

INTER NOS

RNI. No. KARBIL/2007/20997

Regn. No. MNG/991/2025-27

Vol. 19

No. 11

November 2025

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR NOVEMBER 2025

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|-------|-------|----|--|
| 2 | 8.00 | am | Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
– Rosario Cathedral |
| 4 | 3.00 | pm | Governing Board Meeting SJEC, Vamanjoor |
| 5 | 8.15 | am | Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. James Patteril,
Belthangady |
| 6 | 9.30 | am | Council of Priests Meeting |
| 6-9 | | | Visit to Abu Dhabi |
| 9 | 3.30 | pm | Thanksgiving Mass, Centenary of Canonization
of St Therese of Child Jesus, Bendur |
| 11 | 5.00 | pm | Symposium on Nicene Creed – KTC, Balmatta |
| 12 | 4.00 | pm | Community Day Celebration, Ashoknagar |
| 15-16 | | | Pastoral Visit, Allipade Parish |
| 18 | 9.15 | am | Implementation of Pastoral Plan, Pastoral
Institute, Bajjodi |
| 20 | 10.00 | am | Post Centenary Silver Jubilee, Surathkal Parish |
| 21 | 10.30 | am | Final Profession of Charity Sisters, Angelore |
| 22-23 | | | Pastoral Visit, Paladka |
| 24 | 9.15 | am | Implementation of Pastoral Plan, Pastoral
Institute, Bajjodi |
| 25 | 9.15 | am | Implementation of Pastoral Plan, Pastoral
Institute, Bajjodi |

discourses of Jesus. Bible study groups can focus on the Gospel of Matthew and explore themes such as Jesus as the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, His teaching on the Kingdom of Heaven, and the mission mandate.

Ongoing Formation: This month, three dates have been set for the ongoing formation of the clergy. During these sessions, we shall reflect together on how to implement the Final Document of the Synod of Bishops by integrating it into the Diocesan Pastoral Plan. As we know, a team has been formed to assist parishes in implementing the Final Document, and this common preparation will help bring the insights of the Synod on Synodality to fruition. Kindly attend the ongoing formation without fail so that everyone may be equipped to animate the parishes in keeping with the fruits of the Synod.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

CLERGY APPOINTMENT

The Registrar of Mangalore University, having accepted the proposal of the Bishop of Mangalore and following the due procedures in the matter, through a notification dated 8 October 2025, has communicated the appointment of Rev. Dr George Sunil D'Souza as the Head of the Mangalore Diocesan Chair in Christianity at Mangalore University, effective from 20 September 2025. In this context, and in accordance with the direction of the Bishop, he assumed charge of the office on 16 October 2025.

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

Dear Rev. Fathers, the forthcoming Diocesan Council of Priests meeting will be held on Thursday, **6 November 2025, at 9:15 am** at the Bishop's House. All members are kindly requested to attend the meeting without fail.

Agenda

- 9.15 Arrival
- 9.30 Prayer and Welcome
- 9.45 Minutes of the previous meeting and follow-up
- 10.00 Proposal for a Deemed to be University: Fr Faustine Lobo (and Frs Leo Lasrado and Prakash D'Souza)
- 10.30 Questions, Clarifications
- 11.00 Implementation of Pastoral Plan 2026-2028: Fr Naveen Pinto
- 11.30 Questions & Clarifications
- 11.45 Jubilee Year Conclusion: Msgr Maxim Noronha
- 12.00 Transfer of Vamadapadav Parish from Moodbidri Deanery to Bantwal Deanery
- 12.15 Any other matter
- 12.30 Bishop's Message
- 12.45 Lunch

Rev. Fr Joseph Martis
Secretary

ONGOING FORMATION FOR THE CLERGY

**Theme: *Implementing the Pastoral Plan through Commissions:
A Synodal Path Forward***

Place : Shanthi Kiran, Pastoral Institute, Nanthoor, Bajjodi

Time : 9.00 am. to 1.00 pm.

18 November 2025 Vicariates	24 November 2025 Vicariates	25 November 2025 Vicariates
Episcopal Puttur Kasargod	Episcopal City Surathkal Moodbidri Gurpur	Bantwal Vittal Belthangady Permannur Kirem

- 9.00 am: Registration
 9.20 am: Prayer, Welcome
 9.30 am: Opening Address: Walking Together in Faith: Bishop
 9.45 am: Implementing the Pastoral Plan through Commissions: A Synodal Path Forward (Coordinator)
 10.30 am: Tea Break
 10.45 am: From Planning to Mission: How Commissions will bring the Plan to Life
 11.15 am: Reflections and Dialogue: Group Discussions
 12.15 pm: Forward in Hope: Reporting (Fr Joseph Martis)
 12:45 pm: Strengthening to Serve: Bishop's Message
 1.00 pm: Lunch

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 - preferably via WhatsApp - at least one day in advance to help prevent any food wastage or shortage.

