

# INTER NOS

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## BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 2023

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|-------|-------|------|--|
| 1     | 07.30 | a.m. | Mass at FMCI, Death Anniversary of Fr Augustus Muller            |
|       | 10.00 | a.m. | Inauguration of Nursing College, Thumbe                          |
| 2     | 08.00 | a.m. | Mass at Cathedral  |
| 4-5   |       |      | Pastoral Visit, Ashoknagar                                       |
| 12    | 07.30 | a.m. | Confirmation at Ranipura   |
| 16    | 10.30 | p.m. | Council of Priests Meeting, Bishop's House                       |
| 17    | 04.30 | p.m. | Diocesan Finance Council, Bishop's House                         |
| 18    | 11.00 | a.m. | 200 <sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mother Veronica, St Ann's |
| 18-19 |       |      | Pastoral Visit, Borimar  |
| 21    | 10.00 | a.m. | Perpetual Profession (Sisters of Charity), Angelore              |
| 25-26 |       |      | Pastoral Visit, Cascia   |
| 28    | 09.15 | a.m. | Follow Up Programme for Junior Clergy, Pastoral Centre           |

### **Bishop Meets in Forenoon:**

Diocesan Clergy, 22; Religious Men and Women, 23;  
Lay Faithful, 29

## BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

**Papal Intention for November:** This month, we are specially invited to pray for our Pope that he may fulfil his mission of feeding and tending the Lord's flock with the help of the Holy Spirit. Pope Francis has brought freshness in the Church and in the world. He rouses the conscience of everyone to act quickly to help one another. This world is torn by war, bloodshed and climate change. Through his recent Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum* (Praise God), he expresses his heartfelt desire to protect our planet from steady destruction. He gives a clear warning to all: "the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point." In addition, "the impact of climate change will increasingly prejudice the lives and families of many persons. We will feel its effects in the areas of healthcare, sources of employment, access to resources, housing, forced migrations, etc." He ardently invites us to pay close attention to the cry of the poor and the cry of mother earth. The Supreme Pontiff is the prophet of our times. As we pray for him that he may do this prophetic mission with courage and zeal. Let us also make a serious commitment against climate change and join hands with Pope Francis in protecting all creatures.

**Prayer for the Dear Departed:** This month is especially dedicated to pray for the dear departed. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, when the faithful visit the cemetery and pray for the dead or pray even mentally, they are granted a plenary indulgence, which could be applicable to the souls in purgatory. On Holy Souls' Day, if they visit devoutly a church or chapel and pray the *Our Father* and *Creed*, they are granted the same. A partial indulgence is granted to any of the faithful who visits a cemetery or simply prays mentally for the dead or recites devoutly the lauds or vespers of the Office of the dead or makes the invocation *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord....* We believe in the communion of saints, and this is a wonderful occasion to put it into practice. Our prayers are efficacious to help our suffering brethren who are being purified.

**The Ordinary Jubilee of 2025:** The Church celebrates the ordinary Jubilee of the birth of Jesus in 2025, and Pope Francis invites us to prepare ourselves for this event of grace. On Sunday, 26 November, on the Feast of Christ the King, we will inaugurate

the preparations for the Jubilee 2025 by unveiling the Jubilee Logo in all the churches. The Commission for Social Communication can be contacted in this regard. The theme of the Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. There is a lot of anxiety and sadness in the world, which leads to desperation. If we can ignite a flame of hope even in one person, we will be doing great missionary work. The purpose of the Jubilee is threefold: a) to celebrate Jesus, b) to celebrate the Church, and c) to celebrate our faith. The year 2023 is dedicated to learning the documents of Vatican II, especially the one on sacred Liturgy, on the Church, on Divine Revelation and on Church in the Modern world. The 35 booklets already released by Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão will be the resource material. The year 2024 is consecrated for prayer. Prayer and study of the four documents will provide us with the direction and guidance to walk the talk about giving a fresh impetus to the Church. Let us prepare ourselves by studying the documents and praying for the Church and the whole world. Here is an invitation to enter the doors of places such as hospitals, orphanages, homes for the destitute, prisons, refugee camps, etc, where the hope is dim.

