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No. 10

October 2024

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER 2024

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|-------|-------|------|---|
| 1 | 07.00 | p.m. | Indian Catholic Press Association Meet, CODP |
| 2 | 09.30 | a.m. | Inauguration of De-addiction Centre, Snehalaya, Manjeshwar |
| | 11.00 | a.m. | Diaconate, Seminary, Jeppu |
| 5 | 09.30 | a.m. | Bandhavya Programme, ISD, CODP |
| | 03.00 | p.m. | Confirmation at Komangala |
| 7 | 10.00 | a.m. | Final Profession, Helpers of Mount Rosary, Alangar |
| 8 | 03.00 | p.m. | Synodal Church and Jubilee Preparation Meetings, Bishop's House |
| 9 | 04.00 | p.m. | Confirmation at Mogarnad |
| 10 | 10.00 | a.m. | General Body Meeting, FMCI |
| 11 | 11.00 | a.m. | Mass of Jesus Youth, St Aloysius College |
| 12 | 10.00 | a.m. | Ordination at Retreat House |
| | 03.30 | p.m. | Confirmation at Kateel |
| 13 | | | Pastoral Visit, Maniampare |
| 14 | 06.30 | a.m. | Conferring the Ministries, St Joseph Seminary, Jeppu |
| 16 | 10.00 | p.m. | Inauguration of JMJ Hospital, Kadaba |
| 19 | 09.00 | a.m. | Association of Christian Philosophers of India, St Joseph Seminary, Jeppu |
| 19-20 | | | Pastoral Visit, Sampaje |

21	10.30	a.m.	Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Mass of Fr Valerian Pinto, Bantwal
22	10.30	a.m.	Decennial Celebration of John Paul II Shrine, Bajpe
24			St Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore, Governing Board Meeting
26	03.30	p.m.	Confirmation at Fermai
27			Pastoral Visit, Shamboor
28	10.00	a.m.	Festal Mass, Pakshikere
31	09.15	a.m.	Council of Priests, Bishop's House

Bishop Meets in the Forenoon:

Diocesan Clergy, 17; Religious Men and Women, 23;
Lay Faithful, 26

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER 2024

Papal Intention for the Month: The Pope invites all the baptised to understand our shared mission and pray for it. This month is also dedicated for the discernment of the synodal pathways and lifestyles in carrying out the mission of the Lord. Every baptised person is co-responsible for carrying out the mission through fostering communion and participation. Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful share in the one mission of the Lord.

Month of Rosary: On 7 October, we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. Mother Mary invites us to pray for peace in the whole world. We need to explain the nature and importance of the Rosary in the family, in the wards and in the Church. As a string or thread binds together the beads, so our whole Christian life is woven together on the mysteries we contemplate, centred on Christ's face. A **Plenary Indulgence** may be gained by those reciting five decades of the Rosary in church, as a family at home, as a religious community, or as a pious fraternity, or in general whenever several persons have gathered for a good purpose and in other circumstances a partial indulgence. Pope John Paul II called the Rosary the "Compendium

of the Gospel” (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 18). He affirms that the Rosary is an unceasing praise of Christ, the blessed fruit of the womb of the Holy Virgin (Lk 1:42). The Pope insists “that the succession of *Hail Marys* constitutes the warp on which is woven the contemplation of the mysteries. The Jesus that each *Hail Mary* recalls is the same Jesus whom the succession of mysteries proposes to us now as the Son of God, now as the Son of the Virgin” (n. 18).

The XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops: The second phase of the Synod on Synodality will take place in Rome from 2 to 27 October 2024. The theme of the Synod is “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission”. Taking the cues from the discussion held so far and synodal results, the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India is now planning for its XXXVI Plenary Assembly to be held in January-February 2025 to initiate a deeper reflection on the synodal process to animate the Church’s mission in India. We are called to pray intensely for the success of the Synod so that the Church responds to the challenges of the present times and discerns synodal pathways for mission.

