

VOX NOSTRA

Vol XII

AUGUST 2024

No. 8

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ANNIVERSARY OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA

The eighth anniversary of the proclamation and dedication of St Lawrence Minor Basilica at Attur, Karkal will be celebrated with the beginning of the novena to St Lawrence on Thursday, 01 August 2024, at 09.00 am in preparation for the titular feast. The titular feast of St Lawrence will be celebrated on **Saturday, 10 August 2024** with the festal mass at 10.30 am. I invite you all to these celebrations as we thank God for the gift of this Basilica to our Diocese and the numerous favours granted to the devotees through the powerful intercession of St Lawrence. Kindly inform the faithful about these celebrations at Minor Basilica and encourage them to participate in the Novena and the Eucharistic celebrations.

2. ST JOHN MARY VIANNEY

The memorial of St John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of Parish Priests, is celebrated on 04 August every year. In his encyclical *Sacerdotii nostri primordia* written in 1959 for the 100th anniversary of St John Vianney's death, Pope John XXIII called St John Vianney a 'model of priestly holiness': "The priest is no longer supposed to live for himself. He must be aflame with charity toward everyone. Not even his thoughts, his will, his feelings belong to him, for they are rather those of Jesus Christ who is his life." I wish you, dear Rev. Fathers, retired and in service, a very happy feast. I invite you to celebrate the gift of priesthood so that it becomes truly rewarding both for ourselves and

for the people entrusted to our care. May St John Vianney intercede for us, all!

3. ORIENTATION ON THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN

An orientation session on the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan has been organised in English on **Wednesday, 07 August 2024** from 09.30 am to 04.30 pm at Anugraha Pastoral Centre for all Parish Priests, Assistant Priests, Diocesan Directors of Pastoral Commissions and a lay person from each Pastoral Commission chosen by the Diocesan Director. The registration begins at 09.00 am. I request all participants to participate in this orientation session which is geared towards preparing the new Diocesan Pastoral Plan, which needs to be integrated with regional and national pastoral plan and implemented in the Diocese.

4. PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY

The Church in India celebrates the Prison Ministry Sunday on **11 August 2024** on the theme: “Prisoners are our friends.” As we celebrate the Prison Ministry Sunday, let us consider prisoners our friends and do whatever possible for their integral human development. Let us collaborate with Prison Ministry India to rehabilitate and reintegrate these broken, vulnerable, rejected, lonely, deprived, harmed, damaged, destroyed, hurt and injured brethren behind bars. I acknowledge and appreciate the PMI volunteers for their profound commitment to reforming and reintegrating the prisoners, which we all know is a very challenging task. May St Maximilian Kolbe, the patron of Prison Ministry India, intercede for the fruitfulness of this ministry and may Mary, our blessed Mother, be always there to protect us as we rededicate ourselves to the integral human development of our imprisoned brethren.

5. NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY

National Youth Sunday to be celebrated on **11 August 2024** this year, is a celebration of youth, an expression of the Church in India and an intense moment of evangelization for the world of the youth. Like the World Youth Day pilgrimage, National Youth Sunday is a special

day for young people. It is a time to recognise the incredible energy and faith, young people bring to our community. The theme for this year's National Youth Sunday: "Those who hope in the Lord will run and not be weary." Inspired by Isaiah 40:31, it reminds us that God's strength fuels our journeys. I request the Commission for Youth along with ICYM/YCS in all parishes to celebrate the National Youth Sunday in a befitting manner.

6. SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

We celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady on **Thursday, 15 August 2024**. The feast has its origin in the 5th Century. St Juvenal of Jerusalem stated as early as the Council of Chalcedon in 451 that Our Lady, after her death, was assumed body and soul into heaven. Pope Pius XII, on 1 November 1950, in *Munificentissimus Deus* officially defined the doctrine of the Assumption as an article of the Catholic Faith. He stated: "By the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our authority, we pronounce, declare, and define as divinely revealed dogma: The Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, after her life on earth, was assumed, body and soul to the glory of heaven." Since it is a Day of Obligation in India too, I exhort Parish Priests to arrange sufficient Masses so that the faithful can partake in the Holy Eucharist.

On the same day, as proud citizens of India, we celebrate the Independence Day of our nation. Although our country has achieved a lot during the 77 years since Independence, we are aware of the problems faced by all sections of people in our society. Hence as we celebrate Independence Day, let us join our fellow citizens and strive to uphold the rights of all enshrined in the Constitution and work towards redeeming our country from all divisive forces. I offer you my festal greetings and best wishes on the occasion of Independence Day.

