

Priestly Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. George Devanapalle at Marllapalli



Blessing of New Presbytery at Mother Theresa Parish, Badvel-II



Holy Mass & Confirmations at Pakala.



Feast day Mass & Confirmations at Tirupathi.



Ash Wednesday - Holy Mass at Tekurpet.



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Shepherd's Voice

DIOCESE OF CUDDAPAH

Vol : 42



ISSUE-3

**MARCH
2020**



Wish you a Happy Feast to you all



Most Rev. Gali Bali
Apostolic Administrator

*St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of Cuddapah Diocese
Pray for us*



THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD



CARITAS OF INDIA



*His Excellency Most Rev. Gali Bali
giving Special Blessings
to A.P. Home Minister Sucharita*



*Feast of Our Lady of Lourdu's
Mariapuram.*



POPE FRANCIS: "I LOVE ST JOSEPH VERY MUCH BECAUSE HE IS A STRONG AND SILENT MAN"

Joseph is a "protector" because he is able to hear God's voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason he is all the more sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He can look at things realistically, he is in touch with his surroundings, he can make truly wise decisions. In him, dear friends, we learn how to respond to God's call, readily and willingly.

Here I would add one more thing: caring, protecting, demands goodness, it calls for a certain tenderness. In the Gospels, Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!

I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!

Next, *rising with Jesus and Mary*. Those precious moments of repose, of resting with the Lord in prayer, are moments we might wish to prolong. But like Saint Joseph, once we have heard God's voice, we must rise from our slumber; we must get up and act (cf. *Rom 13:11*). In our families, we have to get up and act! Faith does not remove us from the world, but draws us more deeply into it.

Just as the gift of the Holy Family was entrusted to Saint Joseph, so the gift of the family and its place in God's plan is entrusted to us. Like Saint Joseph. The gift of the Holy Family was

entrusted to Saint Joseph so that he could care for it. Each of you, each of us – for I too am part of a family – is charged with caring for God's plan. The angel of the Lord revealed to Joseph the dangers which threatened Jesus and Mary, forcing them to flee to Egypt and then to settle in Nazareth. So too, in our time, God calls upon us to recognize the dangers threatening our own families and to protect them from harm.

“Today I would like to ask that St Joseph grant all of us the ability to dream because when we dream great things, good things, we draw near to God's dream, what God dreams about us. That he might give to those who are young people — because he was young — the ability to dream, to take risks and to take on the difficult tasks seen in their dreams. And that he might give to all the fidelity that generally matures in upright behavior, since he was just, which grows in silence—in few words—and grows in that tenderness which is capable of safeguarding one's own weaknesses and those of others”.

**O Saint Joseph, do assist me by your powerful
intercession, and obtain for me from your
Divine Son all spiritual blessings, through
Jesus Christ, our Lord, So that, having
engaged here below your heavenly power, I
may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the
most Loving of Father. *Amen.***

COMMUNICATIONS**1. Clergy Recollection at Deanery Level:**

The Clergy recollection for the month of March will be at Deanery level. The Deans are requested to make arrangements for the Recollection. I request all the priests to attend the recollection without fail.

2. New Appointment:

Rev.Fr.Marianna Ramaji, CPPS is temporarily appointed as the Parish Priest of Yerraguntla. Wishing you every success and God's blessings in your ministry.

3. Word of Appreciation:

We appreciate and thank Rev.Fr. Sagili Prakash, the Parish Priest, Rev.Fr.G.Suresh, assistant, Sisters, Committee Members and all the faithful of the Parish for their tireless work in celebrating the Novena and Feast of Lourdhu Matha in a Meaningful and Fruitful Manner.

4. Sacred Ordination to Priesthood:

We are happy to inform you that two of our deacons namely Deacon Kaipu Balachandra- Khajipet Parish and Deacon Konakala Balashowry- Wyra- II, Khammam Diocese are going to be ordained priests by Most Rev. Gali Bali, the Apostolic Administrator at 5:00PM on 2nd April 2020 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Mariapuram, Kadapa. Let us pray for them and wish them all the best for their Priestly Ministry.

