ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S CHURCH

SAMPALTHIVU, TRINCOMALEE

OBLATE PARISH PROFILE

A community of faith, service, education and evangelization

246 Parish families	**5** Churches in total
8 Anbiyams	**36** Parish Council members
34 Youth members	**21** Choir members
50 Altar servers	**130** Holy Childhood children
30 Catechists	**18** Preschool students

1. Introduction

St. John the Baptist's Church, Sampalthivu, Trincomalee, is the main church of the parish and a spiritual home for Catholic families. Entrusted to the pastoral care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), the parish seeks to strengthen faith, nurture Christian values, support families, form children and young people, and build a community rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The parish comprises 246 families and four substations. Together, these communities form one parish family, united in prayer, worship, fellowship and service. Through its Anbiyams, parish council, associations, youth ministry, children's groups, choir, altar servers, catechists, educational initiatives and media ministry, the parish encourages active participation in the life and mission of the Church.

Inspired by the missionary spirit of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the parish seeks to promote a living faith, accompany young people, educate children, reach out to people in need and share the Good News through personal witness and digital communication.

Parish Priest

Current Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Santhirathas OMI

Historical Background

The life of St. John the Baptist's Church is closely connected with the Catholic community of Sampalthivu, in the Trincomalee region of Sri Lanka. The main church and its four substations bring families together for the Eucharist, sacramental celebrations, prayer, catechetical formation, education and community service. Through its parish ministries, associations and community activities, the parish continues to nurture faith among children, young people and families. Its pastoral life reflects the missionary spirit of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the commitment of parishioners to live and share the Gospel.

2. Parish at a Glance

Category	Number / Details
Parish families	246
Churches	1 main church and 4 substations (5 in total)
Anbiyams	8
Parish Council	36 members; meets every three months
Youth group	34 members; meets on the first Sunday of each month
St. Cecilia Choir	21 members; meets monthly

Category	Number / Details
Altar servers	50 members; gather on Saturdays or Sundays
Holy Childhood	130 members; Sunday evening gathering
Catechists	30 members; meet monthly
Preschool	18 students; began 26 January 2026
St. Eugene English Academy	Students from Grade 1 to Grade 11; classes Monday to Friday

3. Main Church and Substations

St. John the Baptist's Church – Sampalthivu

The principal church of the parish and its central place for Eucharistic celebrations, sacramental life, parish gatherings, catechetical formation and community activities.

Our Lady of Velankanni Church – Sampalthivu

A substation dedicated to Our Lady of Velankanni, nurturing Marian devotion, family prayer and community fellowship.

Holy Cross Church – 6th Mile Post

A worshipping community gathered around the Cross of Christ, promoting faith, hope and Christian unity.

St. Michael's Church – Konesapuri

A community seeking to grow in faith, prayer and Christian witness through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel.

St. Anthony's Church – Aththimottai

A substation that brings the faithful together for worship, devotion, fellowship and service to the local community.

4. Mass Schedule

DAY / SERVICE	MASS TIME AND CHURCH
Daily Mass	6:15 a.m. - St. John the Baptist Church (Main Church)
Every Tuesday	5:30 p.m. - St. Anthony's Church
Every Thursday	5:30 p.m. - Our Lady of Velankanni Church
Every Friday	5:30 p.m. - Holy Cross Church
Sunday Mass 1	6:15 a.m. - St. John the Baptist Church
Sunday Mass 2	8:15 a.m. - Holy Cross Church
Sunday Mass 3	10:00 a.m. - St. Michael's Church

5. Annual Parish Feasts

CHURCH / FEAST	ANNUAL FEAST DATE
St. John the Baptist Church	30 August
Our Lady of Velankanni Church	30 May
St. Anthony's Church	13 June
Holy Cross Church	20 September
St. Michael's Church	4 October

6. Anbiyam Communities

The parish is organized into eight Anbiyams, providing opportunities for families to grow together in faith, deepen their prayer life, strengthen relationships and participate actively in parish activities.

Anbiyam	Families
St. John Anbiyam	50
Velankanni Anbiyam	30
St. Jude Anbiyam	7
St. Anthony's Anbiyam	32
Holy Cross Anbiyam	45
St. Sebastian Anbiyam	24
St. Michael Anbiyam	32
St. Mother Teresa Anbiyam	26
TOTAL	246

Anbiyams encourage family prayer, Bible reflection, neighbourhood fellowship, mutual support, visits to the sick and elderly, and active participation in parish celebrations. Each Anbiyam also celebrates its patronal feast, helping deepen devotion and strengthen community bonds.

7. Parish Council and Lay Associations

Parish Council

The parish council consists of 36 members who assist in pastoral planning, administration, coordination and development of parish activities. It meets every three months to review parish needs, discuss upcoming programmes, evaluate initiatives and coordinate participation across parish ministries.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary gathers every Monday for prayer, spiritual formation and apostolic activities. Its members seek to follow the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer, devotion, visitation and service to the parish community.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul supports the parish's charitable mission by encouraging concern for people experiencing poverty, illness, loneliness and other difficulties. The association meets every three months to discuss its activities and opportunities to assist families in need.

8. Youth and Children's Ministries

Parish Youth Movement – 34 members

The parish youth group meets on the first Sunday of every month. It offers young people opportunities for spiritual growth, leadership development, fellowship, social responsibility and active involvement in the life of the Church.

Altar Servers – 50 members

The altar servers assist during the celebration of the Holy Mass and other liturgical services. They gather on Saturdays or Sundays for formation, practice and preparation for their liturgical responsibilities.

