

VOX NOSTRA

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No. 11

HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY

12-11-2024


75



Most Rev. Dr Gerald Isaac Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

With seventy-five years of life of compassion
You served the Lord with great passion.
As a pillar of faith, hope, and guiding light
You led your flock through day and night.


A beacon of hope, a guiding star
Guided your flock near and far.
Through joys and trials, you stood tall
Testified thus to your unwavering call.



With a unique vision and pastoral plan
Achieved growth of the Diocese in a short span.
Setting clear objectives for each pastoral commission
Worked sincerely to accomplish Christ's mission.

May this 75th milestone birthday bring delight,
And keep your life ahead ever bright.
May God's blessings, peace, and gentle care
Surround you, our dear Bishop, beyond compare.

**The Vicar General, Clergy, Religious
and the Lay Faithful
Diocese of Udupi**



Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,

1. SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

We begin the month of November with the celebration of the Solemnity of All Saints on **Friday, 01 November 2024**. The day reminds us all to look forward, with hope, to the beatific vision of God enjoyed by those already in heaven. As Pope Francis says, "We can enter heaven, thanks to the blood of the Lamb, thanks to the blood of Christ. Christ's own blood has justified us, which has opened for us the gates of heaven. And if, today, we remember our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in life and are in heaven, it is because they have been washed in the blood of Christ. This is our hope: the hope of Christ's blood! It is a hope that does not disappoint. If we walk with the Lord in life, he will never disappoint us!" (Homily for Solemnity of All Saints, 1 November 2013). I urge all of you, dear Fathers, to celebrate this solemnity meaningfully, preaching to the faithful on the

importance of this solemnity and also announcing to the faithful the requirements to obtain either plenary or partial indulgence, the details of which are found on pages 191-192 of *ORDO 2023-24*.

2. KARNATAKA RAJYOTSAVA

We celebrate Karnataka Rajyotsava on **Saturday, 01 November 2024**. As we belong to the state of Karnataka, let us be proud of the rich heritage and traditions of our state and join everyone to celebrate the day meaningfully. Let us remember to pray for all leaders of our State so that they may 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** every year. The day helps us to remember our dear ones who have left us and all the souls on the journey to the fullness of life on the heavenly horizon of the Church. "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and 'because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them." Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective (*CCC*, #958). I exhort you, dear Fathers, to follow the instructions given in *ORDO* for the meaningful celebration of the Mass on this day. Do not arrange mass at the cemetery on All Souls' Day and 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 fullness of life in heaven.

4. WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2024

The eighth World Day of the Poor will be celebrated on **Sunday, 17 November 2024**. Pope Francis has chosen a particularly significant theme for this year dedicated to prayer, given that the day will be celebrated shortly before the beginning of the Jubilee Year of 2025: “The prayer of the poor rises up to God” (cf Sir 21.5). Given the context, this expression, which comes from the ancient sacred author Ben Sira, has an immediate and clear impact.

In his message, the Pope reiterates that the poor have a privileged place in the heart of God, who is attentive and close to each of them. God listens to the prayers of the poor and, in the face of suffering, becomes “impatient” until he has done them justice. In fact, the book of Sirach goes further, stating that, “the judgment of God will be in favour of the poor” (21:5). The Pope invites everyone to learn to pray for the poor and to pray together with the poor, with humility and trust. It is an opportunity to become aware of the presence of the poor in our cities and communities, and to understand their needs. As always, the Pope also mentions the “new poor”, those who are victims of violence and wars, “bad politics carried out with weapons” (n. 4), which causes many innocent victims. He specially invites everyone to pay more serious spiritual attention to the poor, who need God and need a human presence – someone who is a concrete sign of listening and closeness to them. Please find the entire message as an annexure.

5. DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The Diocesan Eucharistic Procession this year will take place on **Sunday, 24 November 2024**, on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. There will be an Eucharistic celebration at 3.30 p.m. in Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur, followed by a short Adoration with a solemn Eucharistic Procession to Mount Rosary Church and Benediction. The Eucharistic celebration will be preceded

by Divine Mercy Rosary at 3.00 p.m. I request you, dear Rev. Fathers, to announce to your parishioners the significance of this annual Diocesan Eucharistic Procession and encourage them to participate in large numbers. I appeal to all priests, both diocesan and religious, to concelebrate with me and join the procession, without fail. The members of the associations/organizations like the Altar Servers, Legion of Mary, SVP, SFO, etc. are requested to wear their insignia during the procession.

6. NEW ENCYCLICAL- *Dilexit Nos*

Pope Francis released a new encyclical *Dilexit Nos* (“He Loved Us”) on **Thursday, 24 October 2024** calling for a renewed understanding of devotion to the Sacred Heart in the modern era and its many pressing challenges. The Pope writes that the spirituality of the Sacred Heart offers a vital response to what he calls a “liquid society” dominated by technology and consumerism: “Living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart.”

