

# VOX NOSTRA

Vol XII

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No. 7

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. LAUDATO SI SUNDAY – 07 JULY 2024**

The *Laudato Si* Sunday in Udupi Diocese will be celebrated on **07 July 2024** under the leadership of the Commission for Ecology and with the cooperation of the Commission for Social Development, *Sthree Sangatan*, *Catholic Sabha*, ICYM and YCS. “The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home,” (# 13, Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*). The Ecological Commission of the Diocese has already communicated through the letter dated 25 May 2024 to prepare for this day and suggested five ways of concretely celebrating the day in parishes. I request the parish priests to organise and celebrate the day by catechizing the faithful on the importance of this day and our shared responsibility in caring for our common home.

## **2. A DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE WOMEN RELIGIOUS**

As part of the Year of Prayer 2024, a full day of prayer for the women religious of Udupi Diocese has been organized on **Sunday, 07 July 2024** at Anugraha Pastoral Centre, Kakkunje. The registration will be at 09.30 am and the day of prayer will begin with a talk at 10.00 am and will conclude at 04.30 pm with tea. Rev. Dr John Sequeira, OCD will help as the animator for the day of prayer. I request all the women religious in the Diocese to participate in this day of prayer without fail.

### **3. ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE DIOCESE**

We step into the thirteenth year of the erection of the diocese of Udupi on **16 July 2024**. The diocese of Udupi was erected on 16 July 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI as a gift to the clergy, religious, and lay faithful of Udupi District. Therefore, remembering and celebrating the day of the erection of the diocese is an occasion for us all in the diocese to joyfully acknowledge the blessings of God in the past 12 years through the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, our patroness. We gratefully thank God the Father through his Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit for their continuous shower of blessings on all our endeavours. The pastoral plan- mission 2025 and various other developmental projects have been completed in this short period in parishes and institutions. The all-round developments carried out by the 20 Commissions under the leadership of directors/secretaries with the cooperation of the parish priests, participatory structures, and the parishioners in all parishes have contributed to the remarkable growth of the Diocese.

We remain grateful to all priests, diocesan and religious, for their tireless and unwavering committed services despite having to shoulder many responsibilities at parish, deanery levels and diocesan levels. Through their charisms and apostolates, the religious in the diocese have contributed a lot to the growth of the diocese through their amiable collaboration in the diocesan plans and projects. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation and the involvement of the lay faithful in all initiatives at the parish, deanery, and diocesan levels. We gratefully remember all donors to the diocesan and parish projects who generously and wholeheartedly contributed in these past years. As we march forward with greater enthusiasm and hope, let us ask the intercession of Our Lady of Miracles, our patroness that we may be able to truly serve the people of God in this local Church with greater commitment and zeal. Let's dedicate ourselves again to be a true witness of our saviour and Lord to all in this particular Church.

### **4. OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

We celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Tuesday, 16 July 2024. Catholics seek the intercessory assistance of

the Blessed Virgin Mary for various needs under different names and titles ascribed to her in the history of the Church. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, popular devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been centered on the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular, a sacramental associated with the promise of Mother Mary's special aid for the salvation of the devoted wearer. The scapular stands for a commitment to follow Jesus, like Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. It is also an expression of the belief that the bearers of the scapular will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayers of Mary, our heavenly Mother. Let us all invoke the maternal help of Our Lady of Mount Carmel as we remember and pray while celebrating her memorial.

## **5. ANNUAL CLERGY RETREAT**

The annual clergy retreat for the priests of Udupi Diocese will be held from **14 to 19 July 2024** at Shanthi Kiran, Bajjodi, Mangalore. I invite all diocesan priests to join this retreat which will help us with our spiritual nourishment and also fill us with renewed vigour in our pastoral work. Rev. Fr Joseph Abraham, CSsR will animate the retreat with his talks and guidance. I request you to reach the venue by 7.30 pm on Sunday, 14 July 2024. The retreat will begin with an introductory talk after the supper. Kindly bring your personal mass diary for my scrutiny when you come for the retreat.

## **6. WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY**

The fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on **Sunday, 28 July 2024**. Pope Francis has chosen a verse from Psalm 71, "Do not cast me off in my old age," as the theme for the day. The theme calls attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in the life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture. By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – "It is not good for man to be

alone” (*Gen 2:18*). In his message, Pope refers to the elderly as “the firm foundation” on which “new” stones can rest, to join in erecting a spiritual edifice (cf. *1 Peter 2:5*.)” Let us read and convey this message of the Holy Father to all the faithful and meaningfully celebrate the day in all parishes highlighting the importance of grandparents and the elderly in families.

## **7. PASTORAL VISITS AND CONFIRMATION**

The pastoral visits to Shirva and Karkal deaneries will begin from January 2025. I kindly request the parish priests of these deaneries to start catechism on Confirmation to children in 10th Std and above from July 2024 based on the textbook for our Diocese. In addition, kindly book the dates of pastoral visit to your parish in consultation with us.

## **8. SCHOOL CATECHISM AND VALUE EDUCATION**

Catechism and Value Education classes in all Catholic educational institutions offer us an opportunity to provide Catechesis to Catholic students and formation in Christian values to other students. “The Catholic institution is a very important *locus* for human and Christian formation. The understanding of institution as community and the efforts made to develop an environment animated by a spirit of freedom and genuine love, to accompany young people to have life in abundance (*Jn 10:10*), to help them discover how the loving hands of God are guiding their lives demand that “teachers, management, administrative and auxiliary staff, parents – central in that they are the natural and irreplaceable educators of their own children – and pupils, are participants and active subjects too of the educational process.” (# 263, National Catechetical Directory). “It must always be ensured that Catholic educational institutions in general and the schools in particular, by the very nature of their goals participate in the evangelizing function of the Church” (#265)

I request all Catholic Educational institutions (diocesan and religious) in Udipi Diocese to organise classes in Catechism and Value Education at least for two periods a week. For classes from I to X Stds, follow the syllabus and textbooks prescribed for the Diocese. In PU and Degree colleges, Theology classes based on *Youcat* or Adult Catechesis

books should be held for Catholic students. Moreover, an annual retreat, Holy Mass once a month, and confessions should be organised for Catholic students in all schools. I urge the correspondents to see that these directives are strictly followed in all the schools.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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✠ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

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## OBITUARY

**Mr Sharan Dominic D'Souza** ( 57 yrs), Br/o Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza, Parish Priest, Udyavar, passed away on 20 June 2024 at Abu Dhabi and the funeral was held on 23 June 2024 at Our Lady of Health Church, Shirva.

**May God grant him eternal rest. We offer our heartfelt  
condolences to dear Rev. Fr Anil D'Souza**

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## COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

### 1. COMMISSION FOR BECS- PROGRAMS

14:07:2024 - Thottam Parish  
21:07:2024 - Mount Rosary Parish  
28:07:2024 - Barkur Parish

**Rev. Fr Harold Pereira**  
*Director*

## **2. FAMILY COMMISSION**

- 01 July Family Cell and Senior citizens' club meet ,Thottam  
02 July Talk for Parents -Teachers, Pangla  
07 July Married Couples' Day at Byndoor  
09 July Regional Family Commission Secretaries' Meet - KROSS  
10 July Remote Preparation for Family Life  
Regional TOT program at KROSS  
13-14 July Marriage Preparation Course  
22 -26 July FABC Seminar on Marriage Preparation and  
Remote Preparation at Bangkok  
28 July Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly  
28 July Proximate preparation for family life - Shirva parish youth

**Mr Leslie Arouza**  
*Director*

### **For the pastoral care of the sick**

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

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