

VOX NOSTRA

Vol IV

November 2016

No. II

Happy Birthday

12-11-2016



Dear Bishop,

Another year has passed and let us just say how we count on you, rather than count the years. We wish you a great BIRTHDAY.

**The Clergy, Religious and the Laity
Diocese of Udupi**

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ALL SAINTS' DAY

We begin the month of November with the celebration of the solemnity of All Saints on 1st November. On this day the Church rejoices over all the canonized and beatified saints as well as the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific vision. All Saints' Day was formally started by Pope Boniface IV who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13, 609 AD. The choice of the day may have been intended to co-opt the pagan holiday 'Feast of the Lamures', a day which the pagans used to placate the restless spirits of the dead. The holy day was eventually established on November 1 by Pope Gregory III in the mid-eighth century as a day dedicated to the saints and their relics. I exhort all of you, dear Fathers, to celebrate this solemnity meaningfully so that through the prayerful intercession of all saints, we may be found worthy to join them one day in the heavenly Jerusalem.

2. ALL SOULS' DAY

The Church remembers and prays for all the faithful departed on 2nd November. Pope Francis has said: "The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are 'days of hope'. The virtue of hope is like a bit of leaven that enlarges your soul. There are difficult moments in life, but with hope you go forward and keep your eyes on what awaits us. Today is a day of hope; our brothers and sisters are in the presence of God, and we, too, will be there in the Lord's arms if we follow the path of Jesus." Christians offer special prayers on All Souls' Day for their departed family members, relatives and friends. The importance of this day was made clear by Pope Benedict XV when he granted all priests the privilege of celebrating three masses on this day: one in favour of any person, the second to be made applicable to all the faithful departed and the third, for the intention of the Holy Father. Please confer pages 149 & 150 in *ORDO 2015-16* for the plenary and the partial indulgences attached to this day. Let us encourage our people to pray for our dear departed so

that those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith may obtain remission of their sins and be admitted to the company of saints. Please catechize the parishioners on the importance of this commemoration and the indulgences attached to it.

3. CLOSURE OF THE YEAR OF MERCY

In the Bull of Indiction, *Misericordiae Vultus*, Pope Francis decreed that the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy would conclude on 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, with the closing of the Holy Door in the Basilica of St Peter's at the Vatican and on the preceding Sunday, November 13, the Jubilee will be brought to close in local churches. As per the Decree, the Jubilee will be brought to close in the Udupi Diocese on 13 November 2016. It is a time for us to give thanks to God for the graces received during the Jubilee Year. On that day, I shall preside over the Mass at 7.00 a.m. in St Lawrence Basilica, Karkal Attur and at 9.45 a.m. at Milagres Cathedral. The *directives for the closing celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee* are available in Konkani at Divya Jyothi and a copy of it has been sent to all parishes. I exhort all the parish priests to follow the *directives* and use it during the Mass on 13 November 2016.

4. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The Diocesan Eucharistic Procession this year will take place on November 20, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Like last year, it will be held at the Mother of Sorrows Church, Udupi. A diocesan committee has been formed to work out the details.

There will be Eucharistic celebration at 4.30 p.m. on the Udupi Church grounds followed by a short adoration, solemn Eucharistic procession and Benediction. The Eucharistic celebration will be preceded by Divine Mercy Rosary at 4.00 p.m. I request you, dear Rev. Fathers, to announce to your parishioners the significance of this Annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession and need to participate in it in large numbers. I appeal to all priests, both diocesan and religious, to concelebrate with me and also later join procession without fail.

Members of the official bodies and associations/organizations like the Altar Servers, Legion of Mary, SVP, SFO, etc. are requested to wear their insignia during the procession.

I request parish priests of all parishes in Udupi and Kallianpur deaneries **to hold a Saturday evening mass preceding this Sunday for the needy and preferably cancel masses on Sunday morning** and encourage and facilitate the parishioners to join the Eucharistic celebration and procession on 20 November 2016 at 4.30 p.m. on the Udupi Churchgrounds.

5. ELECTION TO THE PARTICIPATORY STRUCTURES (CONSULTATIVE BODIES)

I am pleased to approve and promulgate the revised Constitutions governing Consultative Bodies in the Diocese of Udupi making it effective from 01 November 2016, the solemnity of All Saints. Since the term of the present Parish Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Council, Deanery Pastoral Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council expires on 31 December 2016, I appeal to the concerned to hold elections to these consultative bodies as per the revised Constitution and send the names as required by the Constitution to me (two copies each) for approval before 31 December 2016. The new consultative bodies come into effect from 1 January 2017. The new deanery pastoral councils must meet before 15 January 2017 and elect the Secretary-Treasurer and also select the deanery conveners of the 18 Commissions in each deanery.

6. INSTRUCTION: *AD RESURGENDUM CUM CHRISTO* - FROM THE CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH

The Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith- His Eminence Gerhard Cardinal Mueller- has issued Instruction/ Document dated 22 September 2016 titled *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* - regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation. This document aims to underline the

doctrinal and pastoral reasons for the preference of the burial of the remains of the faithful and to set out norms pertaining to the conservation of ashes in the case of cremation. The official text of the Instruction/ Document is provided here as annexure on page 10. I request you to go through the same and inform your parishioners about the teaching contained in the said document regarding the burial of the remains of the faithful and norms pertaining to the conservation of ashes in the case of cremation.