**The Parish Feasts:** In this month, many Parishes celebrate the Parish Feasts. It is a time to bring the Parishioners together and celebrate the richness of the relationship. When our relatives and friends visit us, or we visit them, the bond is strengthened. People might forget what they have eaten together with you, but they will never forget how you made them feel. Make a deep encounter with others as you share life with them. Please keep an eye on spending economically, avoiding all extravagance, and at the same time, never forget the poor who live next door.

**A Word of Gratitude:** On 22 October, on the occasion of Mission Sunday, there was a lively atmosphere in the Parishes. A lot of people participated in the mission drive. I thank the Parish Priests, Assistant Parish Priests, and the Parish Pastoral Council Members who involved themselves to give their best in motivating the people. However, the most important and beautiful thing is to experience the encounter with Christ. Let us remember the words of Pope Benedict XVI (24 April 2005), said in the homily during the inaugural Mass of his pontificate: “There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ.

There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.” Every effort to make Christ known and loved will not go unrewarded.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha  
**Bishop of Mangalore**

## **ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT 2023 (BATCH - II)**

The annual spiritual retreat is looked forward to by every member of the clergy. The pastoral ministry of clergy within the Church is such that if regular prayer and times of renewal are neglected, it will stay empty and fail. The opportunity for annual retreat offered by the Diocese will assist priests in their priestly ministry and life in their task of becoming channels of grace.

Begins on : Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 8.45 p.m. (after Supper)

Ends on : Friday, December 15, 2023 at 1.00 p.m. (after Lunch)

Preacher : Most Rev. Dr Raphy Manjaly, Archbishop of Agra  
Venue : St Joseph’s Interdiocesan Seminary, Jeppu

Kindly register your names with Rev. Fr Naveen Pinto, Administrator, Seminary, at the earliest to facilitate proper arrangements.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha  
**Bishop of Mangalore**

## **GOLDEN BIRTHDAYS**

1. Rev. Praveen Amrith Martis, Parish Priest, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Ajekar, celebrates his 50th birthday on 02.11.2023.
2. Rev. Melwyn D'Souza, Parish Priest, St Raphael Church, Badyar, celebrates his 50th birthday on 17.11.2023.

*On your special day, there is nothing better than thanking God for His mercy upon your life. Have a memorable birthday!*

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## **GUIDELINES ON CHARISMATIC RENEWAL, PRAYER SERVICES, AND PREACHERS**

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal has produced remarkable conversions of individuals and communities: increased quantity and quality of prayer life in the Church; renewed the love for the Word of God and Eucharist, and its spontaneity have enriched the liturgy. Many people are grateful for the Charismatic Renewal because they have had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ within the Catholic Church, which has revolutionized their lives, transforming them into new men and women. The more their fervour, the more honest and intense their worship, the greater their power to renew the Church, parishes, groups, and people's hearts. This flow of renewing grace comes from God, not from human strength.

While it is theologically certain that there are in the Church a variety of charisms, the Church's function of discerning charisms must always be admitted. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is integrated into the Church and is subject to the shepherding and discernment of the Catholic Church. It is marked by its gentle listening to the Holy Spirit and its submission to Church authority. Vatican Council II speaks of the responsibility of Bishops to supervise and encourage, promote and support authentic popular movements of piety (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*, nos. 24-25).

Every Bishop bears the pastoral task of "not extinguishing the Spirit, but testing all things and holding fast to that which is good" (1 Tim 5:19) and making sure that what is done 'is best for each other and the community' (cf. 1Thes. 5:12-18; *LG* 12). In this sense, the discernment of charisms is always necessary. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (*CCC*) clearly states that no charism is exempt from being referred to and subjected to the shepherds of the Church (no. 801). As a result, the Diocesan Bishop has the pastoral responsibility to ensure that all that occurs within his diocese is in accordance with Catholic traditional practice, doctrine and laws.

