

VOX NOSTRA

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Happy Birthday

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“The secret to enjoying your life is to count your blessings, not your birthdays”

A very happy birthday, our Good Shepherd
Bountiful blessings from Jesus, our Lord
Health and happiness, joy and peace
May yours be today and all days.

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

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

We begin the month of November with the celebration of the solemnity of all Saints: canonized or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific vision that is only known to God. We all have the “universal call to holiness.” What must we do in order to join the company of the saints in heaven? We “must follow in His footsteps and conform [our]selves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. [We] must devote [our]selves with all [our] being to the glory of God and the service of [our] neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history.” (*Lumen Gentium*, 40)

I exhort all of you, dear Fathers, to celebrate this solemnity meaningfully, catechizing the faithful on the importance of this solemnity and also announce to the faithful about the requirements to obtain either plenary or partial indulgence, the details of which are found on page 184 in *ORDO* 2021-22. Wherever there is a custom of having evening mass and commemoration of all souls, I urge you to educate the faithful in this regard and discontinue it, as it goes against the liturgical norms.

2. KARNATAKA RAJYOTSAVA

We celebrate Rajyotsava on 1st November. This was the day in 1956 when all the Kannada-speaking regions of South India were merged to form the State of Karnataka. As we belong to the State of Karnataka, let us be proud of the rich heritage and traditions of our State and join the citizens of our State in celebrating the day meaningfully. Let us also pray for all the leaders of our State so that they always strive for peace and harmony among all religions and work for the all-round development of the State.

3. ALL SOULS' DAY

The Church remembers and prays for all the faithful departed on 2nd November. Our faith teaches us that the Church exists in three states: the triumphant, the pilgrim and the suffering. As members of the

Pilgrim Church, we can help the Suffering Church to attain heaven by our prayers and the sacrifice of the Mass. The Church reminds us of the continued and close relationship between the three states of the Church (communion of saints) and invites us, all, to offer prayers and Mass for the suffering Church on 2nd November every year.

I exhort you, dear Fathers, to follow the instructions given in *ORDO* for the celebration of Mass on this day. Do not arrange any mass for the dead in the church or cemetery on the previous day. Let us encourage our faithful to pray for their dear departed so that those who have gone before them may obtain the remission of sins and be admitted to the triumphant Church. Do follow the Covid-19 protocol while organizing the Liturgy in cemeteries.

4. DAY OFFASTING

The KRCBC has directed us all to observe 11 November 2021, second Friday of November, as a day of fasting and prayer against the proposed Anti-Conversion Bill in Karnataka State. Let us observe this day meaningfully in our parishes with fasting and praying that God may defeat the forces that try to thwart the right of freedom of religion given in the Constitution of India. I request the parish priests to inform the parishioners about this day and also to organize this day in the parish with Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Scriptural Reading and reflection, Intercessory prayers, and other spiritual exercises.

5. WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

We shall celebrate the fifth **World Day of the Poor** on Sunday, **14 November 2021**. This day was launched by Pope Francis at the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The theme of the fifth World Day of the Poor is “The poor you will always have with you” taken from the gospel of Mark. “The face of God revealed by Jesus is that of a Father concerned for and close to the poor,” Pope Francis noted in the message for the fifth World Day of the poor. “In everything, Jesus teaches that poverty is not the result of fate, but a concrete sign pointing to his presence among us.” Therefore, “the poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us, because they enable us to discover in new ways the true face of the Father.” Thus, we are called to discover Christ in them, lend

our voices to their causes, listen to and understand them, and welcome them because “Jesus not only sides with the poor but also shares their lot.” Please find the entire message as annexure 4.

6. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Since the present Covid-19 protocol does not permit religious processions, we shall not be organizing the Diocesan Eucharistic Procession this year on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus *Christ, King of the Universe*.

7. APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL HELP

People generally approach the Parish Priests for financial assistance for medical needs, house construction, pursuing studies, etc. Parish priests donate money as charity to the deserving people after ascertaining their financial background and obtain the beneficiary’s signature in the debit voucher. So far no formal application is being taken from the beneficiaries. I wish to inform all the Parish Priests that henceforth whenever you donate money as charity and whenever the amount involved is more than Rs.1,000/-, kindly obtain a request letter from the beneficiary as per the format attached (annexure 2). In view of the faceless scrutiny of accounts by the Income Tax Department, these records may be useful for submission in case the Department asks for online submission. Therefore, all the Parish Priests are requested to comply with these instructions with immediate effect. Similarly, whenever parishes refer the cases for financial help amounting to more than Rs.1,000/- to the Diocese, application may be obtained from the beneficiary and forwarded to the Bishop with recommendation by the Parish Priest.

8. DIOCESAN CONSULTATION FOR SYNOD 2021-23

The KRCBC has issued a pastoral letter on Synod 2021-23 and the same has been given as annexure 3. Our Diocesan Synod Team that met after the seminar on Synod 2021-23, has given us the detailed plan of the consultation process for the Diocese of Udupi. I request the parish priests and the coordinators to implement the plan in your parishes/ associations/groups so that all of us may truly experience the synodal journey.

9. ANNUAL PARISH FEASTS

The Annual Parish Feasts are about to commence in 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 meal. However, due to the situation of Corona Virus, I request the parish priests to celebrate the festal mass and celebrations in honour of the Patron and related liturgical celebrations in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, keeping in mind the restrictions by the civil authorities. As per the custom in our diocese, I request the parish priests to set aside the offertory collection made during the annual parish festal mass for the PWS and send the same to the Secretary cum Treasurer of Priests' Welfare Scheme.

10. SEASON OF ADVENT

We begin the season of Advent on **28 November 2021**. Advent Season focuses on preparing for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in all ways, from His birth in the past to His Second Coming in the future as the Messiah. It is a meaningful season that reminds us of the person of Jesus Christ and that He has come and He is present in our world and lives. The birth of Jesus needs celebration because it reveals His human side and is, therefore, an example of how we should live our own lives as his followers here on earth. I wish you all a fruitful season of Advent in preparation for the celebration of the feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

✠ Gerald Isaac Lobo

OBITUARY

Mr Gregory Mascarenhas (70 yrs), Br/o Rev. Fr Henry Mascarenhas, Parish Priest, Pamboor and Rev. Fr Roman Mascarenhas, Attur, expired on 28 September 2021 and the funeral was held on 29 September 2021 at Urwa, Mangalore. May God grant him eternal rest.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS OF PARISH CONVENERS OF PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

03.11.2021	10.00-11.30 am	Labour & Migrants
06.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Education
07.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Ecumenism
08.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Famliy
09.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Proclamation
11.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Social Communication
13.11.2021	10.30-11.30 am	Justice & Peace
14.11.2021	09.30-01.00 pm	SCC
22.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Health
23.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Bible
24.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Laity
25.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Seminary & Religious
26.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Women
27.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Liturgy
28.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Youth
29.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Ecology & Social Development
30.11.2021	03.00-04.30 pm	Interreligious Dialogue

I request the parish priests to send the parish conveners of the commissions to thier meeting as scheduled above. Thank you.

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Commissions' Coordinator

INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

People who suffer from depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

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