

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD/NEW YEAR 2020**

We begin the new year 2020 with the celebration of the feast of the Mother of God. This is the most important title of Our Lady. It contains a magnificent truth about God and about ourselves. From the moment of our Lord's incarnation in Mary, and for all time, he took on our humanity. There is no longer God without man; the flesh Jesus took from his Mother is our own, now and for all eternity. To call Mary the *Mother of God* reminds us of this: God is close to humanity even as a child is close to the mother who bears him in her womb.

While I wish you a grace-filled New Year, I pray that the New Year brings you joy and peace, health and happiness in your personal life as well as in your ministry in the parishes and institutions. 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.

## **2. WORLD DAY OF PEACE**

January 1, every year, is observed as the **World Day of Peace** in the universal Church which is observed on January 30 in India. Pope Francis' Message for the 53<sup>rd</sup> World Day of Peace describes peace as a journey of hope in the face of obstacles and trials including wars, conflicts, exploitation and corruption. "The desire for peace lies deep within the human heart, and we should not resign ourselves to seeking anything less than this", says Pope Francis.

### 3. SEMINAR FOR PRIESTS

A seminar on the **new Konkani Missal** will be held for the Priests of our Diocese on **20 January 2020 from 9.30 am to 4 pm** at Bishop's House, Udupi. I request all priests, including the religious Priests serving in parishes, to participate in this seminar without fail. This would help us to know the changes in the new Missal and later catechize about the same to our parishioners.

The same seminar will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 for all men and women religious of our Diocese. I request all the religious to attend this seminar on one of these two days without fail and be informed about the new Konkani Missal. V. Rev. Dr Ronald Serrao, Rector of St Joseph Seminary, has kindly consented to be the resource person for these seminars.

### 4. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Jesus prayed for unity: "I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (Jn 17:20-23). This year the prayer for Christian Unity will be held from 18 to 25 January with theme: **They showed us unusual kindness (cf. Acts 28:2)**. The material for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Christian churches in Malta and Gozo (*Christians Together in Malta*). Besides praying for Christian Unity, wherever possible, I request that common prayer services may be held along with the groups of the other Christian denominations so that it gives Christians an annual opportunity to continue their quest for their unity in Christ. You may contact the diocesan Director of the Commission for Ecumenism for the source material for organizing this Prayer for Christian Unity. The material is available in English at <http://www.christianunity.va/content/dam/unitacristiani/Sett>

## 5. ECUMENISM SUNDAY

19 January 2020, Sunday during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, is the Ecumenism Sunday for the Church in India. While the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism has provided material for the liturgy to facilitate the active participation of the faithful in the parishes and religious communities, this is an appeal to all of you not only to keep up with Ecumenism Sunday but also celebrate it in a befitting manner so that the mission of Jesus Christ may be realized in and through our incessant prayers for unity.

## 6. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE SHRINE BASILICA

Preparations are in full swing to celebrate the annual Feast of St Lawrence Basilica at Attur from 26 to 30 January 2020 with the traditional solemnity and devotion with the theme: **“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven” (Mt 5:16)**. While the Parish Church will celebrate Confraternity Sunday on 26 January, the festive celebrations will commence on the same day. Since the Shrine has been raised to the status of the Basilica, we see a steady rise in the number of pilgrims flocking to the Shrine for reconciliation, peace, prayers, favours and blessings. What is heartening to note is the desire of the Catholic faithful to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with great faith and a sense of repentance, which is unique at Attur. Even though nearly 300 priests opt to hear confessions during the days of the Shrine festivities, their availability during the nights of Tuesday and Wednesday, the peak hours of the pilgrims, falls drastically short. Now that we begin the festive celebrations from 26 January itself, even for 26 January, Sunday night onwards, we need to provide sufficient number of priests for confessional facility. Hence, I appeal to all our priests to make themselves available for confessions, especially during the

peak hours, when the presence of people is large and the need of confessors is more. We ought to provide the best spiritual care and facility to them as Priest-Confessors.

While I extend to all of you, dear Fathers, your dear parishioners, Religious Men and Women, and members of your Communities a cordial invitation to the Attur Feast, I request you Rev. Fathers, Diocesan and Religious, to make it a point to make yourself available to hear confessions. Please cooperate wholeheartedly and generously. Happy Feast of St Lawrence to all of you!

## **7. ANNUAL STATISTICS- REMINDER**

We had sent you the format of the annual statistical returns for the year 2019 to be submitted before **30 January 2020**. While I appreciate the Parish Priests who have already sent the returns, I remind and request the remaining parishes to send the same before the deadline which would enable me to forward them to the Secretariat of State in Rome on time.