While we are aware of the benefits that flow from charisms both for individuals and for the whole Christian community, at the same time we are also aware of the power of sin and how it can disturb and confuse the lives of the faithful and of the community (*Christifideles Laici* 24). Pastors and leaders in the Church must protect the vulnerable lay faithful from self-styled preachers, particularly those who appear to be Catholics and deviate the gullible faithful from Catholic life, faith, and practices.

In order to encourage and assist the faithful, the clergy and religious should learn more about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal and be available to help and guide the prayer groups and individuals in their parishes so as to provide a more gospel-centered service to the parish community. The prayer groups should serve inclusively and actively, not just as a resource for prayer for the participants but for the entire parish community. Because charisms are the graces of the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the Church, they are ordered to her building up, to the good of men, and to the needs of the world (*CCC* 799). Consequently, no group or person can manipulate others for selfish motives and vain glory.

In recent times, there have been complaints from the clergy and the lay faithful about some people, including Catholics, having their own prayer centres and groups that do not adhere to the right teachings of the Bible and deviate from the faith and practice of the Catholic Church. It has come to our attention that some preachers banned in other dioceses have started their own gospel retreat teams, prayer groups, and so-called retreats in the diocese, inviting Catholics to them. People have been led into confusion and manipulation, which has driven them away from the faith, sacraments, and all that is inherently Catholic.

Experience shows that some groups ‘apparently’ Catholic at the start have ended up gradually having separated themselves from the authentic Catholic teachings and have become separate sects on their own. Many of their Bible interpretations are contrary to the sacred traditions and teachings and even to common sense. Neglecting the sacramental life, the role of the Blessed Virgin

Mary in salvation history, and apostolic traditions, they have gradually gone astray from the Catholic communion.

In light of the pastoral context of the diocese and the alleged dangers to the faith and practice under the guise of charismatic prayer meetings, services, retreats, etc. conducted in the diocese by unauthorized clergy and lay faithful, we deem it proper that some guidelines are issued so as to promote the **genuine** charismatic renewal and also other prayer meetings and to warn against the possible deviations on account of some extraneous factors.

1) Parish Priest should encourage the faithful in their zeal for prayer life and enable them to have charismatic and other prayer meetings in the church. When the faithful have a longing to quench their spiritual thirst through prayer sessions, the absence of opportunities or prayer sessions in the parish drives the people away from the church to private houses for prayer meetings. It is important that Parish Priests encourage and invite people to the church for prayer meetings/sessions/retreats and promote genuine spiritual renewal through their active presence and guidance.

2) It is strongly advised to promote intercessory prayer groups in the parish, in which the Parish Priest or another member of the clergy participates. A certain period each week should be spent in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the needs of the Church and the world. This perseverance in prayer will undoubtedly rekindle a sense of ecclesial belonging. The needs of our people are our own, for which we pray and intercede.

3) The charismatic prayer and other prayer meetings differ in nature, as the former possesses charismatic elements (see Rom. 8:26; 1 Cor. 12: 1-13; Gal. 5:22). There is an activation of charisms, which one received in baptism and confirmation through the infusion of the Holy Spirit. The other prayer meetings could have various approaches with pious practices, such as novena, rosary, scripture meditation, etc. The faithful are at liberty to participate in these meetings depending on the type of spirituality that suits them. Since genuine spirituality has no elite form, there is no room to

consider one form of prayer superior to another, except that the “Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life.”

4) The faithful participating in the charismatic prayer meetings should be given a proper understanding of the Word of God. The charismatic renewal has brought about a tremendous resurgence in the reading of the Bible among Catholics. But it is important that Catholics do not descend to fundamentalism or forget that the Bible needs interpretation and that ultimately only the Church can authoritatively interpret it.

