

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VI

MARCH 2018

No. 3

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. LENT-24 HOURS FOR THE LORD AND CONFESSIONS

As you are already aware, in his message for Lent 2018, Pope Francis has exhorted the Church to observe ‘**24 Hours for the Lord**’ initiative, inviting the entire Church community to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration, which would take place from Friday, 9 March to Saturday, 10 March. The theme for 2018 is inspired by the words of Psalm 130:4, “With you is forgiveness.” I request you, dear Parish Priests, to organize at least 12 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration on 9 or 10 March 2018, coupling it with Confessions as it is a custom to have confessions during Lent every year. If you wish to organize it on Saturday, you may conclude it with the evening Sunday obligation mass.

2. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

As usual, the International Women’s Day will be celebrated on 8 March 2018. The focus of the celebration is respect, appreciation and love towards women for their achievements in various fields. The theme for this year is ‘**Press for Progress**’. While I appreciate the contribution of women in pastoral work in the parishes of our Diocese, I offer my warm greetings to all women in our Diocese and wish them divine blessings on this occasion. May this day be an occasion for us to recognize the contribution of women in the Church and to offer them due opportunities to grow and express themselves freely in the mission of the Church.

3. ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTALLATION OF POPE FRANCIS

On 19 March 2018 we celebrate the anniversary of the installation of Pope Francis. We have experienced his unique, merciful approach and his leadership in revitalizing the Church, responding to the needs of the times. We pray that God may bless him with good health and the necessary graces to shepherd the Church for many more years. I request all priests to remember and pray for the intentions of the Pope during mass on the day.

4. TALK ON CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

As a part of the Ongoing Formation, an orientation talk on the **Charismatic Renewal** will be held on Thursday, 22 March 2018, on the day of the Chrism Mass at Milagres Tri-Centenary Hall, Kallianpur. Most Rev. Dr Lawrence Mukkuzhy, Bishop of Belthangady, has kindly consented to be the resource person. The registration will start at 9.30 am and the sessions will be held from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. I request all priests, both diocesan and religious, to participate and benefit from this orientation programme.

5. CHRISM MASS

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated in the Milagres Cathedral on **Thursday, 22 March 2018, at 4.00 pm**. I invite all priests, diocesan and religious, to concelebrate with me as a sign of our priestly unity and solidarity as *unum presbyterium*. It is also the Day of Priests. I request all Parish Priests to announce to your parishioners regarding the Chrism mass and its importance, and invite them to participate in large numbers, and also pray for all priests rendering their pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Udupi.

6. BUDGET FOR 2018-19 AND REPORT OF 18 COMMISSIONS

As we communicated to you through SMS already, according to the Constitution of PFC (2.12.10), all parish priests had to prepare the Budget for 2018-19 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 2018 for approval. In addition, the annual report of 18 commissions for the year 2017 should have been sent along by the Coordinator of the Pastoral Commissions in the parish as per no. 3.9.4.5 of the Constitution of PPC. While I appreciate those parishes which have complied by these requirements, I urge the remaining parishes to do it at the earliest. The Coordinators should follow the format given to them while submitting this report.

7. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

As you know, the financial year 2017-18 will come to a close on 31 March 2018. The accounts of every parish/institution are required to be completed and get audited well in time so that the necessary returns are filed in time with the competent authorities. I request all parish priests and heads of institutions to get their accounts completed, complying with the guidelines given in the Financial Manual of our Diocese, and submit them for auditing without delay. After the audit, please follow the guidelines as given in Nos. 2.12.6 to 2.12.9 of Constitution of PFC and send the audited accounts to my office before 15 August 2018.

8. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS

Although we had organized *Jeevan Amrith*, *Jeevan Disha* and *Jeevan Jyothi* camps during October holidays for students of 8th, 9th and 10th Standards respectively, Faith Formation Camps need to be planned and organized for all children for a week during the summer holidays in every parish. Since we have continued with the theme of the Word of God in the current calendar year too, I wish that the camp is organized on the importance of the Word of God in the life of children. There may be some resistance from parents and children when spiritual exercises like these are organized. But this should not deter us from doing the right and most

important ministry of building the faith of our children. I earnestly appeal to all of you to organize these camps for children, preferably, as soon as they get their summer vacations.

