

INTER NOS

RNI. No. KARBIL/2007/20997

Regn. No. MNG/991/2019-2021

Vol. 15

No. 5

May 2021

Hearty Congratulations

Dear Bishop Aloysius Paul D'Souza
On your Episcopal Silver Jubilee



15 May 2021

Once in a while, there comes
Someone very special like you
Who makes of one's own life
A living testimony of Christ's love.

Thank You for your 25 years of episcopal ministry
Knowing well that God's grace is not cheap but costly
You led the diocese "With the Compassion of Jesus Christ"
Became a joyful witness to all and a good Pastor at best.

On this special day, God bless and ever keep you,
Always blessed and all your loved ones too.

Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha,
Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR MAY 2021

4	09.30	a.m.	Ordination at Loreto
11	05.00	p.m.	Confirmation at Angelore
12	09.30	a.m.	Ordination at Mogarnad
14-15			CCBI, Executive Committee Online Meeting
15-16			Pastoral Visit, Bajjodi
17	09.30	a.m.	Episcopal Silver Jubilee of Bishop A.P. D'Souza, Cathedral
19	09.45	a.m.	Golden Jubilee, Belvai Parish
	03.00	p.m.	Governing Board Meeting, CODP
20	05.00	p.m.	Confirmation at Shaktinagar
22-23			Pastoral Visit, Miyapadavu
25	10.00	a.m.	Decennial Celebration Mass, Milagres College
29-30			Pastoral Visit, Salethur

[The Bishop's Programmes in May month are subject to changes or cancellation due to the prevailing situation]

PRAYER MARATHON

Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. This prayer marathon is dedicated to the theme, "from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God." The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle. □

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR MAY 2021

Our Support to Workers: In 1955, Pope Pius XII established on May 1 the feast of St Joseph the Worker to signify the Catholic Church's commitment to the dignity of labour. St. Joseph cared for Mary and Jesus through his work as a carpenter, representing for us the ideal of dignified work and faithful contribution to the common good. His example reminds all workers to participate in God's continuing creation every day through their own labour. The working class is the engine that runs the world. When workers are on strike, everything gets paralysed. Think of the strike of the transportation or the sanitation workers! Should we not promote the dignity of labour and express gratitude towards those who serve the society, risking their life? We have seen the hardship of the migrant labourers, and again this year, with the second wave of Covid-19, the situation of the daily wage earners and casual labourers is becoming pathetic. Like last year, we must seriously think how best we can address the issues of the poor and come to their help.

Our Lady of Fatima and a Call to Prayer and Penance: During the First World War, Mother Mary appeared to the three children of Fatima in 1917 and gave a call to repentance and return to God. She asked the children to "pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war" (*Fatima in Lucia's Own Words*, vol. I, 176). We are in the middle of great tragedy; a warlike situation has come about, and helplessness is rampant. We are worried as darkness covers the horizon but as people who believe in the Risen Jesus, we are challenged to have recourse to Jesus our Saviour, through Mother Mary, who incessantly intercedes for us. To save the world from the great tragedy of pandemic, let us pray the Rosary with great devotion.

We can also pray the prayer, the Angel of Peace taught to the three children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Sister Lucia recounts in her *Memoirs* of the appearance of the Angel of Peace in 1916. During the second apparition, he taught them a prayer.

Kneeling on the ground, he bowed down until his forehead touched the ground and he made the children to repeat three times: “My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You”, and then rising he said: “Pray thus. The Hearts of Jesus and Mary are attentive to the voice of your supplications”.

During the third apparition, “He was holding a chalice in his left hand, with the Host suspended above it, from which some drops of blood fell into the chalice. Leaving the chalice suspended in the air, the Angel knelt down beside us and made us repeat three times: ‘Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly, and I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference with which He Himself is offended. And, through the infinite merits of His most Sacred Heart, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of You the conversion of poor sinners’” (*Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words*, vol. I, 78-79). Let us pray these prayers before the Blessed Sacrament, for the renewal of our life, that of others and for the healing of the world from all maladies. If we are unable to go to the Church, at least facing the Crucifix at home, we shall beseech God. In these difficult times, heaven beckons us to put our trust in God and make a firm decision for conversion from sin and renewal towards a holy life. Let us fast and pray that the Lord may save us.

CBCI President Calls for a Day of Fasting and Prayer:

Archbishop of Bombay, Oswald Cardinal Gracias has sent a circular dated 22 April 2021, asking all the dioceses, religious houses and monasteries to dedicate 7 May as a day of Prayer and Fasting for the relief from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Christians from other denominations will also join in prayer on this day. He has invited the cloistered sisters to have a special hour of praying for an end to the pandemic. I invite all to respond to the call of Cardinal Gracias to set this day apart for fasting and prayer so that the Lord may come to our assistance and make haste to help us.

Congratulations to the New Priests: I heartily congratulate the new priests, Fr Ivan Ashwin D'Souza, Fr Kevin Lawrence D'Souza, Fr Suraj Joseph Lobo, Fr Ronson Pinto, and Fr Jovin Vishwas Sequeira. I sincerely thank their Parents, Parish Priests, Formators, Ministry Guides and all those involved in their formation. I request everyone to pray for our priests so that they may give their best in the work of the Lord and for the Church.

Vocation Promotion for the Diocese: I call upon the Parish Priests to organise activities to promote vocations for the Diocese. Kindly invite the Vocation Promotor of the Diocese, Fr Anil Ivan Fernandes, to meet the students from VIII to PUC and keep in touch with them and their families. It is the mission of the Church 'to care for the birth, discernment and fostering of vocations, particularly those to the priesthood'. By the very fact that 'the lack of priests is certainly a sad thing for any Church', pastoral work for vocations needs especially today, to be taken up with a new vigour and more decisive commitment by all the members of the Church'" (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, n. 34). I encourage active cooperation among priests, consecrated persons and laity, especially parents and teachers. I request groups, movements and associations of the lay faithful to cooperate with the Commission for Formation of Seminarians and Religious Life within the Pastoral Plan of our Diocese in this noble task.

