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News Bulletin Diocese of Sultanpet

Bishop's House, St. Sebastian's Cathedral, Matha Kovil Street, Sultanpet, Palakkad- 678001
Kerala, India. Phone: 0491-2803420 | Cell: 09645279101
Email: sultanpetdiocese@gmail.com / peterabir@gmail.com | Web : sultanpetdiocese.org

Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay faithful,
Wish you all the graces of God in this holy season of Lent!

The Crucified God!



Long ago in 1973 Jürgen Moltmann, a professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Tübingen, wrote an extensive volume on *"The Crucified God"*, underlining the fact that the crucifixion of Jesus leads us to a life of hope. In fact, the cross was not from the very beginning as object of attraction nor could be dearly loved; this is because it reminded the people both of the pain and sufferings and of the consequent violent death. Yet, only the crucified Jesus changed the entire scene from suffering to hope, death to life! Jesus transformed the human face of the cross into its divine face; the shame of the cross into its power of God (1 Cor 1:21-22); from its symbol of the ruling power to its significance to the persecuted and the oppressed.

The Cross of Christ!

Historical and social factors would tell us that cross was the invention of the Persians and the same was followed by the Romans to inflict death to the criminals. We might also suppose that the cross entered Jesus's path only after the judgement of Pilate. However, with the understanding of Paul who saw Jesus, "being born in human likeness" (Phil 2:7), the cross had already embraced Jesus at the annunciation of Mary at Nazareth. In fact, the whole journey of Jesus from Nazareth, in the womb of Mary, to Jerusalem is a long way of the cross. From the hostile efforts of Herod, the Great (Mt 2: 8) to the aggressive instigation of Caiaphas (Jn 11:49), the cross was carried by Jesus. However, he was never afraid of the cross (Jn 10:18); for him the cross was the will of God (Lk 22:42) and a means of his sacrifice for the salvation of humankind (Heb 9:18); as such, he changed the human cross into the divine Cross/grace. The destructive plan of human selfishness is frustrated by the divine providence.

The wooden cross given to Jesus, after his encounter in the world (*"he came to his own, and his own people did not accept him"* Jn 1:11) became the Holy Cross which led, in course of time, to the 'cult of the Cross,' that is, making present the death of Christ in the sacrifice of the altar. This changed portrait of the Cross is that it is no more a symbol of pain and suffering but has become the weapon of Christ, not only to crush injustice and oppressive and selfish human arrogance but also to bring the final victory against death and Evil itself. This was the faith-proclamation of Paul when he said: "where O death is your victory..." (1 Cor 15:55).

Cross: Pain no More!

When Paul declared boldly and with much serenity of heart: "I die every day... a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord" (1 Cor 15:31) the cross of death for him was no more pain and despair, but a witness to his intimacy with Jesus (Col 1:23) and happiness in sharing the mission of Christ in leading people towards the reign of God (Phil 1:21). The Crucified Jesus/God became a symbol of self-surrender for a noble cause, also, the power of God and the centre of his proclamation (1 Cor 2:2). I find the same contentment in St. Ignatius of Antioch (35108 AD) who implored the Christians to do nothing to prevent

his martyrdom and many other heroic soldiers of Christ down through the centuries. They, very well, understood the words of Jesus: “Do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul” (Matt 10:28) and also the stand of the first Christians who “did not cling to life in the face of death” (Rev 21:11). St. Augustine emphatically asserts: “Christ's martyrs feared neither death nor pain. He triumphed in them who lived in them; and they, who lived not for themselves but for Him, found in death itself the way to life.”

Death is Gain!

