



## Church of South India response to COVID 19! Update 2

The vibrancy and the life of Church of South India can be traced in the grassroot congregations in the Dioceses of CSI. Congregations have become missional in their attitude and actions by its witness and service especially to the vulnerable and the marginalised at the wake of COVID 19 and unprecedented lockdown. The values of this holy season of lent which always implores us to give to the needy, share and sacrifice is enlivened by the Church at large beginning from the grassroots.

The crucified Christ demands our attention to the crucified people in our times today. There are many who are becoming victims of injustice and oppression in various forms. There are many who are crucified in the name of caste, religion, gender and ethnicity... the prime demand on us is that we take them down from the cross, liberate them from injustice and restore dignity to their broken lives.

The spread of the COVID 19 pandemic, the growing numbers of those who are infected, and the daily death toll, has fallen on an unprepared society, highlighting the spiritual emptiness of many people. On the other hand, this situation has crucified many people especially the migrants, the poor, the daily wage workers and many others for whom social distancing is not an option at all, for whom the next meal in itself is a great challenge, for whom a life of dignity and respect is a far distant reality... the crucified Christ calls us to respond to the plights and suffering of the many crucified around us.

Indian health officials have confirmed more than 10,900 cases of the coronavirus, including at least 368 deaths as on 14th April 2020. The lockdown of almost a month adds more strain on the social, economic and medical streams of life. The analysis of heading towards an economic crisis will add more plight on the suffering masses as many will also lose jobs due to the impact of COVID 19. The situation is worst for the poor, the homeless, the tribal, the Dalit's and religious minority groups whose life, even in normal times, is difficult, many migrant workers have been blocked in their workplaces. There is no transport, no wages to buy food and no shelter. People have been told to stay indoors, but for many daily-wage earners this is not an option as some of them,

### INDIA COVID-19 TRACKER

A CROWDSOURCED INITIATIVE

LAST UPDATED ABOUT 1 HOUR AGO  
14 APR, 21:10 IST



COMPILED FROM STATE GOVT. NUMBERS KNOW MORE

STATE/UT	CNFMD	ACTV	RCVRD	DCSD
> MAHARASHTRA	↑121 2,455	2,066	229	160
> DELHI	1,510	1,451	31	28
> TAMIL NADU	↑31 1,204	1,111	↑23 81	↑1 12
> RAJASTHAN	↑72 969	825	↑12 133	11
> UTTAR PRADESH	↑102 660	602	↑1 50	↑3 8
> GUJARAT	↑78 650	563	↑5 59	↑2 28
> MADHYA PRADESH	614	513	51	50
> TELANGANA	592	472	103	17
> ANDHRA PRADESH	↑34 473	448	↑4 16	↑2 9
> KERALA	↑8 386	173	↑13 211	2
> JAMMU AND KASHMIR	↑8 278	244	↑14 30	4
> KARNATAKA	↑13 260	179	↑11 71	↑2 10
> HARYANA	↑2 198	140	↑4 55	3
> WEST BENGAL	↑38 190	147	↑7 36	7
> PUNJAB	↑8 184	147	25	12

especially children, are left without food as people live day-to-day and have been adversely affected by the nationwide quarantine.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation at 10 a.m. on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April, the last day of the 21-day lockdown. He announced that the lockdown has been extended till May 3 and will be imposed even more strictly.

He congratulated people for the efforts taken in terms of social distancing and commended the work of health officials, police department and others involved in risking their own lives.

PM Modi underlines 7 steps to be followed.

- 1) Take proper care of the senior citizens of your house, especially those with underlying problems.
- 2) Lockdown and social distancing should be properly followed. Home-made face covers and masks should be used.
- 3) Increase your immunity by following directions given by Ayush Ministry.
- 4) To help curb coronavirus spread, download Aarogya Setu application.
- 5) Wherever possible, help poor families.
- 6) In your businesses, help your co-workers, don't downsize people.
- 7) Coronavirus 'soldiers' -- doctors, nurses, sanitation workers -- respect them.

