



**Father Vincent Augustine KOMBARAKARAN**  
**(1949 - 2014)**

*Died 25 April 2014, in Cherukunnu, Kerala (India)  
aged 64, with 34 years of Religious Profession.*

Rev. Fr. Vincent Augustine Kombarakaran, S.M.M., was born on 3rd November 1949 at Kattoor, Trichur District, Kerala into a Syrian Catholic Family. After the completion of High School in Pompie St. Mary's H.S., Kattoor, he had moved to Andhra Pradesh and spent some time in Vizag working and later joined St. Joseph's Brothers in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. He joined the Montfort Missionaries on the 11th June 1976 and studied philosophy at Dharmaram College. In 1978 he did his novitiate under the guidance of Fr. Attilio Corna and on 31 May 1979 made his first profession. He continued his theological studies at Dharmaram and on 9 January 1983 he made his Final vows at Guru Mandir, Mysore and was ordained a deacon on 2nd February 1983 by Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathias Fernandes, the Bishop of Mysore. The ordination to Priesthood was conferred by Rt. Rev. Dr. James Pazhayattil, Bishop of Irinjalakuda on 25th March 1983.

Fr. Vincent served the Indian SMM as the bursar and later as the farm in-charge. He had a natural talent for farm work: be it cultivation or animal husbandry. At the same time he also rendered long service in the parishes in Bangalore (St. Patrick's 1991-1995), Kerala (Diocese of Kannur, 1996-2003) and in Andhra Pradesh (Santhinagar, Diocese of Srikakulam 2006-2008). He was able to speak all the four languages of South India besides English, which helped him to give pastoral care to the people. He also served as the Rector of our Minor Seminary in Mysore and as the member of the Provincial Council (2003-2006).

Given all his talents, Fr. Vincent's life has been a struggle to live in the community. He was service-minded, good at heart, but overly independent and prone to emotional outburst. These last two did not permit him to have deeper relationships with confreres. However, he served God and the congregation in his own way till the end.

During the annual retreat, from 15-20 April 2013 in Mysore he manifested the first symptoms of a deteriorating health. After a diagnosis made at St. Philomena's hospital, Bangalore it was clear he has been suffering from lung cancer. To the therapy given at HGC Bangalore he did not respond positively. On the suggestion of his friends Fr. Vincent preferred to have an Ayurvedic treatment from Shimoga. On 3rd November 2013, with his friends and well-wishers, he celebrated his last birth day with us. We saw him happy, radiant and joyful during the entire celebration.

From 12th December 2013 he moved to Anugraha community at Sumanahalli, Bangalore and was quite happy to be there with children. On the 4th March 2014, Fr. Vincent accompanied by Fr. Gerard Smith went to Kerala to Montfort Nilayam community, Thokkanamotta. From there he went about visiting his friends, as though he was saying

goodbye to them. In the meantime, confreres continued to meet him showing their closeness to him. By 7th April Fr. Cletus, the Provincial Superior sent a message to all confreres announcing the deteriorating health condition of Fr. Vincent and requested their prayers. The Easter Triduum had set in (17-20 April) and it was during the Easter Octave, God had sent his angels to accompany Fr. Vincent to the Father's house. On Friday the 25th April 2014 around 3 O'clock, Fr. Vincent had developed acute breathlessness. Mr. Peter, his cousin with the help of Precious Blood Sisters rushed him to the hospital in Cherukunnu run by the Cannossian Sisters. At 9.15 p.m., on the same day, Fr. Vincent breathed his last passing into Eternal Jerusalem. His funeral was celebrated in Karanchira, Kattoor.