

# VOX NOSTRA

Vol XII

SEPTEMBER 2024

No. 9

*Dear Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters,*

## **1. NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

September is very special to all Catholic families in the Diocese due to the celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on 08 September every year with great devotion and solemnity. The feast, locally christened as '*Monthi Fest*' comes on a Sunday this year. The importance of the day is centered on a three-fold celebration. Firstly, on this day, we celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who gave her son Jesus Christ as a gift for the salvation of the world. Her role in forming Jesus in the early stages of his life, during his public life, and her continued role after his ascension to heaven is commendable due to her complete cooperation as the mother of saviour in the plan of God. She continues to support the Church through her maternal care. As her beloved children, it is appropriate that we celebrate her birthday with great joy and solemnity. Secondly, the day is special because we also celebrate the day as the new harvest day. God, our creator, and protector, not only creates us but sustains us with sufficient food by providing a good harvest for the fruits of the labour of our farmers year after year. It is nostalgic and heartwarming to remember that most of our families have agricultural backgrounds and to recall how only the providence of God can provide us good harvest every year. Thirdly, as the feast of families, it is also a day of the celebration of family ties of our biological families based on blood relationships. It is a joyful occasion for the family members to come together, share a festal meal, and strengthen the family bonds.

I urge all parish priests to organise the novena in honour of mother Mary with great devotion so that the faithful and especially the children

grow in their love for mother Mary. May the celebration of the novena and feast also help us to be grateful to God for the harvest this year, and to foster and strengthen the bond of unity in our families. I wish you, dear Rev. Fathers, and your dear parishioners and religious communities of men and women, a very happy *Monthi Fest*.

## **2. DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD**

As we joyfully celebrate the feast of the Nativity of Infant Mary, the Catholic Church in India invites us to celebrate the day as the *day of the girl child*. Despite the tremendous improvements in the status of women and girl-children in our country, we do hear everyday news of various atrocities against them and the trampling of their rights taking place in different parts of our nation. Every girl child is created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). Hence, I appeal to all of you to highlight the importance of the girl-child and the need to protect their rights with special prayers included in the prayers of the faithful during the feast of the Infant Mary.

## **3. TEACHERS' DAY**

We celebrate the Teachers' Day on **Thursday, 05 September 2024**. Teaching is a noble profession whereby through their committed services, the teachers nurture and form young minds in their classes not just intellectually, but also in the all-round formation and growth of their students. Besides their teaching in educational institutions and hectic schedules, many teachers also render yeoman services through catechesis and liturgy for the children in the parish and also generous services in their wards in their parishes. Let us pray for all these teachers who render dedicated and selfless service in all the educational institutions in our Diocese. May the good Lord bless them, their families, and their work in our institutions.

## **4. OUR LADY OF SORROWS - SALVI**

The devotion of conducting the *Salvi*, from **9 to 15 September**, present in some of our parishes, needs to be fostered. This is an occasion to meditate on the seven sorrows of our Lady along with the mystery of the Cross. Let us set before our faithful, the seven sorrows of our lady

as a model to keep faith and hope in the Lord in the face of their daily personal and family struggles and invite the faithful to see the continued accompaniment of Mother Mary in their journey of faith.

## **5. WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

The 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) will be celebrated on **Sunday, 29 September 2024**. The day is always celebrated on the last Sunday of September. The Catholic Church has been celebrating the WDMR since 1914. It's always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges, and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers. The theme of the Holy Father's Message for the WDMR 2024 is: **"God walks with his people"**. The message focuses on the itinerant dimension of the Church, with special attention to migrant brothers and sisters, a contemporary icon of the Church on the move. He suggests a journey to be made together, synodally, overcoming every obstacle and threat to reach the true homeland. Along the way, wherever one finds oneself, it is essential to recognize the presence of God who walks with his people, giving them guidance and protection at every step. Therefore, the starting point is to recognize the Lord present in his people, the Emmanuel who, in every migrant, knocks at the door of our heart and offers himself for the encounter.

## **6. DIOCESAN PASTORAL PLAN 2025-2030**

As we continue our journey in preparing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2025-2030, I wish to express my gratitude for your participation in the orientation programme held on 07 August 2024. Your contributions are vital as we move forward in this important endeavour.

To further our progress, I kindly request the Deans to include a discussion on the 'Vision, Values, Principles, Mandates, and Key Shifts' of the Pastoral Plan 2025-2030 during the upcoming Deanery Priests' Meetings. I ask that you submit the report of your discussions to me by 15 September 2024.

Additionally, the Deans are asked to convene meetings of the Deanery Pastoral Councils to deliberate on the focus areas for each of the 20

Pastoral Commissions for the period 2025-2030. Each commission is encouraged to identify and suggest two key areas of importance. Please ensure that these reports are submitted by 30 September 2024.

Similarly, Parish Priests are requested to engage their respective Parish Pastoral Councils in discussions on the focus areas for each commission for the years 2025-2030, with each commission proposing two priority areas. These reports are also to be submitted by 30 September 2024.