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

Rev. Fr Naveen Pinto
Diocesan Coordinator
Pastoral Commissions

Most Rev Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

The first level on which synodality is exercised is the local Church. Here "the pre-eminent manifestation of the Church consists in the full active participation of all God's holy People in these liturgical celebrations, especially in the same Eucharist, in a single prayer, at one altar, at which the Bishop presides, surrounded by his college of priests and by his ministers"

VOCATION PROMOTION IN THE DIOCESE OF MANGALORE ROLE OF VOCATION DIRECTOR AND PARISH PRIESTS

Vocation is a gift from God, and no human effort can replace the action of the Spirit. Nonetheless, God uses human instruments. Therefore, vocation is also a human responsibility. Hence, vocations should be promoted, nourished, and strengthened. Signs of true vocation are to be discerned in the young men who show interest in becoming priests. Once discerned, they are to be introduced to the seminary – minor or major - and given a proper orientation.

A. Vocation Director and His Functions

The Bishop is responsible for the pastoral care of vocations in his diocese. The Bishop and his clergy must offer young people an inspiring and attractive vision of the ordained priesthood. The Bishop appoints a Vocations Director to assist him in this task, and in some places, he may also nominate some ‘Vocations Promoters’ or a Diocesan Vocation Team to work with the Vocations Director.

The Vocation Director promotes vocations to the priesthood and religious life throughout the diocese. He also assists men and women who are discerning a vocation by offering retreats, discernment meetings, and informational resources. The Vocation Director accompanies a candidate who is considering a vocation to religious life and/or priesthood. In his tasks, the Diocesan Vocation Director must get help from Parish Priests and other priests in the parishes.

Among his responsibilities are:

- 1) Parish Visitations: (a) To visit a Vicariate and the parishes in that Vicariate at least once a year; (b) To catechise and evangelise parishioners about vocations; (c) To speak about the importance of vocations – especially the consecrated life and priesthood – within the life of the Church; (d) To connect

- with the young people of the parish by speaking to youth groups, answering their questions and sharing one's vocation story, showing videos pertaining to vocation discernment; (e) To empower and enable parishioners to promote vocations by identifying possible candidates; (f) To assist Parish Priests, Assistant Parish Priests, Vicars Forane, Commission for Vocations, Coordinators of Parish Catechism and Youth Directors by providing materials and being a resource for them.
- 2) School Visitations: (a) To schedule parish school classroom visits; (b) To work with the Principal/Headmaster/Campus Minister of the high school or PUC and organise a group of students who voluntarily desire to learn more about vocations.
 - 3) Discernment Retreat/Programmes: (a) To schedule at least one retreat/event a year to have an awareness of vocation and spiritual experience; (b) To provide an opportunity for interaction between the men in formation and the students who discern; (c) To provide a weekend of prayer (personal and communal), fraternity and learning about the priestly spirituality and ministry.
 - 4) Regular Communication: (a) To communicate with discerners through personal and family visits, email and phone conversations; (b) To visit discerners or those interested in becoming priests during Vicariate and parish visits; (c) To help the discerner decide to experience God's call and respond to it; (d) To regularly update the vocations database.
 - 5) Ongoing Encouragement: Staying in contact with seminarians to support them during their formation journey, which can be emotionally, spiritually, and academically challenging. Providing spiritual guidance as needed, helping seminarians grow in their vocational identity, and assisting with any struggles they encounter.
 - 6) Maintenance of Files/Documentation: (a) To keep files active and updated through the database/or through traditional methods; (b) To keep files confidential and in a safe place.

B. Vocation Promotion in Parishes

Parish Priests, along with other priests and religious serving in the parish, are vocation promoters throughout their life and ministry. Parish Priests often have a personal relationship with parishioners who are discerning the priesthood. Priests who already know young men can best support them, especially if they feel frightened or uncertain about who God is calling them to be. The ministry of presence is a valuable tool in this regard. Being present at events that are important to young people in the parish demonstrates genuine concern and love for these parishioners and their families.

Various initiatives can help promote vocations. For example:

- 1) Vocations must be talked about regularly if a “vocation culture” is to take root in parishes and homes. People need to hear about vocations from priests through homilies, fervent prayers, catechism classes, youth meetings, and discussions. Vocations kept out of sight are out of mind.
- 2) Celebrate Vocation Sunday (Good Shepherd Sunday) in a befitting manner. Plan Vocation programmes. Invite priests and religious who have emerged from the parish, introduce them to the community, and celebrate their journey. This will inspire more young people from the parish to respond to the call to priesthood and consecrated life.
- 3) April and May are excellent months to intensify vocation promotion. Parish Priests should identify young men who have completed high school, PUC, or graduation and possess good character and qualities, then encourage them to become priests in the Diocese of Mangalore. Invite active young men to consider this path seriously. A simple, sincere comment like “Be a priest!” should never be underestimated. Some young people won’t consider becoming priests unless asked directly. So be courageous! Do the asking!
- 4) Have a special Holy Hour to pray for priestly and religious vocations; pray the rosary for vocations, and during the rosary, mention candidates by name.

