

VOX NOSTRA

Vol. XIII

APRIL 2025

No. 4

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Thursday, 10 April 2025** at 04.00 pm. In the forenoon, there will be a seminar on the Final Document of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops at Anugraha by Rev. Dr Praveen Joy Saldanha, Professor, St Joseph's Seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore. Breakfast will be served from 09.15 AM to 09.45 am and the session will be held from 09.45 am to 01.00 pm. In the afternoon, tea will be served at 03.30 pm at Milagres Tri-centenary Hall and the Chrism Mass will be celebrated at 04.00 pm in Milagres Cathedral.

I invite all diocesan and religious priests to concelebrate with me as a sign of our priestly unity and solidarity as *unum presbyterium*. It is also the Day of Priests. I request all Parish Priests to announce to your parishioners regarding the Chrism Mass and its importance and invite them to participate in large numbers, and also to pray for all priests rendering their pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Udupi.

2. PASCAL TRIDUUM AND HAPPY EASTER

After 40 days of Lenten prayer, fasting, penance, and almsgiving, the Holy Mother the Church invites us to rejoice at the solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Holy Week the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last

days of his earthly life, from his messianic entry into Jerusalem until his blessed Passion and glorious resurrection. The feast of Easter is the culmination of the season of Lent and particularly the Holy Week. I urge all parish priests to plan and prepare well for the Holy Week with due attention to the liturgical guidelines given for this week as found on pages 104-127 of the *ORDO* 2024-25 so that the faithful may be able to conclude their Lenten exercises with the experience of the peace and joy of the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday. I wish you all a happy Easter, dear Rev. Fathers and Sisters. May the risen lord fill us all with new hope in our personal life as well as in our ministry in parishes and institutions.

3. VOCATION CAMP

The Vocation Centre of the Diocese of Udupi has organised a Vocation Camp from **03.30 pm on 05 April** till **05.00 pm on 06 April 2025** at Anugraha, Pastoral Centre, Kakkunje, Santhekatte for the boys who have completed 10th std and above. I request all parish priests to announce this vocation camp in your parishes, identify prospective candidates, register their names with Rev. Fr Ashwin Aranha, Director, Commission for Vocations, Formation and Religious, 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.

4. DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The Church celebrates the Second Sunday of Easter as the Divine Mercy Sunday which falls on **27th 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.

5. NEW CHANCELLOR AND DIOCESAN COORDINATOR OF PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

Effective 1 April, I have appointed Rev. Fr Stephen D’Souza as the new Chancellor of the Diocese as well as the Diocesan Coordinator of Pastoral Commissions. I extend my heartfelt wishes for success in his new roles. I also wish to express my profound gratitude to Rev. Fr (Dr) Roshan D’Souza for his dedicated service as the Chancellor over the past three years, and I pray for his continued success as he continues to serve as the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese. My sincere thanks go to Msgr Ferdinand Gonsalves as well, for his year of commendable service as the Diocesan Coordinator of Pastoral Commissions.

6. PASTORAL VISITS

Starting in April 2025, to make the pastoral visits even more fruitful and meaningful, a curia team that includes experts in canonical, financial, and land-related matters will visit each parish at least 15 days before my pastoral visit, review the parish files and documents, and submit a comprehensive report to me. The Chancellor will coordinate with the Parish Priest well in advance to schedule these visits in mutual

consultation. I request you to kindly cooperate and collaborate with the curia team.

7. PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF DEACONS

I am delighted to announce that Deacon Oswald Vaz and Deacon Rohan Mascarenhas, who are currently serving at Kolalgiri and Pangla parishes respectively, will be ordained as priests for our Diocese. The Priestly Ordination will take place on **02 May 2025, at 9.30 am** at St Lawrence Basilica, Attur. I extend a cordial invitation to all of you and kindly ask you to keep them in your prayers as they step forward in their ministry.

8. NEW OFFICE BEARERS OF COUNCIL OF PRIESTS

The first meeting of the new Council of Priests (2025-2027) was held on 28 February 2025. During the meeting, Rev. Fr (Dr) Prakash Anil Castelino and Rev. Fr Wilson D'Souza were elected as Secretary and Joint Secretary, respectively, and V. Rev. Fr Charles Menezes and Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza were chosen as the members of the Executive Committee. I extend my sincere congratulations and best wishes to them.

9. DIOCESAN BUILDING COMMITTEE

During the Council of Priests Meeting held on 28 February 2025, Rev. Fr George D'Souza, Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza, and Rev. Fr Francis Lewis were elected as the members of the Diocesan Building Committee. The new building committee is composed of:

Rev. Fr George D'Souza – Convener

Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza

Rev. Fr Francis Lewis

Rev. Fr Romeo Lewis (Diocesan Estate Manager - Ex-officio)

Mr Danny Pinto (Nominated Member)

Mr Sandeep Leo Almeida (Nominated Member).

I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all the members of the committee.

10. PREACHERS FOR RETREATS

For retreats that involve inviting priests from outside the Diocese, except the Diocese of Mangalore, please inform my office before fixing the dates of retreats. Additionally, please note that you must obtain my permission to invite lay persons to preach or lead praise and worship sessions in your parishes or institutions. Lay persons must also secure a mandate from their respective Bishop and that should be submitted to my office while seeking permission.

11. CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP-ELECT MSGR JOHN CARVALHO

We rejoice at the appointment of Msgr John Carvalho (55) as the Bishop of Ajmer by Pope Francis on 01 March 2025. With this appointment, he becomes the second Bishop from the new Diocese of Udupi.

Rev. Fr John Carvalho was born on 10 April 1969 in the parish of St Philip Neri, Basrur in our Diocese and was ordained a priest on 13 May 1996 for the diocese of Ajmer. He has a bachelor's degree in education and a Master's degree in Social Work. After his priestly ordination, he was Assistant Parish Priest at St Paul's Church, Kota (1996-1999); In-charge of St Theresa's Church, Ladpura (1999-2001); Director of the Roman Catholic Diocesan Social Work Centre, Ajmer (2001-2007); In-charge of St Martin of Tours Church and Principal of St Martin's School, Bhawanikhera (2010-2015); Parish Priest at St Paul's Church and Principal of St Paul's Sr. Sec. School,

Kota 2015-2020); Diocesan Consultor (2013-2018); Secretary of the Commission for Education (2022-2023). Since 2020, he is the Principal of St Paul's Sr. Secondary School, Alwar Gate, Ajmer.

We thank and praise God for raising Msgr John Carvalho, a native of Udupi Diocese, to the honour of the episcopate. On behalf of the clergy, the religious and the laity, I offer my hearty congratulations and best wishes to the bishop-elect Msgr John Carvalho and implore God's choicest blessings on him and on his future episcopal ministry.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. FAMILY COMMISSION

01 April Regional Family Commission Meeting, Shivamoga
06 April Fathers' day, Karkal-Attur parish
12-13 April Marriage Preparation course
14 April Resource persons meet
19 April Saireek Sangam 2025, Anugraha
26-27 April Marriage Preparation course

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

RUBY JUBILEE OF SACERDOTAL ORDINATION

Msgr. Ferdinand Gonsalves, Vicar General, Parish
Priest and Rector, Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur 16-04-2025

Rev. Fr Jerome A. Monteiro, Parish Priest,
Our Lady of Fathima Church, Pernal 16-04-2025

CONGRATULATIONS DEAR REV. FATHERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025

For the use of the new technologies

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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