



A Century of Blessings



"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." - Melody Beattie



With profound gratitude and immense joy, we celebrate a significant milestone in the history of Good Shepherd Convent, Chennai. We proudly commemorate 100 years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment, marking a historic legacy from 1924 to 2024.

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God." — Psalm 92:12-13

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd was founded by St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier in 1835 in France. Inspired by her vision and zeal, the congregation extended its mission to India on August 15, 1854, beginning in Bangalore. Since then, the sisters have been devoted to fostering education, social service, medical care, residential facilities for young girls, prison ministry, homes for unwed mothers, hostels for young girls and women of low income, Justice and peace ministry and pastoral care to the most vulnerable, marginalised and deprived women, girls and children.

In response to the request of Bishop De Castro of Madras-Mylapore, our sisters courageously began the Shepherding Mission at Luz Church on November 21, 1924, despite unfamiliarity with the language, culture and region. They later moved to Morat's Garden, establishing the first convent in Nungambakkam in 1930.

Guided by our foundress's profound belief that, **"One person is more precious than the whole world,"** the Good Shepherd Convent became a sanctuary of safety and hope for young girls and women who were thrown out of their family. Over the decades, it has shaped countless lives through holistic education, discipline, values, and moral strength.

Commemorating the Centenary Year

- **A Year of Thanksgiving** – Expressing gratitude to the sisters, staff, students, and benefactors who have supported this remarkable journey.

- **A Year of Blessings** – Honouring the countless lives touched and transformed.
- **A Year of Hope** – Embracing new opportunities for service and growth.
- **A Year of New Ventures** – Expanding our mission to address contemporary challenges.
- **Our Ministries at Glance**
 - ❖ **Social Service: Extending a Helping Hand:**
 - **Marian Home – Skill Training for School Dropouts**

Good Shepherd Convent, Chennai has been dedicated to empowering adolescent girls and women from marginalized backgrounds. The Sisters initially established a Home in 1924 to provide care for those facing challenging circumstances, including girls from broken homes and families of alcoholics. This home was named as Marian Home in 1952. The girls and women were given the **Grahini training program**, fostering character development and life skills. It also offered vocational training in bakery, canteen services, tailoring, and housekeeping, equipping the young women with practical skills for self-sufficiency and financial independence.

❖ **A Century of Educational Excellence**

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." — William Butler Yeats

Education has been the cornerstone of the Good Shepherd mission, rooted in the belief that learning empowers individuals and transforms society. Since 1925, the institution has nurtured young minds, instilled strong values, and promoted academic excellence.

Guided by the motto *"Do well all that you do"*—a principle set forth by our Mother Foundress St. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier—our school has grown from humble beginnings into a beacon of educational distinction. With a steadfast commitment to holistic learning, it continues to foster intellectual growth, moral integrity, and an inclusive approach, empowering young women to lead with wisdom and purpose.

A New Venture: Good Shepherd Centenary School

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." — Proverbs 16:3

In celebration of 100 years of dedication and service, the Good Shepherd Centenary School was established, following the CICSE syllabus. The building was blessed by Rev. Fr. Raj Mariasusai, SDB on June 10, 2024, and officially

inaugurated by our Congregational Leader Sr. Joan Lopez and her council on June 14, 2024. Grounded in the wisdom of the past and inspired by future possibilities, the Centenary School stands as a symbol of excellence and transformative power of education.

❖ **Shelter Home for Disadvantaged Children**

• **Mottukal**

Established in 1996, "Mottukal" (meaning "Bud" in Tamil) provides shelter and support to underprivileged girl children, including runaways, orphans, and semi-orphans. Services include short-stay facilities, counselling, educational support, family reintegration, and vocational training.

• **Outreach Program**

This initiative addresses the needs of vulnerable children in Chennai slums, working to prevent runaway cases. It mobilizes communities to affirm their rights, strengthen family bonds, and support children's education. The program also facilitates reintegration for runaway girls through short-stay protection.

❖ **A Haven for Working Women and college going students:**

• **The Roshinivas Hostel:**

Established in 2000, the Roshinivas Hostel offers a secure and supportive environment for working women and college going students. Currently accommodating 74 residents, it provides safety, comfort, and holistic support through personal guidance and counselling, fostering both personal and professional growth.

• **Partners in Mission:**

We have several Partners in Mission who play an important role in advancing the Good Shepherd vision. Collaborating with the sisters across ministries, outreach programs, and decision-making processes, they ensure the values of compassion, justice, and service continue to thrive within the community.

• **Safeguarding Policy:**

The Good Shepherd Congregation is firmly dedicated to ensuring the safety and protection of children and vulnerable adults. Throughout the Congregation in 68 countries, we launched Safeguarding Policy which has significantly increased awareness and has been successfully implemented across various countries. In Chennai, the policy was introduced through comprehensive training sessions for staff and children, reinforcing safety measures and promoting protective practices within our schools and outreach programs.

• **Centenary Celebrations:**

The centenary celebrations commenced on November 11, 2024, with a special Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration. As part of the commemorations, we as a community decided to have a pilgrimage journey every month from November 2024 to July 2025, offering moments for prayer and reflection over the hundred years of history.

A significant highlight was the *Legacy Gala*, organized by the Good Shepherd Alumni, which brought together nearly 700 alumni to celebrate cherished memories. Additionally, the *Marian Home/Mottukal Day* on February 15, 2025, united 350 girls to honour their shared journey, with each participant receiving a commemorative gift.

The grand closing celebrations will take place in August 2025.

Looking Ahead with Gratitude

As we commemorate 100 years of unwavering dedication and service, we renew our commitment to the mission of love, compassion, and empowerment. With profound gratitude, we look to the future with hope, ensuring that the legacy of the Good Shepherd continues to illuminate lives for generations to come.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." — Psalm 107:1

With hearts full of gratitude, our journey continues...



My sheep hear MY VOICE, and I know them, and they follow Me.

John 10:27



Sr. Suganthi