In this season of Lent we often meditate on the Way of the Cross; we read the Passion narratives of Jesus; we pray too the sorrowful mystery of the Rosary. They should not remain only as pious acts of the Lenten observance. The motivation of Jesus must enkindle and enriches us to enter into the spirit of the Cross. In fact, if we look at the cross it is fearful and painful; if we look at the **Cross of Christ** it is salvific and motivating; yes it motivates us to accept the everyday events, not as fate, but as the will/plan of God and to strive hard to establish justice within ourselves, with our neighbours, with our family and with society at large. We are motivated by the Cross of Christ to take up our daily 'crosses' not as strife and sufferings but as human challenges to be endured in order to proclaim to the conflict-trodden world: “Pause, see and return.” 'Pause a little to leave behind the unrest and commotion that fills the soul; refrain from desiring to appear always in the “notice board;” refrain from haughty looks; see the face of our families, see the face of our sick people, see the Crucified Love which brings hope to us and finally return, without fear, to the Father, return without fear to the oppressed and migrants and return, without fear, the experience of healing' (*Pope Francis, Ash Wednesday Homily, Feb 2018*). When I “walk” in this Way of the Cross I am proud of my daily crosses; I am happy about being ill-treated, misunderstood, misinterpreted; I am not perturbed about the burdens of works of mercy and acts of justice! Then, I am better prepared to celebrate the Risen Lord!

To All Parish Priests!

I appreciate all Parish Priests for having read on the first Sunday of Lent my *Lenten Pastoral letter* distributed both in Tamil and in Malayalam and for taking efforts to have spiritual renewal in the parishes by organizing Lenten retreats and the celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation.



+ Antony Samy Peter Abir
Bishop of Sultanpet

Bishop's Appointments

Date	Time	Programme	Place
1	06.30 am	Mass	MarudhaRaod, Palakkad
3	05.00 pm	School Annual Day	Kozhinjampara
4	09.00 am	Lenten Retreat Mass	Mannarkad
	03.30 pm	Lenten Retreat Mass	Palakkad
	07.00 pm	Novena Mass	Palaniarpalayam
6-7		All India Youth Seminar on Bible	NBCLC, Bangalore
8	10.30 am	World Women's Day	Sunnambukalthodu
10	10.00 am	CRI General Body Meeting	Palakkad
11	07.30 pm	Lenten Retreat Mass	Sorappara
12-17		Conference for the Young Bishops	Mumbai
18	10.00 am	Pilgrimage to Peria Kovil Palayam	Kovilpalayam
25	07.00 am	Palm Sunday	Cathedral, Palakkad
26	10.00 am	Priests' Recollection	Bishop's House
	05.00 pm	Chrism Mass	Cathedral, Palakkad
29	05.00 pm	Maundy Thursday Mass	Cathedral, Palakkad
30	07.00 am	Way of the Cross	Cathedral, Palakkad

Date	Time	Programme	Place
	10.30 am	Way of the Cross & Good Friday Ceremonies	Mukkali, Attapady
31	11.30 pm	Easter Vigil Mass	Cathedral, Palakkad
1 April '18	08.00 am	Easter Mass	Kozhipara

From Vicar General Desk

Chrism Mass & Commission Secretaries Meeting

It is to be noted that there will be the Priests' Monthly Recollection followed by the Chrism Mass which will be held at the Cathedral on Monday 26 March 2018. On this day we shall also have the meeting of the Secretaries of various Diocesan Pastoral Commissions.

The Programme as follows:

10.00 am	Commission Secretaries Meeting	03.00 pm	Recollection talk, Adoration and Confession
11.00 am	Tea	04.30 pm	Benediction
11.30 am	Pastoral concerns	05.30pm	Chrism mass followed by supper.
01.00 pm	Lunch & rest		

*Rev. Msgr. A. S. Madalaimuthu,
Vicar General*

From the Procurator's Desk

Some Information & Reminders

- 1) If there is any pending special collection, Mission Sunday collections or mass stipends for 2017, please remit as early as possible.
- 2) Those who have not bought the new Tamil Roman Missal please do it at the earliest. The Cost is Rs. 1000/- only per copy.
- 3) The Pascal Candle will be available at procurator's office from the middle of March 2018.

Education Fund

Opening Balance	-	16,31,211.00	Puthupalayam	-	5000.00
Bank Interest	-	11479.00	Kularayanpalayam	-	3000.00
Kanjikode	-	4500.00	Eruthenpathy	-	<u>25000.00</u>
Kunnukad	-	5000.00	Closing Balance	-	16,85,190.00

Medical Help

We distributed medical help in February to the parishioner of Saveriyarpalayam and Sorappara Parish of Rs. 5000/- each.

