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BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST 2024

1	9.15	a.m.	Council of Priests, Bishop's House
	5.00	p.m.	Governing Board Meeting, FMCI
3-4			Pastoral Visit, Nellikar
5-9			Ordination at Jhansi
10-11			Pastoral Visit, Venur
13	9.00	a.m.	Diocesan Convention, PMI at Bikarnakatte
19	4.00	p.m.	Annual General Body Meeting, CODP
20-21			On-going Formation at Pastoral Centre
22	10.30	a.m.	Concetta Hospital Trust Meeting, Bishop's House
25			Pastoral Visit, Lawrence Nagar, Permude
27	3.30	p.m.	Bandhavya AGB Meeting, CODP
29	9.00	a.m.	Meeting of Registered Society, St Joseph's Seminary, Jeppu

Bishop meets in the forenoon:

Diocesan Clergy, 23; Religious, 24; Lay Faithful, 27.

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR AUGUST 2024

Papal Intention for August: The Pope invites us this month to pray for the political leaders. They have a special calling to work for integral human development and the common good. The people need employment, and the politicians are called upon to plan projects to create jobs for sustainable development. Unemployment is rampant everywhere, and many suffer deprivation. We join the Holy Father in interceding on behalf of the political leaders so that they care for the poor and neglected.

Plenary Indulgence of Portiuncula on 2 August: On this special day, the plenary Indulgence may be obtained by visiting a church, minor basilica, or shrine and reciting the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, going for Confession, participating in the Holy Communion and praying for the intention of the Supreme Pontiff.

Feast of St John Mary Vianney, Patron of Priests, on August 4: The saint is greatly relevant in our difficult times because he teaches us to transmit joy and hope through the testimony of our personal life and to be constant and persevering in our ministry. By spending long hours in church before the Tabernacle, he inspired the faithful to imitate him by coming to visit Jesus, knowing that their Parish Priest would be there, ready to listen and offer forgiveness. Ars, his parish had become "a great hospital of souls". St John Mary Vianney once explained to a fellow priest his self-imposed mortifications: "I will tell you my recipe: I give sinners a small penance and the rest I do in their place." May we receive inspiration from this great saint to pray before the Blessed Sacrament, spend time in the confessional performing the ministry of mercy and reconciliation. Without a relationship with Christ, "everything becomes routine, priests become salaried employees, bishops' bureaucrats, and the Church is not the Church of Christ, but a product of our making, a superfluous NGO" (Pope Francis).

Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary and the Independence Day of India (15 August): We are happy about the coincidence

of our Independence Day with the Feast of Assumption of Our Lady. While the former symbolises political liberation, the latter signifies complete liberation from all that binds us.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary gives us the message of total liberation. Jesus tells us (Jn 8:34) that everyone who sins is a slave of sin, and St Paul reminds us (Gal 5:1) that since Christ has set us free, we should no longer be slaves of sin. In this way, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin encourages us to work together with God to free ourselves from the bondage of evil: from impure, unjust and unloving thoughts and habits, and from the bonds of jealousy, envy and hatred.

While India is politically free today, it has a plethora of challenges ahead. While Nehru's idea for a new India appears to have faded, his dream has not died. The famous speech "Tryst with Destiny" he gave to the Indian Constituent Assembly on the eve of India's Independence concludes with a call that is as urgent and relevant today as it was then: "All of us, to whatever religion we may belong, are equally the children of India with equal rights, privileges and obligations. We cannot encourage communalism or narrow-mindedness, for no nation can be great whose people are narrow in thought or in action." This declaration expressed hope for a new nation, which needs to be achieved through common efforts. On this day, to India, our much-loved motherland, the ancient, the eternal and the ever-new, we pay our reverent homage, and we bind ourselves afresh to her service.