Mission Sunday on October 20: This year’s theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew: “Go and invite everyone to the banquet,” reflects the inclusive and urgent call to bring God’s love to everyone. Pope Francis invites all to join him in this universal mission to spread the Gospel and invite all to experience the joy of Christ’s message. While the world sets before us the various “banquets” of consumerism, selfish comfort, the accumulation of wealth and individualism, the Gospel calls everyone to the divine banquet, marked by joy, sharing, justice and fraternity in communion with God and with others. We have something unique to give, that is, the very person of Jesus Christ as beloved of our heart, for in him alone our hearts find rest. While we need to make every effort to collect resources for the proclamation of the message of Christ, we need to become conscious that we ourselves are responsible for showing the face of Christ. We cannot delegate this task of “going out” and “inviting

to the banquet” of the kingdom of God to someone else. Let us transform ourselves as missionary disciples and transform our Parishes as the formation centres for preaching Christ, crucified and risen Christ.

Information Regarding the Jubilee 2025: The Jubilee, with its theme, “Pilgrims of Hope” is a moment of grace, offering all the faithful an opportunity for deeper renewal and encounter with Christ. The President of the CCBI, Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão, has given some guidelines based on the documents issued from Rome. While the Holy Father inaugurates the Jubilee in St Peter’s Basilica on December 24, 2024, by opening the Holy Door, he opens the Holy Doors of the other Major Basilicas on December 29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family. On this day, the local Churches inaugurate the Jubilee Year by taking a procession with the decorated Cross and making a solemn entry into the Cathedral, where the inaugural Mass will be celebrated. The Holy Doors are opened only in the Papal Basilicas. The Cross, and not the Door, is the symbol of the Jubilee 2025. The Jubilee Cross is the sign of hope and love, showing us the sacrifice of Christ. Placed in the Cathedral, it invites everyone to remember God’s mercy. The Cross will be placed in the Cathedral till the closing of the Jubilee Year in the local Churches on December 28, 2025. The resources necessary for the whole liturgical rite are already sent to the local Churches.

During the whole Year, we must make every effort to instruct the faithful about the Plenary Indulgence, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Ecumenical and Interfaith Participation for bringing about greater Christian unity and collaboration with other faiths, reflecting on the inclusive nature of our hope in God. Visiting the homes of the poor and marginalised to express our solidarity is another way to pass through the holy doors. At the Parish and Institution level, we have many possibilities to celebrate with children, young people, women, labourers, prisoners, prisoners and migrants: the display of the Jubilee Logo, recitation of the Prayer, singing of the Jubilee song, the arranging of recollections, reunions, retreats and feasts, the study of the Four Constitutions,

to offer greater opportunity for the people to participate in the Jubilee. It is also possible to organise pilgrimages to Rome, following the proper protocol.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees: On Sunday, September 29, the Universal Church commemorates the significant reality of migrants and refugees. The Pope reminds us that we are all migrants on this earth, journeying towards our homeland, the Kingdom of Heaven. He invites us to express compassion, solidarity, and responsibility towards our brothers and sisters who are displaced. We share in the same humanity, and we are encouraged to reflect on how we can better support those who forced to leave their homes in search of safety and dignity. The material for assistance in the liturgy is available with the Secretary of the Commission for Migrants, Fr Jason Pinto SDB.

Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Mangalore: Charismatic renewal has brought in a lot of change in the Diocese of Mangalore, especially in promoting the reading and meditating on the Word of God, proclaiming the Word, conducting Prayer meetings, Retreats, promoting Intercessory Prayer Groups and various other ministries. I bring it to your attention that already detailed Guidelines are given in the *Inter Nos* of November 2023 regarding Charismatic Renewal, Prayer Services, and Preachers. This matter has to be brought to the notice of various Prayer Groups operating in the Parishes. Still, many groups are not well coordinated with the Diocesan Service Communion. The sacramental life, especially the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharist, is central to our daily living and carrying forward the mission of the Lord. In this month, I request the members of the Charismatic Renewal to give more importance to intercessory prayers for the promotion of the spread of the message of Jesus. Charismatic Groups must report to the Diocesan Coordinator, Fr Clifford Fernandes, about their activities for better coordination so that the Spirit of the Lord may inspire many more to prepare well for the celebration of the Jubilee Year. I bring it to your notice about the training programme organised by the Karnataka Region Service of Communion (KRSC) for the Charismatic

Preachers as part of the Jubilee celebrations. For Priests, January, 27-31, 2025; for Religious Sisters, February 24-28; for Lay faithful, April 28 to May 1, at Logos Retreat Centre, Bangalore. Kindly contact Fr Cherian Ramapuram, for more information at 9880433433.

