

VOX NOSTRA

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No. 3

Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. HOLY SEASON OF LENT

We begin the holy season of Lent on **05 March 2025** with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. It is also a time of grace to return to God from our sinfulness and experience His unconditional and forgiving love. “The temptations of Jesus in the desert recapitulate the temptation of Adam in Paradise and the temptations of Israel in the desert. Satan tempts Jesus in regard to his obedience to the mission given him by the Father. Christ, the new Adam, resists and his victory proclaims that of his passion which is the supreme obedience of his filial love. The Church unites herself to this mystery in a special way in the liturgical season of Lent” (CCCC, #106).

It is heartening to note that our faithful do enter this season of Lent with great devotion, reverence and faith. Hence, 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. May the season of Lent also inspire us to stay away from all external celebrations and practise the acts of penance, fast and abstinence. I take this occasion to wish all of you, dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters, a holy and prayerful season of Lent.

2. MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR LENT 2025

In his Message for Lent 2025, Pope Francis invites the faithful to “journey together in hope,” and to take the opportunity of the upcoming Lenten Season to ask ourselves whether we are truly willing to heed

God's call to change our lives. Recalling the Biblical Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land, the Pope reminds us that our lives too are a journey - one that should be directed toward God. He urges the faithful during this Lenten Season to examine their own lives: are they actively progressing on the path of spiritual renewal or are they held back by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of their comfort zone? He goes on to remind us, "The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters." "Journeying together," he writes, "means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (...) without letting anyone be left behind or excluded."

3. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY/JUBILEE OF WOMEN

The theme for International Women's Day, 08 March 2025 (IWD 2025) is "**Accelerate Action.**" Collectively, we can Accelerate Action for gender equality. At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum. Focusing on the need to Accelerate Action emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres. So, together, let's Accelerate Action to speed up the rate of progress worldwide.

According to the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese, **09 March 2025** is dedicated to the Jubilee of Women. It should be meaningfully celebrated in all parishes in association with the Commission for Women and *Sthree Sangatan*. The liturgy for the day has already been shared in the Chancery WhatsApp group. I sincerely thank and appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in all parishes of our Diocese. I offer my warm greetings to all women of our Diocese and bestow my blessings on the occasion.

4. JUBILEE OF FATHERS

We celebrate the solemnity of St Joseph on **Wednesday, 19 March 2025** and this day has been dedicated to the celebration of the

jubilee of fathers according to the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, described St Joseph as “a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, a working father and a father in the shadows.” On this jubilee of fathers, I convey my warmest greetings to all fathers in our Diocese for their dedicated, selfless, and, often unnoticed contribution to raising their families through their sweat and toil. May they be inspired by St Joseph and continue to nourish their families in accordance with the will of God. I urge the parish priests to celebrate this jubilee meaningfully in association with the family commission in all parishes.

5. DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING – 28 MARCH 2025

According to the plan for the Jubilee 2025 for our Diocese, **Friday, 28 March 2025** has been set aside as a day of prayer and fasting to pray for peace and harmony in our country. I request all parish priests and superiors of religious institutes and societies of apostolic life to observe this day as a day of prayer and fasting in your parishes and houses respectively. As part of this prayer, I urge all parish priests to organize a one-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Way of the Cross, and the Holy Eucharist in all parishes. Kindly invite the parishioners to participate in large numbers and to pray for our country so that religious harmony may prevail.

6. GUIDELINES FOR ONLINE MASSES AND OTHER LITURGICAL SERVICES

The guidelines for online Masses and other liturgical services aim to ensure that the sanctity and reverence of the celebration are upheld in a virtual format. Priests and liturgical ministers are encouraged to maintain the decorum and solemnity of the rites, just as they would during in-person services. It is important to ensure that the technology used provides a clear and uninterrupted broadcast to allow the faithful to participate fully. The faithful are also encouraged to create a prayerful atmosphere in their homes during these services. At the same time understand that merely watching the Eucharist celebration on a website does not bring about the desired fruit.

7. JUBILEE 2025 GIFT TO ALL FAMILIES

As a gift of Jubilee 2025, all families will be given a copy of the Konkani translation (*Daivik Daiz*) of the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. While a few parishes have already received the copies for the families of their parishes, the rest will receive them soon. I earnestly request all parish priests to distribute a copy of the book to each family in your parishes.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS OF CCBI

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão has been re-elected as the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), while Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore has been elected as the Vice President and Archbishop Vincent Aind of Ranchi as Secretary General. The elections took place during the 36th Plenary Assembly of the CCBI at XIM University, Bhubaneswar.

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão (72) was first elected the President at the 31st Plenary Assembly held in Chennai in 2019. He was re-elected for a second term in 2023 at the 34th Plenary Assembly in Bangalore. In addition to his leadership in India, he also serves as the President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC), an office he assumed in January 2025. He is also a member of the Dicastery for Evangelisation and the Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops.

Archbishop Peter Machado (70) was appointed Bishop of Belgaum on 2 February 2006 and ordained on March 30, 2006. He was later appointed Archbishop of Bangalore on 19 March 2018 and installed on 31 May 2018. He currently serves as the President of the Karnataka Regional Bishops' Council and the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Laity.

Archbishop Vincent Aind (70) was appointed Bishop of Bagdogra on 7 April 2015 and ordained on 14 June 2015. Archbishop Aind is also the Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine. On December 30, 2023, he was appointed Archbishop of Ranchi.

