

# VOX NOSTRA

**Vol. XIII**

**JUNE 2025**

**No. 6**

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. HABEMUS PAPAM: POPE LEO XIV**

With hearts filled with faith and joy, we join the universal Church in welcoming His Holiness Pope Leo XIV as the new Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church. His election as the Vicar of Christ marks a new chapter of hope, renewal, and missionary zeal in the life of the Church. Pope Leo XIV, in his inaugural address, has called upon all people of goodwill to embrace the path of peace through dialogue, reconciliation, and compassionate service. His message resonates deeply with our call as Christians to be peacemakers in our homes, communities, and world. As the Successor of St Peter, he assumes the sacred responsibility of shepherding the faithful across the globe, guiding us with wisdom and love in these challenging times.

In a spirit of communion and solidarity with the Universal Church, let us continue to offer special prayers for our new Holy Father. Let us pray:

- That the Holy Spirit may strengthen him with courage, wisdom, and humility in his mission.
- That his pontificate may be marked by unity, justice, and renewed faith among all peoples.
- That he may be blessed with good health and deep spiritual joy as he leads the flock of Christ.

May our prayers rise like incense before the Lord, and may our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV be upheld by the grace of God and the love of His people. Let us also use this sacred moment to renew our

commitment to the Gospel, to deepen our love for the Church, and to walk together in faith as a vibrant, united Diocesan family.

## **2. JUBILEE OF MOTHERS – 01 JUNE 2025**

As we journey together in the Jubilee Year 2025, marked by deep reflection and renewal, we celebrate the Jubilee of Mothers on **01 June 2025**. This special day is dedicated to honouring all mothers, who in their silent strength and tireless service, become reflections of God’s nurturing love within our families and communities. Mothers play a vital role in transmitting faith. Many of us owe our earliest knowledge of prayer and love for the Church to the devotion of our mothers. In this Jubilee, let us take time to express our profound gratitude and spiritual solidarity with all mothers—those living, those who have gone before us, and those who silently carry burdens unknown to many.

I request all parishes to hold special Eucharistic celebrations, and moments of intercessory prayer for our mothers. Let us also remember mothers who are single, widowed, struggling with health issues, or carrying emotional wounds. May this Jubilee be a time of healing, recognition, and renewal for every mother. Let us accompany them with the prayerful assurance that their role in the family is a sacred ministry.

## **3. WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY - 01 JUNE 2025**

World Communications Day is celebrated each year on the Sunday before Pentecost and this year it falls on **01 June 2025**. The theme of the message of the Holy Father for the 59th World Communications Day titled, “share with gentleness the hope that is in your hearts (cf. 1 Pet 3:15-16)” draws attention to the fact that today too often communication is violent, aimed at striking and not at establishing the conditions for dialogue. It is therefore necessary to disarm communication, to cleanse it of aggression. From television talk shows to verbal wars on social networks, there is a risk that the prevailing paradigm is that of competition, opposition, and the will to dominate. For us Christians, hope is a person, and He is Christ. It is always linked

to a community project; when we speak of Christian hope we cannot disregard a community that lives the message of Jesus in such a credible way as to give a glimpse of the hope that it brings, and is capable of communicating the hope of Christ with deeds and words even today.

#### **4. SCHOOL AND SUNDAY CATECHISM**

After the summer vacation, the new academic year will commence in all schools by the time this issue of *Vox Nostra* reaches your hands. While imparting quality and disciplined education is our hallmark, providing our Catholic children with Catechism in our schools is also a serious responsibility. I exhort all Correspondents and Heads of our educational institutions to take up this responsibility seriously.

The parish priests are bound to ensure the catechetical formation of adults, young people and children. The Catechetical Commission has already organised a training program for all Coordinators of Catechetical Commission in preparation for Catechism classes this year and are given sufficient inputs on the syllabus and methodology for Catechesis. I hereby appeal to you, Rev. Parish Priests, to pay special attention to the Sunday Catechism for children which should begin on **01 June 2025** in all the parishes of our Diocese. Please catechize the Catholic parents on the importance of Catechism and their obligation to impart the same to their children.

#### **5. ADULT CATECHISM**

In addition to the catechism of children, I also urge the parish priests to organise adult catechism for the faithful either before or after Sunday masses. All families are given a copy of the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a jubilee gift. It would be apt if one or two questions and answers from it are taken for adult catechism every Sunday and explained to the faithful by priests in a simple yet clear language intelligible to them. You may also ask the families to go through the questions and answers before the catechesis in the parish on Sundays. Pope John Paul II states that “one of the constant concerns

whose urgency is confirmed by present day experience throughout the world, is the catechesis of adults. This is the principal form of catechesis because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibility and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form” (CT 43).