7. ADVENT

From Sunday, 27 November 2016, the Catholic Church all over the world begins the holy season of Advent which will culminate in the joyful celebration of the Solemnity of the Birth of our Lord. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also to the anniversary of the Lord's birth at Christmas. The final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, focus particularly on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord (Christmas).

I earnestly appeal to you, dear Fathers, to make this holy season of Advent a period of grace and blessings to your parishioners by inviting each of them to reflect on the beauty of Advent and prepare themselves, through the sacrament of reconciliation, to experience the peace and joy of the Lord. I wish you a happy and holy season of Advent.

8. ORDO

The *ORDO*, useful and essential to the recitation of the Divine Office and celebration of the Mass for the year 2016-17 is ready and available at *Divya Jyothi* at a cost of Rs 75 per copy. I wish that all parishes and houses of men and women religious in Udupi diocese procure the copies of *ORDO* published by *Divya Jyothi*, **not by other dioceses**, and remember the earmarked collections, and dates and events specific to Udupi Diocese.

9. UZVAAD

The diocesan Newspaper 'Uzvaad Fortnightly' is running a 'Uzvaad Circulation Campaign' in the months of November & December, 2016.

In our diocese, the responsibility of the renewal of the already existing subscriptions and making new subscriptions has been entrusted to *Sthree Sanghatan*. I request the Parish Priests to encourage the people and make extra efforts in collecting subscriptions.

10. ANNUAL PARISHFEASTS

Annual Parish Feasts are round the corner in good many parishes of our Diocese. Parish feasts are occasions for families and relatives to meet and greet each other, come together and share a fellowship festive meal. It is also an occasion to promote parish unity and family spirit and grow more in spiritual strength and grace. I appreciate the good will of *pirjents* and generous donors in the parishes for their contribution to make these parish feasts devotional, joyous and attractive. While we celebrate these feasts with our parish community, let us not forget the least of our brothers and sisters in the parishes who may not afford to celebrate the feast and I wish that they be given due assistance either through parish charity or through St Vincent De Paul Society. As the custom in our diocese, I request the Parish Priests to set aside the offertory collection made during your respective annual parish festal mass for the diocese and send the same to the Financial Administrator.

11. FAITH FORMATION CAMPS - THANKS

All our deaneries have enthusiastically conducted Faith Formation Camps (*Jeevan Amrith, Jeevan Disha, Jeevan Jyothi*) for the children of 8th, 9th and 10th Standards. I am aware of the great effort put in by our Deans and the Parish Priests to bring the children of their respective parishes together in these camps. The camps were made interesting, informative, faith oriented and resourceful. I hope that our children have understood the value of the precious gift of our faith and the need to live and promote it. I thank the Deans for hosting and coordinating these camps, all Parish Priests for their effort in making these camps meaningful and the directors of Divya Jyothi, Family and Youth Commission for suppling the themes and resource persons. May God bless you.

12. DIACONAL MINISTRY

Deacons Jencil Alva and Melwyl Roy Lobo are back in the diocese after completing their Theological studies at St Joseph Seminary, Mangalore, and are all set to begin their diaconal ministry in Udyavar and Pangala parishes respectively. We wish them a fruitful diaconal ministry.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

Gerald I. Lobo

DIVYA JYOTHI

Programs in November 2016

- 6 Nov. – Biblical Commission Conveners' Meeting at Udupi,
9.30 am to 1.00 pm
- 9 Nov -- Regional (Bible 7 Catechetics) meeting, Bangalore
- 11-27 Nov. - Director - Out of Station (Retreat & Vacations)

Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza
Director

FAMILY COMMISSION PROGRAMS IN NOV. 2016

Date	Description
10 Nov	18 Commissions Director's Meet 9-1
12, 13 Nov	Marriage Preparation Course
17 Nov	Elders' Day - Thottam Parish 9 - 1
18 Nov	Karnataka Region Family commission Directors'

Meeting
27 Nov Married Couples' Retreat - Basrur Parish 9 - 4
29 Nov – 02 Dec National Conference on “Amoris Laetitia and
Evangelization of the Family” at Patna, Bihar

Mr Leslie Arouza
Director

COMMISSION FOR SCCs - PROGRAMS IN NOV 2016

06.11.2016 Ward Samithi Training Mt Rosary Church, Santhekatte.
07.11.2016 SCC DAT Meeting, SCC Office, Udupi.

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

COMMISSIONS' COORDINATOR'S PROGRAMS IN NOV 2016

06.11.2016 Diocesan Youth Program at Udyavar Parish.
10.11.2016 18 Commissions' Directors' meeting at Udupi.
17. 11.2016 Diocesan level meeting of parish conveners of
Ecumenism Commission.
21.11.2016 Diocesan level Labour Commission meeting at Udupi.
27.11.2016 Family Commission Program at Basrur.

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira

UDUPI COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE

1. DIVYAVANI programmes are telecast on Big J cable channel on Tuesdays and Fridays, 7.00 – 7.30 p.m.
2. MOTHER TERESA FILM FESTIVAL may be held in the parishes/ educational institutions till December 31, 2016. The following films in English are available freely with me, on DVDs through the kind favour of Signis, India and Sandesha, Mangalore:

1.	In the name of God's poor	: 89 mts
2.	The Legacy	: 52 mts
3.	A Call within a call	: 30 Mts
4.	Nirmal Hriday	: 57 Mts
5.	My Karma	: 30 Mts
6.	Something beautiful for God	: 55 Mts
7.	Madre Teresa 1	: 90 Mts
8.	Madre Teresa 2	: 90 Mts.

V. Rev. Fr Valerian Mendonca
Director

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