

INTER NOS

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Vol. 17

No. 9

September 2023

*Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes
to you dear*



Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha

on

**Your Fifth Episcopal
Ordination Anniversary
15 September 2023**

God handpicked you from a myriad of souls
Molded you since you were a babe

To prepare you for a journey; Not for you, but always for others.
God blessed you with wisdom so that you give form to his plans
And love to carry them out; Not for you, but always for others.
You hold the Body of Christ, embrace his name and proclaim it
God has made you a shepherd; Not for you, but always for others.

God forever bless you as you bring him great glory
May he walk with you and carry you when your feet are weary
And bring peace and joy to your heart
For though your life is never for you, it is Christ's; he delights in you.

God grant you many days and bless you in many ways.
May your work be ever fruitful, for which we are most grateful.

**Loving greetings from the Clergy, Religious, and
Lay faithful of Mangalore Diocese**

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

2	09.30 a.m.	Teachers' Day, CBE
2-3		Pastoral Visit, Shaktinagar
5-11		Visit to Israel
12		Governing Board Meeting, St Peter's Seminary, Bangalore
13-14		Meeting of KRCBC, Bangalore
15		Meeting of Catholic Council of Karnataka
16-17		Pastoral Visit, Jeppu
17	05.00 p.m.	Festal Mass at Cordel
18	03.30 p.m.	Mass, Platinum Jubilee, Bethany Education Society, Bendur
19	03.00 p.m.	Meeting of the Secretaries of Commissions, Pastoral Centre
20	04.30 p.m.	NBCLC Online Meeting
21-23		Seminar at Chennai
24	03.00 p.m.	NBCLC General Body Meeting, Bangalore
27	09.30 a.m.	Managing Committee Meeting, St Philomena PUC and College, Puttur
28	11.30 a.m.	Founder's Day, MSIJ, Bondel

Bishop Meets in the Forenoon:

Diocesan Clergy, 25; Religious Men and Women, 26;
Lay Faithful, 30.

CLERGY APPOINTMENT

Rev. Fr Herald DSouza, OP is appointed Parish Priest, St Lawrence the Martyr Church, Lawrence Nagar, Permude, w.e.f. 9 Sept. 2023.

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

Papal Intention for September: The Pope invites the whole Church to pray for the people living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions so that they may not be overlooked by institutions and never considered as of lesser importance. Today, more than anything, a large number of people live on margins of society, due to injustice, poverty, and oppression by their own fellow beings. Some humans seem to be very cruel to their own kind, but there are those who brighten up the lives of many who would have been lost otherwise. Shall we not place ourselves on the side of those who are empathetic towards the marginalised? May our hearts vibrate with those who suffer injustice and deprivation. Let preferential option for the poor, which is close to the heart of the Church, be our own personal option too.

Season of Creation: Between September 1 and October 4, the Universal Church celebrates "Ecumenical Season of Creation" with the theme: "Let justice and peace flow" (cf. Amos 5: 24). The Holy See, along with its ecumenical partners, has prepared some resources that will be useful for all of us to celebrate this month-long event. Material is available in various languages at this website: <https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/> I recommend that you download the following document: Invitation to celebrate 'Season of Creation' 2023. In his message for the World Day for Prayer for the Care of Creation, from September 1, Pope Francis says: "We can and we must prevent the worst from happening. 'Truly, much can be done' (*Laudato Si*, 180), provided we come together like so many streams, brooks and rivulets, merging finally in a mighty river to irrigate the life of our marvellous planet and our human family for generations to come. So let us join hands and take bold steps to 'Let Justice and Peace Flow' throughout our world". Let us join the Pope, who invites us to restore to ecology its balance, by making every effort towards conversion of hearts, lifestyles and policies: "During this Season of Creation, let us dwell on those heartbeats: our own and those of our mothers

and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God” (Pope Francis’ Message). Even the little we do towards the conservation of creation and especially people, will have its lasting effects on the world and on human hearts.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: In this feast, our focus is on threefold celebration. That is, the freshness of the human life in the birth of Mary and consequently the newness of the birth of a girl child, the freshness of the new crop, and the freshness of the unity of our families. The whole creation is exuberant with greenery and invites everyone to drink deep into its freshness. Mary brings freshness into humanity by being born as a unique child with no stain of sin. She is destined to generate new life in us and fill newness in families. Let us take Mother Mary with us, as St John did and may she intercede for every family. Let the remaining time of the year of the family be fruitfully used in the company of Baby Mary.

The Profession of Faith: Some of Christ’s faithful have been asking me to reintroduce the recitation of the Profession of Faith (also known as the Symbol or Creed) during Sundays and Solemnities, as given by the two Councils, Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD). This Creed is called the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, or popularly known as the Nicene Creed. It is a long-standing tradition to use this Creed at the Eucharist. Even today, most countries, continue to use this Creed during Sunday Mass and Solemnities.