ENGAGEMENTS**MARCH 2020**

- 2nd to 7th : TCBC Meetings at Hyderabad.
- 9th Monday : Meeting with Government Officials in Guntur
- 10th Tuesday A.M. : Memorial Mass for the deceased priest
Rev.Fr.Kolukula Innareddy at Patibandla
- 11th Wednesday P.M. : Bishop's return to Kadapa.
- 14th Saturday P.M. : School day function of Holy Rosary English
Medium School at Porumamilla
- 15th Sunday A.M : Silver Jubilee of Parish Church at Srikalahasthi
P.M. : Visit to Oteru
- 18th Wednesday : Not Available
- 19th Thursday A.M. : Feast day mass of St. Joseph at Mandapam of
Mariapuram, Kadapa
P.M. : First & Final Profession of Arogyamatha Sisters at
Arogyamatha Shrine, Kadapa
- 21st Saturday : Not Available
- 22nd Sunday A.M : Holy Mass at Putturu
P.M : Holy Mass cum confirmations and blessing of
St. Joseph's Shrine at Nagari
- 23rd Monday A.M. : Holy Mass and confirmation at Iruguvai
P.M. : Visits to Gundraju Kuppam and Pitchatur Parishes
- 25th Wednesday A.M: Holy Mass for Legion of Mary Acies Meeting at
Kadapa.
- 28th Saturday : Not Available
- 29th Sunday A.M. : Holy Mass and Confirmations and First Holy
Communion at Jammalamadugu Parish and Blessing
of Cemetery wall and Gate.
- 31st Tuesday : Not Available

APRIL - 2020

1 st Wednesday	: Not Available
2 nd Thursday A.M.	: Diocesan Level Monthly Recollection and meeting at Bishop's House, Kadapa.
P.M.	: Priestly Ordinations of two deacons and Chrism Mass
4 th Saturday P.M	: Blessing of Grotto and Museum at Arogyamatha Shrine, Kadapa
5 th Sunday A.M	: Palm Sunday: Holy Mass at Mandanapalli
8 th Wednesday	: Not Available
9 th Thursday P.M	: Holy Thursday: Holy Mass at Bhakarapet
10 th Friday P.M.	: Good Friday: Service at Nandalur
11 th & 12 th	: Easter Vigil Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral, Mariapuram
13 th Monday	: Not Available

FROM THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

Dear Fathers and Sisters,

Please send your parish/ institutions collections for Jyotirmai and Holy Childhood to the finance office before March 15, 2020.

Mass Intentions

As per the canon Law a priest is entitled for only one stipend per day even if he has celebrated more than one mass a day. Therefore all of us are reminded to submit extra masses, bination Masses even if it is in small numbers to the diocesan finance ministry. These Masses will very much useful to the increasing number of the priests in the diocese.

Mass intentions received

S.No	Date	Name of The Donor	No of Masses	Mass stipend
1	12-02-2020	Fr. K. Joji Reddy, Urutur	20	Rs. 2,000.00
2	12-02-2020	St. Anthony's Church Renigunta	15	Rs. 1,500.00
3	13-02-2020	St. Mary's Cathedral Mariapuram	524	Rs.52,400.00
		Total		Rs.55,900.00

- ❖ As you are aware that the financial year comes to an end by 31st March 2020. Therefore, kindly submit your statement of accounts supported by bills and vouchers systematically for all the projects and other payments received from the Diocesan finance office by 15th March 2020.
- ❖ There will be no payments in March 2020.
- ❖ Kindly note that the bills and vouchers dated for the financial year April 2019 to March 2020 will not be valid for the next financial year. The payments received during this current financial year cannot be carried over or spent for the next financial year. The unspent amount taken for the projects during this financial year should be handed over to the Diocesan office by 15th of March 2020.
- ❖ There will be an annual auditing for all the payments taken for the projects during this financial year and for all the local accounts for all the parishes, institutions and English Medium Schools of the Diocese in the Month of April 2020. Hence kindly get ready with your statement of accounts supported by bills and vouchers.
- ❖ Thank you for your kind cooperation. Have a holy and fruitful lent 2020.

Rev. Fr. Susai Antony.

Financial Administrator

**PASTORAL DIARY OF OUR APOSTOLIC
ADMINISTRATOR**

On 2nd February 2020 His Lordship Most Rev.Gali Bali celebrated the Feast of Kanukamatha at Marllapalli and also Silver Jubilee of Rev.Fr. Devanapali George. His Excellency congratulated Rev.Fr.Devanapali George and gave his blessings to him and his family Members. He also appreciated Rev. Fr. T. Micheal, Sisters and committee members for their hard work for the meaningful celebration.

On 3rd February 2020 His Excellency Most Rev.Gali Bali visited Badvel – II Parish and blessed and opened the newly built presbytery. He offered the Holy Mass. On the same day in the evening His Lordship also visited Pangavandlapalli in Badvel-II parish and inaugurated newly built chapel. He celebrated the Holy Mass and gave his blessing to the faithful. He appreciated Rev.Fr. Talari Balaraj, the Parish Priest, Rev.Fr. D.Suman, assistant, and committee members for their dedication and hard work for the completion of Presbytery and Chapel in the parish.

