

INTER NOS

RNI. No. KARBIL/2007/20997

Regn. No. MNG/991/2025-27

Vol. 20

No. 10

October 2026

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER 2026

- 1-14 ICEL meeting and other visits, Washington D.C.
- 15 10.00 a.m. Ordination to Diaconate, Bendur Church
03.00 p.m. Inauguration and Blessing of the renovated Church, Permude
- 16 09.00 a.m. Administrative Board Meeting, St Joseph Seminary, Jeppu
- 17-18 Pastoral Visit, Farla
- 19 07.00 a.m. Mass, National Women's Commission Conference, Mulki
05.30 p.m. Mass, Missionary Families of Christ, SJEC Chapel
- 20 10.00 a.m. Confirmation, Saverapura
04.00 p.m. Confirmation, Bajpe
- 21 04.00 p.m. Concetta Hospital Trust, Kinnigoly
- 22 10.00 a.m. General Body Meeting, FMCI
- 24-25 Pastoral Visit, Suratkal
- 26 09.00 a.m. Pastoral Orientation to New Priests, Pastoral Centre
- 27 04.00 p.m. Fr. L.M. Pinto Health Centre Trust Meeting, Bishop's House
- 28 10.00 a.m. Shrine Feast, Pakshikere
- 29 09.15 a.m. Council of Priests' Meeting, Bishop's House
05.00 p.m. Centenary Celebration of St Joachim Hr Pry School, Kadaba
- 31 04.00 p.m. Confirmation, Kirem

Bishop Meets in the Forenoon:

Diocesan Clergy, 27; Religious Men and Women, 30; Lay Faithful, 31

BISHOP'S MESSAGE FOR OCTOBER 2026

Papal Intention for October 2026: Pope Leo invites the whole Church to pray for the establishment of mental health ministry throughout the Church. Many patients are treated by the society and especially by the family with discrimination and some even feel ashamed to speak about those who suffer such illnesses. While efforts are being made to give adequate treatment to the patients affected by mental illnesses, by and large, the attitudes towards sick people are not very sympathetic. Every effort must be made, together with prayer, to treat the patients with dignity, offering greater attention and service to those who suffer these illnesses and also to their families.

Month of Rosary: In this month we are invited to pray the Rosary earnestly. It is a unique contemplative prayer, the Compendium of the whole Gospel, that brings us closer to Jesus and Mary. Mother Mary herself invites us to pray the Rosary for world peace and she too joins us as she did during her apparitions. A plenary indulgence may be gained by those who recite five decades of the Rosary as a community of persons, whether in the church, in the families, religious houses and associations. A partial indulgence may be gained when recited in other circumstances. Pastors are warmly invited to explain the beauty and benefits of praying the Rosary as taught by the Popes over the centuries, especially in *Marialis Cultus* and *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*.

Ordination to the Diaconate: On 15 October, six of our seminarians would be ordained to be deacons in St Sebastian's church, Bendur. I invite all to offer prayerful support to our candidates. Pope Francis beautifully explained the nature and mission of the order of diaconate: "Deacons remind the Church that it should have 'a heart that burns with love and serves with humility and joy'." The distinct identity of deacons is rooted in charity and outreach to the poor and sick; diaconate is a key way to represent the servanthood of Jesus.

Mission Sunday: On 18 October, the universal Church celebrates the Mission Sunday. Pope Leo in his message for the 100th World Mission Day 2026, has underlined the theme of "One in Christ, united in mission." He invites the whole Church to advance

together in the commitment to evangelization, in this “new missionary age”, in the history of the Church. Jesus’ ardent desire is that the whole human race be united in the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. This union gives rise to mutual communion among believers and is the source of all missionary fruitfulness. Our gaze must be on Jesus, so that he may truly be at the centre of every word, action and interpersonal relationship. The unity of the disciples must be directed towards mission, “So that the world may believe that you have sent me” (Jn 17:21). Reiterating the teaching of Pope Francis, Pope Leo says that “proclaiming the Gospel is an action that is always harmonious, communal and synodal.” Let us ardently fulfil the desire of the Lord expressed in his prayer during the Last Supper. Every baptized is, therefore, sent to proclaim “the Gospel of God’s faithful love, which became flesh in the face and life of Jesus Christ.”