### **CSI Interventions:**

#### **Most Rev. Dharmaraj Rasalam, Moderator, Church of South India message at the backdrop of COVID 19.**

The Moderator of CSI has been encouraging the Dioceses and people of CSI through his messages on the social media. He has pointed out the responsibility of the church during this lockdown and COVID 19 pandemic is greater than any other time as the church is required to respond to an unprepared situation at hand. We present here a short summary of his message.

“We need to be careful not only for our safety but also for the safety of others. But on the other hand we should not forget that as a church we have a role to play to bring hope to the world that is geographically physically emotionally socially and economically locked down like Elijah who during that great famine became a source of hope to that widow and son who have decided to die after their last meal prepared with a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in their jug. Elijah who himself was facing uncertainty in his life had come to a place where he meets two other people who also were living in uncertainty.

In those times it is not very difficult for us to share what we have with those who are in need but what about when we ourselves face the same challenges. This passage teaches us even when we think our resources are drying up even when our logics fail and even when we stand equally challenged by the remnants of life. If we trust in god he can use us to become a source of hope to others.

However Jesus gives us hope beyond pain and that beyond grave and tomb and beyond fear and hopelessness. Putting our faith in our lord who selected from the dead who conquered sin and that let us resolve to share that joy of hope and life bringing the celebration to many among and around us.

Therefore my beloved be steadfast immovable always excelling in the work of the Lord. Because you know that your labour in the lord is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

CSI SEVA diaconal wing of Church of South India as soon as the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic was announced, started a series of actions, for example, we instructed all Diocese to get support from Pastors, members, Volunteers & Health Workers for their personal protection, and fulfilling the mission of the Church to support the prevention and control of the epidemic in their Diocese.

1. Taking stock & need assessment of the situation in the Dioceses.
2. Coordinating relief work for the marginalized based on request from other organizations like December 3 movement & NCCI.
3. Connecting with Global church to study the impact of Covid19 in own respective countries and the life of the church.
4. Picking up good practices from other and sharing of resources.
5. Planning & coordinating with the government authorities and learning the need of the government sector in combating this COVID- 19
6. Planning for strategic interventions in the near future.

### **Relief Work:**

Church along with the community helps in reaching out to feed the hungry and to shelter the homeless including Dalit and Tribal, migrants of every caste and creed, labours, daily wage workers, transgender, poor, children homes and those who are in need and provide medical care to the most vulnerable during the crisis. Christian community in South India also takes on the responsibility of guiding the nation in hope and spiritual strength in the fight against the threats of covid-19. The coincidence of this crisis with the Lent season is an opportunity to unite forces with the authorities in this common struggle". Alongside our prayers, there is a commitment to be promoters of hope and to alleviate the suffering that surrounds us, both for material and psychological needs.

Many members, medical workers, pastors and Bishops of various Dioceses have "taken care" of the poor and needy in their Dioceses young people contact the elderly and people who need help, near their homes, helping them to get the necessary food and materials. Numerous institutions such as schools, colleges, hostels, seminaries and churches in various dioceses are making the premises available as places of refuge for migrant workers or people in need, while all Christian hospitals and clinics are already offering a valuable contribution in the care of the sick. Some Christian communities and associations intend to prepare food and pack it in disposable containers, distributing it to the homeless or needy people.

"We offer our institutions especially hospitals and nutrition centres to be used as isolation centres if our members own hotels can be encouraged them to provide their hotels for the same. Remember that these infrastructures have well equipped kitchens washrooms toilets laundries etc. hence might be very useful for the authorities to convert them as isolation centres" says Most Rev. Dharmaraj Rasalam, the Moderator of the Church of South India.

**St. John's Church in Vellore Appreciated for their Enormous Contribution in Combating COVID 19.**

The congregation of St. John's Church, (Fort) in Vellore (Vellore Diocese of the Church of South India) contributed a sum of Rs. 15,00,000/- to Scudder Memorial Hospital, Ranipet; SIHR & LC, Karigiri and CMCH, Vellore Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs) each go face the challenge of CORONA Virus.



Church of South India, Cochin Diocese, through social board department with police department helped north and northeast labourers and transgender due to covid 19 lock down.