Jeevan Jyothi Seminars: The practice of holding Jeevan Jyothi camps during the October holidays for high school and PU students to help in their faith formation and personality development is commendable. I am glad that Parish Priests, Assistant Parish Priests and Vicars Forane make a lot of efforts to plan and conduct them well in their vicariates - whether they are organised at the inter-parish level or at the vicariate level or even at the inter-vicariate level. The young participants should be given the information and formation (practical tools) to develop their personality, talents, faith and life skills.

Of course, not everything can be done in three or five days. The event is also an opportunity for the priests and religious to interact more closely with the student participants and inspire them to be a beacon of light for others and to be good leaders. The 'fun and frolic' aspect of the seminar should be secondary to the primary purpose of the seminar, which is formation in life issues. Group activities should not be solely recreational. They are to be carefully planned and executed activities designed to facilitate deeper comprehension of the concepts taught in the seminar sessions. Creativity should be the primary focus in group activities or competitions, rather than mere imitation or replication. This seminar should undoubtedly benefit the students, helping them to make their *Jeevan a Jyothi*. It is my sincere hope that the Jeevan Jyothi Seminars will be a great success.

St Philomena College, Puttur, attains Autonomous Status:

I am pleased to announce that St. Philomena College has received autonomous status for the next 10 years, effective from the 2024-25 academic year. This autonomous status has been granted by the UGC, New Delhi, and approved by Mangalore University and the Government of Karnataka. This autonomy will not only enhance the institution's academic standing but also pave the

way for greater innovation, excellence and growth in the years to come. In recent years, the College has achieved significant milestones, including consistently securing an 'A' Grade accreditation from NAAC, attaining ISO 9001:2015 certification for Quality Management, and launching innovative programmes such as BBA, BCA (AI & ML), and MCA under AICTE approval. This new status will enable the College to further enhance its academic programmes, build stronger industry partnerships and create a more enriching educational environment. We congratulate the Correspondent, Principal and his team and all those who worked hard to make this institution reach this current status. We look forward to seeing it continue to grow and flourish.

May we be filled with the power of the Spirit of the Lord. Wish you a fruitful month of missionary outreach. May Our Lady of the Rosary intercede for us.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

The meeting of the Diocesan Council of Priests will be held on Thursday, 31st October 2024, at 9.15 a.m. in the Bishop's House. All members are requested to attend the meeting.

Agenda

9.30 a.m. Opening Prayer; Minutes of the last meeting & follow-up

Topics of the Day:

- a) Catholics Attending Retreats and Prayer Sessions outside the permitted or recognised 'shrines and retreat centres'
- b) Jubilee 2025 – Celebration Phase

Any other Matter

Bishop's Message

Concluding Prayer and Lunch

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

FROM THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE

- 1) In June 2019, an official BSNL number was allotted to each Parish and the Diocesan Institutions from our office. In recent times, instances have arisen where BSNL numbers have been found to be non-operational, with some numbers already in use by the general public. The underlying causes of these issues can be attributed to a lack of usage and a failure to recharge the relevant numbers regularly. Accordingly, we request that all Parish Priests and Institution Heads confirm to our office by 31 October 2024 that the allotted numbers are working or operational. In the event that these numbers are not operational (non-functioning), we kindly request that the matter be referred to us by 31 October 2024.
- 2) The Parish Priests, wherever a Special Collection for Wayanad is made, are required to follow these norms:
 - a) The collection has to be treated like any other Earmarked Collection and sent to the Procurator's office like any other EMC.
 - b) The name of the Ledger head must be **Flood Relief Account or Flood Relief Collection.**
 - c) Kindly send the collection to our office by 10 October 2024. The list will be published in the next *Inter Nos*.