May Mother Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, intercede for us.

PRIESTS PASTORAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Fr Lizel Joy D’Souza has been appointed a member of the teaching staff of St Joseph Institute of Theology and a member of the formation staff of St Joseph’s Interdiocesan Seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore, with effect from Tuesday, 20 October 2026.

Rev. Fr Jovin Sequeira has been appointed Assistant Director of the Canara Communication Centre, Nanthoor; Sub-Editor of *Raknno*; and Priest-in-Residence and Socius at St Anne Church, Kelarai, with effect from 1 October 2026.

BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES

Programmes

1. 04 October 2026 - BEC Training – Allipade
2. 04 October 2026 - Community Day – Tallur (Evening)
3. 11 October 2026 - BEC Training – Miyapadavu
4. 18 October 2026 - BEC Training – Kelarai

Fr Sunil George D’Souza

Director, Basic Ecclesial Communities

JEEVAN JYOTHI AND JEEVAN DISHA CAMPS

Many parishes organise **Jeevan Jyothi** and **Jeevan Disha** camps for high-school boys and girls during the October holidays. While some are conducted at the parish level, many are organised at the vicariate or inter-parish level, taking into account the number of participants, available facilities, and access to suitable resource persons. Such arrangements can be beneficial when they enable more young people to participate and provide better opportunities for formation.

These camps should be genuine opportunities for growth in Catholic faith and Christian life, as well as occasions for personal motivation and growth. By the end of the camp, participants should ideally be able to articulate the basic elements of their Catholic faith, recognise their dignity and responsibilities as young Christians, identify their personal strengths and talents, recognise areas in which they need to grow, and set some practical goals for their studies, relationships, habits, and future. They should be encouraged to develop healthy friendships, communicate respectfully, make responsible decisions, handle peer pressure, use digital media wisely, and recognise the consequences of their choices. The camp should also help them discover how prayer, the sacraments, Scripture, service, and participation in the parish community can become part of their everyday lives. Where appropriate, they should be introduced to questions of vocation and helped to consider seriously how their gifts and abilities can be placed at the service of God and others.

Games, recreation, music, and entertainment have an important place in the dynamics of a youth camp. They create fellowship, break barriers, develop teamwork, and keep participants engaged. But they are means, not the goal. A camp that becomes mainly an occasion for games and entertainment may be enjoyable, but it risks defeating the very purpose for which it is organised. Every activity should therefore contribute, directly or indirectly, to faith, personal growth, friendship, leadership, responsibility, or vocational awareness.

Parish Priests and Vicars Forane should give particular attention to wide and active participation. Every reasonable effort should be made to encourage high-school students, especially those who may otherwise remain uninvolved in parish activities, to attend and benefit from the programme. The camp should be well planned, age-appropriate, engaging, and entrusted to

competent resource persons who can relate naturally to young people. Its success should be judged not simply by attendance or the amount of fun generated, but by what participants take home: a stronger Catholic identity, greater self-confidence, healthier relationships, clearer personal goals, deeper habits of prayer, greater awareness of their gifts and responsibilities, and a renewed desire to live their faith meaningfully.

MANGALORE DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMUNION **(For Charismatic Renewal)**

Training Programmes Conducted

- 1) June 2026 – St. Simon, Pezar Vicariate: 110 People attended from 6 Parishes.
- 2) July 2026 – Seminar on *Charisms of the Holy Spirit*, at Cordel Hall – 65 Leaders and 5 Priests attended.
- 3) August 2026 – St. Theresa of Kolkata Vicariate, 90 People attended from 5 Parishes.
- 4) August 2026 – St. Jude, Mangalore North Vicariate, 100 People attended from 7 Parishes.

