



**MDB 02/2023**

**MYSORE DIOCESAN BULLETIN**

**MAR & APR 2023**



Rend your hearts and  
not your clothing.  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in  
steadfast love, and relenting  
from punishment.

- Joel 2:13

#3845/M2, Nelson Mandela Road  
RAJAMAARGA, Near Highway Circle  
Bannimantap 'C' Layout, Mysuru - 570 015





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## **SHEPHERD'S VOICE**

***Dear & Rev. Fathers/Brothers/Sisters/Laity,***

Greetings from Archbishop Emeritus Bernard Moras, Apostolic Administrator, the Diocese of Mysore.

As this is my first message/communication to all of you after I have taken over as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese on 7<sup>th</sup> of January, I would like to thank you all for your prayers, cooperation and wishes., I look forward for your support and prayers in the work entrusted to me by my superiors.

In the Decree of the Dicastery of Propagation of Faith dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 it is stated a) "The Apostolic Administrator" has all the faculties and competence of the diocesan Bishop for the Pastoral care and ordinary administration of the diocese. In case of any extraordinary situation, he is advised to refer the matter to the Curial Institution through the Apostolic Nuncio"

b) Archbishop Bernard Moras is invited to periodically inform this Dicastery of any eventual development of the pastoral and administrative situation in the Diocese."

c) In the instructions given to me I have been asked to take residence in the diocese, and initiate appropriate steps for

promoting and improving the pastoral situation of the local Church and fostering ecclesial and priestly communion.

d) It is recommended to conduct a three day retreat for the clergy of the diocese, with meditations on the priestly vocation and mission, the need of priestly communion, priestly ministry as a service to the Church and to the people of God etc...

e) Financial irregularities and non transiency in the administration of ecclesiastical goods and subsidies received should be followed up even with the assistance of qualified persons and necessary action taken...

Dear Fathers , sisters and lay Faithful I request your fullest cooperation in the work entrusted to me so that Church of Christ in the Diocese of Mysore becomes vibrant, more missionary oriented, united in spirit and in reality. I kindly request all of you to pray for me.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS****HOLY SEASON OF LENT**

Life of a Christian is a journey from earth to heaven. We are on a constant journey, during which, it is necessary that we take periodical pauses. We are in the holy season of Lent, a special time of grace, given us by the Church. This season is a precious gift that the Church offers us. All of us are in need of conversion, as human beings; we need to accept the fact that we are feeble, weak, sinful and mortal beings. The forty days of this favorable time invites us to take a pause in our spiritual journey and go deeper into ourselves. It is a time of real introspection and a season to amend our life.

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and Resurrection of Jesus. This kerygma sums up the mystery of a love “so real, so true, and so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue” (*Christus Vivit*, 117). In this favorable season, then, may we allow ourselves to be led like Israel into the desert (cf. Hos 2:14), so that we can at last hear our Lord’s voice and allow it to resound ever more deeply within us. The more fully we are engaged with his word, the more we will experience the mercy he freely gives us. May we not let this time of grace pass in vain, in the foolish illusion that we can control the times and means of our conversion to him.

However, our observance of Lent does not have a sad end, rather, we conclude our lent with the glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Indeed, it is the Resurrection that comes as the culmination of the Kerygma; there is no meaning to our proclaiming Christ, if there was no Resurrection. As we have believed in him, we will rise with him. If we readily take up the lent as a time of prayer, penance and almsgiving, we shall surely be able to celebrate the Easter with more joy and peace.

I wish each one of you a grace-filled season of lent and a peace-filled Easter. May the merciful Lord grant us a heart that is ready to reconcile with one another.

As we are in the holy season of lent, it is good that we contemplate on the three important acts of piety that are to be observed very specially during the season of lent. Please find the Lenten message of Pope Francis, our Holy Father in the **ANNEXURE 01**. The three acts that are essential to every Christian during this blessed season are, Prayer, Penance and Almsgiving.

**Prayer:** Prayer is conversation with God. It is essential for fasting and almsgiving because prayer gives us the strength to fast. Pope Francis said, "Lent is a privileged time for prayer." In prayer, we draw closer in relationship with God. Relationship with God makes us grateful for the blessings we have received. Prayer is the cornerstone of our Lenten journey and is vital to all of our actions in life.

**Penance:** Fasting and abstinence are old traditions in Judeo-Christian history and early Lenten practice. Found in the Scriptures, they offer a way of growing closer to God. Pope Francis reminds us, "Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else..."

**Almsgiving:** Almsgiving (giving) is a response to God, one that we can come to through prayer and fasting. It is a way to live out our gratitude for all that God has given us, reflecting the realization that we are the Body of Christ, responsible for each other. Justice, mercy, and charity are integral elements of our baptism that call us to be disciples of Jesus.