## **6. JUBILEE OF STUDENTS – 08 JUNE 2025**

On **08 June 2025**, we joyfully celebrate the Jubilee of Students. This special occasion is a powerful reminder that our students are not only the hope of society but also the living presence of the Church’s future. As students, they are in a unique phase of formation—mentally, spiritually, and morally. Education is not merely the acquisition of knowledge; it is a sacred journey toward discovering truth, purpose, and God’s will in their life.

In this Jubilee, I appeal to all students across the Diocese to reflect on how their learning can be a path to holiness. I urge parishes to organize Holy Masses, Adoration, and faith-sharing sessions to encourage students to grow not only in knowledge but in character and Christian values. In the spirit of the Jubilee, we bless all students with the strength to study diligently, live joyfully, and walk always in the light of Christ. May the Holy Spirit guide them to be witnesses of the Gospel in their classrooms, homes, and hearts.

## **7. JUBILEE OF THE LAY FAITHFUL – 22 JUNE 2025**

On **22 June 2025**, we celebrate the Jubilee of the Lay Faithful, a profound occasion to recognize the vital role of lay faithful in the life and mission of the Church. They are not merely “helpers” in Church work; they are co-responsible for the Church’s mission. Their witness in homes, workplaces, and society is where the Gospel is made visible and credible. They live out their baptismal calling in diverse ways—as parents, professionals, catechists, volunteers, and community leaders. Their lives are the first homily the world hears.

I encourage parishes to organize and celebrate the jubilee meaningfully with masses and appropriate programs to celebrate their commitment and renew their strength. May this Jubilee renew their passion to live as salt of the earth and light of the world. I thank each of the lay faithful in the Diocese for their tireless contributions to the Diocese and pray that this celebration inspires a deeper engagement with Christ and His mission.

## **8. SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

On Friday, 27 June 2025, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The solemnity provides us with an opportunity to renew our devotion to the Sacred Heart, the mystical-physical heart of Jesus. In addition to the feast, celebrated on the Friday of the third week after Pentecost, devotion includes acts of consecration and honour given to the image of the Sacred Heart. I exhort the parish priests to foster the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus among the faithful, especially praying the Rosary of the Sacred Heart in June.

We also celebrate this day as the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. Established by Saint John Paul II in 2002, this celebration occurs annually on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On this day, priests are encouraged to reflect on the dignity of their vocation and be renewed in their priestly commitment to serving Christ and His Church. The faithful, too, are invited to pray for their priests that they may be faithful stewards and strengthened in their service to the Gospel. Let us pray for all priests, especially those serving in our Diocese that they may experience the merciful love of Jesus through his Sacred Heart and impart the same to those entrusted to their pastoral care.

## **9. THE NEW DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025-2026**

The new Diocesan Directory is scheduled for publication in the first week of July 2025. We request all Parish Priests and Religious

Superiors to submit any updated information or corrections for their entries. Parish Priests are kindly requested to review the existing Directory for their parishes, institutions, and religious houses to verify the accuracy of the information. We further request Parish Priests to liaise with the heads of all schools, institutions, and religious houses within their parish to collect any necessary updates and submit them to us for inclusion in the forthcoming edition.

Regarding contact numbers, please provide only the primary mobile number preferably used in WhatsApp. Kindly double-check all email and website addresses. When submitting, please indicate only the changes, updates, or corrections, along with the corresponding page number(s) from the current Directory. All changes and corrections for the Diocesan Directory must be submitted via email (udupidiocese@gmail.com) or through WhatsApp (7353447130) to the Chancellor before 12 June 2025.

## **10. FEAST OF ST ANTONY SHRINE AT KEREKATTE**

The annual feast of St Antony's Diocesan Shrine at Kerekatte will be celebrated with a solemn mass on Friday, **13 June 2025 at 10.30 am** at Kerekatte. Another solemn mass and adoration in Kannada will also be celebrated at 04.00 pm.

The Kerekatte Shrine stands as a beacon of faith and devotion, attracting pilgrims from near and far. The feast is a sacred occasion that draws our faithful together in prayer, thanksgiving, and renewed spiritual fervour. It is our prayer that this year's feast will be a time of deep spiritual renewal and grace for all who participate.

We warmly invite all priests, religious, and lay faithful to join us in this blessed celebration. Let us come together in joy and faith, as one Diocesan family, to honour our Lord and deepen our commitment to the Gospel through the intercession of St Antony.

## **11. SSLC AND PUC RESULTS**

The results of SSLC and PUC of schools were announced in April/ May 2025. We have every reason to rejoice over the results from all our High Schools and PU Colleges which are very good, thanks to the hard work put in by the respective Managements, HMs, Principals, Staff and students. I offer my hearty congratulations to the Correspondents, Heads of the High Schools and PU Colleges, Staff and, in a special manner, all the students who have secured excellent results and brought laurels to their institution.

