



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LI

NO.03

MARCH 2024



Happy Easter





You're Invited to



Golden Jubilee
OF HASSS

and

WOMEN'S DAY
Celebrations

Chief Guest



CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY
CHAIRMAN OF HASSS

Special Guests



MSGR. Y. BALASHOWRY
VICAR GENERAL
ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD



REV. FR. YERUVA BALA REDDY
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF HASSS



MRS. DEEPTHI RAVULA
CEO - WE HUB



MRS. ARCHANA SURESH
CSR HEAD - TSIG

on

MARCH

11:00 AM
SATURDAY

09

2024

at

HASSS Office

Let's Celebrate
Together & Rise



Invited By

REV. FR. MADANU ANTHONY

Executive Director
& Staff

SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

MARCH

2024



Archbishop's Message



Everyday of this Lenten season we prepare ourselves to renew our baptismal promises, together with the whole Church during the Easter vigil service on Holy Saturday night. The Holy week of the Lenten season culminates in the renewal of our baptismal vows during the Easter Vigil or on Easter Day. Through our enlightened and more committed renewal of our baptismal vows we shall receive an increase in the Holy Spirit's mission as the Spirit of truth and the promised Paraclete in our spiritual souls through our sacramental holy communion of the Son our Lord Jesus Christ's 'body given up for us' and 'blood poured out for us'. Thereby we shall progress in the eschatological journey of our present personal life with the Eternal Father in Christ His Son and in the Holy Spirit and succeed in a definitive and glorious manner at the consummation of our present earthly ongoing warfare with the Devil and his angels who are vigorously at work in our psychological self against our ongoing obedience of faith in the Holy Spirit in our spiritual soul to the Eternal Father: 'The Spirit lusts against the flesh and the flesh against the Spirit' Lent is not an end in itself! It is a means to the above mentioned glorious end of our post baptismal life in Christ and in the Holy Spirit in God's one holy Catholic Church. For, *'if for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied (1 Cor.15:19)'*!

POPE'S INTENTION: MARCH 2024

For the New Martyrs: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: MARCH 2024

For Peace in the World: We pray for peace in the world. May the Lord change the heart of the persecutors and bring harmony among each other.



RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
29-01-2024	Ammuguda	100
29-01-2024	Mettuguda	2000
30-01-2024	Bolarum	50
06-02-2024	Dammaiguda	5000
13-02-2024	Moula-Ali	80
15-02-2024	Kukatpally	2000
15-02-2024	Emjala	1500
16-02-2024	Cherlapally	36
16-02-2024	Secunderabad	760
20-02-2024	Khairathabad	550
Total		12076

Solemnities and Feasts

MARCH 19th

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Sol)

In the West, the oldest reference to the cult of Saint Joseph (*Ioseph sponsus Mariae*) connected with 19 March appears around the year 800 in the north of France. Thereafter, reference to Joseph, the spouse of Mary, becomes more and more frequent from the 9th to the 14th centuries. In the 12th century, the crusaders built a church in his honor at Nazareth. But it was in the 15th century that the cult of Saint Joseph spread due to the influence of Saint Bernadine of Siena, and especially of Jean Gerson (+ 1420), Chancellor of Notre Dame in Paris, who promoted the cause that a feast to Saint Joseph be officially established. There were already some celebrations in Milan in Augustinian circles, and in many places in Germany. It was in 1480, with Pope Sixtus IV's approval that the feast began to be celebrated on 19 March. It then became obligatory with Pope Gregory XV in 1621. In 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph the Patron of the Universal Church, and Pope Saint John XXIII inserted his name into the Roman Canon of Holy Mass in 1962. More recently, Pope Francis approved seven new invocations in the Litany to Saint Joseph: Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of Salvation, Support in difficulties, Patron of exiles, Patron of the afflicted, and Patron of the poor.

Source: www.vaticannews.va



MARCH 24th

Palm Sunday

The Church celebrates Palm Sunday, which is the beginning of Holy Week, the most hallowed time of year for Christians. Palm Sunday commemorates when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was greeted by people waving palm branches. This event serves as a reminder for Christians to welcome Jesus into their hearts and be ready to follow Him. The Palm Sunday service also includes a reading of the Passion, which narrates the story of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. Palm Sunday is a Christian holiday that occurs on the Sunday before Easter. This celebration celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, mentioned in each of the four Gospels. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin! Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days. In many churches, Palm Sunday is observed with the blessing and sharing of palm branches, symbolizing the branches placed in front of Christ as he entered Jerusalem.