“The purpose of the Creed is that the whole gathered people may respond to the word of God proclaimed in the reading taken from Sacred Scripture and explained in the Homily” (GIRM 67). The Creed is sung or recited by the Priest together with the people (GIRM 68). “At the words *et incarnátus est, etc. (and by the Holy Spirit...and became man)* all make a profound bow; but on the Solemnities of the Annunciation and the of the Nativity of the Lord, all genuflect” (GIRM 137). The Creed is the story of salvation given in brief, and as we recite or sing it, we join together in thanking and praising God for his great plan of salvation for us.

We admit that the revised Roman Missal provides the option to use either the *Apostles' Creed* or the *Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed* during the Eucharist on Sundays and Solemnities. It provides the text of both Creeds. It says: "Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used" (OM 19). However, the normal routine is to use the Nicene Creed most of the year and the Apostles' Creed during Lent and Easter. This is because the Apostles' Creed is more associated with baptism. During Lent and Easter, the catechumens prepare for baptism, and many will be baptised at the Easter Vigil. The Nicene Creed is more associated with the Eucharist and the Ecclesial Assemblies (Synods and Councils) as it summarises the deeper reflection of the early Church. As the Roman Missal favours the use of the Nicene Creed throughout the year, other than Lent and Easter season, we should recite the Nicene Creed lest we forget the deeper, more precise and profound expressions of faith as contained in the Nicene Creed.

Therefore, I request the Parish Priests to prefer the use of the Nicene Creed during the Liturgy on Sundays and Solemnities, except for Lent and Easter. With the availability of digital appliances, it is easy to project it until the people memorise it. This Creed has greater explanations within itself, which we need to know regarding our faith. The Solemnity of the Nativity of Mary is a good occasion to begin the recitation. The mystery of the Word made flesh, and Mary's role in it are elaborated on. Let us make an effort to recite the Symbol of our faith slowly, with adequate pauses, to participate in the central mystery of our faith, revealed precisely for our salvation.

Anti-Drug Movement: On September 3, we shall inaugurate in our parishes the drive against drug trafficking and its consumption. We shall involve the Parish Pastoral Council and all the Apostolic Associations to create awareness and conscientise people, especially the youth and students. Drug trafficking is the largest network around, and because of this, many families are

devastated. Children lose their physical and mental capacities by becoming addicts even before they ever realise what they are consuming. Peddlers use chocolates, sweets, chewing gums, stamps, tablets, powders in soft drinks, ice creams, etc., to sell drugs. A few are caught, and yet many continue their trade unhindered. It is a known fact that the victims themselves then become peddlers for small benefits. Life is endangered, and families are hit hard. The deadening of the conscience of a few has destructive consequences. Let us “Say NO to Drugs” and protect our youth and families. If we do not act now, we will also be held responsible for perpetuating the evil and for the loss of our future generations.

Wish you all a Happy Monthi Fest. May Mother Mary intercede for us.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

FROM THE PROCURATOR’S OFFICE

1. **Mass Account:** Our auditors note that in a few cases, a separate account for Masses is not maintained; rather, the Mass Account is maintained together with the Church Account. It is to be noted that the Mass offerings Account is an account held under Trust by the Church, and Masses are neither income nor expenditure of the Church. The Mass account should not be mixed with the Church Account. At the beginning of the Year, a Cheque has to be issued from the Church Account to the Mass Account, transferring the Pro-Populo Masses and Legacy Mass stipend to the Mass Account. This entry should be treated as an expenditure entry in the Church Account and not an appropriation/adjustment entry.

2. **Caution before signing any papers presented to you by the Bank, Vehicle Showrooms, etc.:** Notices are being issued by the Income Tax Department that the Church / School has signed Form 60/61 and not obtained a PAN. A notice is reproduced here: *Attention SXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, Income Tax*

Department has received information about certain transactions reported by you in Form 60/61 relating to FY 2021-22.

All our Churches have PAN, but if you don't have a PAN, it is requested that the same be applied in Form 49A immediately (only after consulting your respective auditor). In case you already obtained the PAN, the PAN Number should be submitted to the Reporting Entity within 15 days. It is to be noted that for all Transactions of the Church and the School, the Church PAN has to be given whether it is to open an account or to Purchase a school vehicle.

3. Back-up and Print out of Accounts Data: Wherever accounts are maintained on Tally/Accounting Software after the end of the Financial Year, the Ledger needs to be printed and bound, and kept in the Archives so that in case the Revenue Authorities call for it, the same can be presented. In a few cases, the ledger printouts are unavailable, and the tally data on the computer has also been deleted. This can cause problems. Always take the backup of the accounts software on a weekly basis on a Pen Drive.