Bishop Oommen George, of Kollam kottarakara Diocese, distributed rations to the families including rice, pulses, lentils, sugar, etc., and also hygiene products like soap. Packets are distributed keeping the necessary preventive measures in place and refreshments for health workers



- Empowered the congregations through prayerful support. The initiatives taken by the South Kerala Diocese for the common public is well appreciated. This itself is a great moral boost to the people of the entire Diocese and role model to others.
- Well-arranged facilities at the Dr. SMCSI Medical College, Karakonam for the COVID victims in cooperation with the Govt. of Kerala.
- Need based volunteer services to Government in combating COVID 19.
- Ensuring hunger free people through Community Kitchen services initiated by the Diocese
- Allotted space and facilities at the various institutions comes under the Diocese for accommodating people who are under COVID surveillance.
- Exhorted the congregations to take care of the local needs of people who are in any form of suffering. Church Committees are vigilant.



Over 65 kit of Food, raw materials and vegetables were given to the construction families of the panchayat near the mountain, and brought necessary medicines for patients through the Godzilla care unit under the control of the church.



Voluntary efforts by Ms. Anu Elsa, an active youth member, Preparing mask for the community hailing from CSI Church, Venmoney (Alappuzha district)

- The Diocese provided 3 schools for the rehabilitation of people staying in streets in Malabar.
- Two churches in Calicut made more than 300 masks and gave to government authorities.
- ready with 30 beds at kodackal mission hospital for meeting emergency hospitalisation.
- Bishop and team regularly evaluating the situation and co coordinating with presbyters.



Providing for the safety of public, CSI Fritz Memorial church, Codacal (Malabar Diocese) distributed **masks to the medical officer of the primary health centre** and to the Grama Panchayath President, Thriprangode



CSI CHURCH, METTUR (Salem Area)... Continuously providing protective masks: to the Government Officer in Charge.



### Measured taken by South kerala Diocese

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South Kerala Diocese have visted us by understanding the crisis of the believers in Csi Kuruvadu and shared the food resources.



## Helping Hands of CSI Hebich Church Youth fellowship Members Kannur



Men's fellowship of CSI Cathedral, Calicut (Diocese of Malabar ) organised the distribution of Mineral water bottles and oranges to police force on duty under kasaba, city and Nadakkavu police stations in Calicut city with the permission of City Police Commissioner Sri AV George IPS and Sri Sudershan ACP and visited various pick up posts and handover 500 water bottles and fruits to police force.





Providing cooked food and provisions to the entire family which will be useful for more than a week. Rice, wheat flour, mustard oil, dhal, vegetables, soaps, salt, masks, bread.



UNDARAPURAM PASTORATE... on behalf of CSI MATRIC HS SCHOOL, COIMBATORE provides food for over 350 Migrants for the SIXTH DAY: Special thank to CSI Matric HSS Correspondent, Principal, Staff and Students.



ALL SOULS CHURCH, their timely help to the sanitary workers, who bear the brunt the most.



CSI IMMANUEL CHURCH, COIMBATORE... continues to provide food packets to over 300 poor persons including children: Keep up this noble task. With the help of Chairman, Presbyters, PC Sec and Treasurer, committee and members of congregation including DC: for the untiring effort.



Ponnandaanvalasu church provided 5 kg of rice, 1/2liters of cooking oil, 1kg of dhal and 70kg of idly rice to each family



CSI LECHLER MEM CHURCH, SALEM... has come forward and provided food for over 300 people, in cooperation with the Salem Corporation - Sanitary Workers , people on the street who have nowhere to go.



CSI CHRIST CHURCH, PERUR... continues to provide - provisions for 600 families:



C.S.I. Diocese of Madurai-Ramnad, Holy Immanuel Church, Aruppukottai, Men's Fellowship donated **Rice, Dal, Oil & Vegetables for 100 needy families** in the presence of Law and Order Police Inspector Mr. Balamurugan



CSI DIOCESE OF MADURAI RAMNAD with its initiative in pandemic relief operations providing provisions for food to the needy and the poor.



### Relief Work in Ramnad & Sivagangai Districts



Kallimandayam Pastorate, Madurai Ramnad diocese. Widows received Rice and dhal was given today, by the diocese.