Let us not forget that the devotions like Way of the Cross, help us meditate the passion of Christ better. Please find the 'Lenten Pastoral Letter - 2023' of the Karnataka Regional Catholic Bishops Conference (KRCBC) in the **ANNEXURE 02**.

## **DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS REPORTING**

On 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the reporting session of all the diocesan Commissions was held at Sathyanikethana, (Catholic Center), Mysuru. The secretaries of all the diocesan commissions presented their reports and future plans for the growth of the diocese. Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Archbishop emeritus and the Apostolic Administrator of the diocese of Mysore encouraged the secretaries of various commissions with his valuable suggestions and guidelines. Special thanks to Rev. Msgr. Alfred John Mendonca, the Vicar General of the diocese and the Chief Co-Ordinator of all the commissions in the diocese and Rev. Fr. Joseph Marie J. the coordinator of the Diocesan Commissions for the same.

## **ST. JOSEPH THE CHASTE SPOUSE OF MOTHER MARY - PATRON SAINT OF THE DIOCESE OF MYSORE-FEAST 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

St. Joseph was chosen to be the foster father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the head of the Holy Family. The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “JUST” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts. By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God. Joseph’s life, work, and his continuing care and protection of the Holy Family is hidden from us. And in this way, he is a model for all men who in their families and religious communities in their daily labour love and support all who come under their protection. It is for this reason that Pope Pius IX declared St Joseph to be the Patron of the Church. May St. Joseph the chaste spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary be an inspiration to all of us exercising our responsibility.

## ANNUNCIATION OF INCARNATION OF OUR LORD - 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

The Annunciation is a celebration of the announcement made by the archangel, Gabriel, to the Virgin Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus Christ, Son of God. Despite being a virgin, Mary - through the power of the Holy Spirit- miraculously conceived a child who would be called the Son of God. We celebrate this joyful mystery because of the Blessed Mother's most humble and glorious "Fiat." She chose to accept the Will of the Father, fully understanding His Plans and accepting His Divine Will. Mary's 'yes' is the vessel through which God-among-us steps into our world and opens up to us as one of us. Our 'yes' today is not a claim to perfection or a statement of moral superiority any more than the days we can only bring ourselves to say, 'no, I just can't' mark us out as deficient or failures. The openness of God's love is unending, so that wherever we find ourselves we are welcomed and embraced. So, whatever these strained circumstances and whatever insecurity they may cause, 'the Lord is with you, do not be afraid'. May our Mother's "YES" be an inspiration to all of us to respond to the call of God in our lives.

## EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF BISHOP VAZHAPILLY

Most Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Vazhapilly, the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Mysore celebrates the anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination on 25<sup>th</sup> March and his birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> April. He has served our Diocese as the Bishop of the Diocese for 14 years and though he is retired from the active ministry in the diocese, he is still rendering his valuable service in whatever way possible. At this juncture, as we wish him congratulations and Happy Birthday, we also pray that the Almighty bless him with good health of mind and body. *Ad multos annos* Your Excellency!



## CLERGY CONFERENCE AND CHRISM MASS

The clergy conference will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at Satyaniketan (Catholic Centre), Mysuru. The conference will begin at 03-00 p.m. There will be a talk and in the evening we will have the penitential service. I request all the priests of the diocese and the religious priests serving in the parishes to make the best use of the opportunity to prepare well for the meaningful celebration of the Easter.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, we shall have the celebration of the Chrism Mass at 7-00 a.m. in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Mysuru. Kindly do participate in the same to express the solidarity in the diocese and unum Presbyterium.

## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week, as the name goes, is the most holy of all the weeks of the year for us Christians. Let us make the best use of the Holy Week to ponder over the sacrificial love of God and try to return to him with all our heart.

- **Palm Sunday:** This year the Palm Sunday falls the on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. We begin the Holy Week with Palm Sunday or the Sunday of our Lord's Passion. Jesus travelled to Jerusalem knowing that this journey would end in his sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of all mankind. With the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, he begins his march towards Calvary. As we begin seriously to meditate upon the passion of Christ, may we make use of the days of the Holy Week to prepare ourselves well to celebrate the joy of the Easter, especially with good confession Please note, that the collections during the Holy Mass on Palm Sunday are to be sent to the diocese for the purpose of *Communio India Sunday* to CCBI.
- **Maundy Thursday:** It is a call to practice sacrificial sharing and self-giving love. Let us imitate the self-giving model of Jesus who shares with us his own Body and Blood and enriches us with his Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. It is by sharing our blessings – our talents, time, health and wealth - with others that we become true disciples of Christ

and obey his new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34). On this day, we commemorate the Last Supper of our Lord in which he instituted two great sacraments, namely, the Holy Eucharist and the Sacred Orders. It is a special day to remember and pray for our priests, that they may imbibe the qualities of the eternal Good Shepherd. *Kindly note that the collections during the Holy Mass on Maundy Thursday are to be sent to the diocese towards the fund to care for the elderly and sick priests of our diocese.*