NEW DIRECTORY (2023-24) AVAILABLE

Copies of the *Directory 2023-24 Diocese of Mangalore* are available at the Reception Desk, Bishop's House, Kodialbail and at Mangala Jyothi. We thank the Parish Priests and Superiors of Religious Houses for sending us the updated details for inclusion in the Directory.

Corrigenda: On p. 166, the email of Rev. Fr Felix Monteiro should read as: felixmonteiro1968@yahoo.co.in

Trendy Quote: "Without God, our week would be: Sinday, Mournday, Tearsday, Wasteday, Thirstday, Fightday, and Shatterday. Seven days without God makes one weak" (Anonymous).

COMMISSION FOR BIBLE

1. Deanery-Level Bible Classes:

Moodbidri Deanery:

Topic : Bible classes on the Gospel of Matthew, “God With Us,” will be held for the priests, religious and Laity.

Date : October 01, 08, 15, 22, 29.

On Five Sundays from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Venue : Our Lady of Rosary Church, Alangar-Moodbidri Church Hall.

2. The Commission for Bible of our Diocese is pleased to announce or suggest an interesting Personal Bible reading project or programme to encourage all priests, religious and faithful, to read and meditate on the Word of God. The programme is named: **BIBLOTHON: A RACE OF GRACE.**

This is a marathon reading of the Bible. It is reading the entire Bible from 08th September 2023 to 25th December 2024. This is a sufficiently long and reasonable duration to complete reading the entire Bible. According to this programme, one needs to read **three chapters** of the Bible each day, prayerfully and meditatively. This programme focuses on reading the Word of God not for the sake of reading it but, like Mary our Mother, “to treasure all these words and ponder them in *our* hearts” (Lk 2:19).

Why these particular dates? September 8th is the birthday of our Blessed Mother, who said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). On December 25th, we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus in the celebration of the mystery of incarnation, “the Word became flesh and lived among us” (Jn 1:14). Therefore, reading the word of God for 16 months will not only help us to read the Bible completely but it will also be a period of grace. I request and invite all the Fathers, Sisters, and lay faithful to participate in this program. Those who

faithfully complete reading the entire Bible could be felicitated in the parish on the feast day of Mary, the Mother of God, 01 Jan 2025. I humbly request all the parish priests to announce the same in their respective parishes.

BIBLOTHON: Bible Marathon: A Race of Grace

Let's read Three Chapters of the Bible each day and complete reading the whole Bible in Sixteen months.

08th September 2023 to 25th December 2024.

ಬೈಬ್ಲೊಥಾನ್: ಬೈಬಲ್ ಮ್ಯಾರಥಾನ್: ಏಕ್ ಥಾಂವ್ ಕುರ್ಪೆಚಿ
ದಿಸಾಕ್ ತೀನ್ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯಾಂ ಲೆಕಾನ್ ಭಕ್ತೀನ್ ಮಾನಾನ್ ವಾಚ್ಯಾಂ ಆನಿ
ಸಗ್ಳೆಂ ಪವಿತ್ರ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್ ಸೊಳಾ ಮ್ಹಯ್ವಾಂನಿ ವಾಚುನ್ ಕಾಡ್ಯಾಂ.
2023 ಸಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 08 ಥಾವ್ನ್ 2024 ದಸೆಂಬರ್ 25.

- **Fr Vincent Sequeira**

Secretary, Commission for Bible

PROGRAMMES OF CODP

- 03.09.2023 : Training in Documentation at Bogrugudde and Strengthening of Okkoota at Moodbidri
- 03.09.2023 : Training in Leadership at Seethangoli and Strengthening of Okkoota at Kayyar & Bakrabail
- 04.09.2023 : Fr L.M. Pinto Hospital meeting in Badyar
- 14.09.2023 : Nativity feast celebration at Fajir
- 16.09.2023 : Training in Gender equality at Vorkady
- 21-22.09.2023: Women Empowerment cluster meet in CODP-
ISD
- 23.09.2023 : Cleanliness drive at Uddampare
- 24.09.2023 : Training in organic farming at Saya
- 25.09.2023 : Training in Book-keeping at Sheni, General health at Bajpe, Gender equality at Manjeshwar and Leadership at Kumbla

- 26.09.2023 : Training in Community development programs at Talapady and Local resource management at Kannattipara
- 27.09.2023 : Training in the concept of Self-Help Groups at Bajal
- 28.09.2023 : Training in Book-keeping at Kumbadaje
- 30.09.2023 : Training in Book-keeping at Modankap

Other activities planned for September 2023: Interviews and Education loan disbursement to Educare students

I. Details of Lenten Collection received 2022 between 23rd July & 23rd Aug, 2023

Parish	2022	2023
Arwa	12,280	8,400
Bola	17,900	26,490
Fermai	39,420	29,610
Pavur	16,320	4,300
Pavur-Uliya	400	800
Shamboor	5,500	10,650

