, they look into your eyes with a mixture of silent pleading and pathetic resignation.

Sister's smile when she agrees to take in each new child is the external sign of a momentous act of Providence that will change the life of the child forever—and perhaps their eternity too. From the instant the decision is made, the child is invited into a life of Divine Charity where she will learn about her Creator and His love for her. She will be encouraged and taught to return that love and, if she is faithful to her new Master, she will have found the only home that will make her truly happy.

And then, within a few days of their arrival, you never would have guessed that they had ever been unwanted, friendless and even homeless at all.

NEW ORPHANAGE

Visiting the building site on a random afternoon, you might well be struck by the eerie silence of an empty shell that casts no shadow on the landscape (the sun always seeming directly overhead). On entering the cavernous edifice you might also be surprised to see all the workers asleep in the half finished rooms. The building was due to be finished by 8th December, but this is looking fairly unlikely. As unlikely, say, as a white Christmas!



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Sr. Maria Pia of the Consoling Sisters—a picture of serenity— arrived in India on 24th June to assist at the orphanage. She was welcomed with great joy, not least because she is a wonderful singing teacher. As one young lady enthused, “She’s like an angel!”



On 2nd July, Mr. Joseph Kumar of Kadapa married Miss Christina Mekala of the Orphanage. They have known each other since childhood and, as Christina is the first orphan to be married, this day was one of particular rejoicing. Sadly Christina left for Andhra Pradesh the very next day—a 24 hour train journey to her new home. Sr. Mary Immaculata’s parting advice was “Have as many children as you canany you don’t want, send them to me!”



Poor Theresa was stung by a scorpion—it crawled up her leg when she was gathering the laundry from the washing line. Mary Rita squashed it and Theresa, together with the remains of the scorpion, were rushed to hospital. After 48 hours Theresa returned home again.



The second orphan to fly the nest was Gloria Mary who married Soosai Ignaci of Tuticorin on 27th August. Soosai doesn’t look too happy in the photo, but this is not surprising—weddings in India are preceded by many days of panic and then are paid for over many years. It’s funny, but that’s how it is in the west too! All madness of course.