9. ASHA KIRANA, DE-ADDICTION AND REHABILITATION CENTRE

Asha Kirana, De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centre of the Capuchins Fathers of Karnataka, has started functioning at Heroor, under the jurisdiction of Brahmavar parish in our Diocese. The house was inaugurated and blessed by me on 27 February. Ministry to the alcoholics and drug addicts which was initiated by Capuchin Fathers three decades ago in Bengaluru, was strengthened when a full-fledged Rehabilitation Centre was started at Bhadravati in Shimoga Diocese some twenty years ago. Realizing the need for such a ministry in the coastal region, they have started a house at Heroor. I am thankful to the Provincial and the Friars for this service in our Diocese and wish them fruitful service. You may contact Fr Charles Saldanha, OFM Cap. (9845397294) for Awareness Programs in your parishes. Address: *Asha Kiran, Heroor Grama, Brahmavar – 576 213.*

10. BLESSING OF NEW PRESBYTERY AT KALMADY

The newly constructed presbytery at Stella Maris Church, Kalmady, was inaugurated and blessed by our Vicar General, Msgr Baptist Menezes, on 3 February 2018 in the presence of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Alban D’Souza and a large number of faithful. The new presbytery is spacious with sufficient place to accommodate guest priests, conduct meetings and other pastoral activities. We congratulate the Parish Priest, the PFC and PPC members, the supportive parishioners and the generous donors for working hand in hand to complete this worthy project.

11. CBCI -NEW OFFICE BEARERS AND FINAL STATEMENT

Cardinal Oswald Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, has been elected the new President of the CBCI during the 33rd General Body Meeting of the CBCI held last month at Bengaluru. Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Bishop of the Eparchy of Mavelikara, and Most Rev. George Njaralakatt, Metropolitan Archbishop of Tellicherry, have been elected the new First Vice-President and Second Vice-President respectively. The term is of two years. As per the tradition of the CBCI, the Office-Bearers are elected on the basis of rotation among the Rites. We offer our congratulations and prayerful wishes to the new office bearers of the CBCI. We pray that they may lead the Church in India to the mission of service and witness in India. Please find as annexure 1 on page 10 the Final Statement of the 33rd General Body meeting of the CBCI.

12. HAPPY EASTER

After 40 days of Lenten prayer, fasting, penance and almsgiving, the Holy Mother the Church invites us to rejoice at the solemnity of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The feast of Easter is the culmination of the season of Lent and particularly the Holy Week. I urge all parish priests to plan and prepare well for the Holy Week with due attention to the liturgical guidelines given for this week as found in pages 86-88, 90-98 of the *ORDO* 2018 and also the guidelines given for our Diocese and celebrate the Holy Week with the devotion associated with it so that the faithful may be able to conclude their Lenten exercises with the experience of the peace and joy of the Risen Lord on Easter Sunday.

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, I extend to all of you my best wishes for a Happy Easter. Please extend my Easter wishes to your dear parishioners and members of your religious communities.

Praise the Lord for He has defeated death and saved us, all!

Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald Isaac Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

11.03.2018 Bible Commission Conveners' Meeting and
Training to conduct Bible Camps to Children - 9 am
to 1 pm - Udupi Church Hall

DivyaJyothi conducted the Diocesan exam in Catechism and Value Education for VII and X on 6 January 2018 and the results were announced on 12 February 2018. We thank the Correspondents, Headmaster/Headmistress, School Catechism and Value Education Coordinators, and all the teachers for their wholehearted cooperation.

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
DIRECTOR

2. COMMISSION FOR SCCS

04.03.2018 9 Commissions' Training at Katpady
11.03.2018 SCC Training at Pethri Parish
9 Commissions' Training at Katpady
17-18/3/2018 Two days SCC Residential Training at Udupi.
(Saturday 10.00 am to Sunday 6.00 pm)

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
DIRECTOR

3. COMMISSION FOR YOUTH

11.03.2018 Youth Animators' Evaluation and Training, Udupi

25.03.2018 Youth Retreat and Way of the Cross, Belman

Rev. Fr Edwin D'Souza

DIRECTOR

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Anil Victor Cornelio, Hirgan

06-03-1968

AD MULTOS ANNOS

OBITUARY

Mr Jerome Mascarenhas (95 yrs), F/o Rev. Fr Henry Mascarenhas, Estate Manager, passed away on 8 February 2018 and the funeral was held on Sunday, 11 February 2018 at St John Bosco Church, Kelmbet.

Mrs Mary Gonsalves (71 yrs), Sister-in-law of Rev. Fr Ferdinand Gonsalves, Parish Priest, Pangla, passed away on 10 February 2018 and the funeral was held on Monday, 12 February 2018 at Holy Rosary Church, Kundapur.

Mrs Monthi D'Souza (84 yrs), M/o Rev. Fr George D'Souza, Rector, St Lawrence Shrine Basilica, Karkal-Attur, passed away on 21 February 2018 and the funeral was held on Saturday, 24 February 2018 at Perpetual Succour Church, Kalathur.

**MAY GOD GRANT THEM ETERNAL REST. WE
OFFER OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO
DEAR REV. FATHERS.**

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