7. KALMADY SHRINE FEAST

The second anniversary and the annual shrine feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni Shrine at Kalmady will be held on **Thursday, 15 August 2024** with the solemn Eucharistic celebration at 10.30 am. The annual feast is centred on the theme: “Pilgrims Devotedly Walking with Mary, Queen of Hope.” The other masses on the day will be at 07.30 am, 04.00 pm (Konkani) and 06.00 pm (English). The novena in preparation for the feast will begin on Tuesday, 06 August 2024 with the hoisting of the flag at 03.45 pm followed by mass at 04.00 pm. I invite you all to these celebrations as we thank God for the gift of this Marian Shrine to our Diocese and the numerous favours granted to the devotees through the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Vailankanni. Kindly inform the faithful about these celebrations at this Shrine and encourage them to participate in the Novena and the Eucharistic celebrations.

8. JUSTICE SUNDAY

The Justice Sunday this year falls on **18 August 2024**, the Sunday after Independence Day. The CBCI Office for Justice, Peace and Development has chosen the theme *Human Dignity Beyond Every Question: A Call to Action for Justice*. This year, the Justice Sunday celebration is based on the Declaration *Dignitas Infinita* from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, released in April 2024, which focuses on the unlimited dignity of the human person. It suggests some practical steps of action for upholding human dignity. Let us celebrate the day meaningfully under the leadership of the Commission for Justice and Peace in our Diocese.

9. FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY MASS IN MEMORY OF MSGR BAPTIST MENEZES

The first death anniversary mass in memory of the Late Msgr Baptist Menezes, our former Vicar General will be celebrated on **23 August 2024 at 11.00 am** at Our Lady of Health Church, Shirva. We remember with gratitude his immense services as the first Vicar General of the

Diocese and his contribution to the all-round growth of the Diocese. I invite all priests to join in concelebration with me at this mass and pray for the repose of the soul of our dear Msgr Baptist Menezes.

10. SAD DEMISE OF V. REV. FR VALERIAN MENDONCA, RECTOR OF MILAGRES CATHEDRAL

03 July 2024 turned out to be a very sad day for our diocese due to the sudden, shocking and unexpected passing away of our beloved V. Rev. Fr Valerian Mendonca, Rector of Milagres Cathedral and Dean of Kallianpur Deanery. He was born on 09 December 1949 at Pilar, Shirva and was ordained to the priesthood on 07 May 1976. He held an MA in English and a Diploma in Communications (Radio & AV Aids), alongside a BTh from Urban University, Rome. As a priest, he served as an Assistant Director at St Anthony's Ashram at Jeppu, Assistant Priest at Omzoor and Kallianpur-Milagres, Vice Principal at Milagres, Mangalore, Lecturer, Vice Principal, Principal at Milagres College, Kallianpur, Principal at Pompei College, Kirem, Parochial Administrator at Tallur, Parish Priest at Barkur and the Chancellor of the Diocese, Parish Priest at Udupi before taking charge as the Rector of the Cathedral. As a talented musician, composer, and singer, he composed numerous songs, poems, and religious lyrics in Konkani, Kannada, English, and Hindi. He always rendered his helping hand in the editing of various administrative documents at the Diocesan level. The Diocese remains ever grateful to him for his humble, humane and dedicated services to the Diocese and the people of God. May God grant him eternal rest as a reward for his committed priestly life. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family members, the clergy and the parishioners of Milagres Cathedral.

11. NEW RECTOR TO MILAGRES CATHEDRAL

Msgr Ferdinand Gonsalves, the Vicar General of the Diocese, has been appointed as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Milagres Cathedral Parish, the Rector of Milagres Cathedral and the Dean of Kallianpur Deanery w.e.f. 13 July 2024. His residence will be at Milagres-

Kallianpur. Priests, the religious and the laity can approach him at Milagres-Kallianpur. He will also be available in his Vicar General's office at Bishop's House, Udupi on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon.

12. NEW AUXILIARY BISHOPS TO THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BANGALORE

The Holy Father has appointed Fr Joseph Soosainathan (60) and Fr Arokia Raj Satis Kumar (47) as the auxiliary bishops of the Bangalore Archdiocese.

Fr Joseph Soosainathan was born on 14 May 1964 in Bangalore. He studied philosophy at St Peter's Pontifical Seminary and theology at St Paul's Seminary in the diocese of Tiruchirappalli. He was ordained a priest on 15 May 1990 for the Archdiocese of Bangalore. He held the following responsibilities: assistant parish priest of the St Joseph and St Francis Xavier Cathedral (1990-1991); Parish Priest of St Anne (1991-1997), St John Evangelist (1997-2004), Our Lady of Fatima (2004-2010 and 2017-2020), Sts Peter and Paul (2010-2017) and Sacred Heart (from 2020).