Training for the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) on the Execution of the Pastoral Plan: During the recent meeting of the Vicars Forane, the Coordinator of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, Rev. Fr Joseph Martis requested them to organise the training programmes for the PPCs at the deanery level. In larger deaneries, it could be held in more than one place. The Coordinator is ready to make the resource persons available for the training programmes. If everything goes well, we can organise these programmes for all the parishes in the months of May and June.

Blood Donation: Blood will be in short supply in these days of the pandemic. I call upon the Parish Priests to motivate the Health Commission of the Parish to encourage youngsters above

18 to donate blood before they go for vaccination, rolled out from 1 May. You may contact the concerned department of the Hospitals to organise the blood donation camps. Donate Blood, Save Life!

Decree of the Erection of the Parish: Along with the documents called for by the Auditor for the renewal of 12A/12AA, kindly furnish a copy of the Decree of Erection of the Parish, which may be required just in case it is called for by the Income Tax Department. Submitting the Parish Mobile Number and email ID is mandatory. Please complete the process of submission at least by 15 May 2021.

✠Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

**LAUDATIO FOR EPISCOPAL SILVER JUBILARIAN
THE MOST REV. BISHOP ALOYSIUS PAUL D'SOUZA**

It gives me great honour to sing a song of praise to Bishop Aloysius Paul D'Souza on his glorious Silver Jubilee on 15 May 2021. Of the 25 years, 22 years he served as Bishop of Mangalore and the rest as Bishop Emeritus. Today, he rejoices and gives thanks to the Almighty God. Along with the Pastor of the Diocese, Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha, we, the faithful, religious and priests of the Diocese of Mangalore, thank God for his marvellous deeds (*magnalia Dei*) he has accomplished in the life and episcopal ministry of Bishop Aloysius Paul D'Souza. We wish Bishop Aloysius a Glorious Happy Silver Jubilee.

Bishop Aloysius - fondly named in our conversations as Bishop A.P. - always exhibited a great love of the Lord and the Church. His concern for the well-being of others extended beyond the members of the Catholic Church to other Christians and non-Christians. The Bishop's ministry in the Church today is not always easy; he has many challenges to face. Lots of expectations

are placed upon him. Even in the face of many issues, decisions and challenges, Bishop A.P. consistently demonstrates a calm trust. It is an acceptance that, ultimately, everything is in the Lord's hands; that we can only do our best and then move forward.

The great thing about Bishop A.P. is that despite the significant challenges, he served with such joy and never lost his sense of cheerfulness. He knew how to relax, knew how to make difficult decisions, and always had sufficient time for prayer. I have observed how seriously he took his first responsibility to pray for the priests and people of our Diocese. When baseless allegations and false rumour began to circulate, he suffered but never lost faith and trust in the Lord. In an interview that appeared on 16 July 2018 in a media network, Bishop A.P. said: "Christ also has passed through the same situation. They tried to defame him by false allegations. I am a follower of Christ. We should accept these things with a spirit of faith. It will only strengthen our faith and trust in God. So I believe the allegations on me which arise at the time of my retirement are an opportunity to strengthen my faith and witness the eternal love of God."

People could approach Bishop Aloysius at any day and time, although he set aside specific days for clergy, religious and laity. He was available to all. Thus he came to be known as Peoples' Bishop. The poor, marginalised, and the downtrodden people loved him. When I was serving as Chancellor and Secretary, he advised me to send to him - without making them wait - the people who came for some financial assistance, especially those poorly clad, hardly having education, and so on. These came to him not only for financial aid but also for the consolation of talking to the Bishop, invariably narrating their woes and sufferings. The Bishop listened to them and attended to their needs. Having received a small chit he wrote to the Procurator, they left the Bishop's office with a glow of joy on their face as they proceeded towards the Procurator's Office.

In his Pastoral visits to the Parishes, the Bishop realised that some families lived in tiny thatched houses without toilets and sanitary facilities. Housing for the poor was another outstanding initiative of Bishop Aloysius. He gave a call to all the parishes to join hands with him to change these houses into houses with tiled roofs. Besides providing financial support for the roofing and repair of houses of the poor, he had some 24 flats constructed to house the needy at Mariashram, Talapady. He paid particular attention to the education of children. He wanted every child to study at least upto PUC and also emphasised higher education. Through CODP, he pooled together the resources. Many eligible students have pursued higher education through this initiative, who otherwise would have been deprived of it. He encouraged the blooming youngsters to go for government jobs, public services and get into political life.

Bishop A.P. had a special concern for his priests, especially for those facing crisis in their life. He listened to them with patience, encouraged them with a fatherly care and supported them with a motherly heart. He hardly got angry or annoyed with anyone. His personal approach was very soothing, and he could mend many broken hearts and bring about reconciliation.

Bishop's routine started precisely at 5.30 a.m. He entered his Chapel at 6 a.m. for an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by the Mass. He spent time in the Chapel pouring out before the Blessed Sacrament all the intentions of the people of God and his own. This was the key to his success. He had many other services rendered in the field of liturgy, catechetics and Bible. In times of sorrows and trials, he increased his faith in the merciful Saviour, Mother Mary and St. Joseph. He made efforts and took the lead to establish new parishes, institutions, two medical colleges, an engineering college, and many other big and small educational institutions. The religious from various congregations came to the Diocese because of the friendly

atmosphere in this Diocese. Bishop Aloysius has lived his episcopal motto “with the compassion of Jesus Christ” so well that people acclaim him as Compassionate Father. We call upon the Bishop to cherish the glorious 25 years and count his blessings one by one, and live long.

