

VOX NOSTRA

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No. 8

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. TITULAR FEAST AT ST LAWRENCE BASILICA

We begin the month with the ninth anniversary of the proclamation and dedication of the St Lawrence Minor Basilica at Attur, Karkal, a cherished spiritual treasure in our Diocese. The novena in preparation for the titular feast will commence on Friday, 01 August 2025 at 9:00 am. The Titular Feast of St Lawrence will be celebrated with solemnity and devotion on **Sunday, 10 August 2025 at 10.30 am**. I warmly invite all the faithful to join in this celebration of thanksgiving to God for the countless graces received through the powerful intercession of St Lawrence. Parish Priests are kindly requested to inform the faithful and encourage their participation in the novena and feast.

2. ST JOHN MARY VIANNEY- JUBILEE OF PRIESTS

On Monday, 04 August 2025, we celebrate the memorial of St John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. As part of our Diocesan plan for the Year of Jubilee 2025, **Sunday, 03 August 2025**, will be celebrated as the Jubilee of Priests. On this special day, I invite all parishes to come together in thanking God for the precious gift of the priesthood and in honouring our priests for their life of commitment and dedicated service. We give thanks especially for their tireless work in the service of all parishioners—accompanying them in faith, offering the sacraments, and guiding them in love and truth. This celebration is an opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to our priests, who continue to be living witnesses of Christ's compassion, humility, and pastoral care.

Besides the parish level celebration of the Jubilee of priests, I request the Vicars Forane to celebrate this day in the Deanery in a befitting manner inviting all priests of the Deanery. Let this Jubilee of Priests be a moment of grace, renewal, and deepened communion within our diocesan family.

3. PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY – JUBILEE OF PRISONERS

On **August 10, 2025**, we observe Prison Ministry Sunday with the theme: “Fallen Humans May Rise Again on Wings of Prayer.” This day invites us to reflect on the Gospel truth that no one is beyond the reach of God’s mercy. In Jesus Christ, who forgave the repentant thief on the Cross, we find the perfect model of compassion and hope for all—especially the incarcerated. As we journey through the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in prison and support initiatives that uphold their dignity and right to begin anew.

Prison Ministry India (PMI) brings this mission to life by serving prisoners through prayer, counseling, legal aid, and rehabilitation. Their efforts remind us that the Church is not a place of condemnation, but a sanctuary of healing and restoration. 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.

As we celebrate the Jubilee of Prisoners in our Diocese, I urge every parish to include prisoners and their families in your intentions, and to open hearts to welcome those who seek a second chance. A second collection will be made by the Society of St Vincent De Paul which will be used at the Diocesan level for the Prison Ministry.

4. NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY – JUBILEE OF YOUTH

As we celebrate National Youth Sunday and Jubilee of Youth on **10 August 2025**, I invite all parish priests and the parish youth commissions

to take special care in observing this day meaningfully and prayerfully. This year's theme, taken from John 15:27, "You also are my witnesses, because you have been with me," calls our young people to live as authentic witnesses of Christ in today's world—a world that longs for truth, hope, and love. I encourage all parishes to organize special youth-led liturgies, testimony-sharing, social outreach, and faith-based programs that highlight the role of youth as missionaries in their families, parishes, and society. Let this Sunday not be just a celebration, but a motivator for renewed youth ministry in our Diocese. Let us walk together in faith, with our young people at the heart of the Church's mission.

5. SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION AND INDEPENDENCE DAY

On **Friday, 15 August 2025**, we will joyfully celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a central feast in our liturgical calendar and a Day of Obligation for the faithful. I request all Parish Priests to make arrangements for sufficient Masses, ensuring that the faithful can participate in the Holy Eucharist. The collection on this day is to be sent to the Bishop's House for *Communio*-India.

As we celebrate this significant liturgical feast, we are graced by its convergence with a profoundly important national occasion: the 79th anniversary of India's Independence. Independence Day is not merely a historical commemoration; it is an enduring call to conscience. It invites us—as citizens and as members of the Body of Christ—to give thanks for the gift of freedom, purchased at great cost by those who envisioned a sovereign and democratic India. In this context, gratitude must lead to renewed commitment. We are called to be vigilant stewards of this freedom, upholding the values enshrined in our Constitution: justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

As disciples of Christ and participants in the mission of the Church, we must discern how our faith compels us to engage the world—not with passive observance but with active witness. The Gospel imperative to work for justice and peace becomes particularly urgent in times marked by social fragmentation and ideological polarization. The dignity of every human person, created in the image of God, must remain our unwavering standard, especially as we navigate complex realities of religious, cultural, and political difference.

