



# FRANCIS VINEETH VADAKETHALA CMI

*Footprints of a Philosopher-Theologian Mystic*



## Francis Vineeth Vadakethala CMI

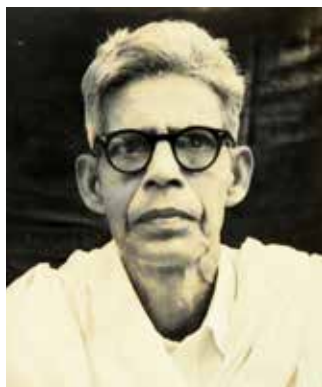
### A Personal Profile

**A**charya Fr. Francis Vineeth Vadakethala CMI (15 May 1935 - 30 May 2021), a member of Preshitha Province-Coimbatore, slept in the Lord. Fr. Vineeth is the fourth of the nine children born in the wedlock of Vadakethala Lona-Thandamma in Saint Mary's Forane Church, Kandassankadavu, in the Archdiocese of Thrissur. Four of his sisters entered religious life. At the time of death, Fr. Vineeth was a member of Bharathamatha Ashram, Palakkad.

After his initial schooling, he was initiated into religious life in 1950 at Aspirants' House in Elthuruth. He made his first profession by the end of his canonical novitiate in 1953. Securing degrees in philosophy and theology in the CMI Major Seminaries at Chethipuzha and Bengaluru, he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Mar Joseph Parekkattil at Dharmaram College, Bengaluru. He went on to complete his master's degree and doctoral studies in philosophy and theology, respectively, from Gregorian University, Rome, and Oxford University, UK. He then returned to India and taught at Dharmaram College and

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Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bengaluru, for 35 years. During this period, he served at various levels, including President of DVK and Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy. He was the founding director of Vidyavanam Ashram, Bengaluru. He made immense contributions in the field of Indianization in philosophy, theology, and spirituality. He has stamped his signature as a retreat preacher, author, poet, and Indologist.

The departed souls of Sr. Jovina AC, Mr. Jose V. J., Sr. Sicily CHF, and Mr. Baby V. J. as well as Sr. Vineetha AC, Sr. Karuna SJB, Mr. Thomas V. J., and Mr. Vincent V. J. are his siblings.

The members of CMI Preshitha Province-Coimbatore offered prayerful condolences to Acharya Fr. Francis Vineeth Vadakethala, who worked tirelessly in the vineyard of the Lord! He left for his eternal reward at 5:45 pm on Sunday, 30 May 2021. After cremation, his remains were kept at Preshitharam, Mannuthy (Thrissur), from 3 pm to 6 pm on Monday, 31 May 2021. On Tuesday, 1 June 2021, from 10 am onwards his remains were kept at Bharathamatha Ashram, Chandranagar (Palakkad). Burial ceremonies began at 2 pm on the same day at Bharathamatha Ashram. Observing the Covid-19 protocol, we prayed together for the repose of his soul with the assurance that his holy life, expectant of the heavenly abode, realizes its goal in his eternal presence with his constant companion our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother... After having completed the first part of the funeral ceremony at Preshitharam, Mannuthy, presided over by Fr. Saju Chackalackal, Provincial of Preshitha Province, the second part was officiated by Fr. Davis Panakkal, Provincial of Devamatha Province, Thrissur. Fr. Josey Thamarassery, Vicar General of the CMI Congregation, presided over the Requiem Mass, which was followed by the fourth part of the funeral, presided over by His Excellency Mar Jacob Manethodath, Bishop of Palakkad.