## **12. FABC PASTORAL LETTER**

The Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) issued a significant Pastoral Letter titled "*To the Local Churches in Asia on the Care of Creation: A Call to Ecological Conversion*" on March 15, 2025. This document marks a decade since Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and aligns with the Jubilee Year of Hope. It calls the local Churches in Asia to an urgent "ecological conversion" in response to the worsening environmental crisis. It highlights the grave ecological issues affecting Asia—such as deforestation, climate change, and pollution—and emphasizes their disproportionate impact on the poor and vulnerable. The letter points to signs of hope, including community resilience, youth engagement, and growing ecological awareness in Church ministries. It urges concrete actions like sustainable living, advocacy for just climate policies, and active participation in initiatives like the Season of Creation. Ultimately, the letter frames care for creation as a spiritual and moral imperative central to Christian discipleship.

## **13. ASSIGNMENT OF REGENTS**

Br Aashton D'Souza (Nakre) has been assigned to Gladsome Home for Students (Mangalore Diocese) and Br Anil Rebello (Basrur) has been assigned to St Antony Shrine, Kerekatte for their year of regency w.e.f. 31 May 2025. We offer our prayerful wishes to them.

## 14. THANKS AND WELCOME

During these months, many Religious, Priests and Sisters, working in our Diocese move out on transfers. They have worked in our parishes, taught in our schools, served in hospitals and health care centres caring for the sick, and advocated for the poor; bringing the Gospel message of hope to them. We are happy to know that all of them have rendered their dedicated and valuable services to us in the Diocese. Hence, on behalf of all of you, I wish to express my sincere thanks to them for their charity and faith, the contribution of their holiness and their service in the local Church. May God sustain them in His peace and give them strength to continue His mission in their new locations. It is also with great joy, that I accord a very warm welcome to the religious priests and sisters who have been assigned to work in our Diocese. We wish them a comfortable stay and fruitful ministry in our Diocese.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**



## **COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS**

### **1. COMMISSION FOR LITURGY**

- 01 June - Liturgical Seminar for Shirva Deanery Liturgy Group
- 08 June - Liturgical Seminar for the Liturgy Group of Kemman Parish
- 15 June - Liturgical Seminar for Parishioners and Liturgy Group of Sastan Parish
- 22 June - Liturgical Seminar for Lectors of Sastan Parish
- 22 June - Recollection for the Extra Ordinary Ministers for Distribution of Holy Communion of Kallianpur Deanery
- 29 June - Recollection for the Extra Ordinary Ministers for Distribution of Holy Communion of Karkal Deanery

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

### **2. FAMILY COMMISSION**

- 01 June Prolife National Level Seminar, Bangalore
- 08 June Fathers' Day, Parappady parish
- 14 & 15 June Marriage Preparation Course
- 16 June Family Commission Conveners' Meet, Kundapur Deanery
- 17 June Family Commission Conveners' Meet, Karkal Deanery
- 19 June Family Commission Conveners' Meet, Kallianpur Deanery
- 22 June Diocese level Resource persons' Meet, Anugraha
- 26 June Family Commission Conveners' Meet, Shirva Deanery
- 29 June Proximate preparation, Kuntalnagar Parish Youth & Parents

**Mr Leslie Arouza**  
**Director**

# **DIOCESE OF UDUPI**

## **Lenten Campaign – 2025 Results**

Draw of Lenten Campaign 2025 in Aid of ‘**Jubilee Housing Fund**’ was held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Sampada Udupi office, Anugraha Pastoral Centre by Rev Fr Wilson DSouza, Director, Divya Jyothi, Diocese of Udupi.

**Results are as follows:**

I<sup>st</sup> Prize: **122781** (Attur)      I<sup>nd</sup> Prize: **26786** (Milagres)

III<sup>rd</sup> Prize: **160131** (Udyavara)

### **Consolation Prizes:**

1. **67634** (Shirva)                      2. **112893** (Ajekar)
3. **154167** (Perampalli)              4. **30393** (Mount Rosary)
5. **63715** (Padukone).

Prizes can be claimed from **Sampada Udupi office, Anugraha Pastoral Centre** by **30 June 2025**.

Dear Rev Parish priests, please note that, this year there will not be any individual communication to the parishes regarding results. Results will also be published in ‘Uzwaad’ diocesan fortnightly.

Thanks to Rev. Parish Priests, all Priests, and Superiors of Religious Community for your whole hearted cooperation.

**Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto**

Sampada Udupi

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