

VOX NOSTRA

Vol VI

FEBRUARY 2018

No. 2

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

1. ANNUAL FEAST OF ST LAWRENCE BASILICA, ATTUR

The annual feast of St Lawrence Basilica, Attur-Karkal, was celebrated from 21 to 25 January 2018 with the traditional glitter, solemnity and devotion, with a meaningful theme “Blessed is he who considers the poor!” God’s providence and blessings, through the powerful intercession of St Lawrence, were clearly visible and tangible in the way the festivities took place so smoothly, prayerfully and devotionally for five days. The Rector of the Shrine and his team had made all necessary infrastructural arrangements, especially, at the confessional and the shrine campus with additional space for easy movement of devotees. While thanking God for His manifold blessings, graces and mercies constantly showered upon this Diocese through St Lawrence and on all those who visit this shrine, I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Rector, Very Rev. Fr George D’Souza, Assistant, Rev. Fr Jencil Alva, the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils and Parishioners of Attur Parish for their wholehearted support and cooperation. We remain grateful to the Catholic Sabha, Women Association (*Stree Sanghatan*), Youth, Choirs from various parishes, volunteers, singers, lectors, ushers, commentators, MCs, caterers, the Police, the Media and the Press. I thank our five Deans – of Kallianpur, Karkala, Kundapur, Shirva and Udupi - and all the Priests from these deaneries, from the Diocese of Mangalore and neighbouring Dioceses, and all Religious Priests for their ministry at the confessional, and every assistance rendered during the five days of festivities. May St Lawrence continue to guide and inspire us all to minister to his devotees and pilgrims

knocking at his Shrine throughout the year for peace, solace, mercy and reconciliation.

2. DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

2nd February every year is set aside as a day of consecrated life. This day is intended to help the entire Church to esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels and, is intended to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord. We offer our best wishes to all religious men and women in our Diocese on this day set aside for them with the assurance of our prayers and appreciation for their support and apostolate.

3. 26th WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – 11 FEBRUARY 2018

February 11 is celebrated as the World Day of the Sick, a celebration started by Pope John Paul II as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. The theme of this year's celebration is **“Mater Ecclesiae (Mother of the Church): ‘Behold, your son... Behold, your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home’”(Jn 19:26-27)**. Through his message, Pope Francis exhorts us that the Church's service to the sick and those who care for them must continue with renewed vigour, in fidelity to the Lord's command(cf. *Lk* 9:2-6; *Mt* 10:1-8; *Mk* 6:7-13) and following the eloquent example of her Founder and Master. The entire message of Pope Francis is given as annexure 1 on page 8. Let us offer our prayerful support and encouragement to physicians, nurses, volunteers, family members and all those consecrated men and women committed to serving the sick and those in need. I request you, dear Rev. Fathers, to announce the importance of this day of the sick to be kept up on 11 February 2018 and to offer special prayers for them and those who so very generously assist them. May the families who take loving care of

the sick and the elderly be blessed and rewarded for their generous and selfless service to the sick and the suffering.

4. MISSIONARY HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY –11 FEBRUARY 2018

The second Sunday of February, this year on 11th February, is celebrated as the **Missionary Holy Childhood Day** the world over and the celebrations remind us of the need to bring children closer to Jesus. It is a day to enable the children to deepen their faith in Jesus and His love for the world. While we must thank God for all the children of the world, we must pray for all the children of the world and remind ourselves about our responsibility of making them better human beings and bring them closer to Jesus. Thanks to the efforts and motivation of the Commission for Evangelization and Proclamation, most of the parishes in our Diocese have established Missionary Children’s Association and we desire that every child should be made a member of the Missionary Childhood Association for forming them in faith. I request you, dear Fathers, to hold a meaningful liturgical celebration on this day for children. You may seek relevant material on liturgy and other assistance from Rev. Fr Vincent Crasta, Director, in organizing the celebrations on this day.

5. SEASON OF LENT

The **Ash Wednesday** this year will be celebrated on **14 February**, which will mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. “Lent is a sacred time of spiritual preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Lenten liturgy disposes both the catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the Paschal Mystery: Catechumens, through the various stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism through penitential practices” (LY, 27). I take this occasion to wish all of you dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters a holy and prayerful season of Lent. Our faithful do enter this season with great devotion, reverence and faith which is very heartening to note. I exhort Parish Priests to continue to organize the usual para-liturgical devotions in

vogue during Lent and promote daily Way of the Cross and reading of the Passion Narrative, its reflection and meditation in families uniting themselves to the suffering, passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do go through the liturgical norms pertinent to the Lenten season and to the celebration of Ash Wednesday given in pages 71-73 in *ORDO* 2018. Please see annexure 2 on page 12 for the message of Pope Francis for Lent 2018. While the days of fast, **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** should be observed by the faithful like every year, I recommend that the faithful are motivated to observe the days of abstinence by choosing one of the following forms of prayer/penance/ works of Charity:

1. Attending Mass or making a 15 minute visit to the Blessed Sacrament or 15 minutes of Lectio Divina or a 15 minute meditation on the Passion of Our Lord or making the Way of the Cross
2. Missing breakfast or any one meal
3. Taking strictly vegetarian meals (avoiding fish and eggs as well)
4. Abstaining from alcohol (for those who drink).
5. Abstaining from smoking (for those who smoke).
6. Abstaining from beverages (like tea/coffee between meals)
7. Giving 10% of one's daily earnings in charity
8. Abstaining from meat (for those for whom it is a part of regular diet).