- 5) Provide Eucharistic adoration on certain days, ask for prayers for vocations, and instil love and respect for our Eucharistic Lord. This makes an enormous difference in young men discerning the priesthood. Prayer in parishes and families reinforces a “shared awareness with regard to vocations”.
- 6) Provide intercessory prayers for vocations for the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass; Vocation prayer card given to parishioners on World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which is celebrated on the Fourth Sunday after Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday). Plan this celebration in the parish.
- 7) Encourage boys and girls to become Altar Servers. Research shows that nearly 70% of men who entered the seminary served at Mass during their youth. Organise workshops for Altar Servers where they can learn about vocational discernment.
- 8) Invite the Director of Vocations or his team to the parish for a weekend or for a Mass, or talk to students and youth in the parish about vocations and related topics.
- 9) Create a page on your parish website with vocation information; sponsor poster/colouring/essay contests with vocation-related themes and exhibit the results; a vocations library can be maintained in a special corner of the vestibule stocked with vocation-related materials.
- 10) Include Vocations Awareness lesson plans and programmes at each grade level of religious education. Each grade can do a special project, and the reports can be combined into a resource booklet. Schools can help begin “a process of vocational discernment” by offering young men the chance to meet with priests or to take part “in events to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith”.
- 11) Invite priests to share their vocation stories at parish events; encourage interviews with priests, sisters, brothers, and deacons for the parish bulletin or magazine, especially on how they discerned their call. If people see a joyful priest, they are more likely to aspire to be a priest.

- 12) Promote family ministry as care for vocations presupposes a strong family pastoral ministry that leads to a “flowering of priestly vocations”. Pope Francis calls the family the fundamental “centre of pastoral vocation”. The family is the domestic Church and the first and most fundamental place of human formation, where the desire for a life conceived as a vocational path can burgeon in young people, to be followed with commitment and generosity (Address to the Participants of the Convention on the 50th Anniversary of the Conciliar Decrees *Optatam Totius* and *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 20 November 2015).
- 13) Arrange charitable service to those who suffer, to the needy and the poor. Time spent on Catholic missions can help young people discover their call to the priesthood and the consecrated life.
- 14) Invite at least one man in your parish to discern the priesthood each year. A significant influence for 70 to 80 per cent of men who enter the seminary was a priest telling them they would make a good priest.
- 15) Host a weekly or monthly Teen Bible Study to help teens in their relationship with God. It may stir in their hearts the desire to serve God as a priest or religious.
- 16) Field trips to a seminary and opportunities for high school boys to interact with seminarians are among the most beneficial ways to help men discern a call to the priesthood.
- 17) Ministries that allow young adults the opportunity to evangelise others are a great blessing to a parish. They also allow young people to experience the ministry of serving others and bringing others to Christ.
- 18) Attending an Ordination Celebration can be life-changing for a young man. The beauty and reverence of the Ordination Mass can be incredibly inspiring.
- 19) There are several programs for parishes, such as a vocation chalice or statue, in which an individual, couple, or family receives a statue or chalice at the end of Mass. The

family then spends the week praying for vocations, and a new family receives it the following week.

- 20) The Pastoral Commission for Vocations can help oversee the technical support the parish can offer to foster vocations. This commission can focus on communicating diocesan vocation events, posting flyers, hosting parish vocation prayer opportunities, and providing support to seminarians. This is a great way to get more people in your parish involved in supporting vocations to the priesthood.
- 21) Each Vicariate, or perhaps two or more working together, should organise vocation camps. Vicars Forane and the Priest Coordinators for Youth and Altar Boys in each Vicariate should take a keen interest in vocation promotion and helping young individuals consider the priesthood. Please learn to recognise the “priest” within young men and encourage them to apply to the Diocese of Mangalore as candidates.
- 22) In addition to Parish and Vicariate Vocation Camps, Diocesan Vocation Camps will also be held. Parish Priests and Vicars Forane are encouraged to utilise the services of the Diocesan Vocation Director for their Vocation Camps. They should also take the initiative to encourage and send eligible young men to the Diocesan Vocation Camps organised by the Vocation Director.
- 23) Vocations ministry cannot be reduced to the establishment of programmes but must become “the natural expression of the whole community”.