Holy Childhood – 130 members

The Holy Childhood movement helps children discover the joy of faith, prayer, sharing and missionary responsibility. The children gather on Sunday evenings for formation, activities and fellowship.

St. Eugene Children's Club

Inspired by St. Eugene de Mazenod, founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the children's club provides a space for children to develop Christian values, friendship, leadership, creativity and a sense of belonging to the Church.

9. Choir, Catechetical Formation and Media Ministry

St. Cecilia Choir – 21 members

The choir enriches parish worship through sacred music, hymns and liturgical singing. Its members meet monthly to strengthen their musical skills and prepare for Sunday liturgies, feasts and special celebrations.

Catechists – 30 members

The catechists play a vital role in handing on the Catholic faith to the next generation. They guide children and young people in learning the Word of God, understanding Catholic teaching, preparing for the sacraments and living out Christian values. They meet monthly for coordination, planning and formation.

Parish Media Unit

The media unit supports the communication and evangelization mission of the parish by sharing parish announcements, feast celebrations, photographs, videos and faith-based messages through digital platforms. It helps preserve parish memories and connects parishioners with the life and activities of the community.

The parish maintains a Facebook presence under the name “Thirusiluvai Malai.” The platform serves as a digital space for announcements, liturgical celebrations, devotional content and parish news.

10. Education and Early Childhood Development

St. Eugene English Academy

St. Eugene English Academy provides English-language education for students from Grade 1 to Grade 11. Classes are conducted from Monday to Friday, helping students develop English communication skills and improve their educational opportunities.

Parish Preschool – 18 children

The parish preschool commenced on 26 January 2026 and serves 18 children. Under the responsibility of the parish priest, the preschool supports early childhood development through foundational learning, social interaction, discipline, creativity and values formation.

Through these educational initiatives, the parish seeks to nurture children's potential and contribute to the educational development of the local community.

11. Liturgical, Spiritual and Cultural Activities

Lenten Season

Special Lenten prayers, Stations of the Cross, penitential services, spiritual reflections, fasting, acts of charity and opportunities for reconciliation.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday celebrations, with parish preparations.

Advent and Christmas

Spiritual preparation for Christmas, family prayer, Christmas liturgies, carols, nativity presentations, children's programmes and community gatherings.

Patronal Feasts

Celebrations of St. John the Baptist and the patron saints of the four substations, along with the feasts of the parish Anbiyams.

Marian Devotions

Rosary, Marian prayers and celebrations associated with Our Lady of Velankanni and other Marian feasts.

Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, marriage and other sacramental celebrations, according to parish arrangements.

12. Children, Teachers and Family Celebrations

Children's Day

Programmes that recognize children's dignity, talents, creativity and rights, with games, cultural activities and faith formation.

Teachers' Day

Appreciation of schoolteachers, catechists and educators for their dedication to teaching and shaping the lives of young people.

Anbiyam Feasts

Community Masses, patronal devotions, family gatherings and activities that strengthen unity among Anbiyam members.

Youth Day and Leadership Programmes

Activities that encourage leadership, teamwork, social responsibility and Christian discipleship.

Family Day

Programmes that promote family prayer, mutual understanding, reconciliation and stronger relationships between generations.

Sports and Cultural Events

Opportunities for children and youth to express their talents and strengthen community relationships.

13. Social Outreach and Community Development

The parish's mission extends beyond the celebration of the sacraments. Inspired by Christ's call to love one's neighbour, the parish's outreach and community-development commitment includes care, compassion and solidarity.

- Visiting the sick, elderly and homebound.
- Supporting families facing financial hardship.
- Encouraging blood donation and health-awareness programmes where feasible.
- Organizing environmental cleanliness and community-care initiatives.
- Promoting children's education and youth development.
- Offering support and companionship to families experiencing grief or personal difficulties.

- Promoting peace, reconciliation, respect and cooperation among people of different backgrounds.
- Responding to emergencies and community needs.

These initiatives reflect the Christian commitment to serve others with compassion, dignity and solidarity.

14. The Oblate Mission and Evangelization

As an Oblate parish, St. John the Baptist's Church, Sampalthivu, is called to embody the missionary spirit of St. Eugene de Mazenod: to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people, especially those who need hope, accompaniment and encouragement.

Through the Eucharist, preaching, catechesis, education, youth formation, charitable outreach and digital communication, the parish seeks to form committed disciples and build a community that lives the Gospel in everyday life.

Its ministries work together to make the Church a welcoming home for children, youth, families and the elderly. Digital media also offers a way to share the Word of God, document activities, invite people to participate in parish life and reach beyond the church building.

15. Vision and Mission

Vision

To build a vibrant, faith-filled and united parish community rooted in Christ, where every family grows in holiness and every person is welcomed, valued and encouraged to live the Gospel.

Mission

To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, catechetical formation, education, youth and children's ministry, social outreach and digital evangelization, inspired by the missionary charism of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

16. Conclusion

St. John the Baptist's Church, Sampalthivu, is more than a place of worship; it is a living community of faith, service, education and fellowship. With 246 families, four substations, eight Anbiyams and a wide range of parish ministries, the parish brings together people of different ages and backgrounds in a shared journey of Christian discipleship.

Through the dedication of its parish priest, parish council, religious and lay associations, catechists, youth, children and volunteers, the parish continues to nurture faith, strengthen families, encourage education and serve the wider community.

United in Christ and inspired by the missionary spirit of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, St. John the Baptist's Church, Sampalthivu, looks forward to a future in which faith becomes action, service becomes love and every parishioner becomes a witness to the Gospel.