On 11th February 2020 His Lordship Most Rev. Gali Bali celebrated the feast day Mass of Our Lady of Lourdu's Patron of Cathedral at Mariapuram. He preached about the miraculous apparition of Mary to the Children. He also appreciated Rev. Fr. Sagili Prakash, the Parish Priest, Rev.Fr. G.Suresh, assistant, Sisters and committee members for hard work and commitment to celebrate the feast in a prayerful atmosphere.

On 23rd February 2020 His Excellency Most Rev.Gali Bali visited the Infant Jesus English Medium School at Pakala. He appreciated Rev.Fr. A. Rajesh and staff members for their wonderful services. His Lordship celebrated the Holy Mass and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. at St. Anthony's Church, Pakala. He explained about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the importance of Confirmation, which strengthen the faith of each person. He

appreciated Rev.Fr. Jude Filbert, Sisters and faithful for their active participation for the success. On the same day in the evening His Excellency celebrated the Feast day Mass at Tirupathi and administered the sacrament of Confirmation. He appreciated Rev.Fr. S. Papi Reddy, the Parish Priest, Rev.Fr. K.Lourdharaj, assistant, Sisters and committee members for their hard work for the meaningful celebration of Feast day.

On 25th February 2020, His Lordship Most Rev. Gali Bali visited Gurrampadu Village, one of the substations of Chennur Parish on the occasion of jubilee celebration and blessed the Chapel and celebrated the Holy Mass. He appreciated the faith of the people for their cooperation in the activities of the Church. He also appreciated Rev.Fr. M. Balaswamy the parish priest, sisters and faithful for their active participation for the success.

On 26th February 2020, His Excellency visited Tekurpet Parish and celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass. He explained about the season of lent and encouraged them to do penance and charitable activities during these 40 days. He appreciated Rev.Fr. A.Prasad, the Parish Priest for the dedication and commitment in the pastoral activities in the Parish.

News from Sacred Heart Pastoral Centre, Kadapa

Dear Rev. Fathers,

This is to inform you that the Lenten campaign for this year, we are going to concentrate in the district of Chittoor. We, the pastoral center staff, are going to visit all the parishes in this district. Kindly understand and cooperate with us.

Rev.Fr.Marianna Ery
Pastoral Centre Director

**CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA
XXXIV PLENARY ASSEMBLY, ST. JOHN'S NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, BENGALURU,
13-19 FEBRUARY 2020**

Final Statement

Dialogue: The Path to Truth and Charity

Introduction

We, the 192 member Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, assembled for our XXXIV Plenary Assembly at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru from 13-19 February 2020. Prompted by our fidelity to Jesus Christ and unflinching loyalty to our beloved motherland we reflected, meditated and deliberated on the ever relevant theme, "Dialogue: The Path to Truth and Charity." We also sought to sincerely evaluate the quality of our apostolic ministry and be renewed in the Spirit to be servant leaders of our people after the heart of Christ who came "to serve and not to be served" (Mark 10, 48).

The Church, the community of faith in Jesus Christ, has integral and all-inclusive dialogue at her heart. Indeed dialogue belongs to the very essence of the Christian faith. All through her history the Church has made earnest efforts to engage in dialogue at different levels. As a community of human beings the Church lives in civil society and body politic, continuously inspiring us to be loyal citizens of India. The noteworthy contribution of the Church in the field of education, health care and social transformation has been consistently acknowledged by the people of India.

India: Unity in Diversity

The hallmark of Indian society is its pluralism. From ancient times, India has been a mosaic of many religions, cultures and languages with a strong Indian identity. What unites us is stronger and deeper than what divides us. We are proud of our Constitution that envisions

a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic which resolved to secure for all its citizens Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity as enshrined in the Preamble. Justice is spelt out as social, economic and political; Liberty is explained as liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and Equality is understood as equality of status and opportunity. These Constitutional values form the ethos of Indian identity that promotes Fraternity which leads to the dignity of the individual and unity and integrity of the nation. Every citizen must be ever vigilant against any attempt to undermine the ennobling human vision of the Constitution so that our beloved country ever remains united.

Biblical Foundations

Various streams of thoughts running through the biblical texts enrich our understanding of the necessity of dialogue among peoples and cultures. Dialogue with other religions is integral to the Biblical Revelation. The different aspects of dialogue in the Bible are rooted in our faith in God as Trinity: God as the Creator of all, the universal presence of God's Spirit, and Jesus as the Saviour of all mankind.