Communio India Sunday: The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) has resolved to join hands and share the resources every year so that the poorer dioceses could be financially helped in their development. Though in various dioceses *Communio India* is celebrated on the first Sunday of Advent, in our diocese we do it on August 15. The purposes of *Communio India* are (1) to build a culture of sharing in order to express solidarity with our needy brothers and sisters in the country. (2) to encourage our faithful to pray and help the missions and the missionaries and to promote missionary vocations. (3) to inspire our lay faithful to

work in mission areas as lay missionaries. The CCBI, in its circular, says: "It should not only be a day of prayer but also a day of awareness to enable us to become missionary disciples." I sincerely thank all those who contributed last year towards *Communio India*.

On-going Formation for Clergy: On **20 and 21 August**, we have organised the on-going formation for clergy. During the Pastoral Consultation, one of the points discussed was the challenges faced by the clergy and how to respond to their needs and accompany them in the moments of crisis. Fr Dionysius Vaz S.J., the Jesuit Provincial of the Karnataka Province, will address us on "Living our Priesthood in Challenging Times". The on-going formation programme will be held in the Pastoral Centre. Please be sure to attend as per the batches made and in case you are unable to come on the allotted day, please inform Fr Santhosh Rodrigues about your participation. For more details, see *Inter Nos* of July 2024, page 146.

A Word of Thanks: I am grateful to all the priests who participated in the first batch of the Retreat. The Retreat Preacher, Fr Jacob Parappally MSFS, has expressed his joy regarding the participation. I am grateful to him and to Fr Santhosh Rodrigues, the Director of the Pastoral Centre and his team. Fr Jacob will come again to preach in December, and thus, all priests can benefit from his wisdom and guidance.

Heartfelt Condolences: We are deeply saddened by the demise of Emeritus Archbishop Alphonse Mathias on 10 July 2024. He was a priest of our Diocese and was made Bishop at a young age. May the Lord grant him eternal rest. I express my condolences to the bereaved family and to the Archbishop, clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Bangalore.

Wish you all a Happy Feast of the Assumption of Heavenly Mother and a Joyful Independence Day.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. August 2024 Programmes/Events:

02-30: Catechists Trainings, Lectors and Liturgy Training, YOUCAT programmes, Vicariate of Southern Arabia, UAE (CCBI Office)

11 : Lectors Training, Bajjodi Parish

11 : Liturgy Seminar, Shakthinagar Parish

18 : Lectors Training, Bendur Parish

II. Commission for Catechetics - Information

1) Deanery-wise Catechists' Follow-up Programme: Deanery priest catechism coordinators are requested to organise catechism teachers' follow-up meetings and seminars. The theme of this year is **Bible and Prayer**. For further details, contact Fr Vincent Sequeira.

2) Parish Catechetical and Liturgical Library: As per the observations and suggestions made by the catechists' coordinators during the annual evaluation meeting on 07 and 08 July 2024, the catechists have requested to inform all the parish priests to have parish catechetical and liturgical library so that parents, as well as children/youth, can have easy access to refer the faith-related materials. Therefore, I request you to consider this suggestion very positively. Some of the parishes already have implemented this system.

3) Catechists' Coordinators' Training Programme Information: The annual meetings and on-going formation programmes for Sunday and School catechists and values education coordinators were held on 7 and 8 July. Out of 124 parishes, only 83 parish coordinators were present. Only two parishes gave the reason for their absence. Out of 185 schools, only 85 coordinators were present. Others did not inform us. Parish priests/coordinators and school directors are asked to pay attention to this matter. The dates for next year's programme are already given here. Please note these dates and inform them.

4) Programmes for the Year 2025:

- a) June 1, Sunday: Newly selected Catechists' Training
- b) June 8, Sunday: Inauguration of the Catechetical Year 2025
- c) July 6, Sunday: Sunday Catechists' Coordinators Training
- d) July 7, Monday: School Catechists' Coordinators' and Value Education Representatives' Training.

5) Entry of Catechism Students' Data Online: As you have already been informed, you are invited to complete the online registration or the entry of the data of all the catechism students, with the help of your coordinator, by the 10th of August 2024.