5) There are sects prying upon the Catholics to get members for their fold who also make use of the charismatic prayer meetings and disseminate ideas and teachings against the Bible and Church to gullible and non-educated people and people with weak faith. Proselytizing and sectarianism result in divisiveness, particularly when there is a lack of instruction, supervision, pastoral ineffectiveness, etc. In this context, the pastoral assistance of Parish Priests to the faithful assumes greater importance.

6) Prayer in charismatic renewal should be balanced with all the elements of Eucharistic prayer in its praise, thanks, repentance, and intercession and it should also include an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the apostles and saints and have frequent recourse to Sacred Scripture. As the movement is based on the Word of God, the latter should not be used merely to elucidate a doctrinal reality but as a source of God-experience. The interpretation of the Bible should not be literal, subjective, and fundamentalist based on one’s state of mind and attitude. The ecclesial role of interpretation cannot be minimized.

7) There is a dangerous tendency in some charismatics while they claim to pray in tongues they tend to look down on traditional devotions to the Blessed Sacrament, the Rosary, the Way of the Cross, the Eucharistic Celebrations, and classics of spiritual reading. Faithful should not neglect the authentic and time-tested traditional pious practices of spiritual life practiced even by great saints. Faithful should find spiritual treasure by participating in the celebration of sacraments. They should appreciate and esteem



the Sacrament of Penance and have recourse to it as a means of healing. The charismatic healing services cannot replace the healing role of the sacrament instituted by Jesus: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20: 22-23).

8) "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" is an experience of Christ in a personal way as the result of the release of the power of Baptism and Confirmation. It usually leads to a deep devotional life, an attraction to prayer, Sacred Scripture and sacraments and marks the beginning of closer union with God. However, it is not another sacrament, but a surrender to the gifts. It empowers a person for Christian life and service. In other words, it is an activation of the grace of baptism by personal self-surrender.

9) Discernment of gifts and charisms is essential in ecclesial dimensions. As in every gift, so also in healing, gifts of tongues, etc., - there is a danger of exhibitionism and selfish use of them unless care is taken to foster their correct evaluation and use. A kind of spiritual elitism among some charismatics who consider themselves above other Christians and above the Church etc. is harmful to life in the Spirit. All gifts should be tested against the spirit of unity and charity.

10) All involved in prayer services, charismatic or otherwise, preachers and lay leaders in praise and worship, should be cautioned to avoid overemphasizing miracles of healing and to refrain from making themselves the centre of attraction. The focus should be on understanding the will of God through the promptings of the Holy Spirit and submitting to it as we pray in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

11) It has come to our attention that some self-proclaimed preachers are promoting superstitious practices. We must be vigilant to ensure that our people do not become easy prey for such malpractices or fraud.

12) St John of the Cross, in his classical doctrine on the charisms warns, against the harm that comes from rejoicing excessively in the possession of such gifts. The one who does so, leaves himself

open to deception, either by the devil or by his own imagination; in relying on this charism, he loses some of the merit of faith; and finally, he is tempted to vainglory. The personal cult of any individual preacher, whether clergy or lay faithful, should find no place in preaching and healing services. All should be directed to the glory and adoration of God. "Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory" (Ps 115:1).

13) Prayer sessions, at times, involve giving testimony. We need to remember that the real testimony is in the witness of life and action given at home, in the wards and parish, and not in the various claims of healing and deliverance which take place at retreat centres. The testimony is real when people see a person's life in his family and with his neighbours, parish, and place of work as edifying and authentic. "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Mt 5:16).

14) The prayer life should empower the faithful to reach out to the poor and needy. Absence of social concern and restriction only to saying prayers tends to create an imbalance in spiritual life. "The one who says 'Lord, Lord' shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven but the one who does the will of my Father." Moreover, there is no opposition between our prayer life and our life of charity; because we are also judged according to our life of charity: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters that you do unto me." Cooperation and involvement in the parish is indispensable to the healthy growth of the movement.