Upcoming Training Programmes

- 1) September 2026 – St. Thomas, Southern Vicariate – One day Charismatic Retreat and Training at Bela Church.
- 2) October 2026 – St. John Paul II Vicariate: Leaders Training at Vittal Church.
- 3) October 2026 – St Mathew, Central Vicariate: Leaders Training at Moodbidri Town Parish
- 4) October 2026 – Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Episcopal Vicariate: Training at Bejai Church Mini Hall.
- 5) November 27, 2026 – Diocesan-Level One-Day Convention of Diocesan Prayer Group Leaders at Bendur Church Hall.

N.B. Every year on 2 October, we observe the **National Day of Intercession** across India. We humbly request all parish priests and religious superiors to observe this day, or another suitable day during the same week, as a day of prayer for our Church, Nation, and World.

Fr Clifford Fernandes
Spiritual Advisor, MDSC

MANGALA JYOTHI

I. Programmes in October:

- 04 : Catechesis for Parents, Vorkady
- 12 : Liturgical Training, Jeevan Jyothi camp,
Belthangady Deanery
- 15 : Animating the Liturgy for the Diaconate, Bendur
: Inauguration of New Church, Liturgy animation,
Permude
- 25 : Liturgical Training, Shirthady
- 26-30: National Catechetical Conference, Jalandar

II. All types of religious books and liturgical items are available at Mangala Jyothi Store.

III. New arrivals:

- * Ordo 2026-27
- * ಮಾಗ್ನಿಫಿಕಾ ಹುಮಾನಿತಾಸ್ - ಮನ್ಯಾಪಣಾಚಿ ವ್ಹಡ್ವಿಕ್ - ಮನ್ಯಾ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಚ್ಯಾ ವರ್ತಪಣಾ ವಿಶಿಂ ವಿಶ್ವಪತ್ರ್.
- * ಆಪ್ಲಿ ಭಾಸ್ ಅಶಿ (ಸದಾಂಚ್ಯೊ ಚುಕಿ, ಕೊಂಕ್ಣಿ ಆಂಕ್ಡೆ, ಸಯ್ರಿಕ್, ಆಲ್ಫುಂಜಾಂ, ವ್ಯಾಕರಣ್)

Fr Rohith D'Costa
Director, Mangala Jyothi

COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION AND EVANGELIZATION

Programmes:

- October 4 : Missionary Children Association Programme –
Neermarga Parish
- Theme : *Preparing the Little Missionaries in Their Own Way*
Focus: The Role of Parents as Missionaries
- October 11: Missionary Children Association Programme – Bela
Church
- October 18: Missionary Children Association Programme –
Anegudde Parish
- October 25: Missionary Children Association Day Celebration –
Bantwal Parish

Fr Harry D'Souza
Secretary

CREATIVE PASTORAL IDEAS TO CELEBRATE THE 100TH “WORLD MISSION DAY”

- 1. 100 Lights for 100 Years:** Before or after Mass, prepare a large “100” near the mission cross or parish display using one hundred lamps or LED candles. Each light can represent a year, a prayer, a sacrifice, or a missionary witness. Invite one hundred children or young people, or representatives of one hundred families, to light them.
- 2. Mission Map: From India to the World:** Place a large map of India and the world at the church entrance. Mark the places where missionaries from the diocese or religious communities are serving. Add photographs and brief stories so that mission acquires real faces and names.
- 3. 100 Acts of Missionary Love:** Invite parishioners to complete **100 concrete acts of love** during Mission Month: visiting the sick, helping a poor family, teaching a child, reconciling with someone, planting trees, accompanying an elderly person, or helping a migrant family.
- 4. One Family – One Mission Commitment:** Give each family a small card after Mass with three commitments:
 - Pray for one missionary.
 - Perform one missionary act.
 - Make one missionary sacrifice.Families may place the card near their family Bible or home altar as a reminder of their commitment.
- 5. Missionary Witness in Three Minutes:** Before or after Sunday Masses during October, invite missionaries, religious, lay missionaries, or returned mission volunteers to share a three-minute personal testimony: one person, one experience, one lesson from mission.
- 6. 100 Minutes of Prayer for Mission:** Organize a special 100-minute prayer vigil during Mission Week. Include Scripture, periods of silence, Eucharistic adoration where appropriate, the Rosary, missionary testimonies, and prayers for every continent. Involve children, young people, families, religious, and clergy.
- 7. Mission through Friendship:** Encourage parish groups to undertake one initiative with neighbours of other faiths, such as visiting a home for the elderly, helping vulnerable children,