6) Settlement of Credit Bills: Please settle all the credit bills (for those who have not settled yet) of the catechism textbooks by 10th August 2024. We need to settle these bills with the GST department.

III. Commission for Liturgy - Information:

Extraordinary Ministry (Reminder): We have trained 171 newly selected Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion this year. Please follow the following guidelines very strictly:

- 1) Extraordinary ministry is of a distinct and sacred nature, unlike other duties. It is not a duty but a service. Therefore, select or nominate the candidates only if necessary. Priority should be given to religious sisters.
- 2) Age Criteria: 40 for admission and 65 for retirement from ministry (Religious persons exempted), which does not mean the persons will distribute the Holy Communion till they retire. For the exercise of this ministry, periodic renewal of faculty from the Bishop is necessary.
- 3) Once they are appointed and received by the faculty, please enrol their details online by visiting <https://www.mangalajyothi.com/admin/parishlogin.php> or contact our office. Online registration is mandatory hereafter.
- 4) Maintain separate files for this ministry and keep a photocopy of their training certificate, not the original.

- 5) Installation Rite is given in the handbook. Please keep one handbook in the official file.
- 6) Insignia is required for the Extraordinary Ministers who distribute Holy Communion, including religious sisters.
- 7) If the faculty of the existing Extraordinary Ministers is not renewed, kindly petition the Bishop seeking its renewal. Renewal of faculty is mandatory. After the renewal, it should be entered in the online portal.

III. New arrivals and items available at our stall:

- Little Whispers with God - Prayer book for children - Rs. 60/-
- ಜೆಜು ಮುಜೊ ಇಷ್ಟ್ವೆ - ಲ್ಹಾನಾ ಭುರ್ಗ್ಯಾಂಚೆಂ ಮಾಗ್ಣ್ಯಾ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್-ರು. 60/-
- YOUCAT for Kids - Rs. 450/-
- Directory 2024-25, Mangalore Diocese - Rs. 150/-
- Directory 2024-25, Udupi Diocese - Rs. 140/-
- Novena Book for Monthi Feast - Konkani
- Weekday and Sunday Missal - English with readings
- Konkani Missal - reprint edition
- Clergy Shirts - Mangala Jyothi brand
- Superior quality hosts, particles, mass candles, mudthom candles, votive candles, scented candles, candle stands, ciborium, chalice, cruets, thurible, incense, charcoal, mass vestments, clergy shirts, statues, rosaries and all kinds of catechetical, biblical and liturgical books are available at Mangala Jyothi store.

- **Director, Mangala Jyothi**

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Rev. Aloysius D Souza, St Zuze Vas Home, celebrates his 71 Ordination Anniversary on 24 August 2024.

Ecce Sacerdos magnus, qui in diebus suis placuit Deo (Behold a great priest who in his days pleased God). May your life as a priest continue to be filled with His grace and joy. May God bless you on your Ordination Anniversary! Congratulations on 71 years of priesthood!

CODP PROGRAMMES

- 01.08.2024 : Field/Office Staff Meeting and Evaluation of SHGs
 10.08.2024 : Awareness on Women's Rights in Vorkady
 11.08.2024 : Training on Panchayat Raj in Bedrampalli
 19.08.2024 : Annual General Body Meeting of CODP in CODP, Training on Documentation in Sheni
 22.08.2024 : Annual General Body Meeting of KROSS in Bengaluru
 23.08.2024 : Organizational Development Seminar, Awareness on Women's Rights in Talapady, Awareness on Social Media in Kotekar
 26.08.2024 : Training on Gender Equality and Rights in Sheni, Awareness on Women's Rights in Vanitha Mahasangha
 27.08.2024 : Annual General Body Meeting of Bandhavya in CODP Training on Gender Equality and Rights in Bela