Madurai Ramnad diocese, village Church in Viraalikottai of Kallimandayam pastorate.



Idayanvalasu and poruloor village churches. Madurai





Food Distribution for the needy people from CSI Missionary Chapel, Chennai



Trichy-Tanjore Diocese Mission service to Narikuravars (45 families) during Covid-19



Trichy Tanjore Diocese marginalized is been



தூத்துக்குடி-நாசரேத் திருமண்டல சமூக நலத்துறை சார்பில் ஏழைகளுக்கு நிவாரண பொருட்கள் வழங்கப் பட்டன.

தூத்துக்குடி, ஏப்.5: தூத்துக்குடி-நாசரேத் திருமண்டல சமூக நலத்துறை சார்பில் திருமண்டல பேராயர் தேவசகாயம், லே செயலாளர் எஸ். டி. கே. ராஜன், திருமண்டல கல்வாரி நிலவர்க்குமு

ஆசிரியர் காலனி கிறிஸ்து நாதர் ஆலயவளாகத்தில் திருமண்டல சமூக நலத்துறை சார்பில் ரூ.1 லட்சம் மதிப்பில் திருநங்கைகள், முதியோர் மற்றும் கனவனால் கைவிடப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஒருமாதத்திற்கு தேவையான அரிசி, மளிகை பொருள்கள் வழங்கப்பட்டது. இதனை திருமண்டல சமூக நலத்துறை இயக்குனர் மைக்கேல் ராஜுவழங்கினார். இதில் பெருமளவு உறுப்பினர்கள் செல்லப்பாகாட் விள், சந்திரஜான், சாம்நியூபிகின் மற்றும் சபை ஊழியர் சாமுவேல் உள்ளிட்டோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

responses to the highly appreciated by the



media and press.

Vellore Diocese Bishop through press and media offers profound respect and thanks to the thousands of brave health professionals and all frontline responders, who are working 24/7 to treat the sick, save lives and bring this outbreak under control. And requested all to stay home and stay safe and help the poor within our capacities as much as possible.



Followed by Distribution of sanitizers, rice, Vegetables, Masks and food items



## Awareness of COVID 19 and prevention

A meeting of the Presbyters / Pastors of Churches stretching from Bernicepuram to Bagayam and Churches from Sathuvachari to Shenbakkam was conducted at Cobb Hall , Voorhees College at Vellore

Bishop had called the Presbyters as per the District Collector's advisory. The Collector presided over the meeting. The meeting was attended by the District Superintendent of Police, Joint Director of Medical Services, Dy. Director of Health Services, R. D. O., Police officials , and Govt. Officials.



**CSI RANIPET RURAL PASTORATE extended support to nearly 100 people by sharing lunch, water, biscuits, soap, sanitizer and mask.**



Mount Wesley Church through the Committee and various Fellowships went out in feeding the poor and hungry on Good Friday with HOT CROSS BUNS and Packed mineral water.



Caring the needy. Meadpuram Pastorate Church of Nagercoil Home Church District distributed vegetables and groceries to 15 families in and around the Church.





CSI Ananthapuram Pastorate & CSI Kurchivedu Church- Dr.B.R. Ambedtkar Youth Association extended their support to the 150 needy families by sharing 150 bags of Oil and All kind of Vegetables...



CSI KAVERIPAKKAM and RANIPET RURAL pastorates distributing food to the most marginalized community in ranipet.



## Veeramangalam Pastorate Marikuppam Pastorate



## Zion hill area



## Rural places in Ranipet



### **Madras Diocese Relief operations**

<b>Name of the Church (Madras Diocese)</b>	<b>Relief Work</b>
CSI Transfiguration Chapel, Kellys	Dry Ration worth of Rs.1000 to 50 Families
St. Pauls Church, Choolai, Chennai	Rs.1000/- cash to 45 families
CSI Missionary Chapel, Chennai	Food Distribution to 500 Poor people each for 2 days
CSI Christ Church, Ambattur	Rs. 1000 cash to 300 families
CSI St. Andrew's Church Choolai	Rs. 2000 to 15 families
CSI Netaji Nagar Church	Dry Ration to 100 Families
CSI Thiruvartiur Church	Rs.1000 to 15 Families