Through ordination to Priesthood, one commits one’s life into the hands of others, and a priest promises to accept the decisions made for him and the tasks assigned to him. Bishop Aloysius has reminded many priests on their Ordination day over the past 25 years, that the final words of the Ordination Rite are an invitation to model one’s life on the mystery of the Lord’s Cross. There will always be an element of the Cross in the living out of one’s priestly vocation, even more so the call to be a Bishop. We know it is not for decoration that a Bishop is invited to wear a Cross. Others made that decision. It is primarily a call to service, a call to spend one’s life in complete service of the Lord. Bishop Aloysius not only wore the Cross, but he also bore the Cross and followed Jesus. Just as for Jesus, the glory of a Bishop consists of being lifted up on a Cross so that he is able to reveal Jesus and draw all people to Him.

We wish Bishop Aloysius the joys and happiness of his Silver Jubilee as a Bishop. May the compassionate Lord be his Good Shepherd and the pillar of strength while he advances in age as a member of the *Ecclesia Orans*. The Lord gave him the energy and health over the past twenty-five years as he endeavoured to fulfil the call that came to him. What lies ahead is very much in His hands. We assure him that we will continue to keep him in our prayers and remember his meritorious service as Bishop of Mangalore, a Diocese that continues to have a proud and noble history in affirming and witnessing to the faith. *Ad multos annos.*

– Rev. Denis Moras Prabhu

GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE PASTORAL VISIT OF THE BISHOP TO PARISHES

I. Introduction

In the Bible, God “visits” his people sometimes to test or to punish, and at other times, to bless. The Hebrew verb *paqad* is used several times in the Old Testament to signify God’s “visitation” and “providential care” and “watchfulness”, which shows His compassion and loving kindness when He comes to visit and to see the condition of His beloved people (cfr Gen. 50:22) or individual persons (cfr Job 10:12).

In the New Testament, Luke 1:68 is a classic example of God’s coming to visit people (using a Greek word originating from *episkeptomai*, which conveys the basic meaning of visiting someone in order to see how he is and to help him: “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel because he has visited and redeemed His people.” The coming of Jesus Christ is the ultimate visitation of God in history. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who watched over the sheep with protective care and died for the flock: “I know my sheep, and my sheep know me... and I lay down my life for the sheep” (Jn 10: 14, 15). The identification of the Bishop’s ministry with a shepherd’s has important implication for Bishops. Shepherds are not off-site managers; they are directly involved in the care of the sheep. The Bishop’s ministry involves “taking care of his flock, being vigilant, attentive and caring” – a continuation of the ministry of Jesus.

Episkopos - a Greek term employed to name the office of Bishop can’t be restricted to mean a supervisor. The First Letter of Peter links the shepherd and the *episkopos*: Christ is “the shepherd and guardian of your souls” (2:25). The connection between these two concepts – shepherd and *episkopos* – gives the idea of overseer or supervisor “a depth as a seeing with the

heart, as a looking out from God's perspective, a watching with God" since the Bishop is called to participate in the God's protective care for his people. Thus, the Pastoral Visitation of the Bishop becomes one of the forms of expression of Bishop's concern for the faithful (flock) entrusted to his care.

II. The Norm and Obligation of Pastoral Visit

A Bishop is obliged to visit the Diocese, either in whole or in part each year, so that at least every five years he will have visited the entire Diocese, either personally or, if he has been legitimately impeded, through the coadjutor Bishop, an auxiliary, Vicar general, episcopal Vicar, or some other priest" (can. 396 §1).

III. The Nature of the Pastoral Visit

The Pastoral Visit "is the time when he is closest to his people in carrying out the ministry of the word, of sanctification and of pastoral leadership, when he most directly encounters their anxieties and cares, their joys and their expectations, and is able to address to all an invitation to hope. Here above all, the Bishop comes into direct contact with the poor, the elderly and the infirm. When it is carried out in this way, the Pastoral Visit appears for what it truly is: a sign of the presence of the Lord who visits his people in peace." (John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Pastores Gregis*, no. 46).

In the Directory *Apostolorum Successores* (= AS) on the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops issued on 22 February 2004, the Congregation for Bishops emphasises in no. 220 that the Pastoral Visit constitutes an apostolic activity to be carried out by the Bishop in true pastoral charity, which reveals him to be the principle and visible foundation of the unity of the particular Church. For the communities or institutions visited by the Bishop, it is an event of grace, reflecting in some measure that great visit with which the "chief Shepherd" (1 Pet 5:4) and Guardian of our souls (cf. 1 Pet 2:25), Jesus Christ, has visited and redeemed his people (Lk 1:68).

IV. Goals of the Pastoral Visit

- 1) To maintain personal contact with the priests, deacons, religious, associations, consultative bodies in the Parish, and lay members of the People of God.
- 2) To rejuvenate the energies of those engaged in evangelisation, and to praise, encourage and reassure them; to bring encouragement and hope to those involved in pastoral work and to all the people of the Parish.
- 3) To use the visit as an opportunity to invite the faithful to a renewal of Christian life and to an ever more intense apostolic activity; to celebrate the Eucharist, to proclaim the Word of God and to preach/instruct the parish community.
- 4) To help the Bishop to evaluate the effectiveness of the structures and agencies designed for pastoral service, taking account of the circumstances and difficulties of the task of evangelisation, so as to determine more accurately the priorities and the means required for the overall pastoral provision and to foster a sense of belonging to the diocesan Church.
- 5) To become acquainted with the reality of the environment, the socio-economic condition of the people, the current pastoral programmes, and the overall functioning of the Parish.
- 6) From a faith perspective, to look at the parish community in its main components: faith education at all ages, sacramental and liturgical life, the sense of community, co-responsibility and leadership, service to society, the relationship of the Parish with the diocesan and universal Church; financial organisation and the state of recordkeeping of sacramental registers and other archival material.

V. The Subjects of the Pastoral Visit

Persons, Catholic institutions, and sacred things and places, which are located within the area of the Diocese are subject

to ordinary episcopal visitation, including autonomous monasteries and the houses of religious institutes of diocesan Rite, members of religious institutes of pontifical right and their houses in respect of the care of souls, public worship and other external apostolates (can. 397).

The law does not require the Bishop to inspect each and every one of those persons, institutions, places and sacred things that are subject to his ordinary episcopal visitation. However, with due regard to the limits mentioned in canon law, he has the *right* to do so, either personally or through a delegate.