Shopping Complex at Shornur

A shopping Complex in the premise of the Church of St. Antony at Shornur was blessed and opened by our Bishop on Sunday 11 February 2018. Fr. Joseph Xavier, Parish Priest, took much initiative for this project. We too thank Mr. Varghese Philip who looked after the construction work.



*Rev. Fr. Lorance L.,
Procurator*

Vocation Commission

Please give the names of all those (fitting candidates for Priesthood) who are completing this year 10th Std or 12th Std, so that we could make arrangements for their further studies somewhere outside the diocese. As we have discussed in our earlier meetings; kindly find out the suitable boys and give their names, at least two from every parish. I shall meet their families personally.

*Rev. Fr. Sylvester D'Cruz
Secretary, Vocation Commission*

News from the Family Commission

The next Marriage preparation classes will be held at Sorappara on 21-22 April 2018. Kindly send all the boys and girls who are planning for their marriage.

*Fr. Paul Vincent
Family Commission*

Lenten Programmes:

- 1. March 18:** Diocesan Lenten Pilgrimage to Kovilpalayam. The programme begins at 3 pm with a preparation for Confession, then adoration and Sacrament of Confession. The programmes end with the concelebrated high mass presided over by our Bishop. All the priests are requested to bring your people before 2.30 pm to this programme.
- 2. March 3-4 :** Retreat at Mannarkad (for Mannarkad Vicariate)
- 3. March 2-4 :** Retreat at Palakkad (for Palakkad Vicariate)
- 4. March 9-11:** Retreat at Sorappara (for Sorappara Vicariate)

Fr. Maria Joseph

Secretary, Charismatic Commission.

Youth Convention

The Youth convention will be held at Sorappara for all the Tamil speaking youth from our Diocese on Sunday 11 March 2018. The Convention begins at 9 am and will be over by lunch at 1 pm on that day. They will continue the Lenten retreat in the afternoon. An expert team will conduct this convention. All Parish Priests are request to send all the Tamil speaking youth of your parish for this convention.

Rev. Fr. M. Paul,

Secretary, Youth Commission.

SMSSS New Project Inauguration

A new project supported by CEI, Rome and undertaken by the SMSSS will be inaugurated at Sunnabukalthodu on Thursday 8 March 2018. This will be mainly to give training for the farmers on the new technology on agriculture in our region.

Rev. Fr. Prince Robert,

Director, SMSSS

News from the Diocese



- 1. Blessing of a chapel** dedicated to St. Sebastian built at Uppukuly (parish of Attapallam) was blessed and opened by our Bishop on Saturday 10 February 2018. Fr. Jesusdoss, Parish Priest of Attapallam, took much initiative to construct this chapel where there 45 Catholic Families live.

- 2. The tailoring Centre** built by the OLM sisters at Kulamadaichellai was blessed by our bishop and opened by Sr. Jayamma, OLM, Provincial Superior of the OLM sisters, on Saturday 10 February 2018.



- 3. Our Bishop did the Pastoral visit** to the parish of Chittur on Sunday 25 February 2018. After the Holy Mass Bishop met with various groups, like the BCC units, Parish Council members, Youth, Catechism children, choir members and so on.



- 4. The fourth anniversary** of the Episcopal Ordination of our Bishop was celebrated on Monday 12 February. On that day there was recollection to the priests at 10.30 am and this was followed by the concelebrated high mass in the Cathedral.



Rev. Dn. J. Chinnapparaj,

Secretary to the Bishop

BIRTH DAY

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 3 | Fr. Paul Vincent | 19 | Fr. Vijay Richard |
| 18 | Fr. Stalon, ofm (Cap) | 24 | Rev. Msgr. Madalaimuthu |

SNL wish you a Happy Birth Day

FEAST DAY

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 19 | Fr. Vijay Richard | Fr. Jose Michael, mf | Fr. Joseph, msfs |
| | Fr. Martin Jose | Fr. Joseph Xavier, cp | Fr. Patrick Alphoonse, sdb |

SNL wish you a Happy Feast Day

ORDINATION DAY

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|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 15 | Fr. Mani Manimala, sj. | 24 | Fr. ArokSundar, ofm |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|

SNL wish you a Happy Ordination Day