



# DIOCESE OF MANGALORE

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## **CIRCULAR:**


### **POPE FRANCIS PASSES AWAY, RETURNS TO THE LORD**

Pope Francis passed from this world this morning, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88, and returned to the Heavenly Father. We thank the Lord for his twelve years as Bishop of Rome and successor of St. Peter the Apostle. He lived the Gospel values with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially for the poorest and most marginalized, and inspired us to do likewise. Let us commend his soul to God's infinite, merciful love in prayer.

In light of the passing of Pope Francis, we request your consideration of the following:

- 1) *Tolling of the Church Bell and Prayers:* May the Church bell be tolled, and may the faithful be encouraged to include prayers for our departed Pope Francis during their family prayers.
- 2) *Display of Pope Francis's Portrait:* We suggest that a portrait of Pope Francis be displayed in the Church, ideally at the entrance or in the nave where the coffin for the funeral Mass may be placed. It would be fitting to adorn this display with flowers and a votive candle.
- 3) *Scheduling of a Requiem Mass:* A Requiem Mass may be scheduled in the parish Church to pray for the Pope's soul, observing the norms of the liturgical calendar as outlined in the Ordo regarding when a Mass for the Dead may be offered.
- 4) *Observance of Nine Days of Mourning and Prayers:* In accordance with custom, may a period of nine days of mourning and prayers be observed following the death of the Pope.
- 5) *Liturgical Practice During "Sede Vacante":* During the *Sede Vacante*, when the Holy See is vacant, the mention of the deceased Pope is omitted from the Eucharistic Prayer. The customary formula should be adjusted to mention only the Bishop of the Diocese and the clergy. For example, Eucharistic Prayer II would be adapted to say, "Together with N. our Bishop, and all the clergy..."
- 6) *Inclusion of Special Petitions:* We propose that special petitions for the soul of Pope Francis be included in the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful).

In this Holy Year dedicated to Hope, Pope Francis's messages of closeness, his unwavering care for peace, stand as a legacy that will continue to resonate throughout the future of the Church and humanity. The faith and hope of Pope Francis echo the prayer of the psalmist: 'In you, Lord, I have placed my hope; let me never be put to shame' (cf. Ps 31:1, 71:1). Pope Francis, acclaimed as the "voice of peace," may he "rest in the peace of Christ."

  
✠ Peter Paul Saldanha  
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