Conclusion

The role of the Vocation Director and Parish Priests is vital in fostering and nurturing vocations within the Catholic Church. Guided by the principles of prayer, discernment, and pastoral care, both roles complement each other in encouraging individuals to respond generously to God’s call. The Vocation Director, as a specialised minister, focuses on promoting vocations through organised programmes, personal accompaniment, and

collaboration with the wider Church community. Meanwhile, Parish Priests, as shepherds of their local flock, create an environment of faith and support where vocations can naturally flourish through their daily ministry, heartfelt preaching, personal family contacts, and nurturing relationships with adolescents and youth. By walking closely with their communities, they become living witnesses of Christ's love, encouraging young people to listen to God's call. Rooted firmly in the teachings of the Church and inspired by Christ's command to His disciples, "You will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8), Parish Priests ensure that the invitation to serve God—whether in priesthood or religious life—remains vibrant, hopeful, and accessible to all generations.

✠ Peter Paul Saldanha
Bishop of Mangalore

INDIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT (ICYM)

Programmes on the Occasion of the Birth Jubilee of Jesus and the 40th Jubilee of the Karnataka Regional Youth Commission

Event 1: Career Xpo – Mega Job Fair

Organised by ICYM Central Council, Mangalore Diocese, and St Joseph Engineering College, Vamanjoor, in collaboration with the Youth Commission of the Mangalore Diocese and the Karnataka Regional Youth Commission (KRYC).

Dates : November 1 & 2, 2025.

Venue : St Joseph Engineering College, Vamanjoor,
Mangalore

Time : From 9:00 am. (Nov 1) to 12:00 pm (Nov 2)

Free Registration – Open to all students and job seekers

Event 2: Metanoia 2.0

Theme: *An Evening of Faith, Joy, and Renewal on the Eve of the Birth Jubilee of Jesus*

Organised by the Youth Commission, Mangalore Diocese, in collaboration with ICYM Surathkal Deanery.

Date : November 8, 2025
Time : Begins at 5:00 pm
Venue : Surathkal Church Grounds

Programme Flow

5:00 pm onwards: Opening & Welcome, Gospel Band, *Faith with Wonder*, Bible Values through Magic, Peace Rally, Adoration, Holy Mass, and Cultural Programme.

Note to Parishes and Youth

We kindly request all Parish Priests and Youth Coordinators to announce and promote both events — *Career Xpo (Nov 1-2)* and *Metanoia 2.0 (Nov 8)* — to encourage active participation among our youth and foster their growth in faith, fellowship, and future opportunities.

Rev. Fr Ashwin Cardoza
Director

PROGRAMMES OF CODP

- 02.11.2025 : Awareness on Women Empowerment and Self-Help Groups in Kelarai Church Hall
- 04.11.2025 : Awareness on Free Legal Services in Moodbidri
- 07.11.2025 : Evaluation meeting of Women Empowerment Program Field Staff in CODP
- 08.11.2025 : Awareness on “My Vote My Right” - Bandhavya Seminar in CODP
- 11.11.2025 : Awareness on Government Schemes and Facilities in Kotekar
- 14.11.2025 : Awareness on Free Legal Services in Fajir
- 20.11.2025 : KROSS Governing Board Meeting in Bangalore
- 24.11.2025 : Training on Local Resource Management in Bajpe,
Training on Local Resource Management in Sheni
- 25.11.2025 : Training on Strengthening of Mahasangha/Okkuta in Talapady
- 27.11.2025 : Training on Strengthening of Mahasangha/Okkuta in Bela

Other Information

1. Diocesan CODP Golden Jubilee Housing Project:

CODP Golden Jubilee Diocesan Housing Plan - Second Phase 2025 onwards				
Received applications		Stages of the Construction Level		
		Completed	Half way Completed	Not yet started
Application Received: New House	145	19	60	66
Application Received: House Repair	114	20	20	74

CODP Golden Jubilee Diocesan Housing Plan - Second Phase cost details as on 21.10.2025				
Completed Houses	Total Estimation of 39 Houses (Total cost)	CODP Contribution	Contribution from Mr Michael D'Souza	Contribution from Beneficiary + Parish + Donors + Associations
New House+Repair 19 + 20	2,37,67,372	18,50,000	52,70,000	1,66,47,372
* Special Note to the Parish Priest: CODP has stopped accepting further housing applications until the completion of the above-mentioned houses. Please refer to <i>Inter Nos</i> , April 2025, page 85. Total applications received 577 out of which 56 applications are rejected				

2. Details of Lenten Collection received in 2023, 2024, 2025:

We thank the Parish Priests and Convent Superiors for their consistent support to the Diocesan Charities.

