

# Centenary Celebration



(1924–2024)

## *Good Shepherd Convent – Marian Home, Mottukal*

Chennai, February 15 – The Good Shepherd Convent in Nungambakkam, a beacon of service and compassion since 1924, marked its centenary with grandeur and splendor. As part of this historic milestone, the institution hosted the Homecoming Celebration on February 15, bringing together women and children who have been nurtured and empowered by the Marian Home and Mottukal. The event was a heartfelt reunion, filled with joy, gratitude, and cherished memories, as beneficiaries enthusiastically participated in the celebration.

St Mary Euphrasia, the epitome of love, compassion, and service, founded the Good Shepherd Congregation (Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd) in 1835 in France. Committed to uplifting lives, the congregation expanded its mission to India in 1854 and established its first convent in Chennai in 1924. Guided by the founder’s profound belief that “One person is more precious than the whole world,” the congregation has devoted itself to transforming lives, reflecting her vision through a century of steadfast service and dedication.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar says – “I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress that women have achieved.”

During a time when the call for women's liberation and emancipation was growing louder, leaders passionately advocated for women's education, property rights, gender equality, and the abolition of dowry oppression. Poets, too, played their part, using their words to raise awareness and inspire change. During this transformative period, the sisters of the Good Shepherd Congregation began their mission of selfless service. They dedicated themselves to the empowerment of vulnerable women, offering support and guidance when they faced challenges and hardships in a conflicted society.

The Marian Home, a sanctuary for countless oppressed women, was established by the congregation with the noble mission of offering refuge and protection to those most in need. It opened its doors to women abandoned by their families, those stranded in confusion at bus stands and railway stations, children of single parents, survivors of suicide attempts, and those living in marginalized communities. It also served as a haven for women denied education, victims of human trafficking, and women hailing from the rural villages of Tamil Nadu. Through its undaunted commitment, the Marian Home has become a symbol of safety, empowerment, and a new beginning for those facing life's deepest struggles.

The sisters of the Good Shepherd Congregation provided the children who sought refuge under their care with not only quality education but also essential life skills. They ensured that these children had access to formal education, vocational training in handicrafts, martial arts, certified tailoring, cooking, and gardening, as well as professional courses in teacher training, nursing, diploma programs, and undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, equipping them with the finest education they aspired to pursue. The impact of this noble mission extends far beyond India, as the women who once studied within these sacred walls have gone on to make their mark across the globe. Alongside academic excellence, the sisters instilled in their

students' profound values of compassion, humanity, environmental conservation, and patriotism, shaping them into responsible and empowered individuals.

The Mottukal initiative, the next phase of the congregation's tireless dedication to social cause, was originally established as Priya Vanam in 1970. This remarkable endeavor extended its compassionate care to the most vulnerable infants. These tiny dots have felt the warmth of a mother's love through their dedicated care. The sisters provided them with the necessary resources to pursue their education from primary to higher studies without any hindrance. Beyond academics, they nurtured courage, self-reflection, brotherhood, and self-reliance within these children, empowering them to face life's challenges with resilience and confidence, even in the face of adversity

The Homecoming Celebration, held on Saturday as part of the centenary celebrations, honored the legacy of the Good Shepherd Congregation's profound social service. Mrs. Shobana Thomas, Deputy Secretary of Children Home of Hope, Maduravoyal, was the Chief guest who graced the occasion, while Sr Pushpa Louis, province leader, Good Shepherd Congregation, Central East India-Nepal Province, was the guest of honor. CWC Chairperson Mr. Rajkumar, Inspector of Nungambakkam Police Station Mr. Karunakaran, and Auditor Dr. Kandasamy, attended as special invitees. The gathering also had Good Shepherd sisters from across India.

Hundreds of alumni from Marian Home and Mottukal Institute, the true heroines of the event, gathered for the festival, spreading across the campus like birds returning to their nests, marking a heartfelt reunion. Documentaries showcasing the journey of these homes were screened, while the alumni shared their stories in interviews, reflecting on the lasting impact of their experiences.

The alumni of Marian Home and Mottukal participated with immense enthusiasm in the games organized by the PTA members of Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher

Secondary School. The event culminated in a grand prize distribution ceremony, where the winners were celebrated, and thoughtful souvenirs were presented to all alumni of Marian Home and Mottukal as a token of gratitude. The occasion concluded with a delightful tea party, bringing the festivities to a close.

We extend our deepest wishes to the esteemed Marian Home and Mottukal, which has long been committed to the betterment of society and the empowerment of women. May it flourish for many more centuries, impacting lives and shaping futures for generations to come.

Sr. Aruna George

Superior

Good Shepherd Convent,

Nungambakkam, Chennai -6

## நல்லாயன் இல்ல நூற்றாண்டு விழா

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## நல்லாயன் மாரியன் இல்லம் மற்றும் மொட்டுக்கள் இல்ல நூற்றாண்டுவிழா

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