II. Information on Lenten Contribution 2024

Top 10 Parishes - Lenten Collection 2024

Sl No	Parish	Amount Received in 2024
1	Cordel	4,48,850.00
2	Valencia	3,61,180.00
3	Puttur	2,24,410.00
4	Bendur	2,21,242.00
5	Vamanjoor	2,10,830.00
6	Bondel	2,07,195.00
7	Suratkal	1,74,650.00
8	Angelore	1,72,510.00
9	Madanthyar	1,70,000.00
10	Milagres-Mangalore	1,67,790.00

Top 10 Parishes - Lenten Collection 2024 - Family Wise

Sl No	Parish	Families in 2024	Amount Received in 2024	Family-wise Collection
1	Indubettu	70	40,500.00	578.57
2	Manela	91	41,650.00	457.69
3	Nala	33	14,500	439.39
4	Gardady	86	35,390.00	411.51
5	Saverapura	62	25,190.00	406.29
6	Kateel	169	67,570.00	399.82
7	Belloor	220	86,440.00	392.91
8	Mukka	126	49,170.00	390.24
9	Mudipu	222	82,670.00	372.39
10	Kirem	462	1,65,480.00	358.18

III. Information on Lenten Collection – Comparing the past 3 years

Sl No.		Lenten Campaign Total collection in 2022	Lenten Campaign Total collection in 2023	Lenten Campaign Total collection in 2024
1	Parishes	67,44,047.00	72,09,100.00	79,29,041.00
2	Convents	2,89,800.00	3,59,250.00	4,09,500.00
3	Institutions	55,094.00	53,595.00	79,266.00
4	Colleges	10,000.00	-	19,400.00
5	Other Donations	20,000.00	57,500.00	12,267.00
		71,18,941.00	76,79,445.00	84,49,474.00

IV Other Information

**Educare:* Please encourage the students to apply to Vidyalaxmi (<https://www.vidyalakshmi.co.in/Students>) and other education

loans from banks. We will inform you about the new mode of Educare loan through the Educare Website and also send a letter to the Parishes.

***Housing:** Please note that as per the decision of the housing committee, we are honouring the pending applications received in Phase 1. We will keep you updated on Phase 2.

V. Words of Gratitude

Dear Parish Priests, Superiors, Directors, Principals, and Parishioners: On behalf of the Bishop of Mangalore Diocese, we are deeply grateful for your generosity and kindness in supporting our mission to provide health education and care to the deprived. Your contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of many, and we are thrilled to report that your donations have increased this year, reaching an impressive 84.49 lakhs, surpassing last year's total of 76.79 lakhs.

Your trust and support have enabled us to expand our reach and services, bringing hope and care to those who need it most. Your kindness is a beacon of hope, inspiring us to continue our efforts towards creating a healthier and more compassionate society.

We cannot express enough gratitude for your unwavering support. Your donations are a testament to your commitment to making a positive difference in the world. We are honoured to have you as partners in our mission. Thank you for your generosity and trust.

– **Director, CODP**

BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Many changes have taken place in the liturgy since the Second Vatican Council. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, promulgated on 3 December 1963, was rather limited in its directives concerning the Sacrament of Penance. It said, “The rite and formulas for the Sacrament of

Penance are to be revised so that they more clearly express both the nature and effect of the sacrament” (n. 72). In 1966, the Consilium undertook the study and revision of the rite. The new rite took more time to develop because the revision of the Order of Mass took precedence over other matters. After the publication of the Order of Mass in 1969, the revision of the Rite of Penance was published in 1974. The English version was published in 1975.

This 1975 translation gave way to a new translation in 2023 for the same reasons that led to the revision of the Roman Missal. International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) revised the translation. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) promulgated the revised Order of Penance in 2023 for the dioceses of the USA. What was once called the Rite of Penance is now the Order of Penance, which reflects the Latin title, *Ordo Paenitentiae*. It is better that we are aware of these liturgical events in the Church.