- **Good Friday:** On Good Friday we commemorate the death of Jesus on the cross. When we prayerfully meditate before the crucifix, we can see and begin to understand the ultimate result of sin. Our sins killed the Son of God. Our sins crucified our loving Lord. And our sins continue to cause him to suffer. On this Good Friday, let us embrace our cross with great affection and love and carry our crosses, to deny our very selves as we surrender to God's will. Great is the power in each of our crosses to create a new breed of humans, true son and daughters of God. *Please note that the collections during the Good Friday services have to be sent to the diocese towards the "Hunger and disease" funds.*

## EASTER

Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows, and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and provides freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. Let us rejoice and be glad on our Lord's Resurrection which brings us so many graces and blessings, we have been cleansed from our sins with a renewed hope, and a deepened faith which will serve as our armour against evil forces. Let

us faithfully renew our baptismal promises and make sincere efforts to live the same.

## 34<sup>TH</sup> CCBI PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The 34<sup>th</sup> plenary assembly of the Catholic Bishops of India was held from, the 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023, at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. The Conference has brought out a message for all of us under the title "Telling the Story of Jesus in our Context: The Synodal Way". The message is attached in the **ANNEXURE 03**. As we are in the Synodal process, it is worth reading this message and meditating upon the same.



## INFORMATION

## EMMAUS BIBLE CONVENTION

The Diocese of Mysore is organizing EMMAUS-2023, the Annual Catholic Charismatic Bible Convention from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 in St. Matthias School Ground, Bannimantap, Mysuru. The convention will be led by Rev. Fr. Augustine Vallooran, VC and Bro. Sajith Joseph, world renowned preachers with the gift of word and healing from Divine Retreat Centre, Kerala. Kindly participate in the convention and encourage the faithful in your parishes to participate and receive spiritual blessings. For more details, please contact

Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier Sunil - **9742673978**

Rev. Fr. Praveen Kumar Gregory - **7829127580**.

## SPECIAL CLERGY RETREAT

There will be a special retreat for all the clergy of the Diocese of Mysore from 18<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 am to 20<sup>th</sup> April 5:00 pm to

be held at Prabodha Theologate, Mysore. It is Mandatory. I request all the priests of the diocese to attend the same without fail.

## CAREER GUIDANCE AND VOCATION CAMP

The career guidance and vocation camp for all the Catholic children who will be completing their SSLC exam this year, will be held from 21<sup>st</sup> April to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. The camp will be organized by the Diocesan Commissions for Catechesis, Vocation & formation, Bible and Social Communication. I request all the Parish Priests, and heads of the Institutions to ensure the participation of all the SSLC completing Catholic Children without fail. I also request all the Parish Priests to encourage the vocations to the diocese and religious life by announcing in the parishes and guiding the children identify their vocation.

## HONGIRANA YOUTH CONVENTION

Hongirana Youth Convention - 2023, to spread the radiance of Christ was organised by The Indian Catholic Youth Commission in association with Youth Commission, Diocese of Mysore from 13<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The theme for the convention was Rise and Shine - Isaiah 60:1. The discussions and discourse revolved around the same.

Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Bangalore and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Mysore inaugurated the event and motivated the participants to address youth issues plaguing the society and benefit humanity.

The event witnessed a massive participation of around 1200 youth from Mysore Diocese. They engaged in profound dialogue on youth development and nation building at large.

Rev. Fr. Avinash, Secretary, ICYM, Mysore and the youth volunteers ensured the smooth conduction of the event.

## ADMISSION TO MINOR SEMINARY

Kindly recommend the right motivated candidates with good religious family background and intentions for recruiting students for Priesthood for the Diocese. Let us not wait till the students meet us after their SSLC results. But already contact and guide them to approach the rector of St. Mary's Minor Seminary, Mysuru for application. Students who completed SSLC/PUC and Degree can apply for the Seminary. The filled in Application form should reach the Rector in 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> week of May 2023. Let us keep in mind we should encourage vocation to the Religious Congregation as well.

## GENTLE REMINDER

### Annual Statistics & Census:

Every year each Diocese has to send the Annual Statistics to Vatican by the last week of January. Hence, I request you to make arrangements to prepare the forms (A-J) and send them immediately. Kindly submit two copies to the office of the Chancellor, Sanmaargi, Bishop's House, Mysuru.