- Procurator

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. October Programmes:

- 05 : Catechism Teachers' ongoing formation and meeting, Puttur Deanery
- 06 : Adult Catechesis on Sacraments and Liturgy and Choir Training, Bendur Parish
- 06 : Online Catechetical Class - CCBI
- 11-13 : Karnataka State JY Conference, Mangalore

- 13 : Adult Catechesis – Liturgy, Lectors and Choir Training, Pezar Parish
- 20 : Adult Catechesis – Liturgy and Lectors Training, Borimar Parish
- 21-25 : Catechetical training - ICYM - NYC, Jalandhar (CCBI)
- 26-28 : CCBI Office

II. Commission for Catechetics

1. Catechists' Day – 3 November

Pope Francis, through his apostolic letter *Antiquum Ministerium*, instituting the lay ministry of catechists, directed the leaders to recognise the catechists in the Church in a special manner. Saint Charles Borromeo is the patron saint 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 3, as Catechists' Day. It is requested that the Parish Priests celebrate this day in their respective parishes in a manner that is distinctive and reflective of the occasion. On this day, it is recommended that the role and contribution of lay catechists be acknowledged and that the people be catechised regarding the significance of lay ministry within the Church. It is further recommended that the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) be included in the planning and execution of the celebrations.

Here are some tips for celebrating the occasion:

- a) Introduction before Mass – kindly request the congregation to pray for the catechists
- b) Mention the importance of the catechists in the Church and their contribution (*Antiquum Ministerium*)
- c) Add one or two intentions during the Prayer of the Faithful
- d) Honour catechists through PPC/Children/Parents.

2. Jeevan Jyothi Seminar - Faith Formation

The Jeevan Jyothi Seminars for 10th-standard students are regarded as faith formation or catechetical camps.

Consequently, it is requested that the organisers prioritise the following:

- Daily Bible reading and study, its effects on our life
- Full, active and conscious participation in the liturgical celebration.
- Importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and its effects in our daily life (frequency and method)
- Importance of Sacrament of Confirmation and its effects
- Ten Commandments and its relevance
- Prayer and methods of prayer
- Knowledge of the Church: Universal, Local Church and other denominations.
- Inter-religious dialogue and its importance
- Ecological / Environmental Catechesis
- Media in Catechesis
- YOUCAT, DOCAT, YBible (Youth Bible)

The material is found in CCC in detail. Other relevant aspects are also found in YOUCAT and DOCAT.

3. Catechism Class Days 2nd term:

October 13, 20, 27 = 3 days

November 3 (Catechists' Day), 10, 17, 24 = 4 days

December 8, 15, 22 = 3 days

January 12, 19, 26 = 3 days

February 9, 16 (Annual Exams), 23 (Catechism Day)

March 2 (Diocesan Level Catechism Day)

III. Commission for Liturgy:

1. Solemnity of All Saints (Guidelines): The Solemnity of All Saints is observed on November 1, and no other Masses are permitted on that day. In accordance with liturgical norms, there is no Vigil Mass for All Souls on November 1, as the Solemnity

of All Saints concludes with the Night Prayers of Solemnity. (Ref. *Ordo* 2023-24, pp. 187-189)

2. Mission Sunday: October 20 (Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time).

III. New Arrivals and other items available at our stall:

Guidance for Prayer for the Holy Year 2025: Vol 5 - 8

- YOUCAT for Kids - Rs. 450/-
- Weekday and Sunday Missal - English with readings
- Konkani Missal - reprint edition
- Clergy Shirts - Mangala Jyothi brand
- Hosts, particles, mass candles, murdom 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.

- **Director, Mangala Jyothi**

MISSIONARY CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION:

Children Helping Children

The missionary month of October provides an opportunity for Parish Priests and Heads of Educational Institutions to value the Missionary Children's Association (MCA). Today, it is an organisation dedicated to fostering children's awareness of the missionary nature of the Church. With children in more than 130 countries participating, the Association's motto has been updated to: children evangelising, children praying for children, children helping children worldwide.

Please start the Association in your parish, encourage children to be a part of it, and promote the objectives of the Association for the good of the children, their families and the Church. For further information and assistance, please get in touch with Rev. Fr Harry D'Souza, Director, MCA.

JESUS YOUTH: *CAMPUS HABBA*

Jesus Youth is an international Catholic movement that inspires young people to lead meaningful, creative, and fulfilling lives in Christ. Jesus Youth is organising a three-day event called *Campus Habba* at St. Aloysius Deemed to be University, from October 11 to 13, 2024. This fellowship festival aims to build a Christ-centred youth community through spiritually enriching sessions, live praise and worship, Gospel bands, daily Eucharist, and opportunities for Confession.