II. Details of Lenten Collection received in 2023

Received from	2022 (Rs)	2023 (Rs)
Parishes	67,44,047.00	72,10,000.00
Convents	2,89,800.00	3,54,250.00
Institutions	55,094.00	53,595.00
Colleges	10,000.00	—
Individuals	20,000.00	57,500.00
	71,18,941.00	76,75,345.00

III. Top 10 Parishes with regard to Lenten contribution received & Average collection per family.

SI No	PARISH	Amount (Rs)
1	Cordel	3,62,105
2	Valencia	2,56,416
3	Bendur	2,38,020
4	Bondel	2,31,690
5	Suratkal	1,90,895
6	Puttur	1,80,670
7	Bejai	1,77,060
8	Madanthyar	1,71,765
9	Kinnigoly	1,64,695
10	Angelore	1,38,890

SI No	PARISH	No. of Families	Amount (Rs)	Average collection per family
1	Manjotti	88	40,000	455
2	Shaktinagar	87	38,890	447
3	Gardady	86	35,720	415
4	Bolkunje	121	47,000	388
5	Manela	91	34,655	381
6	Saverapura	62	22,410	361
7	Bellore	220	78,960	359
8	Kateel	169	55,135	326
9	Permude	189	60,900	322
10	Neerude	203	65,020	320

– Director, CODP

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. Programmes for September 2023

- 03: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Trainings, Kadaba Parish
- 11-15: CCBI - Commission for Catechetics, National Conference, Kochi
- 17: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Trainings, Siddakatte Parish
- 19: Diocesan Pastoral Commission Meeting, Bajjodi
- 21-22: Catechesis of Children, Carmel School, Bolar
- 24: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Trainings, Surathkal Parish
- 26-28: New Konkani Missal work, Goa

II. Commission for Catechetics - Information

Catechism classes and mid-term evaluation:

Schedule: Catechism class days: September 10, 17, 24 = 3 days

Catechism class days: October 08, 15, 22, 29 = 4 days

Mid-term exam and evaluation: 24 September 2023

Please Note: Question papers are to be prepared by respective teachers for this exam. For the Annual Exam, Mangala Jyothi will prepare the Question Papers. Hence, a common question paper will be followed. The full syllabus for the Annual Exam is included.

Marks system: 50% theory (based on the textbook), 50% practical = 10% - Work book, 10% - Project, 10% - Moral behaviour, 10% - Participation in the Liturgy, 10% - Bible reading and prayer life.

III. Religious Articles and Book Stall Section - Information

1. Mass Candles, Votive Candles, Murdhom Candles, Superior Quality Hosts & Particles, Incense.
2. First Holy Communion/Confirmation Certificates, Candles, Crown, Veils, Rosaries, Scapular.

3. Mass vestment, Ciborium, Chalice, Stole, Candle stand, Globe, Missal stands and other church articles.
4. Insignia is meant for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion only, and they are available at our stall on prior order.
5. Infant Mary statue for home and statues of saints.

V. New Arrivals & Some Important Books:

1. Samudayachi gitam - pendrive
2. English Missal - Chapel edition
3. Konkani Missal - reprint editon
4. Adult Catechism - 3 Volumes
5. Lectionary (English, Kannada & Konkani)
6. Ritual books (English, Kannada & Konkani)
7. Konkani hymnal and music notations - printed edition
8. Bhavartacho Sombram - Reprint (Catechesis on Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)
9. Balok Mori - Monthi Feast Novena book (Konkani)
10. Directory - Mangalore / Udupi Diocese
11. YOUCAT - Konkani and English
12. DOCAT - English
13. YBible - Youth Bible

- Director, Mangala Jyothi

COMMISSION FOR HEALTH: INFORMATION

The Commission for Health has formed a committee of resource persons who can help you to talk and educate children during the faith formation camps (Jeevan Jyothi). They can also help during the PTA meetings by delivering talks on hygiene, the impact of drugs, personality development and other health-related topics. To book an appointment with them, please contact Fr Ajith B. Menezes, Secretary, Diocesan Commission for Health – Cell no. **9449268031** with an email copy to: **ajithmenezes@gmail.com**.

COMMISSION FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

I request that the parish-level IRD Convenors, in collaboration with the 21 Commissions Coordinators and Parish Priests, celebrate important national and religious festivals (such as Independence Day, Konkani Manyatha Divas, Teachers Day, Mother Teresa's Death Anniversary, Id Milad, Gandhi Jayanthi, Deepavali, Karnataka Rajyothsava, Christmas, Constitution Day, and Republic Day) with people of other religions, whether at the parish level or encourage Gurkars to celebrate them in their Vados. Please don't miss this chance to build relations with people of all faiths and castes in our community.

Please share photos of the events. It will be documented and sent to the Regional Secretary. Please contact me for any clarifications.