CSI Church of Jesus the Lord, Tambaram	Feeding Programme for Elderly
CSI Ennore Church	2000 Masks
CSI Tiruporur Pastorate	50 Food Packets Every day to Pavment Dwellers and Dry Ration and Vegetables to Echangadu Village Community
CSI Christ Church , Washermenpet	Dry Ration, Protective Masks and Feeding Programme







**Kanyakumari Diocese- CSI Pastorate Church Keezhkulam celebrating Risen Lord Jesus Christ with the needy in the midst of covid19 April 12/2020 Easter Sunday by providing relief kits**





Distributed Covid19 relief materials to the **72 needy families** of Kanakkankulam village(Tirunelveli) and also distributed relief materials to the **51 needy families** of Kudankulam village. supplied Rice and grocery for **120 families** (Parkkaneri village 80, Vaniyan Kulam village 29, Chithambarapuram 10, Kamaneri 1). I thank the doners of CSI St. Andrew's church Kudankulam





Karnataka Southern Diocese C. S. I Jubilee church **udupi.**, men fellowship members.. Celebrate Easter Sunday. along the needy... At this lockdown period.



**Relief work in Tumkur area under  
Karnataka Central Diocese**



**Christian communities visited the shelter with their family and distributed breakfast.**



**CSI-KARIMNAGAR DIOCESE ST. THOMAS CHURCH, DESAIPET, WARANGAL.**



Nandyal Diocese under the leadership of our Bishop the Rt.Rev.Dr. E.Pushpalalitha, distributed nearly 1000 turmeric (Santoor Soaps of 100 grams) and detergent soaps to all the 500 Sanitary Workers of Nandyal. Nearly 1000 turmeric and 1000 detergent soaps were distributed in the presence of the local MLA SRI Ravi Chandra Kishore Reddy and Nandyal Muncipal Commissioner.



CSI Diocese of Nandyal has distributed 200 Lunch Packets to the needy people during this COVID-19, Lockdown at Swaraj Nagar, 7th Ward Proddutoor, on the Good Friday.



CSI Diocese of Nandyala, the CSI (SPG) Church,



Proddutur, Kadapa Dist. AP has fed lunch to nearly 200 Families on the Easter Sunday.

Dornakal Diocese has taken initiative to provide below mentioned grocery to 300 families who lost their job and income during this 21 days lockdown, his will help to overcome their fear and makes them feel safer during this time.

S.No	Products	Quantity
1.	Rice	5 Kg
2.	Turmeric	100. Grams
3.	Tamarind	200.Grams
4.	Ground Nut Oil	1.Kg
5.	Reg gram Dall	1.Kg
6.	Wheat Flour	1.Kg
7.	Onion	1.Kg
8.	Salt	1.Kg
9.	Dettol Soap	1

Krishna Godavari responds as soon as lockdown announced by providing the Diocesan premises and institutions also provided place for vegetables market near rural area and provided relief kits to the poor which includes vegetables and daily basic needs.



The Churches in Hyderabad Wesley Church Secunderabad and Ramkote Pastorate are distributing Provisions and food packets everyday in the streets and to the homeless persons and poor.

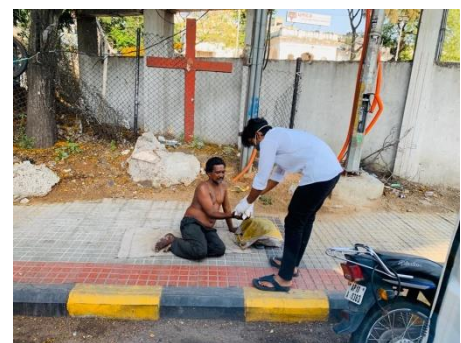
Vinayaknagar Pastorate has conducted distribution of provisions to the poor in their area. The church members has gathered 300kgs of rice and distributed to the poor in the slums in Hyderabad.