We offer our warmest felicitations and hearty congratulations to all office bearers on their re-election and wish them prayerful support in their responsibilities.

9. *ANTIQUA ET NOVA*: NOTE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education released a document on Tuesday, January 28, entitled "*Antiqua et nova*: Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence." The document seeks to offer guidance for Catholic institutions and humanity as a whole regarding the ethical development and use of AI.

Comprising 117 paragraphs, it addresses challenges and opportunities in AI in the fields of education, economy, work, health, relationships, and war. The note calls attention to workers becoming "deskilled" and becoming more subject to harsh, repetitive labour and surveillance. It also warns of students failing to develop critical thinking skills, while cautiously noting prudent use of AI can help provide instant critiques. Regarding war, the note declares of "grave ethical concern" are autonomous lethal weapons systems without direct human intervention or control. It also draws attention to environmental concerns about the use of water and energy needed to run the necessary hardware for AI. The document expresses serious concerns about deepfakes and false information generated by AI, as well as further privacy issues surrounding surveillance and expressing matters of conscience to chat models. It warns of a technocratic control of society, with large companies exerting significant social and political influence capable of manipulating consciences and democratic processes. The document concludes that artificial intelligence must only be used to complement human intelligence rather than replace it, as a replacement would enslave humanity and serve as a "substitute for God."

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald Isaac Lobo

TWIN JUBILEE - A THANK YOU NOTE

Dear Rev. Fathers

I will bless Yahweh at all times, his praise shall be in my mouth continually (Psalm 34:1)

At the very outset let me immensely thank our beloved Bishop Most Rev. Gerald Isaac Lobo for giving us this occasion to have ‘Thanksgiving Mass’ and a short but meaningful reception on his 75th Birthday and the Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination in the presence His Grace Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, and 17 Bishops. Archbishop Nuncio, all Bishops, Priests, Religious, Political Leaders, Lay faithful, non-Christians happily participated in the whole program and highly appreciated it.

From the very beginning, the Twin Jubilee committee members demonstrated an unwavering commitment to this sacred cause. The continuous planning, thoughtful co-ordination, and seamless execution were evident in every aspect of the Twin Jubilee. Every member brought their unique skills, ideas and perspective to the table, ensuring that every detail was handled with care and precision. Members’ hard work ensured that this Jubilee event not only honoured Bishop Lobo but also brought together our entire Diocese in a spirit of love, faith and unity.

The success of the Twin Jubilee is a direct reflection of the members’ commitment and passion for celebrating Bishop Lobo’s incredible journey. I gratefully remember the encouragement given to the parishioners to this event by all the Parish Priests and Assistant Priests. I place on record the wonderful co-operation offered by the Twin Jubilee Committee members, collaboration given by all men and women religious, beautiful volunteering work done by the ICYM and YCS members, effective leadership shown by the lay leaders and the people

of good will. Very special thanks to the donors who silently and generously gave donation to the meal and other expenses.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to the Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr Roshan D'Souza, all the members of the College of Consultors, Deans, Mr Leslie Arouza, Secretaries of Deanery Pastoral Council, and Religious and Lay leaders who worked tirelessly to make the Twin Jubilee a grand and memorable event. Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa, PRO of the Diocese was instrumental to arrange things and events very diligently and meticulously.

Media's efforts in capturing and showing this event have made it memorable. The logistics in charge persons carried out every task with incredible passion and attention to details. The shamiyana and stage in charge persons made the arrangements beautiful and created dignified setting. The food committee provided very delicious meals which added warmth to our celebration.

The success of the Twin Jubilee is a reflection of your hard work and unity as a team. Every aspect, from the liturgical service to the social events, was carefully curated and thoughtfully carried out, all with the aim of highlighting the incredible contribution of Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo to our diocese and beyond.

I sincerely thank everyone once again for all that you have done. Your service, dedication and love for our Diocese and our beloved Bishop have made this Twin Jubilee a remarkable and unforgettable occasion. May our Patron, Our Lady of Milagres continue to bless each and every one of us abundantly.

Msgr. Ferdinand Gonsalves

Vicar General, Diocese of Udupi
Convener of Twin Jubilee Committee
Rector, Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. COMMISSION FOR BEC

09.03.2025 - “Look, Listen & Love” Gospel Sharing
Method at Kuntalnagar parish
23.03.2025 - Third GS Method at Pernal Parish
30.03.2025 - Third GS Method at Tallur parish

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

2. COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMISSION FOR SEMINARY AND RELIGIOUS FOR- MATION

Program: Seminar on AI
Participants: Priests Ordained in 2000 and later.
Date and Time: 11 March 2025, 09.30 am
Venue: Anugraha

Rev. Fr Denis D’Sa and Rev. Fr Ashwin Aranha
Directors

3. FAMILY COMMISSION

03 Mar Senior Citizens’ Office Bearers Meet, Pangala 09
Mar Diocean Level Jubilee of the Differently Abled,
Anugraha
16 Mar TOT Program for Udupi Diocese Resource persons
23 Mar Beloved 2025 MFC Program- Karkal Deanery
24 Mar PFC Coordinators’ meet – Kallianpur Deanery
25 Mar PFC Coordinators’ meet – Shirva Deanery
26 Mar PFC Coordinators’ meet – Udupi Deanery
27 Mar PFC Coordinators’ meet – Kundapur Deanery 29-
30 Mar Marriage Preparation course

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

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