In the Gospels, Jesus' encounters with people reveal that God is the Father of all. The Kingdom of God that Jesus preached embodies the love of God, irrespective of race, sex, colour, class, language and creed. The Good News of Jesus calls upon humanity to establish a society of justice, equality, love, forgiveness and peace. Dialogue begins and grows when we open ourselves to the Lord, and by committing ourselves to his words and deeds, live the mystery of his death and resurrection which paves the path to truth and charity. For example, in the dialogue with the Samaritan woman, Jesus unveils the true horizons of relating with God in truth and spirit. He starts with the dialogue of life and moves to the dialogue of action which is followed by the dialogue of sharing the religious experience, and eventually the dialogue leads to the witnessing of truth.

CHURCH TEACHINGS

The Church encourages believers to respect each other and one another's religious tradition, thus cooperating with one another to promote peace and harmony and work for the common good of all. Pope Francis has urged all people of good will to make every effort to establish peace in society by "inviting all persons who believe in God to unite and work together, so that it may serve as a guide for future generations to advance a culture of mutual respect in the awareness of the great divine grace that makes all human beings brothers and sisters...called to express this human fraternity by safeguarding creation and the entire universe, and supporting all persons, especially the poorest and those most in need..." (*Document on Human Fraternity*, 4th February 2019, Abu Dhabi).

Dialogue is rooted in the very vocation of the Church. Being open to dialogue, calls for being absolutely consistent with one's own religious tradition. Believers enter into each other's depth of life through dialogue.

Dialogue with Cultures and Religions

Every community that lives in India possesses its own cultural identity with its richness, which must be respected at any cost. Attempts to homogenize and impose a mono-cultural pattern pose serious threats to the cultural patrimony of our country. As our Constitution envisions, there cannot be any meaningful dialogue of culture without acknowledging the primacy of human person. People of every culture and religion and those who profess no religion must be esteemed with mutual respect which eventually leads to human fraternity. No culture or religion shall dominate over other cultures and religions. Subduing certain cultures by the dominant culture will destroy the peace and harmony existing in the country. "The enemy of fraternity is an individualism which translates into the desire to affirm oneself and one's own group above others. Religious behaviour, therefore, needs continually to be purified

from the recurrent temptation to judge others as enemies and adversaries.” (*Document on Human Fraternity*, 4th February 2019, Abu Dhabi).

Dialogue with the Poor, the Dalits and Tribal People

Dialogue with the poor, the Dalits and Tribal people is an urgent priority in the context of India. The Dalits and Tribal people are continually denied their human rights socially. Every step taken in favour of their liberation by eradicating poverty, exploitation, discrimination, and every other form of sinful structures of society is an effective means of dialogue. However, dialogue with the poor shall not be limited only to the works of mercy. The term ‘the Church of the poor’ reflects the constant self-understanding of Christians that the poor stand in the place of Christ, and therefore charity and justice must be an essential and central dimension of what it means to be a follower of Christ.

In this context, we urge the State authorities to take adequate steps to ensure justice to the Dalit Christians and the Tribal people.

Dialogue with Nature

Dialogue with nature is another important aspect. The earth, our common home, which was created to support life and give praise to God, is crying out with pain because human activity is destroying it. All who believe in God and all people of good will have an obligation to protect the ecological equilibrium of the earth, intended by the Creator. Therefore dialogue with nature includes serious steps to mitigate climate change, clean the land and the seas, and start treating all of creation with respect and concern.

Dialogue with the Unborn

Dialogue should not be limited to those who are born; rather the right to life of the unborn must also be taken seriously into account. We believe that the human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception, that *each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with the respect*

due to a human person from womb to tomb. The steps to legalise abortion even to the extent of six months must be condemned as a gross injustice which undermines the right to life of the unborn. We appeal to the State authorities that it immediately withdraw the Bill in the Parliament.

Dialogue of Peace

Interreligious dialogue is one of the most pressing needs of our times. There will be no peace among nations without peace among religions. There will be no peace among religions without dialogue among religions. We are alarmed by continuous persecution on a global level endured by innocent people at the hands of fundamentalist and terrorist groups.

Dialogue in India should aim at collaboration in areas such as peace-building, protection of the environment, eradication of poverty and ensuring the human dignity of all, especially of women and children. Besides, it means that we condemn all wars, violence and terrorism that create insurmountable blocks to dialogue. We pledge ourselves to engage in a process of dialogue for a reconciled society.

A Fervent Appeal

We believe that *patriotism is different from narrow and divisive cultural nationalism, which is radically different from Constitutional nationalism.* No one has the right to question the patriotism of any Indian citizen on subjective grounds. Authentic patriotism **unites us amidst divergences.** *Patriotism is defined as* directing the attention of the citizens to the good of the whole human family, united by the different ties which bind together races, people and nations. “All Christians must be aware of their sense of responsibility and their service of the common good. They must recognize the legitimacy of different opinions with regard to temporal solutions, and respect citizens, who, even as a group, defend their points of view by honest methods” (*Church in the Modern World*, no. 75).

