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No. 8

August 2025

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST 2025

2-3		Pastoral Visit, Niddodi
10	10.30 a.m.	Mass at Bondel
	12.00 noon	Diocesan BEC Convention, Cordel
14	06.00 p.m.	Mass for the PMI members, Infant Jesus Shrine, Bikarnakatte
16-17		Pastoral Visit, Ukkinadka
19-20		Ongoing Formation of Clergy, Pastoral Centre, Bajjodi
21	05.00 p.m.	Governing Board Meeting, FMCI
23-24		Pastoral Visit, Taccode
26		Review Meeting of BEC, KROSS, Bangalore
27	10.00 a.m.	Blessing of the Renovated Church, Nityadharnagar
28	04.00 p.m.	Governing Board Meeting, CODP
30	04.00 p.m.	Confirmation at Permunnur and Blessing of the Renovated Church

Bishop Meets in the Forenoon:

Diocesan Clergy, 21; Lay Faithful, 28;

Religious Men and Women, 30

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR AUGUST 2025

Papal Intention for August: We are invited to pray that societies won't succumb to the temptation of conflict and confrontation rooted in ethnic, political, religious, or ideological differences. Today, largely due to migration, we practically live among people of diverse faith traditions, ethnic origins, and political viewpoints everywhere. Cultural diversity should be embraced as an opportunity for reciprocity and mutual enrichment. Our watchword must be unity in diversity. Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* expressed it well: "We need to communicate with each other, to discover the gifts of each person, to promote that which unites us, and to regard our differences as an opportunity to grow in mutual respect" (n. 134). Let us pray that we become open to people of diverse cultures and traditions.

The Plenary Indulgence on the occasion of the Feast of Portiuncula: St Francis of Assisi asked the Supreme Pontiff to grant Plenary Indulgence to those who visit the "Portiuncula" (little portion), the little Chapel in the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels, Assisi. It is historically significant as the place where St. Francis of Assisi founded the Franciscan Order and is considered the cradle of Franciscan spirituality. The feast day, August 2, commemorates the dedication of the Chapel and is a significant day for Franciscans. The Plenary Indulgence is now extended to other churches, shrines and minor Basilicas. The practices prescribed for obtaining the indulgence are a devout visit to a church, the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the Profession of Faith (Creed), in addition to the Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intention of the Pope. This visit may be made from noon of the previous day (August 1) until midnight of the day itself. The fruit of the indulgence could be applied to the souls in purgatory.

Day of Prayer for Priests: On August 4, we celebrate the memorial of St John Vianney, the Patron of all Priests. This is a special day to remember and offer prayers for the priests who minister to us in diverse facets of our lives. No Catholic can

claim to be unconnected from priests. In the Year dedicated to Priests, on the 150th anniversary of the death of Curé of Ars, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: “‘The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus’, the saintly Curé of Ars would often say. This touching expression makes us reflect, first of all, with heartfelt gratitude on the immense gift which priests represent, not only for the Church, but also for humanity itself.” Let us pray intensely for our Priests who have accompanied us on our life’s journey.

Communio: The Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) has directed that the First Advent Sunday collection be earmarked for *Communio*, a venture to support poor dioceses and institutions. In our Diocese, we have earmarked the collection made during the Mass on August 15 for *Communio*. Whatever we gather on this day of obligation is to be sent to the Account of the Diocese of Mangalore to be forwarded for the cause of *Communio*. Kindly make known to the People of God that this contribution is set aside to have communion with our poor brethren.

Justice/Prison Ministry Sunday: On August 17, we celebrate the Prison Ministry Sunday. The theme of this year’s observance is: “Fallen humans may rise again on wings of prayer”. Prison Ministry India (PMI) is a national voluntary organisation that supports prisoners and their families through release and rehabilitation efforts, vocational training for life after prison, and reintegration programs. The Prison Ministry unit is very active in our Diocese, by catering to the needs of prisoners and their families. It operates under the direction of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of India (CBCI), and the volunteers spend their own resources and those of well-wishers. It has been helping many prisoners regain freedom and rebuild their lives. Once a prisoner asked the PMI members when they visited them in the prison in Mangalore: “Pope has declared this year as the Year of Hope. We request you to give us hope”. The Lord said: “I was in prison and you visited me” (Mt 25: 36). In this Jubilee Year, let us pray for those in prison, visit them if possible, and also donate from our resources for their well-being.