Medak Cathedral Pastorate, the Presbyter-In-Charge, Rev. Andrews Preamsukumar, and Bishop The Rt. Rev. Dr. A. C. Solomon Raj, distributed the masks, sanitizers and gloves, to the police, medical and municipal staff worth of rupees 1,50,000/- in the presence of DSP, ASP CI, DMHO and the Municipal commissioner.

Wesley Church Ramkote, Hyderabad, under the leadership of Presbyter-In-Charge, Rev. Dr. U. Daniel started distributing food packets from 22nd March every day, each day it costs rupees 5000/-  $19 \times 5000 = 45,000$ , till this day and it will continue until the lockdown is lifted.

Wesley Church Secunderabad, under the leadership of Presbyter-In-Charge, Rev. Dr. T. Bhasker, spending daily 9000/- rupees distributing provisions to the homeless persons and poor from 22nd March everyday, 9000

\*19000= Rs. 171, 000/-.



**CSI St. Peter's Church, Adilabad Pastorate under the leadership of Rev. G. Niranjan, distributed provisions to the migrant labourers stranded in the district due to the lockdown. The Provisions for ten days' worth amount rupees fifty thousand rupees.**

**CSI Church Ramayampet Pastorate has opened our church compound and providing a safe space for the vegetable market to happen for the town People under the guidance of Presbyter-In-Charge, Rev. B. Giri Prasad.**

**The Church is also encouraging its members to take care of their maids and domestic help during this painful situation. The Bishop has sent an appeal to all the diocesan pastors to encourage the congregations to involve in SEVA for the migrants, poor and volunteers working for the cause.**



CSI Rayalaseema Diocese- Youth department







Every Church is creating awareness through its live telecast programmes, Bishops and the officers of the Diocese organizing fast and prayer. Some urban churches organizing chain prayers, praying for Containing the Virus, for Medical staff and Volunteers and for the poor.

**Coordinating relief work for the marginalized based on request from December 3 movement.**



December 3 Movement			
Corona Relief Service for the Districts of December 3 Movement			
Contact Details to reach the coordinators in districts to support the Disabled people in the villages			
S. no	Name of the Districts of December 3 Movement	Contact Persons	Total no. of Beneficiaries
1	Kallakurichi	K. Jeyapaul, District Treasurer- 9655090118	21
2	Karur	Mr. Kandhasamy, District President - 8778469808	19
3	Erode	Mr. N. Gopalakrishnan, District President - 9715471803	10
4	Virudhunagar	Mr. Siva Kumar, District President - 9944718552	9
5	Dindigul	Mr. Mohan Raj, District President - 8838811369 / 9042609199	20
6	Cuddalore	Mr. Pon Shanmugam, District President - 9894356873 / 9600319178	19
7	Thiruvannamalai	Mr. MuniKannu, District President - 9788405081 / 8778006522	20
8	Villupuram	Mr. Annamalai, General Secretary - 9865048732	24
9	Ramanadhapuram	Mr. Babu, District Secretary - 9786832547	33
10	Ranipet	Mr. Ravi, District Secretary - 9789659260	19
11	Tiruppur District	MS. Indrani, District Incharge - 8675933166	15
12	Sivagangai	Mr. Prabhakaran, District Secretary - 9003803511 / 9384167770	23
13	Chennai	Mr. Mani - 9840853435	15
14	Thiruvallur	Mr. Damodharan, District President - 9786083219	20
15	Thirupathur	Mr. Jagadeesan, District secretary - 9600313073 / Ms. Vijayabai - 9626877204	21
16	Thiruvarur	Mr. Rajesh, District President - 9442767704	20
17	Vellore District	Ms. Manjula, District Secretary - +919790626090 / +916379221655	20
<b>Total</b>			<b>328</b>

CSI Christ Church Washermenpet Chennai-21 Distribute Groceries to the 20 Families of Physically Challenged, A movement called December 3.





All this campaign has been a big blessing for them because they have no money in the hand: They live a life of hand to mouth. This campaign will go on as long as the lockdown continues.

Finally, “the lockdown can also be a blessed moment for families, to strengthen the human and spiritual bond within each family”, it says. “We welcome this time as a gift from God in the awareness that even if the building of worship is closed, the Church can never be closed: wherever we are, we are the Church of God”,