Source: www.christianity.com

MARCH 28th

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter, observed in commemoration of Jesus Christ's institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper. The name is thought to be a Middle English derivation taken from a Latin anthem sung in Roman Catholic churches on that day: "Mandatum novum do vobis" ("a new commandment I give to you"; John 13:34). In most European countries, Maundy Thursday is known as Holy Thursday



In the early Christian church, the day was celebrated with a general communion of clergy and people. At a special mass the bishop consecrated the chrism (holy oils) in preparation for the anointing of the neophytes at the baptism on Easter night. Since 1956 Maundy Thursday has been celebrated in Roman Catholic churches with a morning liturgy for the consecration of the holy oils for the coming year and an evening liturgy in commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist, with a general communion. During the evening liturgy the hosts are consecrated for the communion on Good Friday (when there is no liturgy), and the ceremony of the washing of feet is performed by the celebrant, who ceremonially washes the feet of 12 people in memory of Christ's washing the feet of his disciples. Eastern Orthodox churches also have a ceremony of foot washing and blessing of oil on this day. In England alms are distributed to the poor by the British sovereign in a ceremony held at a different church each year. This developed from a former practice in which the sovereign washed the feet of the poor on this day.

Source: www.britannica.com

MARCH 29th

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is the day on which Catholics commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Catholics are joined by almost all other Christians in solemn commemoration on this day. It is also a legal holiday around much of the world. According to the gospels, Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the Last Supper, commemorated on Holy Thursday and was condemned to death.



Prior to death, Jesus spoke His last words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This line is the opening of Psalm 22, and it may have been common practice to recite lines of songs to deliver a greater message. Properly understood, the last words of Christ were triumphant. Guards then lanced Jesus' side to ensure He was dead. The events of Good Friday are commemorated in the Stations of the Cross, a 14-step devotion often performed by Catholics during Lent and especially on Good Friday. The Stations of the Cross are commonly recited on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent. Another devotional, the Acts of Reparation, may also be prayed. Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church. Traditionally, there is no Mass and no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday. A liturgy may still be performed and communion, if taken, comes from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday. Baptism, penance, and anointing of the sick may be performed, but only in unusual circumstances. Church bells are silent. Altars are left bare.

Source: www.catholic.org

MARCH 30th

HOLY SATURDAY

In the second century CE, people kept an absolute fast for the entire 40-hour period between nightfall on Good Friday (recollecting the time Christ was removed from the cross and buried in the tomb) and dawn on Easter Sunday (when Christ was resurrected). By Constantine's realm in the fourth century CE, the night of the vigil of Easter began Saturday at dusk, with the lighting of the "new fire," including a large number of lamps and candles and the paschal candle. The paschal candle is very large, made of beeswax and fixed in a great candlestick created for that purpose; it is still a significant part of Holy Saturday services.



The history of fasting on Holy Saturday has varied over the centuries. As the Catholic Encyclopaedia notes, "in the early Church, this was the only Saturday on which fasting was permitted." Fasting is a sign of penance, but on Good Friday, Christ paid with his own blood the debt of his followers' sins, and people, therefore, had nothing to repent. Thus, for many centuries, Christians regarded both Saturday and Sunday as days on which fasting was forbidden. That practice is still reflected in the Lenten disciplines of the Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, which lighten their fasts slightly on Saturdays and Sundays.

Source: www.learnreligions.com

MARCH 31st

EASTER SUNDAY

Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is written in the New Testament of the Christian bible. According to the Gospel of John in the New Testament, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where Jesus was buried and found it empty. An angel told her that Jesus had risen. Christians worldwide have celebrated Easter for centuries. However, the roots of the Easter holiday's traditions and activities can be traced back to pagan celebrations. The name Easter is believed to come from Eostara, the goddess of rebirth. In early times the Feast of Eostara celebrated earth's resurrection and rebirth. Strict Puritans would have nothing to do with Easter – it was merely a human institution – in the past Charles I, king of England, declared the day as scriptural as Sunday in 1647 but Parliament contradicted him in print and abolished it with other church festivals. The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea decided that the Easter date would be the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. Easter is therefore delayed one week if the full moon is on Sunday, which lessens the likelihood of it falling on the same day as the Jewish Passover. Eastern Orthodox churches in many countries such as Greece still figure their Easter date based on the Julian calendar.