Fr Arokia Raj Satis Kumar was born on 5 September 1977 in Bangalore. He studied Philosophy and Theology at St Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore and was ordained priest on 2 May 2007 for the Archdiocese of Bangalore. He held the following responsibilities and also did higher studies: Assistant Parish priest of St Joseph, St Francis Xavier's Cathedral and Christ the King in Malleswaram (2007-2010); Masters in Canon Law from St Peter's Pontifical Institute in Bangalore (2010-2012); Parish priest of Christ the King in Malleswaram (2012-2014); Doctorate in Canon Law at Pontifical Urban University of Rome (2014-2017); since 2017, Judge of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal; Since 2018, Rector of the Bhakti Bhavan Minor Seminary and the Parochial Administrator of Lourdes in Tumkur; from 2019, Diocesan Chancellor; from 2020, Professor of Canon Law at St Peter's Pontifical Institute in Bangalore; from 2021, Coordinator of the studies of the Major Seminarians.

We congratulate Msgr Joseph Soosainathan and Msgr Arokia Raj Satis Kumar on their appointment as the new Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Bangalore and offer our best wishes and prayers as they embark on the episcopal journey in the Archdiocese of Bangalore.

13. A WORD OF GRATITUDE

Our annual retreat, held from July 14 to 19, was a joyful spiritual experience for all of us. I am delighted by your active participation in all common spiritual exercises. I thank the preacher, Rev. Fr Joseph Abraham, CSsR, for his inspiring sessions, deeply rooted in the Word of God. Thanks to our deans and priests, who shouldered various responsibilities such as liturgy, singing and other arrangements. I remain grateful to the Director, Rev. Fr Santosh Rodrigues, and his team of the Pastoral Institute, Mangalore, for making our stay comfortable and our retreat a pleasant spiritual experience.

14. DEMISE OF ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS OF BANGALORE

Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop Emeritus Archdiocese passed away on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 at St. John's, Bangalore. Abp. Alphonse was born on 22 June 1928 as the fourth child of Diego Mathias, and Philomena D'Souza at Pangla, presently in our Diocese. He was ordained a priest on 24 August 1954 at Candy. After serving at St Joseph's Parish, Bajpe as an assistant parish priest, he was sent to Rome in 1955 for higher studies in Canon Law and International Civil Law. Upon his return in 1959, he served as the secretary to Bishop Raymond D'Mello and as the chancellor of the diocese.

At the age of 35, he was appointed as the first Bishop of the newly created diocese of Chikmagalur on 16 November 1963 and ordained Bishop on 5 February 1964. He attended the Second Vatican Council as a Council Father. He was appointed Archbishop of Bangalore on 12 September 1986 and on 3 December 1986, he took charge as the Metropolitan Archbishop. At the age of 69, he sent his resignation to Rome and it was accepted on 24 March 1998.

He was elected as the president of the CBCI for two terms in 1989 and 1993. He was the Chairman of St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore (1974-1982). He was the Chairman of the Commission for Social Communications of the Federation of the Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC); President of Radio Veritas, Manila; a member of the Pontifical Commission for Social Communications and the Council for Justice and Peace, Vatican.

We offer our heartfelt condolences both to the Archbishop of Bangalore and the Bishop of Chickmagalur and to all the priests and faithful of both dioceses. We pray that God may grant eternal reward to Archbishop Alphonsus Mathias.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

OBITUARY

Mr Rudolph Pinto (65 Yrs), Br/o Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto, Executive Director, *Sampada*, Anugraha, passed away on Wednesday, 10 July 2024 and the funeral was held on Friday, 12 July 2024 at St Francis Xavier Church, Udyavara.

**May God grant him eternal rest. We offer our heartfelt
condolences to dear Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto**

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR BECS

02.08.2024 -- DAT meeting.

04.08.2024 -- Milagres Cathedral from 3 to 5.30 pm

11.08.2024 -- Kemman parish from 3 to 5.30 pm

13.08.2024 -- Pamboor parish from 3 to 5.30 pm

18.08.2024 -- Perampalli Parish from 3 to 5.30 pm

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

2. FAMILY COMMISSION

- 01 Aug. Regional Family Commission meet, Mangaore
04 Aug. Proximate Preparation for Family Life Manipal parish youth
04 Aug. Marriage Enrichment Kundapur
04 Aug. Remote Preparation for Family Life 7, 8, 9 & 10 std students Shirva Deanery
07 Aug. astoral Commission Training Workshop
10 Aug. India's March for Life, Prolife Rally at Trissur, Kerala
11 Aug. Remote Preparation for Family Life 7, 8, 9 & 10 std students Kallianpur Deanery
18 Aug. Marriage Enrichment Basrur
18 Aug. Remote Preparation for Family Life 7, 8, 9 & 10 std students Kundapur Deanery
19-20 Aug. Regional meet at KROSS Bangalore
25 Aug. Remote Preparation for Family Life 7, 8, 9 & 10 std students Udupi Deanery
25 Aug. Proximate Preparation for Family Life Kundapur parish youth

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**
Email: **voxnostaeditor@gmail.com** Editor: **Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**
(For Private circulation only)