Subtitled “Letter on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ,” the Encyclical is the first papal encyclical dedicated entirely to the Sacred Heart since Pope Pius XII’s *Haurietis Aquas* in 1956. The approximately 30,000-word encyclical draws extensively from Scripture and tradition, featuring insights from St Thérèse of Lisieux, St Francis de Sales, and St Charles de Foucauld. Throughout the encyclical, the Pope weaves together traditional elements of Sacred Heart devotion with contemporary concerns, presenting Christ’s heart as the principle unifying reality in a fragmented world. He develops his vision across five chapters, beginning with a philosophical and theological exploration of “the importance of the heart” before moving through

reflections on Christ's actions and words of love, the theological meaning of Sacred Heart devotion, its spiritual dynamics, and social implications. "The algorithms operating in the digital world show that our thoughts and will are much more 'uniform' than we had previously thought," Pope writes, arguing that technological solutions alone cannot address the deeper needs of the human heart. Let us as individuals and communities read this encyclical, study and meditate over it, be inspired by it, and impart the teachings of the encyclical to the faithful through our preaching and the means of social communication.

7. NEW LITURGICAL CALENDAR- *ORDO*

The Liturgical Calendar (*ORDO*), useful and essential for the recitation of the Divine Office and the celebration of the Mass for the year 2024-25, is available now at *Divya Jyothi* and Bishop's House for Rs 200 per copy. I hereby urge all parishes and houses of Religious Institutes and the Societies of Apostolic Life in Udupi Diocese to procure copies of *ORDO* published by *Divya Jyothi*, and note the earmarked collections, dates, and events specific to our Diocese.

8. ANNUAL PARISH FEASTS

The annual parish feasts will begin soon in many parishes of our Diocese. The parish feasts are occasions for families and relatives to meet and greet each other, come together and share a fellowship meal. It is also an occasion to promote parish unity and family spirit and grow more in spiritual strength and grace. I appreciate the goodwill of *Pirjents* and generous donors in parishes for their contribution to making these parish feasts devotional, joyous, and attractive. As per the norm 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.

9. FAITH-FORMATION CAMPS- THANKS

Every deanery enthusiastically conducted the Faith - Formation Camps, *Jeevan Amrith, Jeevan Disha and Jeevan Jyothi*, for the children of the 8th, 9th and 10th Standards. I thank the Deans, Parish Priests, Asst Parish Priests, other priests, coordinators, animators and volunteers for organizing these camps in all the five deaneries of our Diocese.

10. DIACONATE MINISTRY

Deacon Oswald Vaz and Deacon Rohan E. Mascarenhas, having completed their seminary studies and formation, have returned to the Diocese. They are appointed to Sacred Heart Church, Kolalgiri, and St John the Evangelist Church, Pangla, respectively, for their Diaconate ministry. I extend my best wishes for a fruitful and blessed ministry.

11. DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN 2025–2030

As previously announced, the Priests' Consultation on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2025–2030 is scheduled for 14 and 15 November 2024. I warmly invite all priests and deacons serving in the Diocese to participate actively in this significant consultation. Your presence and insights are vital, and I urge everyone to attend without fail.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald Isaac Lobo

**PROGRAM OF COMMISSION FOR
BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES**

03.11.2024 - Kanajar Parish

10.11.2024 - Sastan Parish

17.11.2024 - BEC Parish Conveners' Meeting at Anugraha

Rev. Fr Harold Pereira
Director

GOLDEN BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Praveen Pinto, OCD,

Parish Priest, St Antony Church, Koteswar

04/11/2024

CONGRATULATIONS DEAR FATHER
AD MULTOS ANNOS

SAMPADA UDUPI

Visitation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Promotion of New Project

As part of our annual program, I plan to visit Women and Men Self-Help Groups (SHGs) run by Sampada Udupi across the diocese. The visitation schedule is as follows:

November 2024	:	Karkala Deanery
December 2024	:	Kundapura Deanery
January 2025	:	Udupi Deanery
February 2025	:	Shirva Deanery
March 2025	:	Kallianpura Deanery

During these visits, I will provide information and awareness on our new project: “Enhancing Income of Small and Medium Farmers in Udupi Diocese.”

To facilitate a smooth coordination, I have informed the Presidents of Catholic Sthree Sanghatan/Mahasangha of respective parishes. I kindly request your understanding, as I may not be able to personally inform each Parish Priest regarding the day, date, and schedule of my visit. Please be assured that these visits will not disrupt your daily activities. Your wholehearted cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Rev. Fr Reginald Pinto
Executive Director

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