Ongoing Formation for the Clergy: On 19 and 20 of this month, the clergy will have the ongoing formation at the Pastoral Centre. Please take note of the dates and participate in the programme to benefit from it. Important topics related to the implementation of the Synod on Synodality in our Diocese, as well as recent updates on Tax Laws, will be discussed. Rev. Fr Christopher Vimalraj of the Bangalore Archdiocese and Rev. Fr Anil Crasta of the Gulbarga Diocese serve as the Resource Persons.

Youth Sunday: The focus of our Liturgy on August 31 is on the Youth. They are vital to the Church's present, not just its future, actively participating in worship, prayer and leadership roles. They bring unique perspectives and energy, enhancing the Church's relevance and vitality today, making the Church vibrant. In *Christus Vivit*, Pope Francis wrote: "Many young people have come to appreciate silence and closeness to God. Groups that gather to adore the Blessed Sacrament or to pray with the word of God have also increased. We should never underestimate the ability of young people to be open to contemplative prayer" (n. 224). Let this Sunday be an occasion to inspire young people to come closer to the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament so that they find meaning in their lives through their encounter with the Lord.

Wishing you a Happy Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Happy Independence Day.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

CATHOLIC BOARD OF EDUCATION

Following the revaluation, two more schools under the CBE have achieved 100% results in the SSLC:

- i) Holy Redeemer English Medium School, Belthangady
- ii) St Ignatius English Medium School, Paladka

PASTORAL INSTITUTE

ONGOING FORMATION PROGRAMME FOR THE CLERGY

Session 1 : “Implementation of the Directives of the Synod on Synodality”

Resource Person : Rev. Dr. Christopher Vimalraj, CCBI - Bangalore

Session 2 : “Recent Amendments in Tax Laws and the Compliances in the Religious Trusts and Charitable Societies”

Resource Person : Rev. Fr. Anil Crasta, Gulbarga

Place : Shanthi Kiran, Pastoral Institute

Time : 9.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

August 19, 2025	August 20, 2025
Vicariates	Vicariates
Mangalore City	Episcopal City
Moodbidri	Surathkal
Bantwal	Kirem
Pezar	Permannur
Bela	Puttur
Vittal	Belthangady

It is mandatory to attend the ongoing formation programme. If you are unable to attend on the day assigned to your deanery and wish to change your day of participation, please inform us (a WhatsApp message is appreciated) by August 17, 2025. This helps us manage food provisions effectively and prevent waste or shortage.

Please contact: Fr Santhosh Rodrigues 9845833648
 Bro. Flexon Lobo 9740477312
 Ms Reshma Lobo 7259731630

Rev. Fr Santhosh Rodrigues **Most Rev Peter Paul Saldanha**
 Director, Pastoral Institute Bishop of Mangalore

FROM THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE

Official Mobile Numbers and Emails

Parish Priests and all institution heads are directed not to use personal mobile numbers or personal email addresses for banking, filing any returns of the Parish/Institution, or for any other official purposes.

The Diocese allotted mobile numbers to all Parishes and Diocesan Institutions. If these numbers have become invalid, Parishes or Institutions are requested to approach the Procurator's Office. If these numbers are already subscribed by another person, Parishes or Institutions are requested to subscribe for a new mobile number exclusively for the Parish or Institution.

COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION

Deanery-Level Media Training Programme

The Commission for Social Communication, Diocese of Mangalore, is organising **deanery-level hands-on media training sessions** for **parish media teams, children, youth, and interested faithful**. These sessions aim to build digital capacity and media awareness for mission-driven Church communication.

Deaneries may choose any of the training modules based on their pastoral priorities—either one module per session or all four modules spread across four sessions over a four-week period.

Training Modules:

1. Building the Church's Digital Presence

- Creating no-code, no-cost websites
- Managing parish social media platforms (as per CCBI Guidelines)
- Introduction to the **Catholic Connect App** (My Parish-My Diocese)

2. AI Literacy and Content Creation for Evangelisation and Professional Excellence

- Using AI tools for spiritual, catechetical, and educational content
- Applying AI for professional and creative excellence

3. Cyber Safety, Digital Ethics & Media Balance

- Online security, account protection, and responsible messaging
- Identifying misinformation and understanding digital boundaries
- Cultivating healthy media habits and promoting digital well-being in daily life

4. Responsible Use of Media in Church Settings

- CCBI Guidelines for Electronic Transmission of Eucharistic and Liturgical Celebrations
- Ethical practices in photography, videography, and content consent

Suggested Timing: Saturday or Sunday (2.5 to 3 hours).