	Lenten Campaign 2023	Lenten Campaign 2024	Lenten Campaign 2025
Total Lenten collection	Rs 76,79,445/-	Rs 84,49,474/-	Rs 85,88,565/-
Total amount spent for the Jubilee Housing Project from the Lenten Collection	Rs 48,00,000/-	Rs 45,00,000/-	Rs 60,00,000/-
Total amount spent for other charity, e.g. education, medical, marriage, family maintenance, from the Lenten Collection	Rs 28,79,445/-	Rs 39,49,474/-	Rs 25,88,565/-

Rev. Fr Vincent D'Souza
Secretary, CODP

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. Programmes

- 02 : Catechism Day, Mukka
- 06 : Liturgical Training, Fr Muller Hospital, Kankanady
- 09 : Catechists Day
 - : Catechesis for the Parents of Catechism Children
 - : Deanery Catechism Teachers' Training, Vittal
- 10-15 : Fundamentals of Catechesis - Classes at the Seminary
- 16 : Deanery Level Lectors and Choir Members Training, Pezar

II. Commission for Catechetics

Kindly refer to *Inter Nos*, October 2025, p. 210.

III. Commission for Liturgy:

1. Advent Season & Blessing of Advent Wreath:

On 30 November 2025, we begin the Advent season. Advent is a very important period in the life of the Church, and it is our responsibility to preserve its spirit and significance. On the first Sunday of Advent, we have continued the custom of blessing the Advent wreath for the past five years.

The five candles on the wreath symbolise the meaning of Jesus' first and second coming. From 1st to 16th December, we reflect on the second coming of Christ, and from 17th to 24th December, we reflect on the first coming of Christ. This is a time to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas.

To facilitate catechesis during this liturgical season, Mangala Jyothi has published the Christmas Novena book, '*Emmanuel*', which contains the rite of blessing the Christmas wreath, nine days of reflections, and the Novena prayer. For copies, please get in touch with Mangala Jyothi.

Sundays of Advent - Liturgy : During the Sundays of Advent, other celebrations are not permitted, not even Funeral Masses. Therefore, kindly observe the Advent Sunday Liturgy faithfully. For more liturgical guidelines during the season of Advent and Christmas, refer to the *Ordo 2025-26*, pages 6-40, 46, 50, 56-57.

IV. New Books available at our Stall:

- * ಇಮ್ಮಾನುವೆಲ್, ಕ್ರಿಸ್ಮಸ್ ನವೆನಾಚೆಂ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್
- * ಸಾಂ ದೇವಸಹಾಯಮ್, ಲಾಯಿಕಾಂಚೊ ಪಾತ್ಸೊನ್ (ನವೆಂ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್)
- * ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಆಪೊಸ್ತಲ್ - ಸಾಂ ಕಾರ್ಲೊ ಅಕುತಿಸ್
- * *ORDO*, 2025-26
- * 'ಜೆಜು ಮೊಗಾಳಾ' - ಆರಾಧನಾಚೆಂ ನವೆಂ ಪುಸ್ತಕ್
- * ಶೆಗುಣಾಂಚೊ ಗುಲೊಬ್ - ಮರಿಯಾಳ್ ನಿಯಾಳಾಚ್ಯೊ ಬತ್ತೀಸ್ ಪಾಕ್ಳೊ
- * Advent Candles and Wreath (of all sizes)

V. Other Information

1. There will be a Mangala Jyothi stall at St Joseph Vaz Shrine Feast, Mudipu (December 5-7) and during Our Lady of Pompei Shrine Feast, Urwa (December 7).
2. Items related to the Christmas Season: Items related to Christmas Season, such as Crib, Stars, Decorations, Cards, Candles, will be available at our store from 3 November 2025 at a discounted price. If your parish requires these items in bulk, especially stars, kindly place the orders well in advance. Please inform your parishioners about Mangala Jyothi, the religious articles store. For all orders, please contact 0824-6666612 or 7022584120 or sales@mangalajyothi.com

- Director, Mangala Jyothi

BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES (BECs)

1. Programmes in November

- 05 Nov 2025 : Parish Level BEC Training Programme, Bajjodi
- 09 Nov 2025: Parish Level BEC Training Programme, Kateel
- 16 Nov 2025 : Vittal Deanery Level BEC Training Programme, Peruvai
- 30 Nov 2025 : Parish Level BEC Training Programme, Puttur

2. The new ***BEC Ward Meeting Handbook***, officially launched on 10 August 2025 is available for just Rs. 25/-. We request Parish Priests to encourage parishioners to obtain their own copy and make it a part of every meeting. Let every home have one!

- Director, Basic Ecclesial Communities

COMMISSION FOR BIBLE

1. **‘EMMAUS’: Monthly Bible Convention** at Holy Cross Church, Cordel on 21 November 2025 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in association with Mangalore Diocesan Service Communion (MDSC).