The Sacrament of Penance is also known as the ‘Sacrament of Reconciliation’ or traditionally called ‘Confession’. Though the official ritual book is called “The Order of Penance”, the first chapters of this ritual focus on reconciling penitents. Therefore, its content focuses on “reconciliation”. Confession, Penance and Reconciliation - all the three names emphasise different aspects of the same sacrament:

- (i) “Confession” refers to the declaration of one’s sins and the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. It is more than a disclosure of one’s sins; it is also a confession or a proclamation of our faith in the mercy of God.
- (ii) “Penance” focuses on the discipline the penitent undertakes after confessing sins. Jesus’ call to conversion and penance does not aim merely at external acts of penance – recitation of prayers, fasting, almsgiving, but at the interior conversion, a conversion of the heart. This interior conversion demands expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance.
- (iii) “Reconciliation” signifies the goal or the end result of the confession, which restores the grace-filled relationships with

God and others. Sin damages or even breaks fraternal communion. This sacrament repairs or restores it. Reconciliation with God, the Church, and all of God's creation is thus the purpose and effect of this sacrament. In fact, the most ancient title for the sacrament was "reconciling penitents" which is evident in the early liturgical books of the eighth century, such as the Gelasian Sacramentary.

In addition to these names, the sacrament has other names, such as the *sacrament of conversion*, because it makes sacramentally present Jesus' call to conversion, the first step in returning to the Father and the *sacrament of forgiveness*, because through the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent "pardon and peace." (cfr. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nn. 1423-1424).

How do we celebrate the sacrament? "Like all the sacraments, Penance is a liturgical action. The elements of the celebration are ordinarily these: a greeting and blessing from the priest, reading the word of God to illuminate the conscience and elicit contrition, and an exhortation to repentance; the confession, which acknowledges sins and makes them known to the priest; the imposition and acceptance of a penance; the priest's absolution; a prayer of thanksgiving and praise and dismissal with the blessing of the priest" (CCC, n. 1480).

The pastoral attitude of the priest: The success of the Sacrament of Penance depends a great deal on the priests who are ministers of the sacrament. They must banish from their minds the thought that hearing confessions is a burden. They need to examine their consciences and consider whether they are devoting enough time and effort in their ministry to this precious sacrament of forgiveness, whether they are seriously commending it to their people, and whether they are making themselves available to their parishioners in the confessional often enough and for long enough.

On a more basic level, to be a merciful confessor means to be readily available to hear confessions and to make time to

“be there” for people. Being merciful as a priest means trying to make it easy for people to receive this sacrament. “Basically, hearing confession means witnessing as many *professiones fidei* (professions of faith) as there are penitents.” (Pope Benedict XVI, Address, March 25, 2011). The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance nourishes in the priest an awareness of his sacramental identity. It is spiritually very healthy for priests as this ministry can be a great protection against the typical temptations of the priest: activism, weariness, or getting bogged down in organisation or administration. Now, let us have a brief view of the Order.

The Order for Reconciling Individual Penitents

This Order has the following parts: (i) The Reception of the Penitent; (ii) The Reading of the Word of God (Optional); (iii) The Confession of Sins and the Acceptance of Satisfaction; (iv) The Prayer of the Penitent and the Absolution, and (v) The Proclamation of Praise of God and the Dismissal of the Penitent

The celebration of the sacrament begins when the penitent comes to the priest for the sacrament. 1) **The Reception of the Penitent** forms the first act of the order of celebration. This act of reception has three components:

(a) When the penitent comes to confess his (her) sins, the priest welcomes him (her) with kindness and greets him (her) with friendly words. The greeting should be simple, yet it should make the penitent feel comfortable.

(b) Then the penitent and, if appropriate, the priest as well, sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, saying: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.* Here, the penitent initiates the Sign of the Cross, while the priest is free to join in.

(c) The priest invites the penitent to have trust in God in these or similar words: *May God, who has shone his light in our hearts, grant that you may truly know your sins and his mercy.* The penitent replies: *Amen.*

2) The Reading of the Word of God (Optional)

If considered appropriate, the priest reads or recites from memory a text of Sacred Scripture in which God's mercy is announced, and people are called to conversion.