- Mr Roy Castelino
Secretary, IRD Commission

THE CONTRIBUTION TO PRIESTS' AID FUND (PAF) AND RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND (RPF) IN 2022-23

List of members who contributed more than Rs. 3000/- for PAF & RPF

1 Fr. Coelho Richard	Rs. 8000
2 Fr. Crasta Apolinaris	Rs. 106000
3 Fr. Dsouza Victor George	Rs. 13000
4 Fr. Machado Victor (Sr)	Rs. 8000
5 Fr. Mascarenhas Joseph	Rs. 10000
6 Fr. Mendonca Arun Joseph	Rs. 8000
7 Fr. Monteiro Antony Prakash	Rs. 12100
8 Fr. Sequeira Johnson	Rs. 7000

**List of members who contributed Rs. 3000/- each for
PAF & RPF**

1 Fr. Alvares Gratian	33 Fr. D'Sa Deepak Leo
2 Fr. Aranha Peter	34 Fr. D'Sa Roque
3 Fr. Cardoza Ashwin Lohith	35 Fr. D'Sa Rudolph Ravi
4 Fr. Cardoza Joseph	36 Fr. D'Silva Alban
5 Fr. Castelino Mark	37 Fr. D'Silva Michael M.
6 Fr. Cordeiro Ivan Peter	38 Fr. D'Silva Prakash Anil
7 Fr. Correa Edwin Vincent	39 Fr. D'Souza Clary
8 Fr. Crasta Ashok Rayan	40 Fr. D'Souza Antony Clany
9 Fr. Crasta Ashwin Lawrence	41 Fr. D'Souza Alban
10 Fr. Crasta Donald Nilesh	42 Fr. D'Souza Alfred Rayan
11 Fr. Crasta Eric	43 Fr. D'Souza Aloysius
12 Fr. Crasta Francis	44 Fr. D'Souza Alwyn
13 Fr. Crasta John Baptist	45 Fr. D'Souza Alwyn Richard
14 Fr. Crasta Kenneth Rayner	46 Fr. D'Souza Andrew
15 Fr. Crasta Paul	47 Fr. D'Souza Andrew Leo
16 Fr. Crasta Pramod	48 Fr. D'Souza Anil Alfred
17 Fr. Crasta Roshan	49 Fr. D'Souza Daniel
18 Fr. Cutinha Louis	50 Fr. D'Souza Denis
19 Fr. Cutinha Ronald	51 Fr. D'Souza Elias (Sr)
20 Fr. DAlmeida Assisi Francis	52 Fr. D'Souza Francis
21 Fr. D'Almeida Nelson	53 Fr. D'Souza Gilbert
22 Fr. D'Costa Andrew	54 Fr. D'Souza Gregory
23 Fr. D'Costa Jesudas	55 Fr. D'Souza Harold C.
24 Fr. D'Costa Rohith	56 Fr. D'Souza Harry
25 Fr. D'Costa Sylvester	57 Fr. D'Souza Ivan
26 Fr. D'Cunha Alwyn Edward	58 Fr. D'Souza James (Sr)
27 Fr. D'Cunha Roshan	59 Fr. D'Souza James (Jr)
28 Fr. Dias Rohan Michael	60 Fr. D'Souza Jayaprakash
29 Fr. D'Mello Anil Canute	61 Fr. D'Souza Jerald
30 Fr. D'Mello Ivan Peter	62 Fr. D'Souza Jerome
31 Fr. D'Mello Walter	63 Fr. D'Souza John
32 Fr. D'Mello Victor	64 Fr. D'Souza Joswin