15) The prayer groups should have the approval of the Parish Priest, and he must always be invited and informed. During the prayer meeting it should be his prerogative to proclaim and explain the Word of God. Priests should attend the meetings and should know the good aspects and also the other human weaknesses that creep into the prayer groups, and they should be vigilant to guide the people in the right direction.

16) Every spiritual renewal group has to grow within the boundaries of parishes under the guidance of a Parish Priest. It

is unhealthy that some groups operate as parallel outfits within parishes. There should be collaboration with the Parish Priest, which must be fortified by means of constant communication about the life and activities of the parish prayer group through regularly scheduled meetings and reports.

17) Prayer services, meetings or retreat sessions should not be scheduled to coincide with regular Masses and other gatherings of the whole ecclesial community.

18) The charismatic leaders must be practicing Catholics with a mature grasp of the Catholic faith and be prayerful people who are respected in the church as well as in the secular community in which they live. The nature of leadership is to offer service, not for self-benefit or glory.

19) Lay faithful should not preach at prayer services, retreats, recollections in parishes, schools and houses without the permission of the diocesan Bishop. They should obtain proper formation and indicate their faithfulness to the Church in view of seeking permission. Efforts will be made to impart due formation to the faithful in the area of this service as per the discretion of the ecclesiastical authority.

20) Those who invite retreat preachers or groups for retreats and prayer meetings should ensure that they have the approval of the competent authorities of the Catholic Church. Whenever a Parish Priest intends to get a lay preacher for retreats or missions, he must ask for the testimonial of the Bishop of Mangalore, and if he or she is from outside this diocese, a testimonial letter from his/her Bishop. The Diocesan Director for the Charismatic Renewal must be informed about such preachers so that their basic credentials can be ascertained. The lay leaders trained by the Charismatic Unit of our Diocese could assist the Parish Units only for meetings and Praise and Worship sessions.

21) When priests from outside the diocese are invited to conduct charismatic renewal retreats, etc., they should be found in good standing in their own diocese and the Parish Priest should inform

the diocesan Bishop about his preaching in the parish. This applies to any group intending to conduct retreats, conventions or recollections.

22) To avoid some of the excesses and issues that occur in such venues, charismatic or other prayer groups should be held in parish churches rather than private buildings, schools, or houses. Permission has not been granted for prayer meetings, retreats, or preaching in any private facility, center, or house.

The directive guidelines are given with the intention of fostering and guiding charismatic and other prayer meetings and for maintaining the unity of faith, sacraments, and ecclesiastical governance. This would help in safeguarding the faithful from succumbing to the influence of divisive enthusiasm, the liturgical aberrations, and the spurious and erroneous teachings that creep into prayer meetings, although they are comparatively rare. The guidelines are meant to support prayer gatherings or services - whether charismatic or otherwise - in achieving their full potential as an integral part of the Church.

The National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, approved by the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, also promotes the movement, and specific statutes govern it. The Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the diocese remains accountable to the Bishop. After taking into account the growth and the strengths and weaknesses of the movement in the diocese, further norms and guidelines will be issued as and when required.

The above norms of prudence, borne out of our episcopal responsibility, in the hope of leading a life worthy of our calling to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3) and issued on November 1, 2023, Solemnity of All Saints, are easily understandable and apply to all, both clerics and lay faithful.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha  
**Bishop of Mangalore**

## **THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS DIOCESE OF MANGALORE**

To Members of the Council of Priests: The meeting of the Council of Priests will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 10.30 a.m. at the Bishop's House, Kodialbail, Mangalore. Kindly attend the meeting without fail.

