

Fr. Vincent John, CMI

*Written by Albert Lin
Russell County News*

Starting this past July 1, Father Vincent John, 53, began serving as the pastor of St. Mary Queen of Angels Catholic Church in Russell and St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Gorham.

Bishop Gerald Vincke of the Catholic Diocese of Salina installed Father John as the pastor of the two Catholic churches during this past August 9, 2024. The installation occurred at the Gorham church during its 8:00 a.m. mass and at the Russell church during its 10:00 a.m. mass.

Father John was born and grew up in the state of Kerala in southern India. He attended St. Joseph's College in Kerala, graduating in 1996 with a degree in economics. Afterward, he attended Dharmaram Seminary in the city of Bangalore in the state of Karnataka in southern India. He graduated in June of 2000. He was ordained on December 26, 2000, at Kerala. He belongs to the religious order of Carmelites of Mary Immaculate.

He served a few years in India. Then, he was sent to Australia, where he served in the Archdiocese of Melbourne for 16 years. In July of 2024, he was sent to the Diocese of Salina. He served St. Mary, Queen of the Universe, Catholic Church in Salina, from July 1, 2024, to June 31, 2025.

Then, he served in St. Francis Xavier Parish in Junction City, Kansas from July 1, 2025, to June 20, 2026. He was then transferred to serve Russell and Gorham. Speaking about his impressions of Russell and Gorham, Father John said, "I really enjoy because I feel welcomed and accepted here, and people are very loving and caring, and the reason is I can understand their struggle, because I have a farming background. I used to work with my parents on the farm, so I know the challenges there."

Describing his ministerial style, Father John said he enjoys interacting as a minister with other people of all ages, and people are welcome to contact him at any time if they need ministerial services. He wants to continue building a strong Catholic community in Russell and Gorham.