False nationalistic ideologies *that instigate contempt for cultures other than the majoritarian dominant culture* are capable of perpetrating atrocities. It is necessary *to clarify the essential difference between patriotism and pseudo nationalism.* **Patriotism builds up the nation while pseudo nationalism destroys the integrity, unity and harmony of the nation. Nationalism, particularly in its most radical and extreme forms, is thus the antithesis of true patriotism.**

We appeal to the State authorities to ensure that *pseudo nationalism does not continue to give rise to new forms of totalitarianism. Together with the framers of the Constitution, we, the Catholic Bishops of India, affirm that religion shall not be a criterion for determining Indian citizenship. The authorities should come forward with sincere and effective means to erase the sense of fear, anxiety and uncertainty spreading in the country, especially among the religious minorities.*

Needless to say that dissent should not be misconstrued as unpatriotism. Democracy cannot be built on monologue. We call upon **the State authorities** that it is right time to sit around the common table, a place of conversation and of shared hopes. Against the attempts at creating cultural isolation in our beloved country, dialogue will make the elements that are seemingly a barrier or a wall, a bridge of relationship. “Identity and dialogue are not enemies. Our own cultural identity is strengthened and enriched as a result of dialogue with those unlike ourselves. Nor is our authentic identity preserved by an impoverished isolation.” (Pope Francis, *Querida Amazonia*, n. 37).

Conclusion

Dialogue is indeed the path to truth and charity. Let us pray that dialogue grows in every family, at all levels of the Church, among the Christians, among religions and cultures, and among the nations so that God’s Kingdom of reconciliation, justice, peace and love may be established.

anguished with what is happening in our country, we are filled with hope inspired by faith and the innate goodness of all our fellow citizens. We appreciate the majority who uphold the secular values of our nation. We are determined to continue to collaborate in the work of building our great nation, Mother India.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who manifested the exemplary spirit of dialogue through her maternal intercession, guide each one of us on the path of truth and charity!

The new Office-Bearers of the CBCI were elected.

President	: His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias (re-elected)
Vice-President I	: Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios (re-elected)
Vice-President II	: Most Rev. Mar George Njaralakatt (re-elected)
Secretary General	: Most Rev. Felix Anthony Machado (elected)

The new Chairmen for the 4 National Centres are:

Caritas India	: Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura (Buxar)
NBCLC	: Most Rev. Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda)
St. John's	: Most Rev. George Antonysamy (re-elected) (Madras-Mylapore)
CBCI SME-NI	: Most Rev. Anand Jojo (Hazaribag)



**THE REPORT OF CHITTOOR DEANERY RECOLLECTION
HELD ON 18th FEBRUARY 2020 AT RENIGUNTA.**

The Priests arrived at 10:15 AM and we began our Eucharist Adoration till 11:30 AM. After the coffee break, we sat for discussion and the following points were accepted for implementation.

- ❖ The priests are really looking for Children's camp in their respective parishes. They will get ready with the list of children and resource persons at the earliest and send to the Diocese. The aims and objectives are to teach Christian values, to teach Catechism to the children, to prepare children for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, to encourage Bible Reading, to sing religious songs and to conduct Bible Quiz program.
- ❖ The Diocese had sent the documents on the Marriage celebrations for discussion. Fr. Ravindra Summarized it and given the copy and read out too. The summarized copy is enclosed with the deanery report to the Diocese. Many had clarifications on the topic. All priests appreciated and thanked the Bishop and welcomed the proposal to have deanery marriage preparation course. Our deanery formed a committee with Frs. A.Rajesh , Ravindra and Kiran Kumar SDM. And we are looking for a sister from the congregations to join. They will send our timely circulars in this regard and the course will be beginning immediately after Easter. The committee also is getting ready with a project in this connection. The priests proposed some suggestions to the Diocese: to prepare a common prenuptial enquiry form and marriage certificate form (Extra from the register of marriage to other dioceses and parishes). The Diocese must publish in the Diocesan News Letter that can be approached to send the annulment applications.
- ❖ The priests look for MPSSS and CMSSS general body meeting with financial report but not the general report in the Diocesan Recollection.

The meeting came to an end with lunch.

-Rev.Fr.S.Susairaj

Dean of Chittoor

2. Fast from judging others.

Before making
any judgments,
recall how
Jesus
overlooks our
faults.



9 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LENT

This week the liturgical season of Lent begins.
Here are nine things you need to know about it . . .

