



இன்பு மக்களா

SPECIAL MAGAZINE OF CANADA TAMIL CATHOLIC NETWORK

OBITUARY

HEART FELT CONDOLENCE
TO OUR LOVING FATHER TERRY

“THE MAN OF INTERGRAL TORCH”

BIRTH

14
01
1942



DEATH

31
01
2026

REV. FR. TERRY GALAGHER

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race
I have kept the faith. From now on there is laid up for me
the crown of righteousness” (2 Timothy 4:7)

Services :

**Mass of the Resurrection : 02pm on 10.02.2026
Presentation Manor. 61 Fairfax Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M1L 1Z7**

CANADA TAMIL CATHOLIC NETWORK

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Rev. Fr. Terry Galagher belonged to the Scarborough Foreign Mission, an international missionary movement known worldwide for its contributions to education, healthcare, and cultural development. The mission has now reached its centenary milestone a few years ago. Fr. Terry Galagher served for more than thirty years in the Philippines as a missionary priest. When he later came here, he dedicated himself especially to serving youth and the abandoned, offering his life fully to that calling. In his life and ministry, he strongly promoted interfaith understanding. He helped shape and present interfaith principles, guidelines, and frameworks at the level of the United Nations, introducing structured approaches for interreligious cooperation to the global community, working from Toronto. I have known him personally since around 1990 — nearly thirty-six years. For about twenty-five of those years, I was closely associated with many of his activities.

Every Thursday, when he conducted Catholic meditation sessions, I regularly attended at the Scarborough Mission center. Through him, I had the opportunity to meet many people directly and was introduced to several high-ranking Catholic Church leaders. He invited me to many places and ensured my participation in numerous important events. When my mother passed away, during the funeral Mass, he chose not to remain at the altar as the celebrant but instead stood beside me in the church, holding my hand and saying, "I will stay with you and offer this Mass in support of you." That moment of compassion I can never forget. He also attended my daughter's wedding. During the time when Fr. Christy Joachim Pillai was ill, he repeatedly took me along to visit him, speak with him, and understand his condition. During an international conference at the Vatican, he brought a representative from Sri Lanka and introduced him to delegates of various communities. He was deeply loving toward people. At the funeral of Fr. Christy Joachim Pillai, he came, wept openly, embraced the body, and cried — a sight that deeply moved and surprised me.

He gave many interviews for our radio programs, encouraged us greatly, introduced us to important contacts, and helped us receive recognition through them. He invited us to even small events and made sure we could use the facilities at the Scarborough Mission center whenever needed. He also supported me in fulfilling certain religious commitments and vows. In my joys and sorrows, he personally reached out, listened, and comforted me. Reflecting on the past thirty-six years — especially the twenty-five years of close association — apart from Fr. Christy Joachim Pillai, the person who stood even more closely with me, encouraged me, appreciated my work, and guided me was Rev. Fr. Terry Galagher. He knew every member of my family, spoke with them, comforted them, asked about them often, and supported me as someone who fully understood my life. He was like a marathon runner who had won his race — energetic and tireless. His ability to meet young people, share God's word among them, inspire and guide them was extraordinary.

Even at the age of 88, despite suffering from cancer in his head, he continued his mission work without considering his own suffering. When meeting people, he would sometimes spontaneously sing and bring them joy, holding their hands and uplifting their spirits with powerful energy and warmth. The last word he whispered me "They rejected you there and drove you away, but you came here and achieved so much. A good place is surely waiting for you in your life — do not be afraid, go forward." The way he expressed his pain and concern — along with the priests and sisters present — is something I will never forget. He also introduced me there as his close friend, which remains unforgettable to me. After that, though we tried many times, we could not meet again. Every year on January 14th — his birthday, which falls on Pongal day — he would celebrate the festival somewhere with some community. With the firm belief that his way of life has planted goodness in many hearts, I stand remembering his service and praying that his soul may rest in peace.

**Your loving Author , CTC Network
Thomas David**

Rev. Fr. Terry Gallagher



Rev. Fr. Terry Gallagher was born in Toronto on January 14, 1942, to Edmund Gordon Gallagher and Mary Nagle Gallagher. After his high school education, he entered the novitiate of the Scarborough Foreign Mission Society in St. Mary's, Ontario, in September of 1960. ,

He began his studies in philosophy and theology at St. Francis Xavier Seminary in Scarborough, Ontario In 1961.

He was ordained a priest on August 6,

1966, at Mary, Queen of the World Cathedral in Montreal by Bishop Valérien Belanger, auxiliary Bishop of Montreal.

In 1967, he went to the Philippines where he served in various parishes in the Diocese of Maasin. In 1973, he returned to Canada to promote vocations to the missionary priesthood. In 1982, he became the coordinator of the Formation-Education Department of Scarborough Missions.

Terry later became involved in the effort by Scarborough Missions to promote interfaith dialogue at the Scarborough Missions Centre in Scarborough. He was known globally: he participated in the first visit of Western Christian ministers to North Korea with a delegation of the Canadian Council of Churches

in 1988, and was also invited to several world ecumenical events. In 2018, he moved to Presentation Manor where he spent the final years of his life. Fr. Gallagher will be remembered for his exuberant personality, his love of song and all things Irish, his passion for social justice and his enthusiasm for interfaith dialogue. He touched the lives of countless families in the Philippines during his mission years, and even more in Canada in the following decades.

TEARFUL TRIBUTE

Rev. Fr. Terry Gallagher (of the Scarborough Mission Congregation)
"O God of the call, give me the strength to accept the call, O God who gave me the strength to preserve and protect the gift you have given me,
(Words of Fr. Terry.

From the day I came to the Canadian Tamil Catholic Network, Fr. Terry had been a good shepherd, like my father for 15 years. He was as a companion to Tamils. Every Friday I go to the Meditation House in Scarborough, Mission for an hour to meditate on the word "Matanatha" and I will never forget the times I have been to the meditation to "Jesus come house and spent hours.

CTC Director, and me, Marina, the Secretary, stand with heavy hearts and pay our heartfelt condolences. May God grant eternal rest to the late Fr. Terry and may God's eternal presence shine upon him.

Marina Anthonipillai



Global Torch Relay 150 Countries 10,000 miles run in North America

