

## **Loyola College (Autonomous)**

### **Chennai – 600 034.**

#### **Loyola College deliberates on the connectedness of spirituality and Environment**

*Journey of a Poet: The Agony and the Ecstasy of G. M. Hopkins* written by Rev. Dr. V. Y. Dasappan, S.J., Principal, St. Xavier's College, Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram was released at Loyola College on 18.02.19. Releasing the book, Rev. Fr. Jayapathy Francis, S.J., Rector wanted the participants to consider post truth as a strategy to understand the complex nature of the reality not only from objective facts' points of view but also emotion and personal belief's points of view. Rev. Dr. F. Andrew, S.J., Principal, who received the first copy appreciated the author and said that "It requires an enormous effort on the part of the author to write a book comprehensively on interconnectedness of spirituality and environment".

Dr. Dasappan who also delivered Thiru. S.X. Swamikannu Endowment Lecture on "Spirituality and Poetry in the Era of Post-Truth". He affirmed that the humanity has to perceive God's presence in nature and preserve it in the interest of environment. He further recalled the lamentation of Hopkins, the poet over the previous generations' role 'soiling' and 'searing' our world. Therefore, we need to believe in an infinite power of renewal, to which the regenerative natural cycles testify. Thus, the speaker illustrated the regenerative power of the earth and overpowering force of God in the context of post truth era.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Dr. K. S. Antonysamy, Head, Department of English and the organizer of the programme explained the need to have academic deliberations on socially relevant topics and endowment lectures of this kind provide staff and students opportunities to have meaningful discussions. On the occasion, Rev. Dr. Francis Xavier, S.J., Former Provincial - Jesuits Madurai Province, Dr. Claramma Jose, Guide and supervisor of Fr. Dasappan, Dr. Bernard D' Sami, Former HOD, History and Coordinator, LISSTAR, Dr. Francis Jose, former HOD, Commerce, Prof. GM James, Former HOD, English and Prof. James Sundaraj, Former HOD, English were also present and made the event interactive.