1. What is Lent?

According to the Universal Norms for the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar

27. Lent [is a liturgical season that] is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the paschal mystery both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.

2. Where does the word “Lent” come from?

The Catholic Encyclopedia notes:

The Teutonic word *Lent*, which we employ to denote the forty days’ fast preceding Easter, originally meant no more than the spring season. Still it has been used from the Anglo-Saxon period to translate the more significant Latin term *quadragesima* (French *carême*, Italian *quaresima*, Spanish, *cuaresma*), meaning the “forty days”, or more literally the “fortieth day”. This in turn imitated the Greek name for Lent, *tessarakoste* (fortieth), a word formed on the analogy of Pentecost (*pentekoste*), which last was in use for the Jewish festival before New Testament times.

3. When does Lent begin and end?

The Universal Norms state:

28. The forty days of lent run from Ash Wednesday up to but excluding the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive.

This mean that Lent begins at 12:01 a.m. on Ash Wednesday and runs to just before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday. As soon as the Mass of the Lord's Supper starts, it's a new liturgical season: Triduum.

4. Is Lent exactly forty days long as currently celebrated?

No, it's actually a little longer than forty days. The number is approximative, for spiritual purposes.

More info on the precise number of days [here](#).

5. Are the Sundays in Lent part of Lent?

Yes. See question 1 for the duration of Lent. It runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. No exceptions are made for Sundays. Furthermore:

30. The Sundays of this time of year are called the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays *of Lent* [emphasis added]. The Sixth Sunday, on which Holy Week begins, is called, "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord."

6. Why is the number forty significant?

Pope Benedict explains:

Lent recalls the forty days of our Lord's fasting in the desert, which He undertook before entering into His public ministry. We read in the Gospel: "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry" (*Mt 4,1-2*). Like Moses, who fasted before receiving the tablets of the Law (cf. *Ex 34,28*) and Elijah's fast before meeting the Lord on Mount Horeb (cf. *1 Kings 19,8*), Jesus, too, through prayer and fasting, prepared Himself for the mission that lay before Him, marked at the start by a serious battle with the tempter [[Message for Lent 2009](#)].

7. What are the rules for fasting in Lent?

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast. The law of fast binds those who are from 18 to 59 years old, unless they are excused for a sufficient reason (e.g., a medical condition that requires more frequent food, etc.).

According to the Church's official rules (as opposed to someone's personal summary of them):

The law of fasting allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing—as far as quantity and quality are concerned—approved local custom [Apostolic Constitution *Paenitemini*, Norms, III:2].

The system of mitigated fasting that is required by law thus allows for “one full meal” and “some food” in the morning and evening. The Church's official document governing the practice of fasting does not encourage scrupulous calculations about how much the two instances of “some food” add up to, though obviously each *individually* is less than a full meal, since only one of those is allowed.

More on the discipline of fasting [here](#).

8. What are the rules for abstinence in Lent?

Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence (as well as Good Friday). An exception is if a solemnity falls on a Friday, but no solemnities fall on Fridays in 2015, so all Fridays are days of abstinence. The law of abstinence binds those who are 14 years old or older.

According to the Church's official rules:

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat [*Paenitemini*, Norms III:1].

More on the discipline of abstinence [here](#).

9. Do you have to give up something for Lent? If you do, can you have it on Sundays?

The traditional custom of giving up something for Lent is voluntary. Consequently, if you give something up, you set the parameters. If you choose to allow yourself to have it on Sundays as to promote joy on this holy day, that is up to you.

THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL (CCR)

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR), as we know today is a part of an Ecumenical current of Grace that came into being by the sovereign will of God in the Catholic Church in 1967 and emerged as a fruit of the Second Vatican council. Today it is estimated that there are more than 125 million people world-wide, who have been touched by the move of the Spirit through the CCR. However, this grace of the Holy Spirit with a worldwide character and many expressions is not a single unified movement like the others. In order to guide the CCR, an International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office was set up in 1976 in Ann Arbor (USA) and subsequently moved to Malines- Brussels (Belgium) in 1978 in the Diocese of Cardinal Josef Suenens as ICCRO (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office). This office was moved to Rome in 1981, and in 1985, at the invitation of the Holy Father the Office was established in the Vatican.

In 1990, a network of International Covenant Communities, most of which are rooted in the charismatic spirituality, was recognized by the Vatican, as a private association of the faithful under the name of 'Catholic Fraternity of Covenant Communities and Fellowships (CFCCF)'. Its mission was to consolidate the bonds of these communities to the Catholic Church, and to encourage evangelization. In 1993, the Pontifical Council for the Laity granted Pontifical recognition to ICCRO approving its statutes as an International Organ of Service and the name was changed from ICCRO to International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), emphasizing it as a service to the world-wide CCR than being a mere office. For many years, ICCRS and the Catholic Fraternity have been working independently, but used to organize certain events in common.