## EARMARKED COLLECTIONS

As we are coming to an end of the financial year by next month, all are reminded to send the stipulated collections to the Financial Administrator at the earliest. Let us avoid last minute transactions. While thanking you all for sending the collections in time for specific purposes, I request those who have not sent the same, to send them without delay. Please find enclosed the details of the earmarked collections received for the period from January - February 2023 in **ANNEXURE 04**.

To all of you a Holy Lent and Joyful Easter.

Archbishop Emeritus  
**Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras**  
 The Apostolic Administrator,  
 Diocese of Mysore.

## ANNEXURE - 1

# MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2023

## Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey

*Dear brothers and sisters!*

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all recount the episode of the Transfiguration of Jesus. There we see the Lord's response to the failure of his disciples to understand him. Shortly before, there had been a real clash between the Master and Simon Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross. Jesus had firmly rebuked him: "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23). Following this, "six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John his brother and led them away to a high mountain" (Mt 17:1).

The Gospel of the Transfiguration is proclaimed every year on the Second Sunday of Lent. During this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart. While our ordinary commitments compel us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines, during Lent we are invited to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline - asceticism - as God's holy people. Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do. To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to

detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

In his "retreat" on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, chosen to be witnesses of a unique event. He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master. For we know that Jesus is himself the Way, and therefore, both in the liturgical journey and in the journey of the Synod, the Church does nothing other than enter ever more deeply and fully into the mystery of Christ the Saviour.

And so we come to its culmination. The Gospel relates that Jesus "was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light" (Mt 17:2). This is the "summit", the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light. That light did not come from without, but radiated from the Lord himself. The divine beauty of this vision was incomparably greater than all the efforts the disciples had made in the ascent of Tabor. During any strenuous mountain trek, we must keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path; yet the panorama that opens up at the end amazes us and rewards us by its grandeur. So too, the

synodal process may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God's will and our mission in the service of his kingdom. The disciples' experience on Mount Tabor was further enriched when, alongside the transfigured Jesus, Moses and Elijah appeared, signifying respectively the Law and the Prophets (cf. Mt 17:3). The newness of Christ is at the same time the fulfilment of the ancient covenant and promises; it is inseparable from God's history with his people and discloses its deeper meaning. In a similar way, the synodal journey is rooted in the Church's tradition and at the same time open to newness. Tradition is a source of inspiration for seeking new paths and for avoiding the opposed temptations of immobility and improvised experimentation. The Lenten journey of penance and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial. A transformation that, in both cases, has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery. So that this transfiguration may become a reality in us this year, I would like to propose two "paths" to follow in order to ascend the mountain together with Jesus and, with him, to attain the goal.

The first path has to do with the command that God the Father addresses to the disciples on Mount Tabor as they contemplate Jesus transfigured. The voice from the cloud says: "Listen to him" (Mt 17:5). The first proposal, then, is very clear: we need to listen to Jesus. Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us. And how does he speak to us? First, in the word of God, which the Church offers us in the liturgy. May that word not fall on deaf ears; if we cannot always attend Mass, let us study its daily biblical readings, even with the help of the internet. In addition to the Scriptures, the Lord speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are



in need. Let me say something else, which is quite important for the synodal process: listening to Christ often takes place in listening to our brothers and sisters in the Church. Such mutual listening in some phases is the primary goal, but it remains always indispensable in the method and style of a synodal Church.

On hearing the Father's voice, the disciples "fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and do not be afraid.' And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone" (Mt 17:6-8). Here is the second proposal for this Lent: do not take refuge in a religiosity made up of extraordinary events and dramatic experiences, out of fear of facing reality and its daily struggles, its hardships and contradictions. The light that Jesus shows the disciples is an anticipation of Easter glory, and that must be the goal of our own journey, as we follow "him alone". Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the Resurrection. Also on the synodal journey, when God gives us the grace of certain powerful experiences of communion, we should not imagine that we have arrived – for there too, the Lord repeats to us: "Rise, and do not be afraid". Let us go down, then, to the plain, and may the grace we have experienced strengthen us to be "artisans of Synodality" in the ordinary life of our communities.

Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations.

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Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November, 2021, Memorial of Saint Martin, Bishop. [Francis]

## ANNEXURE – 2

# KARNATAKA REGION CATHOLIC BISHOPS' LENTEN PASTORAL LETTER- 2023

*Dear Rev, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,*

Greetings of Peace to you on behalf of the Bishops in Karnataka!

