

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XII

APRIL 2024

No. 4

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Easter as the Divine Mercy Sunday which falls on 07th April this year. This feast is based on the Catholic devotion to the Divine Mercy that Saint Faustina Kowalska reported as per her encounter with Jesus and is associated with special promises to her from Jesus. “As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!” said St Pope John Paul II. I exhort all parishes to celebrate this Sunday with the devotion associated with the day, such as the Divine Mercy Chaplet (Rosary), Prayers to St Faustina, and Litany of Divine Mercy, and also encourage the faithful’s devotion to Divine Mercy.

2. SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Since 25th March this year fell in the Holy Week, the Church transferred the celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord to **Monday, 08 April 2024**. The Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the angel Gabriel’s appearance to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord. Please inform the faithful about this change of date of the celebration of the solemnity and celebrate the mass of the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on 08 April 2024.

3. VOCATION SUNDAY

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as **Vocations Sunday** or **Good Shepherd Sunday** and is marked as the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The purpose of this day is to fulfill Jesus' instruction to "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates her attention on raising up shepherds for God's people - vocations to Holy Orders (the priesthood and diaconate) and to the religious life - while encouraging all who are discerning their vocation to pray more earnestly that they may hear and respond to God's call.

This year we celebrate the 61st World Day of Vocations on **Sunday, 21 April 2024**. The theme for this year's message by Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, "**Called to Sow Seeds of Hope and to Build Peace**," reflects the universal Christian call to "base our lives on the rock of Christ's resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out will never be in vain." "This ultimate calling is one that we must anticipate daily," the Pope observed. "Even now our loving relationship with God and our brothers and sisters is beginning to bring about God's dream of unity, peace, and fraternity."

4. VOCATION CAMP

The Vocation Centre of Diocese of Udupi has organised a Vocation Camp from **09.30 am on 08 April** till **03.30 pm on 10 April 2024** at Anugraha, Pastoral Centre, Kakkunje, Santhekatte for the boys who have completed 10th and above. I request all parish priests to announce about this vocation camp in your parishes, identify prospective candidates, register their names with Rev. Fr Anil Cornelio, Director, Commission for Vocations and Seminary Formation, and send them to this vocation camp. Let us all especially pray so that God may provide abundant vocations for the Diocese of Udupi to carry out the mission of salvation through the parishes and various institutions in the service of the faithful in the Diocese.

5. ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

We are happy to announce the ordination to the priesthood of two of our deacons. Deacon Stephan Rodrigues, S/o Late Mr Salvador Rodrigues, and Late Mrs Zeeta Rodrigues from Jog Falls parish (Shimoga Diocese) will be ordained to the priesthood on **Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at St Anne Church, Thottam at 03.30 pm**. Deacon Rikson Monteiro S/o Mr Denis Monteiro and Mrs Florine D'Souza from Manjeshwar parish (Mangalore Diocese) will be ordained to the priesthood on **Thursday, 02 May 2024 at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Manjeshwar at 09.30 am**. We rejoice and thank our Lord Jesus Christ for blessing us with two new priests for the Diocese this year. On behalf of the diocese, I extend a cordial invitation to all of you to the ordination of the priesthood. Let us joyfully and fraternally welcome them into our Presbyterium.

6. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS

The children will be in summer vacations in April and May 2024. While many children nowadays partake in various talent development programs organised by schools and other social organizations, it is fitting that the Church also makes use of these summer vacations to help the children in the development and strengthening of their Catholic faith by organizing faith formation camps to children from 4th std to 10th std in every parish. I urge all parish priests to organize these faith formation camps for at least four days on some apt themes related to faith, the Bible, etc with the help of Catechism teachers and creative and dynamic resource persons. Let us consider these faith formation camps as a continuity of Catechesis to children organized on Sundays throughout the year.

7. VOTING DAY FOR LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2024

General elections will be held in India from 19 April 2024 to 01 June 2024 to elect the members of the 18th Lok Sabha. The elections will be held in seven phases and the results will be announced on 04 June 2024. The election for the constituency of Udupi-Chikmagalur

will be held on **Tuesday, 26 April 2024**. I kindly request all parish priests to encourage their parishioners to exercise their right to vote and partake in the celebration of this festival of democracy. In preparation for the election, kindly motivate all lay associations in the parish, such as the Catholic Sabha, *Sthree Sangatan*, and ICYM to create awareness of the duty to partake in the elections. Since persons aged 85 and above can vote from their homes, make a list of all such persons in the parish and arrange with the concerned election authorities for the exercise of their voting rights. In addition, let us also continue to pray so that a union government that guarantees all the rights enshrined in the constitution may get elected.

8. DEDICATION OF THE NEW CHURCH AT KANDLUR

The liturgical ceremony of the dedication of the newly built St Antony Church at Kandlur within the solemn Eucharistic celebration was held on 13 February 2024 in the presence of a large number of priests and the faithful. The work of the construction of this new Church was completed under the able leadership of Rev. Dr Canute Barboza, the parish priest with the cooperation of the Parish Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council. We congratulate the parish priest and all parishioners for the completion of this most deserving project. In addition to thanking wholeheartedly the parishioners for their generous contribution towards this project, we sincerely thank and appreciate the contributions of donor agencies, other generous donors, and well-wishers who generously contributed their share towards this project. May God bless them all.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR BEC's

21.04.2024 - Training on the Third Gospel Sharing method at
Byndoor parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

2. FAMILY COMMISSION

04 Apr Senior Citizens' Club Inauguration - Pernal Parish
6, 7 Apr Marriage Preparation Course
13 Apr *Saireek Sangam* – Phase 1
14 Apr Proximate Preparation for Family Life - Pangala Parish
youth
15 Apr Family Talk – summer Camp - Kolalgiri parish
27, 28 Apr Marriage Preparation Course

Mr Lesile Arouza
Director

SILVER JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

V. Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza, Rector,
St Lawrence Minor Basilica, Attur 06-04-2024

**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU
DEAR FATHER**

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