

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. FEAST OF ST JOSEPH THE WORKER AND INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

The feast of St Joseph the Worker and International Workers' Day, also known as Labour Day/May Day, is celebrated all over the world on May 1. The May Day reminds us of the beautiful remembrance of the solidarity of workers, dignity of labour, prosperity, unity and harmony. The workers have endeared themselves to us through their sweat and toil. It is eminently fitting that St Joseph, a worker who became the foster father of Jesus, is the patron of the universal Church. The feast of St Joseph the Worker was established by Pope Pius XII in 1955 in order to Christianize the concept of Labour and give to all workers a model and protector.

The theme for May Day 2020 given by CBCI Commission for Labour is '**A Just Society with Dignity and Equity**'. The entire message is given as annexure 1. Owing to the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown imposed in our country, many workers are stranded in various parts of our country and are experiencing agony and pain due to lack of proper food and shelter. Let us also reach out to these workers especially migrant workers as a part of our charitable works during this lockdown.

2. MAY DEVOTION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The *May Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* refers to the special Marian devotion held in the Catholic Church during the

month of May honouring Mother Mary as the ‘Queen of May’. Catholics offer special honour to Mother Mary in May: pilgrimages, visits to Marian shrines, little sacrifices in her honour, and a more attentive recitation of the Rosary. In the prevalent circumstances, let us encourage our parishioners to pray the Rosary daily which definitely would help in their faith-life in the absence of the Sacraments.

Through a letter on 25 April 2020, Pope Francis has given a special call to pray the Rosary in families and also given us two Marian prayers to be recited after the Rosary. The full text of the letter is given as annexure 2. The Church has solicited the prayerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary during various crises and pandemics in the past and she has helped the world with her maternal intercession. Hence, let us earnestly request our parishioners to pray the Rosary during the month of May so that God may deliver us all from the pandemic of Covid-19.

3. VOCATION SUNDAY

Vocation Sunday is celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of Easter, which falls on 3rd May this year. The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly celebrate vocations to ordained ministry and religious life in all its forms. In his message for the *2020 World Day of Vocations*, titled ‘*Words of Vocation*’, Pope Francis asks the Church to continue to promote vocations and invites the Church to touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God’s call in their lives, to find courage to say “yes” to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world. The entire message of Pope Francis is given as annexure 3. Let us earnestly pray for vocations so that the Lord of the harvest may send enough labourers to work in his vineyard.

4. WORLD DAY FOR COMMUNICATIONS

World Day for Communications is celebrated each year on the Sunday before Pentecost and this year it falls on 24 May 2020. This day was established by Pope Paul VI, after Vatican II, in order to draw attention to “the vast and complex phenomenon of the modern means of social communication”. “We need stories that reveal who we truly are, also in the untold heroism of everyday life,” Pope Francis writes in his message for the World Communications Day 2020. The message was released at the Vatican on 24 January 2020, the feast of St Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists. The message is based on the theme, 'That you may tell your children and grandchildren' (Ex 10:2): Life becomes history." The passage, drawn from the Book of Exodus, highlights the importance of sharing "knowledge of the Lord" and meaningful memories, stories and experiences, so that they may transform people's lives, he wrote. With fake news becoming ever more sophisticated, people need the wisdom, courage and patience to discern and embrace constructive stories in their daily life. The entire message is given as annexure 4.

5. PENTECOST SUNDAY

The Pentecost Sunday falls on 31 May 2020 this year celebrating the birth of the Church with the descent of the Holy Spirit on Blessed Virgin Mary and the apostles of Jesus. They were united in prayer waiting for the descent of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus. The Holy Spirit has been guiding the Church ever since in her trials and tribulations, keeping her united with the Lord and proclaiming the message of salvation to the world. As we celebrate the Pentecost Sunday, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to fill us, all, with his gifts to bear abundant fruit in the service of the Lord. May the Holy Spirit guide us in all the endeavours of our Diocese and thus help us carry forward the mission entrusted to her by our Lord Jesus Christ.

6. PROGRAMMES IN MAY 2020

Since there is lockdown in our state, all scheduled programmes for the month of May 2020 stand cancelled. All these programmes may be rescheduled after the situation permits us to hold such programmes. There may be a bit relaxation in terms of some services due to the improved situation in our district without any reported cases of the corona virus as of now. Yet, let us keep ourselves safe and continue to pray so that the whole world is redeemed from this pandemic.

7. CHARITY DURING LOCKDOWN

In my previous circulars, I had asked the parish priests to organize charitable works and reach out to the people who are in need during the lockdown. I am glad that most of the parishes have done their best to reach out to the needy, poor and elderly. I sincerely thank and appreciate them for this generosity during this time of the pandemic. I earnestly request you to continue to identify the needy in your neighbourhood and help them through the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and various associations.

8. RE-REGISTRATION OF 12A AND 80G

Based on the Budget for the FY 2020-21 and the Finance Act 2020, our Procurator has given us very important communication. Please go through the same and comply with the necessary requirements.

9. LAUDATO SI WEEK

The Holy Father has called for a *Laudato Si* Week starting on 16th and culminating on the 24th May, 2020 with a Worldwide Day of Prayer for the Earth, our common home. In his video message, Pope Francis reflects, “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who will come after us, to children who are growing up? Motivated by this question, I would like to invite you to participate in *Laudato Si*’ Week from 16-24 May 2020. It is a global campaign on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the encyclical letter *Laudato Si*’ on the care of

the common home. I renew my urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis, the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor cannot continue. Let's take care of creation, a gift of our good Creator God. Let's celebrate Laudato Si' Week together.”

The *Laudato Si* encyclical sparked prayer and action to protect the environment in thousands of Catholic communities. However, scientific analysis reveals that the pace of climate change and of mass extinctions continues to rise. Against this backdrop, Pope Francis and the Dicastery for Integral Human Development encourage Catholic communities to reflect on their actions to date and to then take the next step. A comprehensive toolkit and template -promotional materials can be found on the website- <https://laudatosiweek.org/> Let us encourage the faithful under our care to join the Universal Church in this global campaign, commemorating the 5th anniversary of the Encyclical *Laudato Si*.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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+ Gerald Isaac Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

Rev. Fr Lawrence Martis, St Juze Vaz Home, Mangalore
– 17 May 2020

RUBY JUBILEE OF ORDINATION

Rev. Fr John Mendonca, Parish Priest, Tallur and Rev. Fr
Rosario Fernandes, Parish Priest, Mundkur – 08 May 2020

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