**Introduction:** On the occasion of the holy season of lent the Holy Father Pope Francis has addressed an inspiring message to all of us. In the context of the ongoing synodal process, the Pope says that even our Lenten journey is synodal. We, as the Church, the Pope, the Bishops, the clergy and the faithful, are pilgrim people, journeying together, prayerfully listening to the Spirit of God and to one another, penitentially participating in the Lenten observances with a spirit of communion, and generously giving of ourselves to our neighbours in selfless charity born of God's own compassion.

### 1. Pope Francis' Lenten Message-2023 and its Application

**A Path of Conversion:** The Holy Father stresses the need for all of us individually and as the Church, to go through a radical process of conversion of our hearts and minds. Referring to Christ's rebuke to Peter, who, after professing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, rejected his prediction of the passion and the cross, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a scandal to me, because you do not think according to God, but according to men!" (Mt 16:23), and, following this, six days later, taking with him Peter, James and John his brother away to a high mountain (Mt 17:1), where they witness the great mystery of His Transfiguration, the Holy Father says that "during this liturgical season, the Lord takes us with him to a place apart". Of course, we are all busy people, always preoccupied with a thousand little things. "our ordinary commitments compelling us to remain in our usual places and our often repetitive and sometimes boring routines".

Still, during Lent, we need to accept the Lord's invitation "to ascend "a high mountain" in the company of Jesus and to live a particular experience of spiritual discipline - asceticism - as God's holy people".

**Spiritual Struggle:** This asceticism, this spiritual struggle, is the real Lenten penance. You know that the word "asceticism" comes from the Latin word "ascendere", meaning a climb. Our pilgrimage on earth, our Christian life, our journey of discipleship, is indeed a steep climb. But we do not do this alone. We are accompanied, sustained and supported by our fellow believers. Above all, Jesus is with us. He leads us, succours us and supports us. Truly, it is a synodal experience. The true meaning of our Lenten penance is this asceticism. All the acts of penance are but external expression and concrete fruit of this inner pilgrimage of the soul. If we do this generously and wholeheartedly, then, like Peter, James and John, we too will behold the glory of Christ's transfiguration, and will receive the grace of radical transformation of our hearts and minds in order to be able to see all things new in Christ. "Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross." It is the way of total self-giving to God and to God's people, inspired by selfless, sacrificial love. Therefore, we need to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity: break the bondage of evil, sin and selfishness; and struggle against the stranglehold of greed, lust and pride. "We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making".

**A Synodal Journey:** Therefore, inviting us to reflect on the relationship between our Lenten penance and the synodal experience, the Holy Father points out that on Mount Tabor, Jesus takes with him three disciples, precisely because "He wants that experience of grace to be shared, not solitary, just

as our whole life of faith is an experience that is shared. For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor, we can say that our Lenten journey is “synodal”, since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master”.

**Easter Experience:** And, the culmination of this Lenten pilgrimage. Characterised by prayer, penance and charity, and marked by communion, participation and mission, is Easter experience, which is prefigured and anticipated in Transfiguration. “This is the summit, the goal of the journey. At the end of their ascent, as they stand on the mountain heights with Jesus, the three disciples are given the grace of seeing him in his glory, resplendent in supernatural light”. Our Lenten pilgrimage, like the ascent to Mount Tabor, may be a strenuous struggle. But if we keep our eyes firmly fixed on the path, and, at the same time look to the summit with hope, we will, with the unfailing help of God’s grace, be able to persevere till the end, and will behold the glorious splendor of the Resurrection. The Pope says that “the synodal process too may often seem arduous, and at times we may become discouraged. Yet what awaits us at the end is undoubtedly something wondrous and amazing, which will help us to understand better God’s will and our mission in the service of his kingdom.

**Two Paths:** Concluding his Lenten message, the Holy Father says that “the Lenten journey and the journey of the Synod alike have as their goal a transfiguration, both personal and ecclesial, a transformation that has its model in the Transfiguration of Jesus and is achieved by the grace of his paschal mystery”. If this transfiguration should become a reality in us this year, we need to follow mainly two paths:

first, listen to Jesus, as the voice from the cloud says: “Listen to him” (Mt 17:5). Listen to Him in the Word of God in the Lenten liturgy. Listen to Him as He “speaks to us through our brothers and sisters, especially in the faces and the stories of those who are in need”. The Pope concludes by stressing the crucial importance to the synodal process of this mutual listening in a synodal Church.

The second path, according to the Holy Father, is be the “artisans of synodality” in the ordinary life of our communities, by going down to the plains with the strength of the grace we have experienced, as happened to the disciples on Mount Tabor, seeing no one else but Jesus alone” (Mt 17:6-8). It is the path of experiencing the Lord’s passion and cross in the ordinary circumstances of daily life, routine and at times boring, with faith, hope and love, and thus arriving at the Resurrection.