2. **Programmes of the Commission for the Bible for Parishes:**

The parishes and deaneries are requested to approach the Commission for Bible for the following formative programmes to be organised in the parishes or deaneries. The approximate duration of the programme is also mentioned herebelow. We can adjust the programme according to your convenience:

- Bible Quiz (Written and Oral Rounds, 1.30 – 2.30 Hours);
- Inspirational talks on the Word of God (1:00 – 2:00 Hours);
- ಪವಿತ್ರ ಪುಸ್ತಕಾಚಿ ಸಕತ್ The Power of the Bible (1:00 to 2:00 Hours);
- ಬೈಬಲ್ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ: ಪವಿತ್ರ ಪುಸ್ತಕಾಚ್ಯಾ ವಾಚ್ಪಾಕ್ ಆನಿ ಶಿಕ್ವಾಕ್ ಏಕ್ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನ್ Bible Vista: An Introduction to the Reading and Study of the Bible (Ideal for 4 day-1.30 sessions. 6:00 Hours);
- ಬೈಬಲ್ ವಾಚ್ಯಾಂ ಬೈಬಲ್ ವಾಂಚ್ಯಾಂ Bible vachyam Bible Vachyam: The Community Reading of the Gospels (3:00 – 4:30 Hours);
- ಸುವಾರ್ತಾ ಶಿಕ್ವಾಂ Let's Study the Gospels (15:00 Hours for each Gospel);
- ಪಾವ್ಲಾಚ್ಯಾ ಪಾವ್ಲಾಂನಿ In the Footsteps of St Paul: A General Introduction to the Letters of St Paul (15:00 Hours);
- ಇಸ್ರಾಯೆಲ್ ಪರ್ಜೆಚಿ ಚರಿತ್ರಾ - ಪರ್ನೊ ಕರಾರ್ ಆನಿ ನವೊ ಕರಾರ್ The History of Israel - Old and the New Testament (1:30 – 3:00 Hours).

3. **Bible Classes:**

Vicariate-Level Bible Classes: Vittal - St John Paul II Vicariate. Topic : The Gospel of Mark as a Story - ಮಾರ್ಕಾಚಿ ಸುವಾರ್ತಾ-ಏಕ್ ಕಥಾನಕ್

Date : 16, 23, 30 November 2025 & 07, 14 December 2025
Five Sundays from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

Venue : Our Lady of Mercy Church- Vittal

4. **Monthly Bible Quiz:** To encourage people to read and study the Bible, a monthly online Bible Quiz has been organised. It falls on the last Saturday of each month. You are requested to encourage people to participate in the same. **Monthly Bible Quiz November 2025 (Online) on the Book of Judges and I Corinthians will be held on 29 November 2025 from 8:30 pm to 9:00 pm.** The online link will be circulated from 01 November 2025.
5. CBAI (Catholic Biblical Association of India) Annual Seminar at Dharmaram, Bangalore, on 07-08 November 2025.
6. Celebration of the Word of God and Solemn Vespers at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Vorkady on 25 November 2025.
7. You are requested to participate in the Bible Symposium jointly organised by CCBI Commission for Bible & NBCLC on the theme **The Bible Text in Its Context in the Digital and AI Age** on 04-05 December 2025 at NBCLC, Bangalore, for Priests, Religious and Laity. Please encourage the interested laity of your parish to participate. For details contact the secretary – 9844763634.

- Rev. Fr Vincent Sequeira
Secretary, Commission for Bible

A SHORT SUMMARY OF POPE LEO XIV'S APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION *DILEXI TE*

The Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi te* ("I Have Loved You") is the first major teaching document of Pope Leo XIV, signed on October 4, 2025 (the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi), and released on October 9, 2025. It is addressed to all Christians and emphasises love for the poor.

Dilexi te (= *DT*) continues and deepens the priorities set by the previous pontificate, stressing the profound connection between love for God and the Church's mission to love and serve the poor. The title, taken from the words of Jesus in the Book of Revelation (Rev 3:9), underscores that this is a matter of *divine revelation*, not mere human kindness. The document

explores the topic through the lens of Scripture, Church teaching and the witness of the saints.

A. Background of the Document:

As to the nature or type of document, *Dilexi te* is an Apostolic Exhortation, a non-legislative papal document that encourages the faithful to undertake a particular activity or cultivate a specific virtue. This document was begun by Pope Francis before his death, who also gave it its title, and was completed by Pope Leo XIV. This signals a strong continuity in the Church's focus on the marginalised. Pope Leo XIV affirmed his shared desire "that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor."

Dilexi te is not the first papal document to be "the work of four hands" — that is, a collaborative effort between two popes. Pope Francis' first encyclical, *Lumen fidei*, built on a text drafted by his predecessor, Benedict XVI.