We kindly request you, dear Rev. Fathers, to encourage the youth of your parish (PUC and above) to participate in *Campus Habba* and to announce this during Sunday Mass.

For further details and registration, please contact Saraunsh at +918073237181.

– Fr Kenneth R. Crasta
Chaplain, Jesus Youth

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಂವಹನ ಆಯೋಗ್

ಆಮ್ನಾ ಫಿರ್ಗಜ್ ಗೊವ್ವಿಕ್ ಮಿಸಾಂವಾಂತ್, ಭಾವಾರ್ಥಿ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ್ ತಶೆಂಚ್ ವಯುಕ್ತಿಕ್ ಸಂಗ್ತಿಂಕ್ ಆಧುನಿಕ್ ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ್ ಆನಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ್ ಪರಿಣಾಮ್‌ಕಾರಿ ಆನಿ ಫಲಾದಾಯಕ್ಷಣಿ ವಾಪರ್ತ್ಯಾಕ್ ಆಮ್ನಾ ಫಿರ್ಗಜ್ ಹಂತಾರ್ ಏಕ್ ಸಮರ್ಪಿತ್ ವಿಷಯ್ ಸೃಷ್ಟಿ ಪಂಗಡ್ (Dedicated Content Creation Team for Parishes) ಆಸಾಜೆ ಮ್ಹಳ್ಳೊ ಆಯೋಗಾಚೊ ಉದ್ದೇಶ್ ದಿಯೆಸೆಜಿಚ್ಯಾ ಗೊವ್ವಿಕ್ ಯೋಜನ್ 2024-2026, ಪಾನ್ 32-33 ಪರ್ಗಟ್ಲಾ.

ಹ್ಯಾ ದಿಶೆನ್ ದಿಯೆಸೆಜಿ ಹಂತಾರ್ ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ ಸಂವಹನ ಆಯೋಗಾ ತರ್ಫೆನ್ ಏಕಾ ದಿಸಾಚಿ ತರ್ಬೆತಿ-ಕಾಮಾಸಾಳ್ ಮಾಂಡುನ್ ಹಾಡ್ಲಾಂ. ಹ್ಯಾ ತರ್ಬೆತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಾಕ್ ಫಿರ್ಗಜೆ ಥಾವ್ನ್ ಆಯೋಗಾಕ್ ಲಗ್ತಿ ಜಾಲ್ಲ್ಯಾ ಮಾಧ್ಯಮ್ ಪಂಗಡ್ಚ್ಯಾ ಸಾಂದ್ಯಾಂನಿ ವಾ ಹೆರ್ ಉರ್ಬೆವಂತ್ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಂನಿ ಭಾಗ್ ಘೆವ್ಚೆತ್.

- Workshop on : **AI Integrated Content Creation for Parish**
 Participants : Parish Media Team members or any media enthusiasts
 Place : Pastoral Centre, Bajjodi,
 Date : Thursday, 17 October 2024, Time: 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

– ಬಾಪ್ ಅನಿಲ್ ಫೆರ್ನಾಂಡಿಸ್, ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

PROGRAMMES OF CODP

- 01.10.2024 : Press Conference of India at CODP, Residential Programme and Field Exposure of two foreign volunteers at CODP
 02.10.2024 : Press Conference of India at CODP
 05.10.2024 : Training on Gender Equality and Justice at Moodbidri, Awareness on Hate Speech organised by the Justice & Peace Commission and Bandhavya
 06.10.2024 : Holiday Camp for children from Parishes of the Diocese of Mangalore under the Child Sponsorship Programme
 14.10.2024 : Awareness on Global Warming in Vorkady
 20.10.2024 : Aptitude Test for Pre-University Students
 24.10.2024 : Training on Constitutional Rights in Talapady Training on Free Government Schemes, Kotekar
 25.10.2024 : Result-Oriented Training in Manjeshwar
 26.10.2024 : Training on Community Development in Talapady
 28.10.2024 : Training on Panchayath Raj in Bajpe
 30.10.2024 : Training on Free Government Schemes in Bogrugudde

Other Information: *EDUCARE*: The applications can be accessible on the Educare Website. The student loan agreement, interview and orientation process is in progress. The last date to apply is

30.10.2024 on our website www.educarecodp.in. Dear Parish Priests, please announce the Interest-free loan to your people on Sundays.