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions:

1. August 10, 2025 – Pesar Vicariate, Gurpur (Youth)
2. September 21, 2025 – Central Vicariate, Moodubidri (Parish Teams)– 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Additional Opportunities:

Media awareness and empowerment sessions can also be scheduled during:

- **Jeevan Jyothi Camps** (for deanery children)
- **PTA Meetings** (for parents)
- **Parish-level gatherings** (for parishioners)

For scheduling and coordination, kindly contact:

Rev. Fr Anil Ivan Fernandes (98442 74720)
Secretary, Commission for Social Communication

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. Programmes for August

- 10 : Youth Convention, Badyar
- 20 : Faith Formation and Liturgy - Deanery Priest
Coordinators Meet, Bajjodi
- 27 : Liturgy Animation, Inauguration of Renovated Church,
Nithyadarnagar

II. Commission for Catechetics - Information

1. Catechists' Coordinators Training Programme Information:

Annual meeting and ongoing formation programme for Sunday and School catechists and value education representatives were held on 7th and 8th July. Out of 124 parishes, 73 parish coordinators were present. The remaining coordinators did not communicate their absence. Only two parishes have informed us of the reason for their absence. Out of 185 schools, 72 coordinators were present. The others didn't inform us about their absence. Parish priests/correspondents and heads of the School are requested to give attention to this issue. The dates for next year's programme are already listed here. Please note these dates and inform them in advance.

2. Programmes for the Year 2026:

- May 31, Sunday: Newly selected Catechists' Training
- June 7, Sunday: Inauguration of the Sunday Children's Catechism Year 2026
- July 5, Sunday: Sunday Catechists' Coordinators Training
- July 6, Monday: School Catechists' Coordinators and Value Education Representatives Training.

3. Online Entry of Catechism Students' Data:

As previously informed, you are requested to complete the online registration or entry of all catechism students' data by August 10, 2025, with the assistance of your coordinator.

4. Settlement of Credit Bills: Please settle all the credit bills (for those who have not settled yet) of catechism text books by August 10, 2025. We need to settle these bills with the GST department.

III. Books and Other Items Available at our Stall:

- * 'ಪಾಪಾ ಫ್ರಾನ್ಸಿಸ್' - ಜಿವಿತ್ ಆನಿ ಶಿಕೊವ್ನ್. ಮೋಲ್ ರು. 70/-
- * 'ಜಿಣೈಚಿಂ ಜಾಳಾಂ, ಭರ್ವಶಾಚೆ ತಡೊ' - ಮೋಲ್ ರು. 150/-
- * 'ಭಾವಾರ್ಥಾಚಿ ದಿವ್ಪಿ' - ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ್ ನಾಟ್ಯುಳೆ
- * 'ಭಾವಾಡ್ತಾಚಿಂ ಹಾತೆರಾಂ' - ಪವಿತ್ರ್ ಬೈಬಲ್ ಆಧಾರಿತ್ ನಾಟ್ಯುಳೆ
- * 'ಜೆಜು ಮೊಗಾಳಾ' - ಆರಾಧನಾಚೆಂ ನವೆಂ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್
- * ಶೆಗುಣಾಂಚೊ ಗುಲೊಬ್ - ಮರಿಯಾಳ್ ನಿಯಾಳಾಚ್ಯೊ ಬತ್ತೀಸ್ ಪಾಕ್ಳೊ
- ನವೆಂ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್

- Director, Mangala Jyothi

BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES (BEC)

1. Programmes August 2025

- 03 August : Parish Level BEC Training Programme, Kulur
- 10 August : Parish BEC Commission Convention, Cordel Church Hall
- 17 August : Parish Level BEC Training Programme, Shirthday (morning) and Kirem (afternoon)
- 24 August : Parish Level BEC Training Programme, Kadaba
- 31 August : BEC Meeting in BEC Office, Bajjodi

2. The Diocesan-Level BEC (SCC) Convention

The Diocesan-Level BEC (SCC) Convention is scheduled for August 10, 2025, at Cordel Hall, Kulshekar, starting at 9.00 a.m. The theme of the convention is: "BECs: Pilgrim People, Living the Synodal Church." Parish Priests, please encourage your Parish BEC Commission members to actively participate in this meaningful convention.