## **8. BUDGET FOR 2020-21**

According to the Constitution of PFC (3.12.10), all parish priests should prepare the Budget for the financial year 2020-2021 as per the Diocesan Finance Manual, and having placed it before the PFC for its approval, send it over to my office by 28 February 2020 for approval. The Budget-format sheets in duplicate will be sent to you separately.

## **9. DEDICATION OF RENOVATED CHURCH AT BARKUR**

The renovated St Peter Church at Barkur was blessed and dedicated by me on Sunday, 15 December 2019 in the presence of a large number of priests and faithful. The renovation of this beautiful Church was completed in a short time, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Philip Neri Aranha and the whole-hearted cooperation and collaboration by the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, supportive parishioners, generous benefactors and the people of good will who contributed their mite towards the

renovation of the church. I hereby express my sincere thanks and offer my congratulations to Rev. Fr Philip Neri Aranha and the parishioners for working hard, with commitment, in order to realize their dream.

## **10. IMPORTANT DAYS TO BE MARKED IN THE CALENDAR**

- A. Council of Priests' Meetings in 2020: March 25, June 24, September 17 & December 3
- B. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meetings in 2020: February 21, May 28 & November 16
- C. Clergy Annual Retreat: 19-24 July 2020
- D. Meeting of Religious Superiors: 29 March & 13 Dec 2020
- E. Chrism Mass: 2 April 2020
- F. Vianney Day celebration: 4 August 2020

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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✠ Gerald Isaac Lobo  
Bishop of Udupi

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## **COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS**

### **1. DIVYA JYOTHI**

- 04/1/2020 Diocesan Exam in Catechism and Value Education Exam for VII & X Std.  
The schools should collect question papers on 3 January 2020 before 1.00 pm
- 19/1/2020 Liturgy Practice, Attur-Karkal
- 26-30/1/2020 St Lawrence Shrine Basilica, Attur-Karkal  
Feast Liturgy Animation

**Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**  
**Director**

ಸುವಾರ್ತಾ-ಪರ್ಗಟ್ಟಿ ಆಯೋಗ್ ಆನಿ ಕಾರಿಜ್ಞಾತಿಕ್ ಸಂಚಲನ್,  
ಉಡುಪಿ ದಿಯೆಸೆಜ್, ಸಾಂಗಾತಾ ಮಾಂಡುನ್ ಹಾಡ್ತಾತ್

**ಸಾಕ್ರಾಮೆಂತಾಂತ್ಲಾ ಜೆಜುಕ್ ಆರಾಧನ್**  
**ದಿಸಾಚಿಂ 8 ವೊರಾಂ**  
**2020, ಜನವರಿಚ್ಯಾ 2 ತಾರಿಕೆಥಾವ್ನ್**

ಜಾಗೊ : ಉಡುಪಿ ಇಗರ್ಜೆಚ್ಯಾ ಆರಾಧಾನಾಚ್ಯಾ ಕೊಪೆಲಾಂತ್  
ವೇಳ್ : ಹರೈಕಾ ದಿಸಾ ಸಕಾಳಿಂ 9 ಥಾವ್ನ್ ಸಾಂಜೆರ್ 5 ಪರ್ಯಾಂತ್

ಉಡುಪಿ ದಿಯೆಸೆಜಿಂತ್ಲೆ ಲಾಯಿಕ್ ಸುವಾರ್ತಾ ಪರ್ಗಟ್ಲಾರ್, ವಿನೊವ್ಚೆ  
ಪಂಗಡಾಚೆ ಆನಿ ಕಾರಿಜ್ಞಾತಿಕ್ ಸಂಚಲನಾಚೆ ಸಾಂದೆ ಮುಖೆಲ್ಪಣ್ ಘೆತಲೆ.  
ತುಮಿ ಯೆಯಾ ಆನಿ ಹೆರಾಂಕ್ ಆಪೊವ್ನ್ ಹಾಡಾ. ಉಂಡ್ಯಾರುಪಾರ್  
ಹಾಜರ್ ಆಸ್ಚ್ಯಾ ಸಾಕ್ರಾಮೆಂತಾಂತ್ಲಾ ಖಿರ್ಯಾ ದೆವಾಕ್ ಆರಾಧನ್ ಕರ್ಯಾಂ

**ಮಾ| ವಿನೆಂಟ್ ಕ್ರಾಸ್ತಾ**  
**ದಿರೆಕ್ಟೊರ್**  
**ಸುವಾರ್ತಾ ಪರ್ಗಟ್ಟಿ ಆಯೋಗ್**

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## IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY 2020

Jan 1 – 53<sup>rd</sup> World Peace Day  
Jan 20 – World Religion Day  
Jan 20 – World Leprosy Day  
Jan 30 – Martyrs' Day (India)

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