## 2. Our Other Pastoral Concerns

i. In order to take the message of the Holy Father to our heart, and to walk the way of Jesus during this Lent, let us open our hearts to the cries of the helpless victims of the devastating earthquake in Syria and Turkey, by concretely reaching out to help them in their time of dire need, and by coordinating with the Caritas India, New Delhi.

ii. The liturgies and the worship services that we celebrate in our churches and chapels are truly divine and communitarian. Let us, therefore, strive to make our congregational worship more reverential, devotional and spiritual by avoiding the use of non-liturgical texts and the playing of too many musical instruments at a high pitch drowning the words. Let not our liturgies be turned into stage performances with gloss, glamour and glitter.

iii. We are called to serve the needy and the poor, which we are doing by rendering our commendable services, primarily, in the fields of education. Health and social development. Today, empowering our children and youth, the future generation of our society, is done by imparting quality education to them.

To give them value-based and life-oriented education, we need to develop sensitivity to the poor and the needy children, and to have a preferential option for the economically weaker children in our admission processes, particularly with regard to Catholics. In order to have a better coordination and to achieve better results, it is advisable to strictly adhere to the diocesan policies.

iv. We also need to develop strong bonds of fraternity with the people of all faiths and none, and deepen the fellowship with the pastors and people of other mainline churches and Christian denominations.

v. A concrete measure adopted in response to the prevailing challenges is: "The Think Tank for the Karnataka Region with its own statutes. So also, every Diocese should constitute one for the Diocese under the supervision and guidance of the local Bishop. The Bishops feel that the expertise of the lay people must be garnered in order to improve our ministries and to give them professional touch.

**Conclusion:** And so, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, we, the Bishops of Karnataka are in close communion with all of you, as all of us, together, as one body of faith, fervour and fellowship, walk the way of pilgrims during this lent in a synodal spirit, invoking the Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, who is indeed "Lumen Gentium", the light of the nations. We impart God's choicest blessings upon you and your families and religious communities, and wish you a fruitful and Holy Season of Lent, and also convey our Easter Greetings in advance to all of you.

***Issued, on behalf of the Karnataka Region Catholic Bishops, on 22nd February Ash Wednesday 2023.***

**Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado,  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Bangalore, and  
President, Karnataka Region Catholic Bishops' Council**

# **ANNEXURE – 3** **CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC** **BISHOPS OF INDIA** **XXXIV PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

**THEME:** ‘Telling the Story of Jesus in our Context: The Synodal Way’

January 24-30, 2023, St. John’s National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru.

## **MESSAGE**

We, the members of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), came together for the 34th Plenary Assembly from 24 to 30 January 2023, at St. John’s National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. We prayed, reflected on and discussed the theme: ‘telling the Story of Jesus in our Context: The Synodal Way.’

The Church, as the People of God, is the icon of the Holy Trinity, called to live in communion of love by participating in the one mission which emanates from the Triune God. The Apostle John testifies: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ... we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life ...” (1 John 1:1-2). This call for a personal encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ, which itself urges us to live and joyfully share the Good News in our context. Christ commissioned his Apostles: “Go into the entire world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). The Church continues this mission, living it by her words and deeds. This Good News is Jesus Christ himself, in whom God’s love in all its fullness is manifested to the whole

of humanity. The Church, in the midst of her ups and downs, lights and shadows, successes and struggles, has striven to be faithful in bearing witness to this love of God in our beloved Motherland.

Down the centuries, millions have been attracted to the person of Jesus Christ and his salvific message and have become his followers. Through them the story of Jesus is told and retold, fulfilling what the Church has been proclaiming from the very beginning: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him" (Acts 10:34-35).

This love of God is lived and experienced first and foremost in the family, where the story of Jesus is recounted by grandparents and parents to their children in various ways, by reading Bible stories, praying together and participating in popular devotions. The faith life is further nourished and sustained in the larger family of the parish, where the celebration of the Holy Eucharist occupies the central place. The proclamation and the breaking of the word play an essential and prominent role in all the liturgical celebrations. The Holy Eucharist is the sacrament in which the community is being transformed into the body of Christ, where "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28).

The story of Jesus is read, lived and shared in a dynamic manner and in a synodal way in the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC). The Gospel sharing in the BECs (also known as SCCs/BCCs) strengthens the bonds of communion and leads the members to bear witness in society.

Witnessing to the love of Christ, the Church in India has substantially contributed to nation-building, especially through her engagement in the fields of education, healthcare



and social uplift. Standing firm on the teachings of Christ, the Church has always upheld the dignity of the human person, stood for a just society, promoted peace and harmony and cared for the weak, the suffering and the deprived sections of society.