### **Programme**

- 10.30 a.m. Arrival
- 11.00 a.m. Prayer  
Minutes of the Previous Meeting Follow up
- 11.15 a.m. Agenda I: Jubilee Year 2025: Significance and Celebration  
(Animator: Rev. Fr Rajesh Rosario, St Joseph Seminary, Jeppu)
- 11.30 a.m. Discussion and Plan of Action
- 11.50 a.m. Agenda II: Adult Catechesis – Challenges and Opportunities  
(Animator: Rev. Fr Vijay Machado, Mangala Jyothi – DBCLC)
- 12.05 p.m. Discussion and Action Plan
- 12.25 p.m. Any Other Matter
- 12.35 p.m. Bishop's Message
- 12.45 p.m. Concluding Prayer and Lunch

– Rev. Fr Joseph Martis, **Secretary**

## **INAUGURATION, PREPARATION, AND CELEBRATION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025**

Pope Francis has invited all the faithful to celebrate the Year 2025 as an ordinary Jubilee Year, marking 2025 years of Jesus' birth. 'Pilgrims of Hope' is the motto of the celebrations of the ordinary Jubilee 2025. Holy Father Pope Francis underscores the importance of hope in Christian life amidst uncertainties and hardships created by the pandemic and wars.

He writes: “we must fan the flame of hope ... the forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust ... that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.”

“The purpose of the Jubilee 2025 is threefold: to celebrate Jesus, to celebrate the Church and to celebrate our faith.” There are two years of preparation for the Jubilee 2025: (1) 2023 as the Year of the Council (Year of Learning); (2) 2024 as the Year of Prayer. The Holy Father wishes that the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council be studied to obtain direction and guidance for God’s people.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India partakes in the preparations and celebrations of the Jubilee 2025, integrating them in the synodal journey and the strategic planning, which aims at discerning the plan of God for the Church in India.

The Dioceses (Particular Churches) in India will inaugurate the Preparations of the Jubilee on November 26, 2023, Solemnity of Christ the King, unveiling the Jubilee Logo and initiating people to revisit the treasures of the Second Vatican Council and revamp prayer.

Our Bishop will inaugurate the Jubilee Year in our diocese on November 26, the Feast of Christ the King. All the Parish Priests are requested to inaugurate it in their parishes on this day by unveiling the Jubilee Logo, informing the faithful of the meaning and importance of the Jubilee Year, and then, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council and Pastoral Commissions, chalking out some relevant programmes for the coming two years. You may procure the Jubilee Logo from Fr Anil Fernandes, Director of Canara Communication Centre.

I bring to your attention the website of the Vatican for Jubilee: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va>. This contains a wealth of resources (including documents from the Pope, Dicasteries and Commissions, the jubilee prayer, the jubilee logo with explanation, the jubilee hymn with notations and audio, the pilgrimages, and the calendar of events) that would assist in entering into the Jubilee Year with due preparation.

Rev. Fr Joseph Martis  
**Secretary, Council of Priests**

## MANGALA JYOTHI

### I. Programmes in November

#### Catechetical and Liturgical Programmes:

- 5: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Training, Vamanjoor Parish
- 5: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Training, Thodambila Parish
- 7-10: New Konkani Missal work sessions - Goa
- 12: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Training, Cordel Parish
- 13: Deanery Priest/Lay Catechism/Liturgy Coordinators Meeting and Training, Mangala Jyothi (9.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.)
- 19: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Training, Loretto Parish
- 19: Choir Members' Representatives Meeting and Training, Bajjodi (3 p.m. - 6 p.m.)
- 26: Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Training, Uppinangady Parish

### II. Commission for Catechetics

#### 1. Catechist's Day – 5 November

Pope Francis, through his apostolic letter *Antiquum Ministerium*, by instituting the lay ministry of catechists, has directed the leaders to recognize the catechists in the Church in a special manner.