Let us, therefore, as Church and as citizens, recommit ourselves to the arduous but grace-filled task of nation-building. Let us be bridge-builders in a divided world—witnesses to the unity that the Holy Spirit engenders, and defenders of the rights and freedoms that belong to all people by virtue of their inherent dignity. In doing so, we manifest the love of Christ and contribute meaningfully to the common good.

May this dual celebration deepen our resolve to be faithful to both our heavenly calling and our earthly citizenship. In a spirit of hope, solidarity, and prayerful action, let us journey forward—ever grateful, ever vigilant, ever committed.

6. OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI SHRINE ANNUAL FEAST

The third anniversary and annual feast of Our Lady of Vailankanni Diocesan Shrine at Kalmady will be held on **Friday, 15 August 2025**, with the festal Mass at 10:30 am. Additional Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 am, 4:00 pm (Konkani), and 6:00 pm (English). The novena in preparation for the feast begins on Wednesday, 06 August 2025, with the flag hoisting at 3:45 pm, followed by Mass at 4:00 PM. The feast this year is centred on the theme: *“Mary: Queen of Hope.”* I invite all the faithful to prayerfully participate in the novena and feast day celebrations. All Parish Priests are kindly requested to inform the faithful and encourage their participation in the novena and feast. May our

devotion to Our Lady of Vailankanni strengthen our hope and deepen our love for the Lord.

7. JUSTICE SUNDAY

This year, the Church observes Justice Sunday on **24 August 2025** with the theme: “A Call for Climate Justice and the Common Home: Ecological Conversion, Transformation, and Resistance to False Solutions.” This theme, drawn from the joint message of Catholic Episcopal Conferences from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, prepares the Church to engage prophetically ahead of COP30 in Brazil.

The climate crisis is no longer a distant threat. Global warming has reached 1.55°C, with Asia experiencing the most severe impacts in 2024. Our response must move beyond symbolic gestures to true ecological conversion, as Pope Francis urged in *Laudato Si’*. This conversion calls us to rethink our lifestyles, confront unjust systems, and care for creation as our shared responsibility.

Let us commit to protecting our common home with courage, unity, and hope—living the Gospel by defending both the Earth and the dignity of all who dwell upon it. Let us celebrate the day meaningfully under the leadership of the Commission for Justice and Peace in our Diocese.

8. PASTORAL CONSULTATION 2025

At the Council of Priests meeting held on 24 June 2025, it was proposed to hold our Pastoral Consultation 2025 over two days of reflection, dialogue, and discernment. I am pleased to announce that the dates have been finalized as **Thursday and Friday, 09 & 10 October 2025**. With great hope and anticipation, I hereby officially convene the Pastoral Consultation 2025 on these dates. It will be a special time for us to come together as a presbyteral community, to

renew our shared mission, and to chart our pastoral priorities in the spirit of communion and co-responsibility.

I earnestly request all our priests to keep these dates free and make it a point to be present in full, contributing your valuable insights and presence to this important diocesan event. Let us journey together in faith and fraternity, building a vibrant and missionary Church.

The annual General Body Meeting of PWS will also take place during the Consultation.

9. DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025

The Diocesan Directory 2025—essential guide to the life and mission of our Diocese—is now available. Priced at just Rs. 150/- per copy, it can be obtained from the Bishop’s House (with the Procurator) and at Divya Jyothi, Anugraha Pastoral Centre.

We warmly encourage all priests and religious superiors—both men and women—to keep a copy on hand for easy reference, effective communication, and better collaboration in our shared pastoral ministry.

10. RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION U/S 12A, 12AA, 12 AB AND 80G OF INCOME TAX ACT

As you are aware, the registration of Charitable Trusts under Section 12A and 12AA, 12AB and 80G of Income Tax Act, 1961 is valid upto AY 2026-27 i.e. upto 31.03.2026. The application for renewal of registration has to be submitted to the Commissioner of Income Tax online in Form No.10A at least 6 months before the expiry of the existing registration. That means the application for renewal of registration has to be submitted on or before **30 September 2025**.

The following are the documents that need to be submitted while applying for renewal (whichever applicable):

- 1) Self-certified copy of the instrument/ document creating the Trust i.e. Trust Deed.