The Bishop aims to carry out a formal visitation of each Parish in the Diocese every five years. This involves 24 visitations each year (currently, there are 122 parishes and 2 quasi-parishes in the Diocese of Mangalore).

VI. Preparation for the Pastoral Visit

- 1 If a Pastoral Visit has not taken place in the Parish for the past 4 or more years, the Parish Priest should request the Bishop to make the visit. The Bishop may also propose to the Parish Priest to organise the visit. In any case, the visit should be arranged well in advance.
- 2) The faithful should receive suitable preparation for the Pastoral Visit through a special series of talks and sermons on themes concerning the nature of the Church, hierarchical communion, and the episcopate. In order to highlight the spiritual and apostolic dimension, the Pastoral Visit may be preceded by a parish mission/retreat or a day of prayer/recollection, intended to reach all parishioners, whatever their social level, including those who have fallen away from the practice of the faith (AS, no. 222).
- 3) In each Parish, the Parish Pastoral Council or a special committee of this Council takes on the responsibility of preparing, facilitating, and evaluating the Pastoral Visit.

- 4) The Bishop also makes suitable preparation for the visit by informing himself in advance of the socio-religious situation of the Parish. Such information could prove helpful to him and to the relevant diocesan offices in forming an accurate picture of the state of the parish community and in making appropriate provision (AS no. 222).
- 5) From the Chancery Office, the Parish Priest should obtain two copies of the Memorandum of the Pastoral Visit and a copy of the list of Records/Files to be maintained in the Parish.
- 6) The Parish Priest should obtain an adequate number of copies of the Liturgical Rite of Pastoral Visit and familiarise with every step of the Rite. This enables to ensure that the reception and canonical entry of the Bishop is done well.
- 7) Prepare the candidates for Confirmation adequately through catechesis, spiritual and sacramental preparation such as an hour of prayer, confession (also for the parents/family of the *confirmandi*), and liturgical preparation.
- 8) The Parish Priest should prepare a time table for the Pastoral Visit at least 15 days in advance and send it to the Bishop for his approval. The Structure of the Pastoral Visit given below will indicate the items to be included in the Time-Table. However, Parish Priests may also obtain from the Chancery a sheet of paper containing Instruction on the Preparation of Time-Table for Pastoral Visit.
- 9) A team of officials from the Diocese, generally consisting of Vicar General/Chancellor, Procurator, Property/Estate Manager along with the Vicar Forane, will visit the Parish with prior information to Parish Priest. This team will scrutinise the records/documents and inventory, especially as mentioned in the Memorandum of the Pastoral Visit and the List of Records/Files.

- 10) The Vicar Forane by virtue of his office, is responsible for ensuring that all parish registers are correctly entered and securely kept, including the register of Mass Offerings. The Vicar Forane will discuss any concerns there may be about the administration and upkeep of parish property. This occasion will facilitate the familiarity of the Vicar Forane in the administrative matters of parishes of his vicariate. When the Vicar Forane himself is the Parish Priest of the Parish to be visited, the Bishop will appoint another Vicar Forane or another priest to form part of the team.
- 11) The Parish Priest should make available to the team a duly filled in copy of the Memorandum of the Pastoral Visit and all the documents for scrutiny or inspection.
- 12) At the end of the scrutiny/inspection, the team will give its observations and remarks that the Parish Priest should attend. The team will present their Report along with their observations to the Bishop. At the time of his visit, the Bishop will take into consideration this Report while inspecting the documentation maintained in the Parish.

VII. The Demeanour During the Visit

As in every exercise of his pastoral ministry, the Bishop conducts himself with simplicity and kindness during a parish visit, giving an example of devotion, charity and poverty: all virtues which, together with prudence, should distinguish a Pastor of the Church. The Bishop esteems the Pastoral Visit as *quasi anima episcopalis regiminis*, an extension of his spiritual presence among his people (John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Gregis*, no. 46).

In the course of the visit, the Bishop should take care not to burden the Parish or the parishioners with unnecessary expenses (can. 398). “This does not prevent them, however, from organising simple festivities as a natural consequence

of their Christian joy and an expression of affection and esteem for their Pastor” (AS, no. 223).

VIII. The Procedure and Structure of the Pastoral Visit

- 1) In most cases, the parish Pastoral Visit starts Saturday afternoon/evening. It concludes Sunday evening. In some larger parishes having more institutions, an additional half-day morning visit on Saturday or Monday to parish schools and institutions may be considered.
- 2) When the Bishop arrives at the Parish, he is welcomed as per the instructions provided in the Rite of Pastoral Visitation. These are in the Booklet prepared for this purpose.
- 3) The Bishop teaches catechism to the Candidates for Confirmation for about 45 to 60 minutes. The Confirmation Mass follows.
- 4) The *confirmandi* make an offering at the Offertory of the Mass of Confirmation. This amount is credited to the Seminary Fund to educate candidates to Priesthood. This may be told to the candidates for Confirmation and their parents. Please deposit this amount so received in the Parish Account. Then issue a cheque made in favour of the Diocese of Mangalore and send it to the Diocesan Procurator.
- 5) The visit to the Cemetery and Prayers for the Dead. It is done either on Saturday or Sunday after Mass as determined in the schedule of the Pastoral Visit.
- 6) Meeting with the Parish Pastoral Council and another meeting with the Parish Finance Council. Both Councils should present their Report to the Bishop. The former meeting concentrates on the pastoral dimension and the latter on the financial situation.
- 7) Inspection of the Records: The Bishop examines the administration and maintenance of the Parish, including places of worship, liturgical vessels and appointments, parish

registers and other goods. Nevertheless, some aspects of this task are left to the Vicars Forane and the team of diocesan officials so that the Bishop concentrates on personal meetings during the visit itself, as befits a true Shepherd (cfr *AS* no. 221).