St Charles Borromeo is the Patron of catechists. The Church honours this saint and commemorates his memory on November 4. In light of the document *Antiquum Ministerium*, we celebrate this day in our diocese on Sunday, November 5, as Catechists' Day. I request the Parish Priests to celebrate this day in your parish in a unique way. On this day, recognize the identity of lay catechists and catechize the people regarding the importance of lay ministry in the Church. Kindly involve the PPC. Following are some tips for celebration:

- Introduction before Mass: Request the congregation to pray for the catechists
- Mention the importance of the catechists in the Church and their recognition (*Antiquum Ministerium*)
- Add one or two intentions during the Prayers of the Faithful
- Honouring of catechists by PPC/Children/Parents

## **2. Adult Catechetical Programmes:**

Adult catechesis or ongoing faith formation is the need of the hour. The material for adult catechesis (set of books in 3 volumes) published by CCBI is now available at Mangala Jyothi. This book consists of catechesis on various themes taken from Lectionary readings. The ways to carry out adult catechesis: 1. During the parish retreats; 2. During the novena days; 3. During SCC meetings; 4. During the meetings of the Apostolic and Pious Association; 5. Other special occasions or meetings.

## **III. Commission for Liturgy:**

### **1. Advent Season & Blessing of Advent Wreath**

On December 3, 2023, we begin the advent season. The Advent season is very important in the life of the Church. It is our responsibility to preserve the nature and importance of this season. On the first Sunday of Advent, we have started the custom of blessing the Advent Wreath for the past three years. The five candles on the wreath signify the meaning of Jesus' second and first coming. From December 3 to 16, we reflect on the second coming of Christ, and from December 17 to 24, we reflect on the first coming. This is the time for immediate preparation for Christmas. In order to facilitate the catechesis of this liturgical season, Mangala Jyothi has published a Christmas novena book, *Emmanuel*, which contains the rite of blessing of the Christmas wreath, nine days of reflections, and novena prayer. For copies, contact Mangala Jyothi. For more liturgical guidelines during the seasons of Lent and Christmas (refer *Ordo 2023-24*, pages 35-38, 39, 45, 48-56)

**Sundays of Advent - Liturgy:** During the Sundays of Advent, other celebrations are not permitted, not even funeral masses



(liturgy). Therefore, kindly observe Advent Sunday Liturgy faithfully.

**2. December 4, 2023 (Monday): Feast of St Francis Xavier:** Since December 3, comes on a Sunday, the feast of St Francis Xavier is postponed to December 4, Monday.

**3. December 8, 2023 (Friday): Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity**

**4. December 31: The Feast of the Holy Family**

**5. Liturgy of the Word of God: Important Guidelines**

**a. Silence:** The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way that it encourages meditation, so any haste that hampers recollection must be avoided. It is also suitable to incorporate brief periods of silence during the Liturgy of the Word, appropriate to the gathered assembly, in which, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer prepared. Such periods of silence may be appropriate, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word begins, after the first and second readings, and lastly, at the conclusion of the homily (*GIRM 56*).

**b. Place:** In the celebration of the Mass with a congregation, the readings are always proclaimed from the Ambo (*GIRM 58*). The Prayers of the Faithful should be read from the same Ambo (and not from the announcement stand because these Prayers are part of the Liturgy of the Word).

**c. Ministerial Function:** By tradition, the function of proclaiming the readings is ministerial, not presidential. The readings, therefore, should be proclaimed by a lector and the Gospel by a deacon or, in his absence, a priest other than the celebrant. If, however, a deacon or another priest is not present, the priest celebrant himself reads the Gospel (*GIRM 59*).

**e. Training:** The liturgical assembly truly requires good readers. Therefore, proper measures must be taken to ensure that suitable laypeople have been trained to carry out this ministry (*GIL 52*).

**f. Text:** In the celebration of Mass, the biblical readings with their accompanying chants from the Sacred Scriptures may not be omitted, shortened, or, worse still, replaced by nonbiblical

readings. In some parishes, we have noticed that the Responsorial Psalm is not sung or recited fully. In this regard, the liturgical norm must be observed faithfully.

**g. Use of Lectionary:** Because of the dignity of the word of God, the books of readings used in the celebration are not to be replaced by other pastoral aids, for example, by leaflets printed (also, mobile phones, i-pads, tabs) for the preparation of the readings by the faithful or for their personal meditation. Use only the Lectionary (*GIL* 37).