- Director, Basic Ecclesial Communities

COMMISSION FOR BIBLE

1. **‘EMMAUS’: Monthly Bible Convention** at Holy Cross Church, Cordel on August 22, 2025 from 4.00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in association with Mangalore Diocesan Service Communion (MDSC).
2. **Bible Classes:**
 - a. St Jude - Mangalore North Vicariate - Level Bible Class, Kirem
Topic: Bible Classes on the Gospel of Luke – “*To Proclaim the Good News to the Poor*” – will be held for the priests, religious, and Laity in Konkani.
Date: August 02 & 9, 2025. Saturdays from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Venue: Church Hall, Kinnigoly.
 - b. St Paul - Eastern Vicariate - Level Bible Class, Puttur
Topic: Bible Classes on the Gospel of Mark – “*Mark’s Gospel as a Story*” – will be held for the parishioners and other enthusiastic faithful of the deanery in Konkani.
Date: August 3 & 10, 2025: Sundays from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Venue: Church Hall, Puttur.
 - c. St Sebastian Church, Bendur.
Topic: Bible Classes on the Gospel of Matthew – “*God With Us*” – will be held for the parishioners and other enthusiastic faithful of the deanery in Konkani.
Date : August 04, 05, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 2025
Mondays and Tuesdays from 5.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Venue: Church Premises, Bendur.
3. To encourage people to read and study the Bible, a monthly online Bible Quiz has been organised. You are kindly requested to encourage people to participate in this initiative. The monthly **Bible Quiz for August 2025** (Online) on **the Book of Numbers and the Gospel of John** will be held on **August 30, 2025, from 8.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.** The online link will be circulated from August 1, 2025.
4. Bible Symposium 2025 for Priests at Divine Springs, Xellim, Goa, August 27-29, 2025, with a presentation of the Paper, “All Things to All People: St Paul’s Blueprint for Priests in a Digital and Divided World.”

- Rev. Fr Vincent Sequeira, Secretary

CODP PROGRAMMES

- 01.08.2025 : Evaluation and Monitoring Meeting in CODP
- 03.08.2025 : Training on Panchayath Raj in Taaremar
- 04.08.2025 : House visit to Deanery from 04.08.2025 to 14.08.2025 (Diocesan Housing Programme)
- 05.08.2025 : Training on Gender equality and justice at Moodbidri
- 08.08.2025 : Training on Panchayath Raj in Fajir
- 12.08.2025 : Local resource management at Talapady
- 16.08.2025 : Training on Panchayath Raj in Vijaydka
- 17.08.2025 : Training on Gender equality and justice at Mavinakatte
- 22.08.2025 : KROSS Annual General Body Meet in Bangalore
- 25.08.2025 : Training on Panchayath Raj in Bajpe
- 26.08.2025 : Training on Gender equality and justice at Talapady, Local resource management at Sheni
- 27.08.2025 : Local resource management at Bela
- 28.08.2025 : CODP Annual General Body Meet and Governing Body Meet in CODP

Information to the Parish Priests:

A) Lenten Campaign 2025: Gentle reminder to remit your Lenten Collection amount to CODP. *Please notify the CODP office for the issuance of a receipt.* Please refer to Inter Nos, June 2025, page 134, for NEFT details.

B) Diocesan CODP Golden Jubilee Housing Project:

	New House Beneficiaries	House Repair Beneficiaries	Total
Application Received	344	222	566
Completed Houses	162	98	260
Rejected Applications	43	13	56
Pending Applications	139	111	250

- Rev. Fr Vincent Dsouza, Secretary

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr. Francis Assisi D’Almeida, Secretary of the Regional Commission for Education, celebrates his 50th birthday on August 15, 2025.

Happy 50th Birthday! May this significant milestone be a moment of great joy and reflection on the many lives you have touched. We pray that the Lord continues to bless you with peace and happiness in the years to come.

R.I.P.

- Mr Marcel D’Souza (97 years), father of Rev. Fr Gerald D’Souza, Parish Priest, Uppinangady and Rev. Fr Ronald D’Souza, Parish Priest, Gantalkatte, passed away on July 3, 2025. His Funeral and Burial Rites took place on July 7, 2025, at Sacred Heart Church, Ajekar.
 - Mr Vincent Pinto (76 years), father of Rev. Fr Naveen Prakash Pinto, Headmaster, Mogarnad, passed away on July 19, 2025. His Funeral and Burial Rites took place on July 21, 2025, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Shambur.
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