- 8) On the second day of the visit, the Bishop will address all the faithful of the Parish and spend some time on catechesis and instruction on the Christian life.
- 9) The Bishop will celebrate and preach at the principal Mass.
- 10) The Bishop meets the parents and family members of seminarians, priests and religious.
- 11) Meeting the various Associations of the Parish, and each association will submit a Report of the activities to the Bishop.
- 12) The Bishop visits the sick and homebound. The Parish Priest may select one or two houses and inform them. This visit may be used to bring Holy Communion to the sick and to administer the Anointing of the Sick.
- 13) The Bishop will participate in the SCC meetings in one of the wards.
- 14) Included in the Bishop's schedule are his visits to religious houses; Catholic schools where he will hold a meeting with the staff.
- 15) One-on-one meeting with each of the priests assigned to or in residence at the Parish.
- 16) The activities that are highly recommended to be included, if it is possible to schedule: Visit to the sub-station/chapel; Visitation of institutions within the parish boundaries where Church ministry is carried out (e.g., hospitals, orphanage, charitable centres); Hearing of confessions, in the event that they are regularly scheduled during the time of the visit.
- 17) A key consideration throughout each visitation will be progress in the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

IX. The Follow Up

- 1) After each parish visit, the Bishop prepares a record of the visit that has taken place, expressing appreciation for the various pastoral activities and offering recommendations for certain improvements in the life of the Parish, with particular reference to the state of divine worship, to pastoral work and any other important initiatives (AS, no. 224).
- 2) The Parish Priest will receive one copy of this Report. He should work on the areas suggested for improvement. If the documents/records need updating, it should be done right away.
- 3) After a month or two of the Pastoral Visit, Vicar Forane and one Diocesan Official will visit the Parish as a follow-up to the Bishop's Pastoral Visit. This will be done with prior information to the Parish Priest to offer him assistance in response to areas of concern expressed in the visitation report and to ascertain whether the directions or instructions of the Bishop have been followed.

X. Conclusion

The Pastoral Visit of a Bishop in his Diocese is not merely a matter of bureaucracy. It is an opportunity for the Bishop to meet with the people of God – clergy, religious, and laity – entrusted to his care. Visitation must be undertaken diligently, always bearing in mind the pastoral nature of the episcopal office. All involved in the process should cooperate in the success of the Pastoral Visit, which is an apostolic endeavour and an event of grace.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRIESTS OF MANGALORE DIOCESE

“I have loved you with an everlasting love, I have called you and you are mine”. These words expressed to Prophet Jeremiah have become true in the lives of five deacons who were ordained priests on Wednesday 21 April 2021. The Diocese of Mangalore rejoiced with happiness for the gift of Priesthood and thanked the Lord for anointing the five newly ordained priests. The ordination ceremony took place at the Rosario Cathedral in the presence of several priests and lay faithful with a meaningful celebration. The five new priests are:

Fr Ronson Pinto was born on 20 May 1993. He is the son of Richard Pinto and Irene Pinto from Holy Cross Church, Cordel. He has an older sister and a younger brother. He did his Primary School at St Joseph Higher Primary School, Kulshekar; High School at St Raymond’s High School, Vamanjoor; P.U.C. at Padua P.U. College, and B.Com, at St Raymond’s College Vamanjoor. He completed his priestly formation at St Joseph Seminary. He did his Regency at St Philomena College Puttur and diaconal ministry at Holy Redeemer Church Belthangady. Fr Ronson is specially gifted for music and singing, and is interested in Youth ministry. His priestly motto: “You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

Fr Jovin Vishwas Sequeira was born on 2 April 1993. He is the son of Valerian Sequeira and Juliet Cardoza from our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Nithyadar Nagar. He has a younger sister. He had his Primary and High School at Govt School, Permannur; P.U.C. at St Sebastian PU College, Permannur, and B.Sc St Aloysius College, Mangalore. He also has obtained a PG diploma in Konkani Language. He completed his priestly formation at St Joseph Seminary. He did his Regency at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Miyapadavu and diaconal ministry at Sacred Heart Church, Maril. Fr Jovin has shown special talents for writing poems and articles in Konkani. He is also interested in family ministry. His desired motto: ”Behold, My servant, whom I have chosen” (Mt 12:18).

Fr Ivan Ashwin D'Souza was born on 22 October 1992. He is the only son of Paul D'Souza and Monthi Mary D'Souza, from Sacred Heart Church, Maril. He had his Primary School at Little Flower Higher Primary School, Puttur; High School at St Philomena High School; P.U.C., at Rosario PU College, and B.A. at St Philomena College, Puttur. He completed his priestly formation at St Joseph Seminary. He did his Regency at St Joseph's Agricultural Colony at Belve (Udupi Diocese) and diaconal ministry at Holy Cross Church, Cordel. He has talents for reading books, articles, and for singing. He has special interest to serve the poor and work in the villages. His chosen motto: "You are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:48).

Fr Kevin Lawrence D'Souza was born on 18 October 1992. He is the son of Gregory D'Souza and Mary D'Souza from Our Lady of Remedies Church, Kirem. He has an older and a younger sister. He had his Primary schooling at Pompei Hr Primary School, Kirem; High School at Pompei High School, Talipady; P.U.C. at Padua College, Mangalore, and B.Com at Pompei College, Kirem. He completed his priestly formation at St Joseph Seminary. He did his Regency at St Antony Church, Naravi and diaconal ministry at St Antony Church, Kulur. He has special talents for preaching. He shows great interest in the ministry towards the sick and needy and work in the area of Small Christian Communities. His inspirational motto: "Your hand shall lead me" (Psalm 139:10).

Fr Suraj Joseph Lobo, was born on 25 May 1992. He is the son of late Jossy Lobo and Irene Lobo from the Church of our Lady Virgin of the Poor, Uppinangady. He is the fourth child having two older brothers and a sister. He had his Primary School at St Philomena School, Uppinangady; High School at Jnanodaya Bethany School, Nellyady; P.U.C. at St Philomena College, Puttur, and B.Sc. at St Philomena Degree College, Puttur. He completed his priestly formation at St Joseph Seminary. He did his Regency at the Pastoral Institute, Bajjodi and diaconal ministry at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Panir. He is specially gifted for singing, composing songs, hymns and playing musical instruments. He

wishes to work for the youth and children. His inspiring motto: “Out of the abundance of the heart” (Mt 12:34).