Guided by the Holy Spirit and in order to bring all the activities of the 'Current of Grace' under one umbrella, Pope Francis has created the One Single Service leading to the establishment of "CHARIS" which would have representation from the main stream of the CCR, representatives of some covenant communities and other ministries which have been officially recognized by the Holy See.

The Pontifical Council for the Laity, Family and Life has given a new set of Statutes to CHARIS and appointed 18 members on the team. Dr. Jean-Luc Moens from Belgium is its coordinator and Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap. As its Ecclesiastical Assistant. CHARIS was launched by the Holy Father in Rome at Pentecost 2019 and both ICCRS and Fraternity of Covenant Communities ceased to exist from then.

The Statutes for CHARIS- India have been revised after the model of CHARIS approved in December 2019. The revised statutes are for the whole country as far as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is concerned since, it has been approved by the CBCI.

- ❖ The regions and dioceses would function in the spirit of this Statutes and would only issue "Guidelines" if required for its functioning.
- ❖ The reconstitution of the local and diocesan service teams will take place under the guidance and supervision of the NSC.
- ❖ The outgoing chairperson may continue as an ex-officio member of the NSC for one year after having completed his/her term in office.

As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, the NSC has planned Jubilee Visits, starting from February, 2020 till May, 2020. Under this initiative two or three members of the NSC, will visit all Diocesan/ Regional Service Teams throughout the country to plan and organize programs in the respective regions.

NEWS FROM MPSSS

Dear Fathers, Sisters, Brothers...

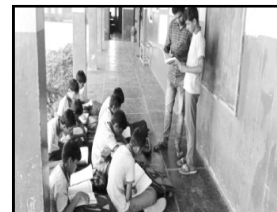
Prayerful Greetings to you from Fr.L. Arogyaraj, the Director of MPSSS

TUITION CLASSES FOR THE CHILDREN

Name of the Program : Education for all
Date : 01.02.2020
Place : Jammalamadugu parish
Beneficiaries : Children

**TUITION CLASSES FOR THE CHILDREN**

Name of the Program : Education for all
Date : 01.02.2020
Place : Rayachoti Parish
Beneficiaries : Children



SNEHAHASTHAM – CANCER CAMPAIGN

Name of the Program : Awareness on Cancer
Date : 04.02.2020
Place : Villages in Badvel
Participants : People and Coordinator

**TRAINING FOR THE VOLUNTEERS**

Name of the Program : Rehabilitation of Rag picking children
Date : 08.02.2020
Place : Proddature Slums
Participants : Volunteers and clusters coordinators

**WORKSHOP ON DISHA ACT**

Name of the Program : awareness Program on Disha Act
Date : 13.02.2020
Place : Proddature Town
Participants : Village Elders, Coordinators of MPSSS, NGOs and Volunteers



TCBC COMMISSION FOR LABOUR

Name of the Program : Diocesan Level Workshop
Date : 19.02.2020
Place : MPSSS
Participants : People from Different places

**CANCER CAMPAIGN**

Name of the Program : Snehahastam
Date : 19.02.2020
Place : MPSSS
Participants : Volunteers and staff

**TEAM: TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVE MORE**

I together with the staff take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for giving us this opportunity to implement these developmental activities in different parishes and also we appreciate the cooperation of the priests, the sisters, the animators and above all the people. We remain ever grateful to all the benefactors who support our good work for the welfare of the people. We extend an open invitation to all the priests, sisters involved in the ministry of social service to come to the office with the needs of your parish and institutions so that we could plan the activities that really benefit the poor in our care.

FR.L.AROGYARAJ
DIRECTOR-MPSSS

OBITUARY
RT. REV. VALERIAN D'SOUZA
EMERITUS BISHOP OF POONA

Date of Birth: 3rd Oct 1933 Date of Death: 25th Feb. 2020

Rt. Rev. Valerian D'Souza was born in Pune on 3rd October 1933. He completed his university degree course (B. Sc.) in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics before commencing his studies for the priesthood.

He obtained a licentiate in Philosophy at the Papal Seminary in Pune and studied theology at the Jesuit-run faculty Sankt George, Frankfurt, Germany. He was ordained a priest on 29th June 1961.

He also obtained a Bachelor of Education degree and was Principal of Garrison High School (now St.Jude High School) Dehu Road, for 7 years.

In 1971 he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese and in December 1976 Vicar Capitular. On 25th September 1977 he was ordained Bishop of Poona.