65 Fr. D'Souza Kevin Lawrence	101 Fr. Fernandes Clifford
66 Fr. D'Souza Lawrence R.	102 Fr. Fernandes Joachim
67 Fr. D'Souza Maxim S.	103 Fr. Fernandes Joseph Udaya
68 Fr. D'Souza Maxy M.	104 Fr. Fernandes Peter
69 Fr. D'Souza Melwyn	105 Fr. Fernandes Rocky
70 Fr. D'Souza Melwyn John	106 Fr. Fernandes Stany
71 Fr. D'Souza Naveen Prakash	107 Fr. Fernandes Stany C.
72 Fr. D'Souza Onil	108 Fr. Fernandes Valerian
73 Fr. D'Souza Osmond Roshan	109 Fr. Frank Valerian
74 Fr. D'Souza Paul	110 Fr. Gomes Francis X.
75 Fr. D'Souza Paul Prakash	111 Fr. Gonsalves Peter
76 Fr. D'Souza Paul Sebastian	112 Fr. Lasrado Antony
77 Fr. D'Souza Peter	113 Fr. Lasrado Praveen Leo
78 Fr. D'Souza Praveen	114 Fr. Lasrado Richard F.
79 Fr. D'Souza Rahul Dexter	115 Fr. Lasrado Oswald C.
80 Fr. D'Souza Robert	116 Fr. Lewis Antony V.
81 Fr. D'Souza Ronald E.L.	117 Fr. Lobo Abel
82 Fr. D'Souza Ronald Prakash	118 Fr. Lobo Antony
83 Fr. D'Souza Santhosh (Sr)	119 Fr. Lobo Anil Roshan
84 Fr. D'Souza Simon	120 Fr. Lobo Arun
85 Fr. D'Souza Stephen	121 Fr. Lobo Arun Wilson
86 Fr. D'Souza Sunil George	122 Fr. Lobo Denzil
87 Fr. D'Souza Sunil Kumar	123 Fr. Lobo Faustine L.
88 Fr. D'Souza Thrishan	124 Fr. Lobo Jason Joseph
89 Fr. D'Souza Valerian (Sr)	125 Fr. Lobo Joseph J
90 Fr. D'Souza Valerian S.	126 Fr. Lobo Leo William
91 Fr. D'Souza Victor (Sr)	127 Fr. Lobo Melwyn
92 Fr. D'Souza Victor (Jr)	128 Fr. Lobo Norbert
93 Fr. D'Souza Vincent (Sr)	129 Fr. Lobo Rohan
94 Fr. D'Souza Vincent (Jr)	130 Fr. Lobo Ronald
95 Fr. D'Souza Vincent (JJr)	131 Fr. Lobo Santhosh
96 Fr. D'Souza Walter	132 Fr. Lobo Suraj Joseph
97 Fr. D'Souza William	133 Fr. Lobo Vincent Sylvester
98 Fr. D'Souza Wilfred Prakash	134 Fr. Lobo Victor Vijay
99 Fr. D'Souza Wilson Vitus	
100 Fr. Fernandes Anil Ivan	

135 Fr. Lobo Vijay
136 Fr. Lobo Vinod
137 Fr. Machado Vijay Kumar
138 Fr. Madtha Ivan
139 Fr. Madtha Rupesh Ashok
140 Fr. Martis Joseph
141 Fr. Mascarenhas Harold
142 Fr. Mascarenhas Lawrence
143 Fr. Mascarenhas Michael
144 Fr. Mendonca Lawrence
145 Fr. Menezes Ajith B.
146 Fr. Menezes Albert G.
147 Fr. Menezes Santhosh
148 Fr. Menezes Vincent Anil
149 Fr. Menezes William
150 Fr. Monis Jason Vijay
151 Fr. Monis Edwin Santhosh
152 Fr. Monis Vishal Melwyn
153 Fr. Monteiro Felix
154 Fr. Monteiro Fredrick
155 Fr. Monteiro Oswald
156 Fr. Monteiro Stany
157 Fr. Monteiro Vijay
158 Fr. Monteiro Vincent
159 Fr. Moras John Baptist
160 Fr. Nazareth Bonaventure
161 Fr. Noronha Melwyn
162 Msgr. Noronha Maxim L.
163 Fr. Olivera Nelson
164 Fr. Pais Nelson Dheeraj
165 Fr. Pereira Gregory
166 Fr. Pereira Johnson Denzil
167 Fr. Pereira Stany
168 Fr. Peres Austin Peter

169 Fr. Peris Steevan Nelson
170 Fr. Pinto Alfred J.
171 Fr. Pinto Anil Francis
172 Fr. Pinto Antony George
173 Fr. Pinto Benjamin
174 Fr. Pinto Boniface
175 Fr. Pinto Cyril
176 Fr. Pinto Cyprian
177 Fr. Pinto Francis Edwin
178 Fr. Pinto Gerald
179 Fr. Pinto Gerald Francis
180 Fr. Pinto Jagadish
181 Fr. Pinto Kiran Maxim
182 Fr. Pinto Larry Franklin
183 Fr. Pinto Naveen
184 Fr. Pinto Paul
185 Fr. Pinto Rockwin P.
186 Fr. Pinto Ronald
187 Fr. Pinto Ronson
188 Fr. Pinto Simon Clifford
189 Fr. Pinto Stany
190 Fr. Pinto Sunil Praveen
191 Fr. Pinto Valerian
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217 Fr. Sequeira Patrick	232 Fr Cutinha Lawrence

Please Note: Those whose names do not appear on the list and have not paid their dues and donations are requested to do the needful at the earliest.

The 8 points that Pope Francis wants Priest, Religious and Seminarians to follow:

1. ***Follow Virgin Mary's Example:*** Mary has always been a disciple of Christ.
2. ***You are Religious Because God has Called You:*** Vocation is an unmerited gift.
3. ***Read John Paul II's Redemptoris Mater:*** It has to be read several times to get the best from it.
4. ***Don't Lose Your Memory:*** Beware of 'Spiritual Alzheimer's'
5. ***Remember St Paul's Advice to Timothy:*** Don't forget that you have received your faith from your parents.
6. ***Religious Vocation is not a Career:*** Don't undertake human careers.
7. ***Service Comes First:*** Put service before anything else.
8. ***Don't Charge for Grace:*** What you have received freely, give freely.