The Diocese of Mangalore rejoices, congratulates and wishes all the best to the new priests. May the good work begun by the Lord be brought to completion. The priest is called to reflect Christ in the world. Pope St John Paul II said, “The world looks to the priest because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ, but everyone sees the priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest!”. May our new priests shine the light of Christ; may they bring the Good News of the Lord to all the people of goodwill, especially to the last, least and the lost. We assure our prayers for their fruitful ministry.

- **Fr Joseph Martis, Seminary**

THE RENEWAL OF THE 12A/12AA to 12 AB CERTIFICATE

The process of renewal of the 12A/12AA to 12AB certificate has already started. It is mandatory for all the Parishes to obtain re-registration under 12AB. If 12A/12AA is not renewed on time, we will have to pay 30% tax + interest on the Gross Income of the Parish.

You are requested to give utmost priority and get the 12AB registration on time. For the renewal of 12A/12AA of the Trust (Parish and Educational Institutions) the following documents are required:

1. Self-certified copy of the Trust Deed and the Decree of the Erection of the Parish given by the Bishop.
2. Self-certified copy of Registration u/s 12A/12AA, 80G if recognised under 80G.
3. Self-certified copy of the Statement of Accounts for the Period 01.04.2017-31.03.2018, 1.4.2018 to 31.03.2019 and 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2020 (All three years accounts into one PDF File).

4. The List of Trustees (For the Parishes, the Trustees are the Parish Priest and the Vice President) with their PAN and Aadhar, email ID, and Mobile Number (Signature not required) and scanned copy of the same.
5. Self-certified copy of the PAN of the Trust.
6. Self-certified copy of FCRA Registration Certificate, if any.

After self-certifying the copies by the Parish Priest with the Parish Seal, kindly scan them and prepare PDF files of each document. Please send them to your Auditor (CA) at least by 15 May 2021.

CALL FOR VOCATION PROMOTION

All of us know, the vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life have come down drastically in many parts of the world. The Diocese, too, has been experiencing a crunch in the number of vocations for the past years. The following statistics are bound to raise some alarm. Looking ahead for the future of the Diocese, we need to pray incessantly and work hard towards vocation promotion. We have a significantly fewer number of candidates to the Priesthood from some of the Vicariates. I request the Vicars Forane, Vocation Promoters in the Vicariates and all the Priests ministering whether in the parishes or institutions to promote good vocations from good families. If a Vicariate does not have a Vocation Promotor, I request the Vicar Forane concerned to appoint an enthusiastic priest serving in the Vicariate. The Vicar Forane should assist, guide and encourage the Vicariate Vocation Promotor to work for the cause. The Vicariate Vocation Promotor can coordinate his activities with the Diocesan Vocation Promotor. For your information, we are providing you with a vicariate-wise list/number of candidates for seminary and seminarians currently studying for the Diocese of Mangalore:

S. No.	Vicariate	PUC	Degree	Prop.	Phil.	Regency	Theo.	Total
1	Episcopal		3					3
2	City	1	2		2		2	7
3	Pezar				1		1	2
4	Suratkal	1			1		1	3
5	Bantwal	2	2				3	7
6	Mogarnad	1						1
7	Permannur		1		1		1	3
8	Kinnigoli							—
9	Belthangady	1	3	2	3		3	12
10	Moodubidri				1	3		4
11	Puttur	1	1			1		3
12	Bela	4	1	1	2		1	9
13	Outside the Diocese						2	2
		11	13	3	11	4	14	56

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

DIAMOND BIRTHDAY

V. Rev. Paul Pinto, Parish Priest, Sacred Heart Church, Suratkal, celebrates his 60th Birthday on 28.5.2021.

We wish you a wonderful birthday. May God give you the power, courage, knowledge, and wisdom to continue to proclaim the gospel of joy in whatever place you go and to whichever person, you meet.

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. Programmes for May 2021

- 3-9: Konkani Missal Work - Goa
- 10: Orientation for Newly Ordained Priests
- 16: Liturgy Seminar
- 18: Orientation for Regents
- 23: Training for Extraordinary Ministers - Surathkal Deanery

II. Commission for Catechetics: Information

1. School Catechism & Value Education Exam Certificates:

Good number of schools have organised catechism and value education classes in the academic year 2020-21, both in online & offline mode. Altogether 27 primary schools & 36 High schools have conducted the annual examination. We thank correspondents, H.Ms and teachers for their efforts and service. We request you to collect the certificates from the office before 30 May 2021.

2. Sunday Catechism: Sunday catechism was well organised by the Parish Priests and the teachers in our Diocese from 17 February to 21 March 2021. Many have completed the prescribed syllabus and celebrated the catechism day. Some are still continuing the catechism classes. We thank all the Parish Priests and teachers for the initiative and hard work.

3. New Catechetical Year 2021: We have planned tentatively to begin the catechism classes in our Diocese from the First Sunday of July. Please note this date.

4. Catechism of the Catholic Church in Konkani is revised and will be reprinted. If you and your parishioners require the copies, please place the order at Mangala Jyothi bookstall by 30 May 2021. This book is an excellent resource for catechists, priests, children, youth and adults.

III. Commission for Liturgy: Information

1. Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: This year, we will not be organising extraordinary ministers' training at the diocesan level. Hence you are requested to organise the training at the deanery level or inter-parish level, combining 2 or 3 parishes at one place. The duration of the training is 3 hours.
2. You are requested to update the extraordinary ministers' data online (Name, age, qualification) on our website [www.mangalajyothi.com/parish login/extraordinary ministers data](http://www.mangalajyothi.com/parish_login/extraordinary_ministers_data).
3. The newly revised handbook for extraordinary ministers is available at Mangala Jyothi, which includes new guidelines, installation rite and related material. Please make use of these new books.
4. All the parish priests are requested to maintain a separate file for the extraordinary ministers. Please collect the photocopy of the certificates from the members. Some ministers do not have revised faculty. Hence you are requested to obtain the faculty from the Bishop again. Some have lost their certificates. In this case, we will be issuing new certificates, provided they attend the follow-up programmes.