The core of the document is the preferential option for the poor, a key principle of Catholic Social Teaching. Pope Leo XIV presents the poor not only as objects of charity but as "teachers of the Gospel" and a fundamental way of encountering Christ. In its contemporary context, the Exhortation denounces the modern "globalisation of indifference", increasing inequality, and economic systems based on a "survival of the fittest" mentality. It also stresses the multifaceted nature of poverty, including social exclusion, lack of dignity, and various forms of injustice (such as those burdening women and migrants).

B. Chapters of *Dilexi te*

The Apostolic Exhortation is divided into a brief introduction and five chapters that systematically explore the theme of love for the poor through Scripture, Church history, social teaching, and contemporary challenges.

Chapter 1: A Few Essential Words

The theme of this chapter is the essential, revealed connection between love for God and love for the poor. It sets the theological and existential foundation for the entire document. It begins with the image of the woman anointing Jesus with

expensive perfume (Matthew 26:6-13), showing that even a seemingly wasteful act of love is invaluable to Christ. Pope Leo XIV asserts that the presence of Christ is inseparable from the presence of the poor: “Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor.”

The chapter defines poverty in a broad, modern sense, encompassing social exclusion, a lack of dignity and rights, moral poverty, and cultural poverty. It strongly rejects worldly indifference and the attitude that poverty is either accidental or deserved, calling instead for a fundamental change in mindset, modelled on St. Francis of Assisi’s radical embrace of the poor.

Dilexit te no. 14 says: “The poor are not there by chance or by blind and cruel fate. Nor, for most of them, is poverty a choice. Yet, there are those who still presume to make this claim, thus revealing their own blindness and cruelty. Of course, among the poor there are also those who do not want to work, perhaps because their ancestors, who worked all their lives, died poor. However, there are so many others — men and women — who nonetheless work from dawn to dusk, perhaps collecting scraps or the like, even though they know that their hard work will only help them to scrape by, but never really improve their lives. Nor can it be said that most of the poor are such because they do not ‘deserve’ otherwise, as maintained by that specious view of meritocracy that sees only the successful as ‘deserving’.”

Chapter 2: God Chooses the Poor

With the theme, the Scriptural basis and Christ’s identification with the poor, this chapter grounds the preferential option for the poor in the Bible, showing it is at the very heart of God’s revelation. It recalls God’s action throughout the Old Testament, where He reveals Himself as the one who “hears their cry” (Exodus 3:7-8) and acts to liberate the oppressed.

This preference finds fulfilment in Jesus Christ, who became poor for our sake (Philippians 2:7). Pope Leo XIV emphasises that Jesus experienced not only the material dimensions of poverty (humble birth, manual labour) but also the *existential* poverty of exclusion and rejection. Serving the poor, as taught in the Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46), is presented as a fundamental way of encountering Christ Himself.

Chapter 3: A Church for the Poor

This chapter focuses on the historical and perennial commitment of the Church to the marginalised, tracing its long tradition of care for the poor and affirming that this commitment is a public criterion for the Church's credibility and renewal. It highlights:

- The Church Fathers strongly denounced luxury and excess, calling for almsgiving as an act of justice.
- The Saints and Religious Orders provided a historical overview of organised charity through monastic hospitality, care for the sick, the redemption of captives, mendicant poverty (like the Franciscans and Dominicans), and educational ministries.
- The Poor are Teachers, not just objects of charity. As "teachers of the Gospel" they evangelise the Church through their faith, wisdom, and resilience. The chapter also praises the essential role of Popular Movements in fighting structural injustice.

The chapter contains many saintly examples. No less than 33 saints are referenced as examples of holiness in their treatment of the poor, sick, imprisoned, uneducated or migrant. For example, *DT* 41 refers St John Chrysostom, who exhorted the faithful to recognise Christ in the needy: "Do you wish to honour the body of Christ? Do not allow it to be despised in its members, that is, in the poor, who have no clothes to cover themselves. Do not honour Christ's body here in church with silk fabrics, while outside you neglect it when it suffers from cold and nakedness... [The body of Christ on the altar] does not need cloaks, but pure souls; while the one outside needs much care... let the poor benefit from your riches. God does not need golden vessels, but golden souls." He said that, if the faithful do not encounter Christ in the poor who stand at the door, they will not be able to worship him even at the altar: "What advantage does Christ gain if the sacrificial table is laden with golden vessels, while he himself dies of hunger in the person of the poor? Feed the hungry first, and only afterward adorn the altar with what remains." Eucharist, therefore, is also a sacramental expression of the charity and justice that both preceded and accompanied it. Consequently, charity is not optional but a requirement of true worship.