6. CBCI MEETING

The 33rd General Body meeting of the CBCI will be held on 2-9 February 2018 at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore, which will deliberate on the theme '**United in Diversity for a mission of Mercy and Witness**'. Let us pray that all the deliberations during the meeting are guided by the Holy Spirit when the Catholic Church hierarchy of our country comes together for this biennial meeting and thus be able to guide the Church in India on the right path in realizing the mission entrusted to her by Jesus Christ, our Lord.

7. ST LAWRENCE SHRINE ATTUR KARKAL- MY STAMP The Postal Department has brought out a special cover and ‘My Stamp’ to mark the dedication and proclamation of St Lawrence Minor Basilica of Attur-Karkal which was released on 18 January 2018 in Sauharda Sabhabhavana at Attur. The initiative to bring out the special cover and stamp was taken by Mr M.K. Krishnayya, a retired bank officer, philatelist, curator and guide of Corporation Heritage Museum, Udupi. The special cover is dedicated to promote tourism and create awareness of the history of the Basilica. It carries a picture of the front view of the Basilica and statue of St Lawrence. The personalized ‘My Stamp’ bears the face value of five rupees which can be used for postal envelopes, containing pictures of St Lawrence Minor Basilica and photo of the miraculous statue. Both will be available in post offices. We thank the Postal Department for granting us this unique privilege in honour of St Lawrence Basilica.

8. INAUGURATION OF PRESBYTERY, BELFRY AND CHURCH AT PILAR, SHIRVA

The newly constructed Belfry and Church dedicated to Infant Jesus at Pilar, Shirva, were inaugurated and blessed by me on 02 January 2018 in the presence of a large number of priests and faithful. Prior to this, the new presbytery was inaugurated by V. Rev. Fr Stany Tauro, the Dean of Shirva Deanery and the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Health Church, Shirva. The construction of this beautiful Church of God was

completed in a short time, thanks to the determined efforts of the Parish Priest, V. Rev. Fr Stany Tauro, and the whole-hearted cooperation and collaboration by the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, supportive parishioners, benefactors and the people of good will who contributed generously towards the building of the Church. I hereby express my sincere thanks and offer my congratulations to V. Rev. Fr Stany Tauro and the parishioners for working hard and with commitment towards realizing their dream. I also thank and appreciate the contribution of the Salesian Fathers of Don Bosco Youth Centre, especially, Fr Kiran Nazareth, SDB for looking after the spiritual needs of the faithful at this

substation and the support extended towards completing the project.

9. DEDICATION OF NEW BELFRY AND CHURCH AT KALMADY

The newly constructed Stella Maris Church at Kalmady was inaugurated and dedicated by me on 06 January 2018 and the new belfry was blessed by Most Rev. Robert Miranda, Bishop of Gulbarga, in the presence of Most Rev. Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimoga and a large number of priests and the faithful. This boat shaped new Church attracts a large number of faithful and devotees. Thanks to the hard work and untiring efforts of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza, and the whole-hearted cooperation and collaboration by the Parish Finance and Pastoral Councils, supportive parishioners, generous benefactors and people of good will who contributed their mite towards the building of the Church, making the construction of the new Church possible within a short period of time. I hereby express my sincere thanks and offer my congratulations to Rev. Fr Alban D'Souza and the parishioners for working hard and with commitment towards realizing their dream.

10. IMPORTANT DAYS TO BE MARKED IN THE CALENDAR

- A. Council of Priests' Meetings in 2018: March 16, June 15, Nov 30
- B. Diocesan Pastoral Council Meetings in 2018: Feb 28, June 16, Oct 19.
- C. Clergy Annual Retreat: 8 July evening to 13 July noon 2018.
- D. Ordination of Deacon: 24 April 2018
- E. Meeting of Religious Superiors: March 11, Dec 16
- F. Chrism Mass: 22 March 2018.

Yours in Christ,

+ 

+ Gerald I. Lobo
Bishop of Udupi

COMMUNICATION FROM PASTORAL COMMISSIONS

1. DIVYAJYOTHI

- 04/02/2018 Lectio Divina Training at Kelmbet
12/02/2018 Diocesan Exam Results Day
24/02/2018 Felicitation of Schoolwise Toppers in
 Catechism in X Std

2. COMMISSION FOR YOUTH

- 06-02-2018 ICYM Patron's Day – St. Gonzalo Garcia
11-02-2018 ICYM Convention – Youth Dazzle 2K18, St.
 Mary's Eng Med School, Kannarpady-Udupi

3. COMMISSION FOR SCCs

- 04.02.2018 SCC visit of Yermal Parish
11.02.2018 Bible Mirror Method Training at Padukone
18.02.2018 Parish SCC Sanchalaks gathering at Udupi.
25.02.2018 18 Commissions Training at Katpadi

Published at **Bishop's House, Udupi - 576 101**

Email: voxnstraeditor@gmail.com

Editor: **Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza**

(For Private Circulation Only)