

## Fr. Dunston: A Trusted and Worthy Friend



I cherish the vision and mission of Fr. Dunston, and admire at his amazing virtues and very simple but rustic life as a religious priest

I used to enjoy his spiritual treasures while he was my aspirant rector at Varandharapilly, and later as my spiritual companion and director for many years. To be honest, he was a holy religious priest, and in appearance like an angel. He never compromised on principles and values for his own benefits or selfish reasons. He called a spade, spade.

He was always ready to adjust and re-adjust to the maximum possible level even to the extent of sacrificing his life for others. In form and moving, he seemed to be an ascetic, and his words and deeds contained a Divine touch.

He was much more interested in eco-friendly activities. Leisurely times he occupied himself with planting of trees and shrubs and engaged in other kinds of domestic agriculture. He sincerely obeyed the law of the Lord, and highly respected the law of the land without diluting them to his convenience. He took maximum care not to hurt or wound others, their feelings in words, deeds, or thoughts. It was his spiritual style to forget what was filthy and unwanted and remembered only the best and desirable. He rejected superfast and luxury conveniences on travel and other domestic articles, wristwatch, chappals, umbrella, etc., and he felt them as overload on his shoulders.

He was a trusted and worthy friend who never divulged anything that might affect the bright future of others. Rather, he preferred to correct them personally. He never lied but appreciated and accepted every one as they were and inspired them for a highly qualified religious and priestly life.

The integrity and wholeness of his religious commitment to the Lord were highly and clearly exemplified in the daily observance of the religious vows.

His life is a model for us and inspires us to enjoy the spiritual luxury rather than worldly pleasure. Let us ask Fr. Dunston to instil our hearts with the famous inspiring words of St. Paul, “For the love of Jesus, I consider everything in the world as garbage” (Phil 3:8).

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