IV. New Arrivals and Other Books

1. ಸರ್ಗಿಂಚೆ ದಿವೆ - ವೀಸ್ ಲಾಯಿಕ್ ಸಾಂತಾಂಚಿ ಜಿಣಿ
2. ಪವಿತ್ರ್ ಪುಸ್ತಕಾಂತ್ಲಿಂ ನಾಂವಾಂ (Names in the Bible)
3. ಸರ್ಲಲ್ಯಾಂ ಖಾತಿರ್ ಮಾಗ್ಣ್ಯಾವಿಧಿ (Revised edition)
4. ದಿಸ್ಪಡ್ಲ್ಯಾ ಸಾಂತಾಂಚೊ ಸಾಂಗಾತ್ (Revised edition)
5. Call to Serve Him - Handbook for Altar Servers (Revised edition)
6. Mass Candles, superior quality Hosts & Particles, Incense are available at the Mangala Jyothi stall.

- Director, Mangala Jyothi

PROGRAMMES OF CODP

- 8.05.2021 : Training on counselling skills at Bakrabail
- 18.05.2021 : - Awareness on plastic waste management at Vamanjuru
- Training on water harvesting, organic farming and kitchengarden at Talapady
- 19.05.2021 : CODP Board of Directors/General Body meet and ISD Trust meet in CODP-ISD
- 23.05.2021 : Training on counselling skills at Manjeshwar
- 24.05.2021 : Promoting leadership skills among local women at Kayyar
- 25.05.2021 : Promoting leadership skills among local women at Kannatipara
- 29.05.2021 : - Training on Government schemes for Self employment at Amtady and Modankap
- Training on poultry and goat rearing at Balepuni

II. INFORMATION

(1) CHILD SPONSORSHIP–Annual Progress Reports 2021

Due to Covid restrictions, even this year, our CSP staff will be recording the progress (Annual Progress Reports-APRs) of children over the phone and WhatsApp. In case of requiring hard copies of photos, drawings, letters etc., the sponsored child will be requested to post the same to CODP address, as and when needed.

In the meantime, in case any sponsor child/family contacts you to enquire regarding the above, please give them the following contact number, **CODP: 0824 - 2221580**

(2) REGARDING EDUCATION AID 2021

Every year, before the beginning of the academic year, CODP receives hundreds of requests for one-time education aid duly

recommended by the Parish Priests. To process them together, we request you to send such applications to us before 25 May 2021.

(3) EDUCARE

Applications for Educare will be invited later since the academic year for higher education starts late this year.

- **Director, CODP**

OBITUARY OF REV. FR. THOMAS D'SOUZA

“The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.....” (Rom 6:23)

Fr. Thomas D'Souza was born in Bela Parish of Mangalore Diocese on 25 July 1947 to Mr Baptist D'Souza and Mrs Piyad D'Souza as the youngest child among the five children. He has two elder brothers and two elder sisters. Among the sisters, one sister has left to the heavenly abode a few years back.

He belonged to the family who generously gave their children to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. His elder brother Mr Joseph D'Souza's second daughter Sr. Juliana, works in the missions in Nepal. His second brother Mr John D'Souza has three sons who are priests: Fr Fredrick D'Souza of the Diocese of Mangalore serves in Gulbarga Diocese; Fr Jayaprakash D'Souza, Parish Priest at Ranipura, and Fr Prem Prakash D'Souza, a Redemptorist, ministers in Jamkhandi Mission of Belgaum Diocese. Fr Thomas D'Souza's sister Mrs Remezia D'Souza's son Fr Abel Lobo, is the Parish Priest at Uppinangady; daughter Sr. Maria Lobo works in the missions in Zambia, South Africa. His other sister Mrs Dulcine D'Souza's daughter Sr. Cecilia D'Souza, is presently serving at Lonavala in Pune.

Fr. Thomas D'Souza completed his Primary and High School education in Bela and his minor and major Seminary studies in St. Joseph's Seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Mangalore on 5 May 1973. After his Ordination, he was appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest at Karkal Town Parish. After that, he served as the Parish Priest of Nellikar, Kalathur, Kayyar, Bellur and Siddakatte Parishes of Mangalore Diocese.

For the first time in the year 1998, Fr Thomas visited the Bidar Mission (which was then the mission place of Mangalore diocese) along with a team from the Catholic Bishops Conference of India. In the same year, he accompanied the Bishop of Mangalore and one more Bishop to Bidar Mission. There, in Bidar Mission, he found the Call within his Call to serve Bidar Mission. He expressed this to Bishop Aloysius P. D'Souza, the then Bishop of Mangalore and the then Episcopal Vicar for Bidar Mission Rev. Robert Miranda, presently the Bishop of Gulbarga.

And in the year 2000, he came to Bidar and took up the assignment as the Asst. Director of Holy Cross Mission Center at Santhpur, Aurad Taluka of Bidar district and later as an Asst. Director of Kristha Ashrama, Kaudiyal in Basavakalyan. With the establishment of the new Diocese of Gulbarga in 2005, he served as the Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church, Shahabad of Chithapur Taluka, for 2 years beginning from 20 May 2006. From 3 June 2008, he was in the Chancery of Gulbarga, Bishop's House, for 3 years. From 16 June 2011 as Spiritual Director to the Minor Seminarians of Sacred Heart Minor Seminary, Sirnur, Gulbarga for 6 years, and then from 7 May 2017, Priest-in-Charge, Infant Jesus Shrine at Holy Redeemer Mission Center, Bhalki for 4 years. He desired to be in Gulbarga Diocese until the retirement and requested the Bishop not to transfer.