The information gathered from these reports will be instrumental in drafting a consolidated document, which will be thoroughly reviewed during the Priests' Consultation on the Pastoral Plan, scheduled for 14 and 15 November 2024. I urge you to mark these dates in your diaries and actively participate in this important consultation. I thank you for your dedication and cooperation as we work together for the betterment of our Diocese in alignment with our shared vision and mission.

## **7. PREPARATION FOR HOLIDAY CAMPS**

As part of faith formation, we organise Faith-Formation Camps, namely Jeevan Amrith, Jeevan Disha and Jeevan Jyothi for the children of standards 8th, 9th and 10th respectively at the deanery level during the Dasara holidays in October every year. I urge every deanery to organise these camps for the children without fail. I request the dean of every deanery to form a team, oversee the timely planning in September itself and proper implementation of the plan with the support of deanery priests by selecting themes concerning the Catholic faith and finding appropriate resource persons who would give inputs on the assigned themes appropriate to the level of children by the use of the modern means of communication.

## **8. SEASON OF CREATION**

Each year from September 1 to October 4, Christian families unite for the worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as creator and acknowledge creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a common call to

care for creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is **“To hope and act with Creation”**.

Amid the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, many are beginning to despair and suffer from eco-anxiety. As people of faith we are called to lift the hope inspired by our faith, the hope of the resurrection. This is not a hope without action but one embodied in concrete actions of prayer and preaching, service and solidarity.

The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. The guide for the celebration of the Season of Creation 2024, celebrated by the Catholic Church and the Non-Catholic Churches and ecclesial communities, has been already shared in the Chancery whatsapp group. Taking cues from this guide, I request the Commission for Ecology and Commission for Ecumenism to spread awareness about this season of creation among the faithful and also to organize a few meaningful programmes, such as an ecumenical prayer service

## **9. CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS**

1. Rev Fr (Dr) Roshan D’Souza - Spiritual Director of Diocesan Family Commission w.e.f. 01 July 2024
2. Rev. Fr Rolwin Fernandes - Assistant Priest and Teacher, Pangla Parish w.e.f. 21 August 2024
3. Rev. Fr Jithesh Irol Castelino - Assistant Priest, Karkal Town Parish w.e.f. 06 September 2024

Yours sincerely in Christ,

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+ **Gerald Isaac Lobo**

## COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

### 1. FAMILY COMMISSION

01 Sept	TOT Program for MPC Trainers, Karwar Diocese
14 & 15 Sept	Marriage Preparation Course
15 Sept	Remote Preparation for Family Life 7, 8, 9 & 10 Std Students, Karkal Deanery
22 Sept	Proximate Preparation for Family Life, Attur parish youth
23 & 24 Sept	Regional Meet at KROSS, Bengaluru

**Mr Leslie Arouza**  
*Director*

### 2. COMMISSION FOR LITURGY (DIVYA JYOTHI)

#### **Extraordinary Ministry – A Reminder**

This year, we have trained 132 new Extraordinary Ministers for the Distribution of Holy Communion. Please adhere to the following guidelines carefully:

- 1. Sacred Nature of the Ministry:** Extraordinary Ministry is a special and sacred role, not just a duty. It should be undertaken only when necessary. Preference should be given to religious sisters in the parish.
- 2. Age Criteria:** The age for starting this ministry is 40 years, and for retiring is 65 years (religious sisters are exempted). This does not mean that individuals will continue distributing Holy Communion until retirement. A periodic renewal of the mandate from the Bishop is required to continue this ministry.

3. **Rite of Commissioning:** The Rite of Commissioning is provided in the Extraordinary Ministers' handbook. Please keep one handbook in the official file.
4. **Renewal of the Mandate:** If the mandate for existing Extraordinary Ministers has expired and is not renewed, please apply to the Bishop for the renewal of the mandate. It is obligatory for Ministers to have a valid mandate. It has come to my attention that some parishes have Extraordinary Ministers distributing Holy Communion without proper mandate. Please ensure strict compliance with the guidelines. For those who have received their mandate this year (newly trained or renewed), please conduct their commissioning during the main mass using the Rite of Commissioning from the handbook.
5. **Insignia:** Extraordinary Ministers including religious sisters must wear the insignia according to the liturgical colours as prescribed for the Diocese of Udupi. If additional insignia are required, please place your order at DIVYAJYOTHI before **15 September 2024**.
6. **Maintenance of File:** Maintain a separate file for this ministry and preserve a photocopy of each Extraordinary Minister's training certificate in the file, not the original.

**Rev. Fr Wilson D'Souza**  
*Director*

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### DIAMOND BIRTHDAY

Rev. Fr Denis D'Sa, Parish Priest,  
St Anne Church, Thottam

20-09-2024

### CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU DEAR FATHER

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Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**  
Email: **voxnostaeditor@gmail.com** Editor: **Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**  
(For private circulation only)