Chapter 4: A History that Continues

The development of Catholic Social Teaching and the call to fight structural sin form the theme of this chapter. Pope Leo XIV places the mission of the Church in continuity with 150 years of Catholic Social Teaching (beginning with *Rerum Novarum* in 1891). He affirms that the Church's mission includes addressing the causes of poverty, not just its effects.

The chapter emphasises that poverty and inequality are often the result of “structures of sin” embedded in indifferent economic and social systems. It recalls the vision of a “Church of the poor” articulated at the Second Vatican Council and in key documents from the Latin American Bishops' Conferences (Medellín, Puebla, Aparecida), urging Christians not just to assist the poor, but to stand at their side and work for their integral human development.

Chapter 5: A Constant Challenge

As this chapter focuses on the theme of giving a practical call to action, concrete gestures, and renewed discipleship, it also offers a call to permanent conversion, urging Christians to overcome all forms of indifference and to make love for the poor the “evangelical hallmark” of their lives. It stresses the need for both structural justice and personal charity:

- **Structural Solutions:** Promoting dignified, meaningful work as the primary solution to poverty. “No Christian can regard the poor simply as a societal problem; they are part of our ‘family.’ They are ‘one of us.’ Nor can our relationship to the poor be reduced to merely another ecclesial activity or function” (*DT* 104). Indeed, “any Church community, if it thinks it can comfortably go its own way without creative concern and effective cooperation in helping the poor to live with dignity and reaching out to everyone, will also risk breaking down, however much it may talk about social issues or criticise governments. It will easily drift into a spiritual worldliness camouflaged by religious practices, unproductive meetings and empty talk” (*DT* 113).

- **Personal Contact:** Reaffirming the importance of almsgiving—not as a sole solution, but as a necessary “means of contact, encounter, and empathy” that transforms the heart of the giver. Saint John Chrysostom is known for saying, “Almsgiving is the wing of prayer. If you do not provide your prayer with wings, it will hardly fly.”

The document concludes by calling for a boundless love that breaks down barriers (especially for migrants) and affirms that this solidarity with the poor is the essential sign of a Church faithful to the Gospel.

C. Conclusion

Dilexi te strongly denounces the modern “globalisation of indifference” and the temptation to view the poor as a problem, urging Christians to overcome all forms of self-centeredness and to listen to the “cry of the poor actively.” It stresses that the most significant poverty is not merely material but the lack of spiritual care and the denial of dignity.

The document insists on a “both/and” approach, requiring both charity and justice: The most important way to help the poor is to assist them in finding meaningful work. *DT* 116 says: “Almsgiving at least offers us a chance to halt before the poor, to look into their eyes, to touch them and to share something of ourselves with them. In any event, almsgiving, however modest, brings a touch of *pietas* into a society otherwise marked by the frenetic pursuit of personal gain. In the words of the Book of Proverbs: “Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor” (22:9).

The ultimate conclusion is a spiritual and ecclesial vision for renewal: Firstly, the poor are not just objects of compassion, but “teachers of the Gospel” who evangelise the rich by their resilience, wisdom, and reliance on God. We must be willing to learn from them. Secondly, the Church is called to be “poor and for the poor,” demonstrating that “when the Church bends down to care for the poor, she assumes her highest posture.” Finally, Christian love must be a prophetic force that breaks down barriers, unites strangers, and has no limits. Through concrete gestures of love, the poor will come to realise that Jesus’ words are addressed personally to each of them: “I have loved you” (Rev 3:9).

DIAMOND BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Antony Lasrado, Parish Priest, Perpetual Succour Church, Nithyadarnagar, completes 60 years on November 24, 2025.

Sixty candles bright today, A joyful heart lights up the way. May Heaven bless each step you take, And grant you strength for others' sake.

R.I.P.

- Mrs Mary Christine Pereira, nee Lobo (95 years), mother of Rev. Fr Gregory Pereira, Parish Priest, Mariashram, Talapady, and grandmother of Rev. Fr Johnson Pereira, Asst Parish Priest, Surathkal, passed away on 30 September 2025. Her funeral and burial rites took place on 02 October 2025 at Holy Family Church, Omzoor.
 - Mr Melwyn Cordeiro (35 years), brother of Rev. Fr Ivan Peter Cordeiro, Assistant Manager, Codialbail Press, passed away on 25 October 2025. His funeral and burial rites took place on 25 October 2025 at St Peter Claver Church, Arva.
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Printed by Rev. Fr Lawrence Ronald D'Souza
Published by Rev. Fr Henry Sequeira

owned by Most Rev. Dr. Aloysius Paul D'Souza, Bishop of Mangalore
and printed at Codialbail Press, Bondel, Mangalore – 575 008 and published
at Bishop's House, Mangalore – 575 003. Editor : Rev. Fr Henry Sequeira

Annual Subscription Rs. 60/-