

VOX NOSTRA

Vol X

MARCH 2022

No. 3

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SEASON OF LENT

Ash Wednesday this year will be celebrated on 02 March which marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. I take this occasion to wish all of you, dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, a holy and prayerful season of Lent. Our faithful do enter this season with great devotion, reverence and faith which is very heartening to note. Penance, self-denial and sacrifices have been spontaneous and the faithful come together for the weekly Way of the Cross with joy and enthusiasm. In some churches even daily Way of the Cross is being conducted before the Mass. I exhort the Parish Priests to continue to organize the usual para-liturgical devotions in practice during Lent and promote them: Daily Way of the Cross, Reading of the Passion narrative, its reflection and meditation in families uniting themselves to the suffering, passion and death of Jesus Christ. All external pomp and celebrations may be toned down and acts of penance, fast and abstinence may be announced.

As the threat of war looms in Eastern Europe, Pope Francis has made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine. He has invited everyone to make **2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace**. In union with the whole church let us desire and pray for peace in our troubled world.

2. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The theme for International Women's Day, 8 March 2022 (IWD 2022) is '*Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow*', recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response in order to build a more sustainable future for all.

Advancing gender equality in the context of the climate crisis and disaster-risk reduction is one of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century. The issues of climate change and sustainability have had and will continue to have, severe and lasting impact on our environment, economic and social development. Those who are among the most vulnerable and marginalized experience the deepest impact. Women are increasingly being recognized as more vulnerable to climate change impact than men, as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent on the natural resources which climate change threatens the most.

While I appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in the parishes of our Diocese, I offer my warm greetings to all women of our Diocese and wish them divine blessings on the occasion. May this day be an occasion for us to recognize the contribution of women in the Church and offer them due opportunities to grow and express themselves freely in the mission of the Church.

3. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA

The re-scheduled five days of festivities of St Lawrence Basilica which began with traditional gaiety, prayer and solemnity on 20 February 2022 were concluded on 24 February 2022 with great joy and gratitude, thanks to the continuous protection of St Lawrence, the wonder-worker, and incessant mercy and blessings of God, our Heavenly Father. While the five-day celebrations which were meticulously planned by the Shrine Basilica Management Committee, the flow of devotees and pilgrims was so peaceful, devotional and reverential that St Lawrence truly worked wonders in Attur attracting pilgrims year after year to himself whose number has been steadily increasing. I thank Very Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza, Rector of St Lawrence Basilica, Spiritual Father Rev. Fr Roman Mascarenhas, Deacon Pradeep Cardoza and members of the Attur PFC and PPC for their all-out efforts and dedication before, during as well as after the celebrations; the five Deans of our deaneries and their deanery priests – diocesan and religious for their presence, support and, above all, service at the confessional; the clergy of the diocese of Mangalore and from our neighbouring dioceses and the religious priests from various congregations for helping us at the

confessional; Rev. Deacons (diocesan and religious) for helping at the liturgical celebrations; seminarians and post novices for their continuous presence and assistance at the shrine. May God bless you, all, and may St Lawrence intercede for you always.

4. THE NEW INTERIM FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mr Marshal D’Souza, the Diocesan Financial Administrator, is on leave till January 2023. During his absence, Rev. Fr Joachim D’Souza, OFM Cap. has been appointed interim Financial Administrator. Kindly cooperate with him.

5. EARMARKED COLLECTIONS

This is a reminder to all the parish priests to remit all the earmarked collections to the chancery by 20 March, 2022. It would help the Financial Administrator in forwarding the same to the agencies concerned.

6. A REQUEST TO RESUME COMMISSIONS’ ACTIVITIES

The Pastoral Commissions, by and large, during the Covid pandemic were without much activity. As the fear of the pandemic is slowly receding, I urge all the pastoral commissions to pick up the activities of the commissions in the parishes with earnestness. I request the parish priests and directors of various commissions to enthuse new life and vigour into the pastoral commissions.

7. DISCOURAGE VIRTUALMASSES

Covid-19 pandemic has caused disturbance not only in social, family, economic, educational, and work conditions, but also affected the life of the Christian community, especially the liturgical celebrations. To prevent the spread of the virus, strict social distancing was necessary, which had repercussions on a fundamental trait of Christian life: gathering as one community and preaching the Word and praising God and breaking of the bread.

The virtual online Masses lack personal presence of the faithful in the community; hence, it will not substitute the aspect of Real Mass. It is necessary to catechize the faithful regarding the importance of the

celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the church and their active, personal participation in the liturgical celebrations.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

PLATINUM BIRTHDAY

V. Rev. Fr Stany B. Lobo, Chancellor &

Parish Priest, Udyavar

22.03.2022

Congratulations and Best Wishes Dear Rev. Father

OBITUARY

Mr Victor Coelho, 90 yrs,

26.02.2

022

Beloved dad of Fr Vincent Coelho, Parish Priest, Byndoor

MAY GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN MARCH 2022

- 01 ICYM, YCS Youth & Parents Meet Kuntalngar
- 01 Resource Team Meeting Diocese level 3 -5pm
- 16 Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students – \

- 17 Kallianpur Deanery – Mount Rosary hall
Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students –
Kundapur Deanery – Trasi hall
(Trasi, Gangolli, Padukone, Bayndoor, Tallur)
- 18 Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students –
Kundapur Deanery – Basrur hall
(Basrur, Kundapur, Koteswar, Piusnagar, Kota, Kandlur)
- 19 Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students – Udupi
Deanery – Bishop’s House
- 20 Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students – Shirva
Deanery – Shirva hall
(Shirva, Pangla, Pilar, Pamboor, Pernal, Mudarangadi, Kalathur)
- 21 Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students – Shirva
Deanery – Belman hall
(Belman, Palimar, Mundkur, Mukamar, Kelmbet)
- 22 Remote Preparation for Family life 1st PUC students – Karkal
Deanery – Christ King church hall
- 28 & 29 Marriage Preparation Course

Leslie Arouza
Director

LENTEN CAMPAIGN 2022

This year’s Lenten Campaign is for the ‘**Medical Fund**’ of the **diocese**. Donation coupons have already been distributed to the parishes. The Diocese has entrusted the responsibility of collecting, maintaining and distributing the **Lenten Campaign Fund** to **SAMPADA UDUPI**. We appreciate your whole-hearted cooperation in the past years, and expect your cooperation this year too.

Fr Reginald Pinto

SAMPADA UDUPI

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