**h. Reminder - Singing of Alleluia:** As per the suggestion given by CDWS to the Commission working on the Revised Konkani Missal) to use *Alleluia* instead of “Sorvesporak Jai”, it is appropriate that we use the acclamation as *Alleluia* as instructed to you many times. New tunes for *Alleluia* in book form are available at Mangala Jyothi.

#### **IV. New Arrivals and Religious Items Available**

1. *ORDO* 2023-24. Rs 150
2. Ordo-stand and Mass List Paper Holder Stand
4. Ordinary Diary 2024 with Sunday full page
5. Christmas Items - stars, crib sets, and decorations at a reasonable price.
6. Mass Candles, Votive Candles, Murdom Candles, superior quality Hosts & Particles, Incense; First Holy Communion/ Confirmation Certificates, Candles, Crown, Veils, Rosaries, Scapulars.
8. Mass vestment, Ciborium, Chalice, Stole, Candle stand, Globe, Missal stands, and other church articles.
9. If any particular item is required for your parish/institution, you can always contact us well in advance so that we can make arrangements for you.

There will be a Mangala Jyothi stall at St Joseph Vaz Shrine feast, Mudipu (December 1-3). Please inform your parishioners regarding the Mangala Jyothi religious articles stall.

**- Director, Mangala Jyothi**

## ONGOING FORMATION FOR CLERGY

Topic: Fundamentals of Public Relations - A Follow-up Programme (Presentation of the Assignments)

Participants: Junior clergy - Priest Ordained from 2013 onwards up to 2023.

*(The resource person expects every group to present the assignment in the format given on August 17, 2023)*

Date : November 28, 2023 - 9.15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Place : Shanthi Kiran, Pastoral Institute, Nanthoor, Bajjodi

Resource Person: Mr Amith Prabhu

Rev. Fr Santhosh Rodrigues  
**Director, Pastoral Institute**

## PROGRAMMES OF CODP

- 05.11.2023 : Homeopathy Medical Camp at Navajyothi Nagar and 'Namma Desha Namma Samvidhana' Meeting in St Antony Ashram, Jeppu
- 07.11.2023 : Training in Constitutional Rights at Moodbidri
- 11.11.2023 : Visit of Mr Haridas from Caritas India to CODP-ISD
- 12.11.2023 : Deepavali Celebration in CODP-ISD, Training in Advocacy & Lobbying at Puthige and Homeopathy Medical Camp at Mavinakatte
- 18.11.2023 : Training in Documentation at Kumbala and Advocacy and lobbying at Vorkady
- 19.11.2023 : Health Camp at Ashoknagar
- 21.11.2023 : Training in Constitutional Rights at Talapady & Kotekar and Talk on Gender Discrimination at Sahajeevana Okkoota Meeting in CODP-ISD
- 23.11.2023 : Training in Government Schemes at Puttur and Advocacy and Lobbying at Soorambail
- 25.11.2023 : Deepavali Celebration at Nalkemar and Training in Government Schemes at Modankap

27.11.2023 : Training in Constitutional Rights at Bajpe and  
Advocacy & Lobbying at Manjeshwar

28.11.2023 : Deepavali Celebration at Bela, Kumbadaje and  
Balepuni

*Other activities planned for November 2023:* Interviews,  
orientation, and education loan disbursement to Educare students.

- **Director, CODP**

### **R.I.P.**

- Mrs Dulcine Fernandes (63 years), sister of Rev. Fr Valerian Fernandes, Parish Priest, St Antony Church, Naravi, expired on 8.10.2023. Her funeral took place on 9.10.2023 at Infant Mary's Church, Bajjodi.
  - Mr Richard D'Costa (60 years), brother of Rev. Fr Andrew D'Costa, Manager, St Joseph Asylum Industrial Workshops, Jeppu, expired on 9.10.2023. His funeral took place on the same day at St Sebastian Church, Bendur.
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