From the very beginning, ordained ministers, along with women and men in consecrated life and ably supported by catechists, have been serving their communities both within and outside the Church, through committed pastoral care. The participatory bodies and lay associations foster communion and involvement of the members of the body of Christ in the mission of the Church.

The Catholic Church in India recognises the changing circumstances and growing challenges she has to face, but has never ceased to tell the story of Jesus. A few challenges have been identified:

- Changing social conditions and the excessive use of social media, mobiles and internet have placed enormous pressure on the harmonious life of families.
- Addictions to drugs, alcohol and pornography are ruining the lives of many young adults, causing disruptions within families and in society.
- Poverty and inhuman living conditions deprive a substantial part of our population of equitable opportunity and dignity of life, creating uncertainties about their future.
- Massive displacement of peoples, loss of land and fishing rights in the name of industrial and corporate development result in forced migration, dispossession, loss of livelihood and further marginalisation.
- Greed and consumeristic life styles are eroding the life of faith and centrality of prayer.
- Some civil legislations and policies often seriously hamper pastoral engagements of the Church in India.

- Misuse of anti-conversion laws in some States and false propaganda about 'forced conversions' are discouraging and hindering the life and service of the Christian community. This calls into question the Constitutional rights of the minorities.
- The growing culture of intolerance, hatred and even violent attacks on Christians in some quarters is a matter of grave concern to Christians in India.

In the present context, the story of Jesus needs to be told even more courageously, creatively and authentically, considering that the Good News is to be proclaimed in season and out of season (cf. 2 Timothy 4:2). Assured by the words of Jesus: "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33), we continue to tell the story of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that God loves everyone unconditionally.

Following the Synodal Way, let us:

- Accompany youth and families so that faith is deepened, family prayer is nurtured, and the bonds of communion are strengthened; also, foster respect for life from the moment of conception to natural death.
- As grandparents, parents and elders, continue to transmit the story of Jesus to the younger generations.
- As pastors and consecrated persons, take more seriously our responsibility to care for families, individuals and all to whom we are sent.
- Promote, foster and sustain BECs in all our parishes.
- Utilize the occasion of celebrations of the Eucharist and Sacraments to catechize and tell the story of Jesus in a meaningful way so that the people may experience the Lord in their lives.
- Stand in solidarity with those affected by persecution, displacement, discrimination and marginalization.

- Make it our mission to protect and preserve mother earth (which Pope Francis has described as our 'common home' in Laudato Si), by employing all means at our disposal to promote eco-friendly lifestyles at all levels.
- Basing ourselves on the shared faith of all Christians, shun all fundamentalism and unitedly tell the story of love, justice and human fraternity.
- Join all our brothers and sisters, irrespective of caste, creed and language, to continue building our Nation, based on our Constitutional values in which justice, liberty, equality and fraternity reign supreme.
- Make efforts to uphold the secular ethos of our Nation with a preferential option for the deprived sections of our society, to ensure the integral development of all.

As we journey towards the celebration of the Synod in 2023-2024 and look forward to the Jubilee Year 2025, may all our efforts help us to be credible witnesses of Jesus Christ, while we continue joyfully to share his story.

On the occasion of the 74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of our Nation, we pray for God's abundant blessings on our Motherland India. May Mary, our blessed Mother, who received, treasured and shared the Word, never cease to intercede for all her children.

Given on Monday, 30 January 2023, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi – National Peace Day.

His Eminence  
**Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão**  
President, CCBI and  
Archbishop of Goa and Daman

