

VOX NOSTRA

Vol X

JANUARY 2022

No. 1

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

We begin the new calendar year with the celebration of the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on January 1. This is an occasion for us to celebrate the role of Blessed Virgin Mary in the plan of salvation. Through her *fiat*, Mary became the mother of God and played a significant role in the incarnation of the son of God for the salvation of the world. The historical origin of this dogma of faith concerning Blessed Virgin Mary dates back to the Council of Ephesus held in 431, where it was definitively proclaimed that Mary is not just the mother of Christ or of the human nature of Jesus, as claimed by Nestorius, but also the mother of God since Jesus was both human and divine in nature. As we celebrate this solemnity, let us catechize our faithful on the role of Blessed Virgin Mary in the incarnation of the Son of God and her continual maternal care for the Church even in our times. It is also befitting to promote the devotion of Blessed Virgin Mary, for even today there are attempts to undermine her role in the salvation history through contrary teachings and deny her rightful place in the Church. As she is the patron of our Diocese too, let us entrust ourselves and our ministry during the New Year into her care and seek her patronage in our mission.

2. NEWYEAR 2022

We have stepped into the New Year 2022 with joy and happiness amid concerns of the impending threat of the Omicron variant of the Corona virus. As individuals and as a diocese, we have received numerous blessings during the past year through the benevolence of God. We raise our hearts in gratitude to God for protecting us during

the second wave of the pandemic. Every New Year offers us numerous opportunities for our individual growth and for carrying out our ministry with renewed zeal. While I wish you a grace-filled New Year, I pray that the New Year brings you joy, peace, health and happiness in your lives. May Mother Mary, the patroness of our Diocese, intercede for all of us with her son Jesus to accompany us on our journey through the New Year.

As the ‘Amoris Laetitia Family Year’ continues till 26 June 2022, there won’t be a different separate theme for the year 2022 at the diocesan level. Let us continue to celebrate the Amoris Laetitia Family Year and accompany our families with appropriate programmes and activities specific to each month proposed by the Family Commission in the action plan.

3. WORLD DAY OF PEACE

The Church observes January 1 as the **World Day of Peace** and invites us to pray specially for peace in the world. The Church in India observes it on **January 30**. The pope’s message for the 2022 World Day of Peace, the 55th celebration, is entitled ‘Dialogue between generations, education, and work: tools for building lasting peace.’ In the text, Pope Francis outlines three “paths for building a lasting peace”: promoting dialogue between generations, investing in education, and improving labor conditions. He also calls for a new alliance between the young and elderly to address the problems of isolation and self-absorption heightened by the coronavirus pandemic.

4. BLESSING OF ‘MILAGRES HOME’ AND ‘ANUGRAHA’

In the December 2021 issue of *Vox Nostra*, we had informed you about the inauguration and blessing of the home for retired priests and the pastoral centre on 6th and 13th January 2022 respectively. We also have sent separate personal invitations to both these programmes. Once again, I cordially invite you all to these historic programmes and to witness and celebrate both joyful occasions. Both the programmes will begin on time at 09.30 am. Please be on time for the programmes.

On the 6th, I request you to park your vehicles in the campus of the Milagres Cathedral and walk towards the Milagres Home for the blessing and inauguration function. Since there is no sufficient space for parking of a large number of vehicles in the premises of the new Pastoral Centre on 13 January, I request you to carpool and arrive at the venue in time for its inauguration and blessing.

5. ST LAWRENCE SHRINE BASILICA FEAST

The annual feast of St Lawrence *Shrine* Basilica will be held from 16 to 27 January 2022 with four Masses each from 16 to 22 January and eight masses each from 23 to 27 January 2022 with a different theme and intention for each day, based on the main theme ‘**Christian families are icons of the Divine family**’. The Shrine management committee has met twice and has made adequate arrangements for the smooth movement of the devotees in the premises of the Shrine and also for catering to their spiritual needs during the feast. Kindly inform your parishioners to attend the masses at the Shrine from 16 January itself without waiting for the last days of the feast. More information and guidelines to be followed by the faithful during the feast at the Basilica and in the premises of the Shrine will be sent to you by the Rector of the Shrine, V. Rev. Fr Alban D’Souza. Any changes in the mode of celebrations of the feast, in case of restrictions by government and civil authorities due to the threat of rising cases of Covid, will be informed to you in due time. I request all diocesan and religious priests in the Diocese to render your generous service at the confessionals during the feast and help the faithful to experience forgiveness and mercy from God in this holy place. Each deanery has been allocated a day during the feast for confessional ministry:

23/01/2022	Sunday	Karkal Deanery
24/01/2022	Monday	Udupi Deanery
25/01/2022	Tuesday	Shirva Deanery
26/01/2022	Wednesday	Kundapur Deanery
27/01/2022	Thursday	Kallianpur Deanery

6. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

We observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from January 18 to 25. The theme for the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is: **We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him**(*Mt 2:2*). I hereby exhort the Commission for Ecumenism to celebrate this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity along with non-catholic Christian brethren in your parishes by organizing ecumenical prayer services and gatherings. The resource material for prayer and reflection for the entire week is available in English at <http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en/settimana-di-preghiera-per-l-unita.html>

7. ECUMENISM SUNDAY

23 January 2022, Sunday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, is the Ecumenism Sunday for the Church in India. I appeal to all of you to not only celebrate the Ecumenism Sunday by inserting the prayers for Christian unity during the prayers of the faithful but also to celebrate it in a befitting manner in association with the members of the other Churches and denominations so that the mission of Jesus Christ may be realized in and through our incessant prayers for unity.

8. SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Pope Francis instituted 'The Sunday of the Word of God' to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time. This year the **Sunday of the Word of God** falls on **23 January 2022**. Please find as annexure 2, the liturgy for this year's Sunday of the Word of God with introduction, homiletic reflections, prayers of the faithful and a few suggestions. I exhort every parish priest to celebrate this day meaningfully in association with the Biblical Commission with appropriate programmes to instill a taste for the Word of God among the faithful as a source of support in their Christian living. In order to spiritually nourish ourselves with the Word of God, I exhort all priests and the religious, to devote sufficient time daily to read and meditatively reflect on the Word of God.

9. BLESSING OF BELFRY AND RENOVATED PRESBYTERY AT MUNDKUR

The inauguration and the blessing of the newly built belfry and the presbytery at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Mundkur, was held on 11 December 2021 and 12 December 2021 respectively in the presence of priests and the parishioners. Both the projects were completed by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Ronald Miranda with the cooperation of the Parish Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, generous donors and the faithful of Mundkur Parish. I congratulate Rev. Fr Ronald Miranda and the parishioners for gathering resources and completing both the projects within a short period of time.

10. ANNUAL RETREAT – THANKS

Our annual diocesan clergy retreat, held from December 5 to 10, was a joyful spiritual experience to all of us. I wholeheartedly thank the preacher, Rev. Fr Gregory Pinto, SVD, for his inspiring sessions with a psycho-spiritual approach. I remain grateful to the Deans and all priests who shouldered various responsibilities and looked after the arrangements. I specially thank the Director, Rev. Fr Santosh Rodrigues and his team at the Pastoral Institute, Mangalore, for making our stay comfortable and our retreat a pleasant spiritual experience. The priests who have yet to submit their personal mass diaries for my scrutiny are requested to do the needful by the end of January 2022.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

SILVER JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

Rev. Fr Chetan Lobo, OFM Cap, PRO

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14-01-2022

Congratulations and Best Wishes Dear Rev. Father

OBITUARY

Mrs Christine D'Souza (63 yrs), Sr/o Rev. Fr Dr Leslie D'Souza, Parish Priest, Mount Rosary Church, Santhekatte, expired on 23 December 2021 and the funeral was held on the same day at St Pius X Church, Palimar.

MAY GOD GRANT HER ETERNAL REST

SAMPADA UDUPI

Dear Parish Priests,

Sampada had planned to meet all the Sthree Sanghatan/ Mahasangha members and the interested men and women from the parishes, in the Diocese. This is regarding planning the project on **'the financial stability of our families'** and regarding **'the women commission objectives and 2022 year's activities'**.

Date	Place	Time
02.01.2022	Parapady	08.00 AM
06.01.2022	Kanajar	10.00 AM
08.01.2022	Mt Rosary	03.00 PM
09.01.2022	Barkur	03.00 PM
13.01.2022	Pilar	03.00 PM
14.01.2022	Miyar	09.00 AM
14.01.2022	Karkala Town	03.00 PM
15.01.2022	Kolalgiri	10.00 AM
16.01.2022	Trasi	03.00 PM
17.01.2022	Pamboor	03.00 PM
18.01.2022	Kandlur	10.30 AM
18.01.2022	Pernal	03.00 PM
21.01.2022	Nakre	10.00 AM
22.01.2022	Padukone	10.00 AM
22.01.2022	Gangolli	02.00 PM
23.01.2022	Mukamar	03.00 PM
24.01.2022	Milagress	10.00 AM
24.01.2022	Basrur	03.00 PM
28.01.2022	Kalathur	03.00 PM
29.01.2022	Kundapura	04.00 PM
30.01.2022	Kera	08.00 AM
01.02.2022	Udyavara	10.00 AM
06.02.2022	Kelmbet	08.00 AM

Meetings already over: 13.12.2021 - Pangla; 14.12.2021 - Byndoor
16.12.2021 - Ajekar & Hirgan; 17.12.2021 - Mudarangady;
21.12.2021 - Piusnagar

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto
Executive Director

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