SILICON-BASED PRIESTHOOD: CAN ROBOTS BE PRIESTS?

When a man is ordained as a priest in the Catholic Church, he acts *in persona Christi capitis* (in the person of Christ the Head). This is asserted in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. During the ordination ceremony, the candidate to the priesthood lies prostrate on the ground to symbolise the laying down of his life, and the Bishop places his hands on his head, and anoints the priest's hands with oil. Like baptism and confirmation, ordination leaves an "indelible mark" on the newly ordained priest. During his priesthood, the priest uses his mouth to preach and speak the words of blessing and consecration, his hands to elevate and distribute the Eucharist, and his heart, mind, and soul to pray.

With the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the functioning of Robots, some Catholics have raised the question: What if the priest were a robot? Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio, Head of the Chair of Theology at Villanova University, went as far as to propose that Catholicism should "reimagine" the priesthood and consider robots instead of, or alongside, men. She said, "the Catholic notion would say the priest is ontologically changed upon ordination. Is that really true? We have these fixed philosophical ideas, and AI challenges those ideas – it challenges Catholicism to move towards a post-human priesthood." Furthermore, she claims that robotic priests would have several advantages, including the incapacity to commit sexual abuse!

We all know that a robot priest would be sacramentally impossible in the Catholic Church, simply because they are not humans. Robots cannot be priests because they lack the intellect and will to cooperate with God's grace. We cannot be dualists. We cannot separate rites from the bodily involvement of the senses in the rites. When a worshipper prays, what matters is not just that their mouth forms the right words — it is also very important that they have the right intention and interiority, which the robots lack. Robots are programmed and cannot have their own will, intellect,

conscience, or interior prayer life. A human soul conformed to Christ and belonging to someone willing to participate in the sacraments makes the grace of those sacraments effective. We believe that the priest acts *in the person of Christ*. This means only a human being can participate in the person of Christ with intellect and will. God did not send a robot, but his own Son Jesus, who became incarnate (human being) and was born of the Virgin Mary. Robots do not fall under the salvific context.

Rev. John Kartje, Rector of Mundelein Seminary in Illinois, finds the story about the possibility of robot priests intriguing. As for Buddhist priests, it might be possible because they merely guide other people along a path. For Buddhist monk Tensho Goto, “Buddhism isn’t a belief in a God; it’s pursuing Buddha’s path. It doesn’t matter whether a machine, a piece of scrap metal, or a tree represents it.” But for Catholics, their faith necessitates an encounter with a person – God. For us, prayer or any religious activity is not primarily a path. But it is an encounter with a person, an encounter with God. For us, this is the fundamental distinction. What the priest is doing is, he’s acting in the person of Christ.

In order to understand the priesthood, Catholics must look to Jesus Christ. And Jesus is, decidedly, not a robot. Christ instituted the sacraments, and they configure us to Christ in various ways. In Christ, God the Son took on a human nature ‘for us men (human beings) and for our salvation.’ The sacraments are part of the same saving plan. The sacraments are for human beings in the sense that they can neither be received nor administered by robots, AI devices, or the like (or any other non-human created beings). Moreover, a robot has no faith. It’s a disembodied entity.

We understand the priest as ‘another Christ’ and not a functionary office; thus, he is a representative of Christ in the world. The Catholic priest is a changed being and not merely allowed to perform some rites; he acts in the person of Christ. An unconscious being or a ‘humanoid’ machine cannot act *in persona Christi Capitis*. A piece of *techne* cannot be configured to God!

Presbyterorum Ordinis speaks of priests as receiving a “special grace to be ministers of Christ among the people” so that “the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is made perfect in union with the sacrifice of Christ.” The crux of this quote is the ‘people’. The priest is a person amongst persons, a human being of the same nature as the Incarnate Second Person of the Trinity. Hence, the priest is not just a dispenser of graces, but an ecclesial community builder, as opposed to the caricature offered by the robo-priest. The priest, by virtue of his ordination, is received in the *ordo* (order) of presbyters (as liturgically symbolised by the laying of hands of the other priests during the priestly ordination) and becomes a member of the sacramental brotherhood of priests (*presbyterium*). Thus, it is impossible for the robo-priest to be received in this brotherhood, lacking more than one essential part of the priesthood.

