



Bishop Anton Ranjith Pillainayagam is the twin son of Michael Anthony Pillainayagam and Mrs. Dharma Miriam Pillainayagam (nee Selladurai). He was born in Jaffna, on September 23, 1966. His twin brother, Ajith and Bishop Ranjith were baptized at Our Lady of Refuge Church, Jaffna (OLR). He received Holy Communion on July 13, 1974 and was confirmed on October 13, 1979 - both Sacraments administered by the Bishop of Jaffna - Bishop B. Deogupillai. The family relocated to Colombo as his father obtained employment at the Central Bank. Bishop Ranjith's Montessori and Lower Kindergarten education was at St. Benedict's College, Kotahena. The mother and the twins returned to Jaffna after the death of his father in 1973 and the twins joined St. Patrick's College, Jaffna where their maternal grandfather late J. S. B. Selladurai was a teacher.

Anton Ranjith joined the St. Francis Xavier's Seminary, Jaffna soon passing his Advanced Level Examination and had obtained admission to the University of Jaffna – however, could not obtain permission from the Bishop to attend the University and be in the seminary at the same time. He left the seminary to enter the University of Jaffna to follow a degree Programme in Physical Science and offered Mathematics and Statistics as his subjects of the Study Programme. He was awarded Bachelor of Science (Hons) degree in Statistics in 1993. In 1995, he moved to Wellawatte and with the blessing of the Archbishop of Colombo, joined firstly the minor seminary in Borella to learn Sinhalese and later the National Seminary, Ampitya. He was ordained a priest by Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando on September 16, 2000.

His educational qualifications meant that during most of his career, he served mainly as an academic - Tutorial Staff - St. Peter's College, Colombo 4 2001-2002: Class Teacher - A/L Section, St. Peter's College, Colombo 4 (2003) : Principal Primary School, St. Peter's College, Colombo 4 (2006) : Head of Tamil Section, Deva Dharma Nikethanaya, Borella (2006-2007): Staff of St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa (2007-2008): Primary Section, St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 (2008-2012): Vice Rector St. Peter's College, Colombo 4: Acting Rector St. Peter's College, Udugampola (2014-2019): Vice Rector St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 (2019): Acting Rector St. Joseph's College, Colombo 10 (2019): Rector, St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa (2020).

In July 2020, Vatican announced that Mgr Anton Ranjith Pillainayagam has been appointed as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Colombo. He was consecrated as Bishop on August 29, 2020 at St. Lucia's Cathedral, Kotahena by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith, Archbishop of Colombo.

To honour his roots and his 'alma mater', Bishop Anton Ranjith included the "Yaarl" and the "shamrock" in his episcopal coat of arms. His episcopal motto is "Dominus Est – It the Lord"

Compiled from article written by M. Jessa A. Tambinayagam in the Catholic Messenger – 23.8.2020