In his school and university days, he excelled in studies and in sports, especially in field – hockey, soccer and cricket. He captained the college soccer and hockey teams and represented Poona University in these games.

He was: Chairman of the Commission for Seminaries, Clergy and Religious for 7 years; Chairman of the Commission for Youth of the CBCI Western Region; President of the CBCI Western Region for 4 years and Chairman of the CBCI Commission for Women for 4 years. In February 2002 he was elected as Vice-Chairman of the CCBI.

He preached Retreats mainly to priests and delivered talks in many countries of the world. He gave a conference at both the Worldwide Priests' Retreats in Rome in 1984 and 1990. In India, he had been

a speaker at every Charismatic National Convention since 1982 and was the Episcopal Advisor to the Charismatic Renewal in India. St. Paul Publications, India, brought out two audio albums of two of his retreats to priests – *Walking in His Light* and *All Glory to God*. His talks were telecast by the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN).

On 25th September 2000 the Holy Father nominated him as a Member of the Pontifical Council *COR UNUM*, which promotes and coordinates Christian Charity and development efforts, for a period of five years. In May 2007 his term was extended to another five years.

On 31st March 2007, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Nashik.

He was known as “*Singing Bishop*” who communicated God’s Word in song, himself playing the guitar. His sense of humour and joy in the Lord touched the hearts of people.

On the occasion of his Episcopal Silver Jubilee in September 2002 two books containing his writings were released, entitled: “*Love is the only Answer*” and “*Shepherd’s Voice*”.

Bishop Valerian was Bishop of Poona from September 1977 till April 2008, and was appointed Diocesan Administrator of Poona till his successor Bishop Thomas Dabre was appointed in April 2009.

Even after his retirement, he continued to preach retreats in India and his visit to the Diocese of Eichstatt for Pastoral Ministry. He was actively involved in Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese of Poona till his death.

Yours sincerely in Jesus Christ,

Bishop Thomas Dabre

Bishop of Poona

BIRTHDAYS: HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FATHERS

- 05. Rev.Fr. Uppalapati Lourdhu Kishore
- 08. Rev. Fr. Daniel Arogyadas
- 08. Rev.Fr. Gudime Balasundaram
- 10. Rev.Fr. Mela Balaswamy
- 10. Rev.Fr. Paul Mahimadas
- 12. Rev.Fr. Maria Showry Chinnappa Rayar
- 12. Rev.Fr. Pendlikatla Abraham
- 13. Rev.Fr. Karu Sharath
- 19. Rev. Fr. Ery Subash Chandra
- 25. Rev.Fr. Lakkineni Arogyaraj
- 26. Rev.Fr. Toguru Cyprain
- 26. Rev.Fr. Sagili Uday Kumar
- 30. Rev.Fr. Isukala Anand Rao

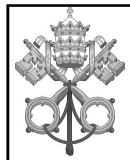
**ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY:
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU DEAR FATHER**

- 01. Rev.Fr. Itta Moses
- 04. Rev.Fr. Carasala Balaswamy Arul raj
- 04. Rev.Fr. Mela Balaswamy
- 12. Rev.Fr. Isukala Anand Rao
- 12. Rev.Fr. Talari Ravindranadth Jose
- 19. Rev.Fr. Samineni Rayappa John
- 19. Rev.Fr. Talari Balaraj
- 20. Rev.Fr. Duraisamy Susai Antony
- 20. Rev.Fr. Lakkineni Arogyaswamy
- 20. Rev.Fr. Birusu Raja
- 20. Rev.Fr. Yammani Devadanam
- 20. Rev.Fr. Ery Sundar
- 21. Rev.Fr. Sagili Devadas
- 27. Rev.Fr. Alphonse Thainese

**OBITUARY: MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE**

- 07th March - Rev.Fr. Ratnaswamy
- 21st March - Rev. Fr. John Vazhayil
- 31st March - Rev.Fr. P. Clement



HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION

**Universal Prayer intention: Prayer Intention
for Evangelization-Catholics in China.**

**We pray that the Church in China may
persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel
and grow in unity.**

**EVENTS FOR THE MONTH:
HAPPY FEAST TO YOU ALL**

- 01. 1st Sunday of Lent
- 04. St. Casimir
- 07. Sts. Perpetua & Felicity
- 08. 2nd Sunday of Lent: Women's Day
- 09. St. Frances of Rome, Religious
- 15. St. 3rd Sunday of Lent
- 17. St. Patrick
- 19. St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary- Solemnity
- 22. 4th Sunday of Lent
- 23. St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
- 25. The Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity - (Pro-Life Day)
- 29. 5th Sunday of Lent

