

Tamil Nadu

Dindigul

Our first hospice, 40 miles north of the historic city of Madurai, opened its doors in 2006. In the environs of its beautiful gardens and fruit trees, it has provided compassionate nursing care for several thousand dying and destitute patients. This year's costs have been considerably higher than usual, as the region was afflicted by a major drought and water had to be brought in by road tanker - at a cost of 3,000 rupees/£40 per day. We have also had to construct additional cemetery facilities, and have created a lovely roof garden which will also serve as a Garden of Remembrance.

Chengalpet

Our second and largest hospice, located within the teeming city of Chennai, capital of the State of Tamil Nadu, has been accepting patients since 2011, though not officially opened until 2016 by, among other dignitaries, our own Bishop Marcus Stock. St Joseph's, Chengleput has the capacity to accommodate 500 patients. As part of the on-going upgrading of this major facility, the original 850 wooden window-frames are being replaced by aluminum

Tambaram

Located close to Chennai Airport, Tambaram serves as a respite center for up to 30 patients in transit. Because of Chennai's insuperable traffic problems, this smaller site provides a valuable resting-place for the many patients too desperately afflicted to survive the longer journeys to our larger hospices.

Pondicherry

On the coast, between Chennai and Nagapattinam, our new hospice, built to accommodate 250 patients, will have been inaugurated and blessed on 11 December 2017. Already, a considerable number of dying destitute have been admitted here, their suffering and wretchedness exacerbated by the scourge of alcoholism that afflicts this former French colony.

Vellore

Vellore is an industrial town, almost equidistant between Chennai and Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore) and it will benefit from a new super-highway now under construction. This district is 'home' to large numbers of destitute persons. Building work for this new 400-bed hospice is well under way, though extremely high temperatures this year have impeded progress. The 3.75-acre site has been transferred to us by the Salesians of the Chennai Province via a Trust, and their Brothers will play a part in nursing our dying destitute patients, the poorest of God's poor.

