

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VIII

DECEMBER 2020

No. 12

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Since we are in the pandemic and gatherings in large numbers are prohibited, we request you all to take sufficient precautions while organizing the celebrations on Christmas and the season thereafter. A new book in Konkani with Novena for Christmas has been published and you may use it for Novena after masses on days preceding Christmas. Kindly avoid celebrations outside the church after Mass on Christmas and also the visiting of houses in groups by kids, youth and elders, singing the Christmas Carols this year. The faithful may be encouraged to pray the Novena in their homes.

2. ALLELUIA - GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

As per the direction of the Congregation for the Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments (CDWDS), we need to retain ALLELUIA in our liturgy. Hence, from Advent 2020, we shall sing only ALLELUIA and avoid Alle, Allelu, Jai Jai and Sorvesporak Jai Jai. I request the parish priests to instruct the choir/ those who lead singing in the parish, and follow the direction. The Audio for Alleluias prepared by the Mangalore Diocese for every liturgical season and celebration of the sacraments, is available on its Youtube Channel. The musical notation is available at Divya Jyothi.

3. THE FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY – FAMILY DAY

The feast of the Holy Family this year will be celebrated on Sunday, 27 December 2020, and the Church invites us to celebrate this feast as the **Day of Families**. Setting the Holy Family as a model for Christian families, Pope Francis says: “The covenant of love and fidelity lived by the Holy Family of Nazareth illuminates the principle which gives shape to every family, and enables it better to face the vicissitudes of life and history. On this basis, every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world.” (*Amoris Laetitia*, #66). In the face of the multitude of challenges faced by Catholic families at present, let us highlight and appreciate the contribution of families in the mission of the Church, and also accompany the families through our pastoral care by visiting and praying with them in their homes without any discrimination, supporting them financially, emotionally and spiritually in their struggles, and thus ensure the closeness of the Church in their daily lives.

4. NEW CEMETERY FOR PRIESTS

The new cemetery for the priests of our Diocese was blessed on 2 November 2020 at Mount Rosary Church, Santhekatte. The land for the cemetery was donated by the parish and the work of setting up the spacious cemetery was overseen by Rev. Dr Leslie D’Souza, Parish Priest. We profusely thank him, Assistant Rev. Fr Steevan Fernandes and the parishioners for their generosity of land to fulfil the need of the Diocese, and we pray God’s bountiful blessings on them.

5. RITE OF MARRIAGE IN ENGLISH

The revised Rite of Marriage in English, published by CCBI, has come into effect in India from 05 April 2020, Palm Sunday. I hereby direct all parish priests to use this

new rite in the celebration the marriage in English in all the parishes. The copies are available at Divya Jyothi.

6. CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

We are in the season of Advent which culminates in the celebration of the birthday of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas has always been a time of joyful celebration for all over the world, irrespective of the faith traditions they belong to. The celebration has a flavor of tradition and newness in our community, which includes preparation and sharing of Kuswar, singing of Christmas carols and visiting houses in the parish, preparing cribs at homes and the festive celebrations at parish level with new and colourful dresses on Christmas and during the season of Christmas. Owing to the current pandemic of Corona Virus for the past 8-9 months and the restrictions imposed to prevent its spread, we may not be able to celebrate Christmas in the same way as in the past years. Although we hear the good news of the success of various vaccines, we need to take care of ourselves, our families and our people. There is also talk of a second wave or third wave as it has happened in some cities in our country. Let us keep this in mind during the celebration of Christmas and also exhort the people to take care of themselves.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember the mercy of God towards us during the past 8-9 months, protecting us from the pandemic. May this feast be an occasion for all of us to experience the joy and peace of God's benevolence. May this feast fill us and our parishioners with joy, peace and new hope amid the gloom of the pandemic. I wish you, dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and all brothers and sisters in the Diocese, a blessed Christmas. Do convey my Christmas greetings to your parishioners and family members. Let us continue to trust in the Lord. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in

believing, so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope” (Rom 15:13) is my prayer for you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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✠ Gerald Isaac Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Victor Fernandes, OFM Cap, Parish Priest, Holy Family Church, Brahmavar – 18-12-2020

Congratulations Dear Rev. Father AD MULTOS ANNOS

BISHOP’S PROGRAM IN DECEMBER 2020

- 01 10.00 am : St Lawrence Basilica Committee Meeting
07 10.00 am : Meeting at Belve Agricultural Colony
08 : KROSS - Meeting
10 09.30 am : Council of Priests Meeting
14 09.30 am : Konkani Region Liturgy Commission Meeting, Goa
19 12.00 noon : Christmas Celebration with Media Persons
21 04.00 pm : Blessing of Houses for Poor, Pamboor
25 : Christmas
28 10.00 am : St Lawrence Basilica Committee Meeting

Published at **Bishop’s House, Udupi - 576 101**

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(For Private circulation only)