3) The Confession of Sins and the Acceptance of Satisfaction

Next, the penitent confesses his (her) sins, after first saying, where it is the custom, a general formula for confession (e.g., I confess to almighty God). If necessary, the priest assists the penitent to make an integral confession, offers him (her) suitable counsel, and urges him (her) to have contrition for his (her) faults, reminding him (her) that through the Sacrament of Penance a Christian, by dying and rising with Christ, is renewed in the Paschal Mystery. Then the priest proposes a work of penance that the penitent accepts to make satisfaction for sin and to amend his (her) life.

4) The Prayer of the Penitent

The priest then invites the penitent to express his (her) contrition, which the penitent may do in these or similar words:

*O my God, I am sorry and repent with all my heart
for all the wrong I have done
and for the good I have failed to do,
because by sinning I have offended you,
who are all good and worthy to be loved above all things.
I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace,
to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid the occasions of sin.
Through the merits of the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ,
Lord, have mercy*

OR

*Lord Jesus, Son of God, Lord Jesus, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner. have mercy on me, a sinner.*

5) The Absolution:

Then the priest, extending his hands over the penitent's head (or at least extending his right hand), says:

*God, the Father of mercies,
through the Death and Resurrection of his Son
has reconciled the world to himself
and poured out the Holy Spirit for the forgiveness of sins;
through the ministry of the Church
may God grant you pardon and peace.
And I Absolve you from your sins,
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit*

The penitent replies: *Amen*

6) The Proclamation of Praise of God and the Dismissal of the Penitent

After the absolution, the priest continues:

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.
The penitent concludes:
For his mercy endures for ever.*

Then the priest dismisses the penitent who has been reconciled, saying: *The Lord has forgiven your sins. Go in peace.* □

The above Order of the celebration is theologically and pastorally meaningful for a great spiritual experience. The Order of Penance makes us aware that we have yet to understand and put into practice the renewal - pastoral and liturgical - unleashed by the Second Vatican Council. We have done a lot with regard to liturgical celebrations where there is a lot of external solemnity or 'showbiz.' But the sacrament of Penance should not be a forgotten sacrament, especially in a pastoral context, which requires more attention from priests. In this context, it is also appropriate to heed the advice of Pope Francis: "it is not enough to change the liturgical books to improve the quality of the liturgy. To do this alone would be a deception. For life to be truly a praise pleasing to God, it is indeed necessary to change the heart" (Address to the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for the Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, 14 February 2019).

R.I.P.

- Mr Henry Saldanha (87 years), brother of Rev. Marcel Saldanha, Parish Priest, Kuppepadavu, passed away on 28 June 2024. His funeral took place on 30 June 2024 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Shirthady.
 - Mrs Mary D'Souza (91 years), mother of Rev. Fr Lawrence D'Souza, Parish Priest, Thannirubavi, and of Rev. Fr Elias D'Souza, Parish Priest, Paladka, passed away on 06 July 2024. Her funeral took place on 09 July 2024 at Our Lady of Health, Shirva.
 - Mr Francis Saldanha (58 years), brother of Rev. Fr John Baptist Saldanha, Parish Priest, Bejai, passed away on 06 July 2024. His funeral took place on 10 July 2024 at Infant Jesus Church, Bantwal.
 - Mr Ronald D'Souza (58 years), brother of Rev. Fr Andrew Leo D'Souza, Parish Priest, Bondel, passed away on 17 July 2024. His funeral took place on 20 July 2024 at St Roque Church, Neerude.
 - Mrs Shanthi Dolie Rodrigues (50 years), sister of Rev. Fr Stanislaus Rodrigues, Parish Priest, Manela, passed away on 19 July 2024. Her funeral took place on 20 July 2024 at Sacred Heart Church, Kolalgiri.
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