- 2) Self-certified copy of the instrument/ document evidencing the creation of the Society.
- 3) Self-certified copy of registration with Registrar of Companies or Registrar of Firms and Societies or Registrar of Public Trusts, as the case may be;
- 4) Self-certified copy of existing order granting registration under section 12A or section 12AA or section 12AB or section 80G.
- 5) Self-certified copies of the annual accounts of the institution relating 3 years immediately preceding the year in which the application for which accounts have been made up.
- 6) Self-certified copies of the order of rejection of application for grant of registration under section 12AB or 80G.
- 7) Self-certified copy of the documents evidencing adoption or modification of the objects.
- 8) Note on the activities of the trust including photographs and the number of beneficiaries.

Since certain changes have been introduced in the Union Budget 2025 regarding the duration of registration renewal, you are kindly requested to **consult your Auditors** and proceed with the renewal of registration as per their instructions.

11. DIOCESAN SYNODAL FACILITATION TEAM

In the light of the directives received from the General Secretariat of the Synod and in response to the call of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to journey together as a Synodal Church rooted in Communion, Participation, and Mission, the Diocesan Synodal Facilitation Team is hereby constituted:

1. V. Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza, Chancellor - **Coordinator**
2. Msgr Ferdinand Gonsalves, Vicar General and Dean, Kalliappnur Deanery
3. V. Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza, Dean, Karkal Deanery

4. V. Rev. Fr (Dr) Leslie D'Souza, Dean, Shirva Deanery
5. V. Rev. Fr Paul Rego, Dean, Kundapur Deanery
6. V. Rev. Charles Menezes, Dean, Udupi Deanery
7. Sr Janet Rego, Vice President, CRI, Udupi
8. Mrs Sylvia Soares, Director, Women Commission
9. Mr Jerald Pinto, Director, Laity Commission
10. Mr Leslie Arouza, Secretary, Diocesan Pastoral Council

This team will assist in implementing the Synod 2021-24 and in animating synodal life in the Diocese, fostering a culture of listening, discernment, participation, and missionary outreach.

12. ANNUAL RETREAT: A HEARTFELT NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Our annual retreat, held from July 13 to 18, was a grace-filled time of renewal, reflection, and deep communion with the Lord. It brought immense joy to witness the wholehearted participation of each one of you in our shared spiritual journey. With deep gratitude, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr Assisi Saldanha, CSsR, whose Spirit-filled preaching, grounded in the Word of God, touched our hearts and guided us into deeper silence, listening, and inner conversion. His reflections were not only inspiring but also stirred within us a renewed zeal for our pastoral mission.

I am also profoundly grateful to our Vicars Forane and priests especially Rev. Fr Wilson D'Souza, who graciously embraced various responsibilities—from organizing the liturgy and leading the singing to ensuring the smooth flow of all arrangements. A special word of thanks to Rev. Fr Santosh Rodrigues, Director of the Pastoral Institute, Mangalore, and his ever-supportive team. Their warm hospitality, thoughtful care, and meticulous planning made our stay both comfortable and spiritually nourishing.

13. NEW MASS FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

In a significant step reflecting the Church's commitment to environmental stewardship, the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has promulgated a new Mass formulary "For the Care of Creation" (*Pro custodia creationis*). Approved by the Holy Father, this new liturgical text is now officially part of the Roman Missal under the section of "Masses for Various Needs."

Rooted in the teachings of Scripture and enriched by the insights of saints and recent popes, the formulary invites the faithful to contemplate the mystery of creation as a divine gift and responsibility. Quoting St. Augustine, the decree begins: "*Let Your works praise You, that we may love You; and let us love You, that Your works may praise You.*" It reminds us that creation, which began in God and is fulfilled in Christ, is part of the ongoing story of salvation.

The decree echoes Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'*, lamenting the harm done to the environment through misuse and neglect, and it encourages the faithful to take seriously their vocation as stewards of the earth. The Eucharist, described as the "source of light and motivation" for this mission, helps orient our concern for creation toward its divine purpose.

The newly approved Mass texts and readings provide parishes and communities with liturgical tools to pray for and reflect on the care of our common home. This is particularly timely during the annual *Season of Creation* (September 1 to October 4), but it may be used at any appropriate occasion throughout the year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 
+ Gerald Isaac Lobo

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR LITURGY

- 03 August** - Training at Diocesan Level for newly selected Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Anugraha - 9.30 am to 4.00 pm.
- 17 August** - Training for Lectors and Cantors of Thottam Parish
- 20 August** - Liturgical Formation for the clergy of the first group (priests ordained from 1998 to 2025 - 1st to 28th year of ordination) at Anugraha - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.
- 24 August** - Training for lectors of Karkal Deanery - 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.
- 27 August** - Practical session on Eucharist for Altar Servers of Kundapur Deanery at Byndoor
- 27 August** - Liturgical Seminar for the liturgy group of Udyavar Parish
- 31 August** - Training for lectors of Kundapur Deanery- 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Rev. Fr Wilson D'Souza
Director