– Director, CODP

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE POPE’S MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2024

The theme Pope Francis chose for this year’s World Mission Day is: “Go and invite everyone to the banquet” (cf. Mt 22:9). It is taken from the Gospel parable of the wedding banquet (cf. Mt 22:1-14). After the guests refuse his invitation, the king, the main character in the story, tells his servants: “Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find” (v. 9). Reflecting on this key passage in the context of the parable and of Jesus’ own life, we can discern several important aspects of evangelisation.

1) “***Go and invite!***” Mission is a tireless going out to invite others to the Lord’s banquet. The missionaries, in response to Christ’s call, left everything behind to go far from their homeland and bring the Good News to places where people have not yet received it or received it only recently. Their generous dedication is a tangible expression of their commitment to the mission *ad gentes* that Jesus entrusted to his disciples: “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Mt 28:19).

2) “***To the marriage feast***”. The eschatological and Eucharistic dimension of the mission of Christ and the Church. The first Christians’ missionary zeal had a powerful eschatological dimension. They sensed the urgency of the preaching of the Gospel. Today too it is important to maintain this perspective, since it helps us to evangelise with the joy of those who know that “the Lord is near” and with the hope of those who are pressing forward towards the goal, when all of us will be with Christ at his wedding feast in the kingdom of God. While the world sets before us the various “banquets” of consumerism, selfish comfort, the accumulation of wealth and individualism, the Gospel calls everyone to the divine banquet, marked by joy, sharing, justice and fraternity in communion with God and with others.

3) “**Everyone**”. The king, in the parable, extends his invitation to ‘everyone’. Christ’s disciples have always had a heartfelt concern for all persons, whatever their social or even moral status, just as in the parable, the king orders the servants to gather “all whom they found, both good and bad”, as well as “the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame”. The universal mission of Christ’s disciples in the fully synodal and missionary Church. The mission *for all* requires the commitment *of all*. We need to continue our journey towards a fully synodal and missionary Church in the service of the Gospel. Synodality is essentially missionary and, vice versa, mission is always synodal. Consequently, close missionary cooperation is today all the more urgent and necessary, both in the universal Church and in the particular Churches.

REFLECTION ON THE THEME

Go – Jesus does more than ask his disciples to invite everyone. He gives what might be considered an order or at least a very strong suggestion! It is a directive for all of us to be active and engaged in spreading the faith.

Invite – The definition of the word *invite* refers to a request to someone to go somewhere or to do something. The fact that it is a request means that there are no demands or coercion, and the person invited has the right of refusal. There is an element of free will attached to it. There is usually a degree of politeness and formality attached to the request. The person who is invited would normally feel privileged and be honoured at the request. An invitation is extended with the understanding that it will be accepted. Should it be declined, the person extending the invitation will experience disappointment.

Everyone – Who is everyone? No one usually invites everyone to anything! Therefore, Jesus’ invitation is unusual. He wants everyone, knowing that this will probably mean some “undesirables” and refusals. He wants everyone to have the opportunity to accept.

Banquet – We know that the banquet in this story is a marriage feast and, therefore, a significant event. Jesus is encouraging us to invite everyone to share in our joy of missionary outreach and service. This indicates that our mission work is a celebration or banquet of love. In our own way, we need to be responsive to Jesus' request in order to spread the Good News. *CAN YOU GO OUT AND DO IT?*

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTHOOD

Rev. Valerian Pinto, Chaplain, Nirmala Convent, celebrates his 50th year of Ordination to Priesthood on 22.10.2024.

Rev. Andrew Lewis celebrates his 50th year of Ordination to Priesthood on 24.10.2024.

May the Lord in His goodness, richly bless you. May He bring you joy, peace of mind and heart as you celebrate your 50th Ordination Anniversary. May your priesthood be a beacon of hope and a source of divine love for all. Congratulations on your Golden Jubilee!

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