Fr. Thomas D'Souza passed away on 12 April 2021 at 6.20 a.m. at Arogya Matha Seva Kendra, Bhalki, due to severe cardiac arrest after a week-long illness. He served as Priest for 48 years for the Dioceses of Mangalore and Gulbarga.

Fr. Thomas D'Souza was known for his spirituality, simplicity, humility, obedience, creativity, hard work, and dedicated service. He was an amiable and cheerful person and spoke well of others at all times. As a man of prayer, strong in faith in Christ Jesus, he followed a disciplined life and dressed neatly. Every day, he made himself available to the people. He reached out to the simple people in the mission centres through his simple ways to strengthen their faith. He silently supported many people by spiritual direction, counselling, and moral support in their life struggles. As a committed priest, he took great interest in seeking the souls to Christ through his wisdom-filled simple way of communication to the people.

A great and powerful counsellor to ordinary people struggling with lots of hurts and pains in life, he gave them courage and strength to bear their sickness and pain with Christian faith, hope and equanimity. As he was known for his spiritual direction and counselling, many couples and young people came to him for guidance and counselling. His steady and loving communication with all his family members made him an affectionate family member, with whom they were always seeking guidance.

Just for a week, he was sick and taking treatment; we never thought that his end would come so soon. His death is a great shock and loss to all of us. But God's plan for him was different. We resign ourselves to God's holy will.

In the death of Fr. Thomas D'Souza, we have lost one of the exemplary and dedicated priests of both the Dioceses. We pray for the repose of his soul and remember his dedicated service in both the Dioceses. He touched some of our hearts in very special ways that we can never, ever accurately or fully explain with the mere tools of these earthly written words. Only a heavenly-based language can convey that message.

Rev. Fr Santhosh Dias
Mother Teresa Charitable Hospital,
Gulbarga

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF THE CHURCH

The latest Statistical Yearbook of the Church published this year contains more than 500 pages of charts and statistical data as of 31 December 2019 on church life in every region of the world and almost every nation — China being the key exception.

The statistics range from the number of women religious — 630,099 — to the number of marriage nullity cases completed using “the briefer process before the bishop,” a process instituted by Pope Francis — 1,854.

According to the year book, Brazil had 177 million baptised Catholics by the end of 2019; Mexico had 115.5 million; the Philippines had 89 million; the United States had almost 74 million; and Italy had 57.8 million.

But the top 5 countries in terms of the number of dioceses, eparchies, prelatures and other jurisdictions were: Brazil with 278; Italy with 228; the United States with 195; India with 175; and France with 99.

Throughout 2019, the yearbook reveals that there were more than 1.6 million baptisms of children under 7 in the Philippines; more than 1.48 million in Mexico; more than 1.05 million in Brazil; more than 595,000 in the U.S.; and more than 442,000 in Colombia. The Pope’s Argentina came close to making the top 5 with 441,572.

As for ordinations to the diocesan Priesthood in 2019, two countries were tied for the top position: the United States and India, each with 415 new priests. Rounding out the top 5 were: Nigeria with 410; Brazil with 390; and Italy with 317.

The countries with the most Catholic hospitals, not counting dispensaries, are: India with 754; the United States with 551; Germany with 439; Congo with 419; and Brazil with 278.

FROM PROCURATOR'S OFFICE

1) The Parish Priests may claim the CMA deficit by submitting the CMA returns in the new format by the 10th of the following month. While submitting the CMA returns, the earmarked collection for the DCMF/CMA (25% Sunday Collection and Mite box collection) for the month has to be remitted by cheque in favour of **Diocese of Mangalore** or by bank transfer to **Diocese of Mangalore, Karnataka Bank, Kodialbail Branch, IFSC: KARB0000475, Account no: 4762500100102401**. The remittance to the Diocese should be done only from the parish general account.

2) For the payment of the CMA deficit claim, the Parish Priests have to submit the personal bank details on a plain piece of paper. These account details will be kept in our records for future remittances too. So, in the case of any changes later on, kindly intimate to us. The following bank details are required:

- a) Name as per Passbook:
- b) Bank & Branch name:
- c) Full account no:
- d) IFS Code:

3) For remitting stipends for unoffered Masses, Clubbed and Binated Masses, please note the following account details. The remittance to the Diocese should be done only from the parish Mass account.

a) For Unoffered Masses:

Name: Mass Offering Account
Bank: M.C.C. Bank Ltd.
Branch: Founders Branch
IFSC: IBKL0078MCC
Account no.: 002010100020673

b) For Clubbed & Binated Masses:

Name: Diocese of Mangalore
Bank: Karnataka Bank
Branch: Kodialbail Branch
IFSC: KARB0000475
Account no.: 4762500100102401

4) In the case of Bank transfer, kindly intimate the details to the Procurator's office immediately.

R.I.P

- Mrs Piad Monteiro (75 years), mother of Rev. Fr George Crasta (Same Mission), expired on 8 April 2021. The funeral took place on 11 April 2021 at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Bela.
 - Rev. Fr Thomas D'Souza (73 years), serving in Gulbarga Diocese since May 2000, expired on 12 April 2021. His funeral took place on 13 April 2021 at Holy Redeemer Church, Bhalki.
 - Mr John Olivera (58 years), brother of Rev. Fr Nelson Olivera, Parish Priest, Sampige, passed away on 21 April 2021. His funeral took place on 22 April 2021 at Mount Rosary Church, Kallianpur.
 - Mr Joseph Crasta (87 years), father of Rev. Fr Eric Crasta, Parish Priest, Cascia, passed away on 22 April 2021. His funeral took place on 23 April 2021 at St John de Britto Church, Narampady.
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Printed by Rev. Fr Lawrence Ronald D'Souza

Published by Rev. Fr Henry Sequeira

owned by Most Rev. Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop of Mangalore
and printed at Codialbail Press, Bondel, Mangalore – 575 008 and published
at Bishop's House, Mangalore – 575 003. Editor : Rev. Fr Henry Sequeira

Annual Subscription Rs. 60/-