participating in an environmental clean-up, or supporting persons with disabilities.

- 8. Digital Mission Challenge:** Invite young people to create a 60-second digital testimony answering one question: “*What difference does Jesus make in my life?*” Selected testimonies may be shared through parish social media during Mission Week, turning digital spaces into places of authentic Christian witness.
- 9. Centenary Mission Partnership:** As a lasting fruit of the centenary, encourage each parish, with diocesan guidance, to establish a relationship with a mission parish, formation house, catechetical centre, or missionary project.
- 10. Many Languages – One Gospel:** Create a parish display featuring one Gospel verse in the different languages spoken by parishioners. This can become a visible celebration of the Church’s universality and the unity of the Gospel.

COMMISSION FOR BIBLE

1. The monthly Bible Quiz for October 2026 (Online) on the Book of Job (OT) and I, II & III John (NT) will be held on 31 October 2026, from 8:30 pm to 9:00 pm. The online link will be circulated from 01 October 2026.

2. Bible Classes:

St Thomas, Southern Vicariate-Level Bible Class, Bela (Kasaragod)

Topic: Bible Classes on the Gospel of Luke – “ದುರ್ಬೋಧ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಬರಿ ಖಬರ್ ಪರ್ಗಟ್ ಕರುಂಕ್” “To Proclaim the Good News to the Poor” – will be held for the priests, religious, and Laity in Konkani.

Date : 03, 10, 17 October 2026.

Saturdays from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Church Hall, Kumbla.

3. Inter-Ward Bible Quiz Competition at Our Lady of Miracles Church, Milagres, on 25 October 2026 from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Fr Vincent Sequeira

Secretary, Commission for Bible

CODP PROGRAMMES

- 02.10.2026 : Child Sponsorship – October Camp in CODP
- 06.10.2026 : Awareness on Gender Equality and Justice in Talapady
- 07.10.2026 : Visit to Self-help groups - Fieldwork
- 11.10.2026 : Grass Root Federation Meeting and Awareness on Gender Equality in Kulai, Medical Camp in Fajir
- 13.10.2026 : Awareness on Women's Rights and Laws in Moodbidri
- 15.10.2026 : Women Empowerment Programme – Evaluation and Reporting in CODP
- 26.10.2026 : Grass Root Federation Meeting and Training on Strengthening of Okkuta in Bajpe

Other Information

Diocesan CODP Golden Jubilee Housing Project:

CODP Housing Plan: Cost-Wise Details			
Total applications received	Completed Houses	Rejected	CODP contribution
686	450	55	3,62,66,000

CODP Golden Jubilee Diocesan Housing Plan			
Stages of the Construction Level of Pending Applications			
Pending applications	Almost complete	Half way done	Not yet started
181	49	112	20

Fr Vincent D'Souza
Secretary, CODP

POPE LEO: “DO LESS, DO IT BETTER”

Pope Leo XIV, in his Address at the Beginning of the Pastoral Year of the Diocese of Rome on 18 September 2026, encouraged the Diocese of Rome to begin its new pastoral year not by adding new initiatives, but by taking time to listen, discern, and evaluate its existing pastoral activities. His advice has wider relevance, since these are fundamental principles of sound pastoral governance:

There is considerable vitality in the Diocese, expressed through parishes, associations, movements and other ecclesial realities engaged in evangelisation, charity and prayer. Yet an abundance of activities can also cause communities to lose sight of their evangelical centre. Pastoral action, therefore, should begin not simply by asking **what to do**, but **whom to encounter and how to encounter them**. Pope Leo identified three principal areas for examining the pastoral life of the Diocese.