Out of the ministerial roles of the priest, of special mention is the Eucharist. The intrinsic relationship between the priesthood and the Eucharist is paramount in our reflection on the robo-priest. In offering the Sacrifice of the Mass, the priest invites the community to join in offering their lives. Only the priest is allowed to consecrate the Body of Christ because, in the consecration itself, the priest is not substituting for Christ but personifying him. The technicians give a robot configuration, while the configuration of a priest is to Christ, and he alone can say, “This is my body” and “This is my blood”.

Robot priests may be capable of delivering sermons and performing rituals, but they lack authentic beliefs and the ability to engage in sacrificial behaviour, compassion, and humanity. They run the danger of siliconising spirituality. However, human clergy members go far beyond just giving advice or answers. They serve as the anchor for a community, bringing people together. They offer pastoral care. And they provide human contact, which is on the point of becoming a luxury item as we create robots to do people’s work more cheaply.

Technology, like *Magisterium AI*, helps priests to prepare homilies, but preaching is more of an art than a science. However, because

the Holy Spirit is at work, the preacher's integrity is more important than their eloquence in giving a speech. *Catholic.chat* is an interactive platform that enables users to interact with the Catechism in a natural, conversational format. It was developed recently by Fivable using technology that powers ChatGPT solely trained in the Catholic Church Catechism. The launch of *Catholic.chat* could mark a watershed moment, bringing together technology and tradition and potentially shaping the future of religious education and evangelisation. The *SanTO* robots, developed by a Japanese roboticist, resemble saint figurines and recite certain prayers if prompted. Such robots could help children memorise prayers, but the prayer has no significance outside of its material reality unless it is said by a human being who offers it to God interiorly.

The Catholic priesthood is not a matter of dispensing blessings and some good advice or preaching, but the priest is ordained to be intrinsically united to the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of all the Christian life. Only a human soul can be conformed to Christ, and the soul needs to belong to someone willing to participate in the sacraments for the sacrament to be efficacious. Creatures of AI, such as robots, are incapable of priesthood because they are not human beings. A machine capable of 'artificial intelligence' and executing some activities of a human being does not come under the notion of a human person.

Today's trans-human world still needs the priest to bring God into our lives. Particularly, it needs a priest who can bend down on his knees, minister to the aches and pains caused by the technocratic paradigm, and embalm the wounds with Christ's graces, especially the sacramental ones. Through being an *alter Christus*, the priest enables the community to live in the Absolute, a vocation which is ever more pronounced in a virtual and augmented-reality age. No metallic travesty could accomplish that, but it can only be accomplished by the laying on of hands on him who allows himself to be configured by Christ to be another servant of the community, as outlined by the foot-washing rite.

Catholics should not fear technological advancements or even artificial intelligence because these can be helpful, even in the context of faith. When faced with advanced technologies, we should allow the questions they raise to help us hone our understanding and definitions of human beings and free will. Still, a robot could never replace a person because it cannot encounter God or act on its own free will. A robot is the encounter of an algorithm with the natural world, and a human is the encounter of the divine with the natural world.

Technology can be a helpful tool in learning the faith. From the Catholic Church's perspective, we must keep the human person in focus as we use these technologies. "Human-centred AI" is rapidly developing into a motto for the position of the Catholic Church on this issue. We definitely can create a human-centred AI that does the best to support humans and their work and their lives, and helps them to grow and flourish. It's important to understand what exactly intelligence is. We are intelligent because we are made in the image and likeness of God, and that's something that AI will never be.

[The above reflection is a summary of insights taken from: Mary Farrow, "In Robota Christi? Why Robots Can Never Be Catholic Priests", in *Eurasia Review*, September 2019; Mathew Pulis, "An Embodied vs a Silicon-based Priesthood: AIs can never be Catholic Priests", in *Academia Letters*, 2021].

"I confess to you that whenever I confirm and ordain, I like to smear with chrism the foreheads and the hands of those I anoint. In that generous anointing, we can sense that our own anointing is being renewed. I would say this: We are not distributors of bottled oil. We have been anointed to anoint. We anoint by distributing ourselves, distributing our vocation and our heart. When we anoint others, we ourselves are anointed anew by the faith and the affection of our people. We anoint by dirtying our hands in touching the wounds, the sins and the worries of the people. We anoint by perfuming our hands in touching their faith, their hopes, their fidelity and the unconditional generosity of their self-giving, which many significant figures describe as superstition" (Pope Francis, *Homily at the Chrism Mass*, 18.04.2019).

PLATINUM BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Andrew Lewis, Canada, celebrates his 75th birthday on 23.09.2023.

*May God's grace strengthen you as you mark your birthday!
May the good Lord increase your wisdom as you celebrate
another year today. We wish you many happy and blessed
moments in life. May God bless and keep you always!*

R.I.P.

- Madonna Stella Peres (76 years), sister of Rev. Fr Austin Peter Peres, Parish Priest, Suratkal, expired on 17.08.2023. Her funeral took place on 19.08.2023 at St Francis Xavier Church, Ferar.
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