2. COMMISSION FOR BEC

- 11.08.2025 - Bible Mirror method training at Perampally
- 17.08.2025 - Look, Listen and Love Gospel Sharing method
Training at Katpady
- 31.08.2025 - BEC training for Youth at Kanajar

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

3. FAMILY COMMISSION

03 Aug	Remote preparation for Family life – Shirva Deanery
03 Aug	Men's and Women's Day - Pangala parish
09 Aug	March for Life – National level Pro-life Rally, Bangalore
10 Aug	Proximate Preparation Youth & Parents – Thirthahalli, Shimoga Diocese
17 Aug	Remote preparation for Family life – Kundapur Deanery
24 Aug	Remote preparation for Family life – Udupi Deanery
24 Aug	Family Talk for youth & Parents – Tallur parish
24 Aug	Talk - Udupi Deanery Council 4pm
31 Aug	Marriage Enrichment – Katpady parish
31 Aug	Marriage Enrichment – Kulshekar, Mangalore Diocese

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

OBITUARY

Mr Isidore Antony Crasta (67), Brother of Rev. Fr Vincent Crasta, Director, Anugraha Pastoral Centre and Secretary, Catholic Educational Society of Udupi Diocese (CESU), passed away on 05 July 2025 at 8.00 pm. The funeral mass was held on Sunday, 06 July 2025 at 4.30 pm at St Antony Church, Padukone. May God grant him eternal rest. We offer our heart condolences to Rev. Fr Vincent Crasta and the family.

UDUPI DIOCESAN SERVICE COMMUNION (UDSC) ***(Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Movement)***

Since its humble beginnings in 2012, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR) Movement in the Diocese of Udupi has been a source of spiritual awakening—rekindling faith, deepening prayer, and drawing hearts closer to the Lord. Under the guidance of Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta, Diocesan Spiritual Director, and Mr Vincent Fernandes, Diocesan Coordinator, the Renewal continues to bear fruit in the lives of many.

Reconstitution of the UDSC Core Team

In keeping with the statutes of the CCR, each office bearer serves for a term of three years. The time has now come to discern and elect a new Core Team. A special two-day session filled with prayer and spiritual reflection will be held at **‘ARADHANA’ Chapel, Anugraha Pastoral Centre on August 9–10, 2025**, culminating in the election of new Core Team.

Directives to Strengthen the Movement

To renew the CCR across every level of the Diocese, the present Core Committee has prayerfully proposed the following pastoral guidelines:

I. Parish Level

All Parish Priests are encouraged to form a Prayer/Intercessory Group within their parish and appoint a dedicated Lay Coordinator, preferably the Convener of the Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization to animate CCR activities under their guidance. The appointed person should:

- a) Be a practicing Catholic and a registered member of the parish.
- b) Be actively involved in at least one of the parish commissions or associations.
- c) Have either previously contributed to the Renewal or show a sincere desire to serve in this apostolate.
- d) Be willing to take part in the two-day discernment session on August 9–10, 2025.

II. Deanery Level

All Deans are requested to entrust the responsibility of the Deanery Spiritual Director at deanery level to the Director of the Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization to accompany and oversee CCR efforts at the deanery level and also appoint a Deanery Lay Coordinator.

III. Organizational Structure

To maintain coordination, the CCR is structured at three levels:

- a) Parish Level—A small intercessory group under a Lay Coordinator under the guidance of the Parish Priest.
- b) Deanery Level—A Lay Coordinator supported by the Deanery Spiritual Director.
- c) Diocesan Level—A Core Team of lay leaders and the Diocesan Spiritual Director to guide vision, leadership, and direction.

IV. Forthcoming Event: Diocesan Mega Bible Convention

With hearts full of joy, we announce the Diocesan Mega Bible Convention, to be held during the **First Week of Advent, 2025**. This grace-filled event will unite the faithful from across the Diocese for powerful worship, deep Scriptural teaching, and Spirit-led renewal. All are invited to come and experience the life-changing power of God's Word.

As we move forward, we place this mission in the hands of the Holy Spirit, trusting in His wisdom and power to lead us. May the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese of Udupi continue to flourish in faith, unity, and joyful service.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts -
— *Zechariah 4:6*

With blessings and prayers,
Rev. Fr Vincent Robert Crasta
Diocesan Spiritual Director

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