**Most Rev. George Antonysamy**  
Vice President, CCBI and  
Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore

**Most Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto**  
Secretary General, CCBI and  
Archbishop of Delhi

## Annexure - 4

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM 01.01.2023 TO 28.02.2023

PARISHES	Holy Thursday Collection	Second Sunday Collection	St. Peter's Pence	Communio Sunday	St. Peter the Apostle Collection	Hunger & Disease	Xmas Collection	Holy Child Hood	Cancer Patients Support	Holy Land Maint
St. Anthony's Church, Gopalapura	900.00	5,500.00	500.00	600.00	500.00	1,200.00	800.00		71,440.00	
O. L. of Fatima Church, Suluvaadi			2,000.00		2,000.00		4,000.00			
O. L. of Immaculate Conception Church, Kudlur	2,150.00	3,750.00	300.00	1,000.00	300.00	2,100.00	1,700.00	250.00		
St. Sebastian's Church, Kushalnagar							14,260.00			
St. Joseph's Church, Siddepura		17,060.00					9,100.00		3,400.00	
St. Paul's Church, Chamarajanagar							4,500.00			
Our Lady of Fatima Church, Kudemullore				2,200.00			1,300.00			
Infant Jesus Church, Pushpagiri		12,007.00					2,880.00			
St. Peter's Church, Bogadi		200.00					12,269.00			
Divine Mercy Church, K. R. Nagar			2,500.00		2,500.00		2,120.00	1,650.00	3,100.00	
St. Mary's Seminary, Mysore									5,100.00	
Infant Jesus Church, K. R. Pet		9,498.00					1,420.00		65,800.00	
Christ the Redeemer Church, Shanthinagar		3,600.00	1,300.00				3,200.00		36,088.00	
St. Michael's Church, Madikeri		29,000.00					25,790.00			
Mother of Humanity Mission Station, Mandya West							4,780.00	2,000.00		
St. John Paul II Church, Old Kesare		3,617.00						4,157.00	14,200.00	
St. Anthony the Hermit Church, Karatukovil							4,000.00	6,960.00	25,000.00	
Arogya Mathe Church, Hulikere							2,313.00	10,488.00		
Divine Mercy Church, Sathagalli										
St. Paul the Hermit Church, Jampaiahalli		6,600.00								
St. Alphonsa's Church, M. K. Halli									7,700.00	
St. Joseph's Church, Mandya									6,721.00	
Nerugalele Parish Society									22,500.00	
St. Francis of Assist Church, Kollegal									77,500.00	
Sacred Heart Church, Naganahalli									9,500.00	
Holy Family Church, Hinkal									17,600.00	
Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Martalli									78,680.00	
St. Mary's Church, Periyapatha									26,200.00	

Sacred Heart Church, Odakapalam					1,750.00
Our Lady of Good Health Church, Hanur					18,800.00
Immaculate Conception Church, Ganjam					23,500.00
St. Anthony's Church, Cowdali		1,000.00	1,200.00	4,280.00	2,520.00
					49,100.00
					1,120.00

DIOCESAN PRIESTS		EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:	
NAME OF THE DONOR	Cancer Patients Support	PARISHES	Cancer Patients Support
Rev. Fr. Louis Noronha	5,000.00		
Rev. Fr. G. Joseph	5,000.00		
Rev. Fr. John Peter Rego	300.00	St. Joseph's College of Nursing, Mysore	41,221.00
Rev. Fr. Madanu Kranti Kumar	300.00	St. Michael's Educational Institutions, Madikeri	2,02,760.00

RELIGIOUS				
NAME OF THE DONOR	Cancer Patients Support	Communio Sunday	Holy Childhood Collection	Hunger & Disease
St. Joseph's Convent, Mandya			3,000.00	3,000.00
St. Joseph's Convent, Mandya			3,000.00	3,000.00
Christ the King Convent, Mysore			5,000.00	5,000.00
Carmel Convent, Mandya			2,000.00	
St. Anthony's Convent, Ponnampet	1,000.00		1,000.00	2,500.00
Atma Nivas, Gowhalli	990.00		500.00	
Nirmala Nivas, Subashnagar	1,200.00			

Antonia Paris Nilaya, Naguvanahalli	1,800.00		
Vincentian Provincialate, Old Kesare	800.00		
JMJ Nivas, Dornahalli	1,000.00		
St. Clare's Convent, Suntikoppa	1,600.00		
Amal Jyothi Convent, Naguvanahalli	800.00		
Karuna Nilaya Convent, Mysore	2,200.00		
St. Joseph's Convent, Hunsur	3,000.00		
Stuti Ramya, Mysore	3,400.00		
St. Anne's Convent, Malavalli	1,200.00		
Dhyanavana, Mysore	2,500.00		
St. Mary's Convent, H. D. Kote	2,000.00		
Sumana Organisation, Galigarahundi	400.00		
St. Joseph's Ashram, Devarapura	2,000.00		
Holy Cross Convent, Hanur	600.00		
Bro. Dolphy	500.00		
Rev. Fr. Xavier Christopher	300.00		
Maria Sadan Convent, Periyapathra	3,000.00		
St. Thomas Convent, Thomayarpalayam	800.00		
Assumption Convent, Kollegal	1,500.00		
Jeeva Nilaya, Ramanahalli	1,000.00		
Angela Vidya Niketan, Kudige	800.00		
Nirmala Iliam, Otterthotti	800.00		

N.B.: There are a few bank remittances without details. We are not able to trace and issue necessary receipts. We request them to contact the diocesan office with the details of transfer and obtain necessary receipts for the remittances made.



Blessed be the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
By his great mercy he has  
given us a new birth into a  
living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead

- 1 Peter 1:3