The first is **“meeting Christ and helping others to meet him.”** Pastoral activities should be assessed not merely by their organisation or participation, but by whether they genuinely lead people to Christ and help them connect the Gospel with their concrete lives.

The second is **“generating community.”** Christian communities should foster relationships in which people feel welcomed, accompanied, valued and responsible. Pope Leo gave particular importance to offering young people time, attention and attentive listening.

The third is **“inhabiting and serving the city.”** Rome, he observed, is not merely the backdrop for the Church’s activities but the very place of her mission. The Church is called to share the city’s hopes, fragilities and questions and to discern where the Gospel can offer light and an answer.

Running through all three areas is a fourth concern: **the formation of the People of God.** Pastoral activities should help people grow in faith, become missionary disciples, assume ecclesial responsibilities and develop a mature faith capable of being translated into concrete choices of life and service.

This process of evaluation, however, should not become another burden for priests and pastoral workers. As Pope Leo put it, **“The art of pastoral evaluation does not ask you to do more”; rather, it gives the Church permission to “do less and do it better.”**

This calls for a renewed understanding of pastoral leadership and on the kind of priests we need: A priest should listen before replying and discern before deciding. He must remain in the presence of the Lord, for he cannot lead others to an encounter with Christ that he does not himself experience. The question “Why?” is first a personal one: Why am I a priest? Does my daily life still reflect the reason for which the Lord called me by name? Pastoral renewal begins here.

A priest should not carry every responsibility himself. He recognises charisms, forms consciences and enables the lay faithful to share responsibility, not from weakness, but from fidelity to the nature of the Church. A community that depends on the parish priest for everything is a fragile community. Presiding does not mean doing everything. It means fostering communion, releasing the gifts of others, connecting people and situations, and safeguarding unity. The priest does not need to fill every space; he must create space for others to serve, contribute and flourish.

The challenge, therefore, is not simply to increase pastoral activity, but to ensure that what the Church does truly serves her mission: to lead people to Christ, build communities of communion and bring the Gospel into the realities of everyday life.

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Paul Prakash D’Souza, Parish Priest, St Joachim Church, Kadaba, completes 50 years on 10 October 2026.

Warm birthday greetings to a quiet and faithful priest. You have shown us that one need not speak much to leave a lasting impression. Your quietness has its own special eloquence! May the Lord bless you with joy, good health and many more grace-filled years—with plenty of smiles and just enough words!

R.I.P

- Mr Victor Alan D'Souza (64 years), brother-in-law of Rev. Fr Victor Vijay Lobo, Parish Priest of Kulur, passed away on 28 August 2026. His funeral took place on 31 August 2026 at St John the Baptist Church, Permude.
 - Mrs Lucy Fernandes (72 years), sister of Rev. Fr Valerian Fernandes, Socius, Rosario Cathedral, passed away on 01 September 2026. Her funeral took place on 02 September 2026 at St Teresa of Kolkata Church, Paldane.
 - Mr Ronald Peter Pinto (64 years), brother-in-law of Rev. Fr Melwyn Noronha, Parish Priest, Alangar, passed away on 07 September 2026. His funeral took place on 13 September 2026 at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Mundkur.
 - Mr Ignatius Pinto (100 years), father of Rev. Fr Jagadish Pinto, Socius, St Sebastian Church, Permunnur, passed away on 21 September 2026. His funeral took place on 21 September 2026 at St Francis Xavier Church, Indubettu.
-

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/-