Source: www.timeanddate.com

Archbishop's Engagements

N.B.:"In office days", Please call the Secretary before coming. Ph No : 72079 40883

MARCH

01-03 (Fri-Sun)	:	Occupied
04. Mon	:	In Office
05-07 (Tue-Thu)	:	TCBC Meeting at St John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur
09. Sat 11:00 a.m.	:	Golden Jubilee & Woman's Day Celebrations at HASSS
12. Tue	:	In Office
13. Wed 08:45 a.m.	:	Festive Mass at Fathima Matha Church, Warangal
15. Fri 10:00 a.m.	:	NCDC Inaugural Session at Montfort Bhavan
17. Sun 08:30 a.m.	:	Festive Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Garrison.
18. Mon	:	In Office
19. Tue 10.00 a.m.	:	Blessing and Inauguration of Holy Spirit School, Jeedimetla.
20. Wed	:	In Office
21. Thu 09:30 a.m.	:	Clergy Recollection
05:30 p.m.	:	Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Basilica, Sec-bad

Holy Week

24. Palm Sunday 09:30 a.m.	:	Palm Sunday Mass at Maria Rani Cathedral, Nalgonda
25. Mon 09:30 a.m.	:	Clergy Recollection at Nalgonda
05:30 p.m.	:	Chrism Mass at Nalgonda
26-27. Tue-Wed	:	In Office
28. Maundy Thursday 06.00 p.m.:	:	Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.
29. Good Friday 06.00 p.m.	:	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion at Holy Family Church, Trimulghery
30. Holy Saturday 11:00 p.m.	:	Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad
31. Easter Sunday 09:15 a.m.	:	Easter Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.

ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS: TENTATIVE

APRIL

06. Sat	05:00 p.m.	:	Priestly Ordinations of Dn. Pradip Wagh and Dn. Tomy Ingjal at Aliabad
07. Sun	09:30 a.m.	:	First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Gaddiyannaram
09. Tue		:	Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Sagili Prakash, Bishop Elect of Khammam
12. Fri	10.00 a.m.	:	Governing Body Meeting & General Body Meeting of AP Forum at Montfort Social Institute, Ramanthapur
13. Sat	10:00 a.m.	:	Occupied
	05:00 p.m.	:	Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Andrew Kakani, Bro. Asith Behra and Bro. Vinod Gummala at Aliabad
14. Sun	11:00 a.m.	:	Church Blessing at Our Lady of Lourdu Church, Dharmaram
15. Mon	10:00 a.m.	:	Mass at Daivalaya, Camillus Fathers, Medchel
20. Sat	10:00 a.m.	:	Occupied
21. Sun	11:00 a.m.	:	First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Jeevanadatha Church, Pedda Umenthal
27. Sat	10:00 a.m.	:	Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Lourdu Matha Church, Bramanapally, Nalgonda
28. Sun	09:30 a.m.	:	First Holy Communion & Confirmations at St John Maria Vianney Church, Bhoiguda
30. Tue	09:00 a.m.	:	Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Karnam Dhaman Kumar, Bishop Elect of Nalgonda
	06:00 p.m.	:	Priestly Silver Jubilee of Fr. Vincent Arokiadas

29th February, 2024
Archbishop's House

+ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

I. MONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND CHRISM MASS:

1. Archdiocesan Monthly Recollection, for all the Archdiocesan and Pastoral Clergy working in Hyderabad, is arranged at Archbishop's House, on 21st March, 2024, Thursday, from 09.30 am to 01.00 pm. All the Priests are to participate in this recollection for the good and immediate preparation for the Holy Week and Easter. Most Rev. Dr. Mallavarapu Prakash, Archbishop Emeritus of Visakapatnam will preach the recollection.
2. All the Clergy are called upon to come and participate in Chrism Mass, which will be held on 21st March, 2024, Thursday, at 05.30 pm at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad. Most Rev. Dr. Mallavarapu Prakash, Archbishop Emeritus of Visakapatnam will celebrate the Chrism Mass and Preach. The Religious and Faithful are invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. **All the Parish Priests are requested to communicate the same to the parishioners and encourage them to attend the Chrism Mass.**

II. MOST REV. DR. MALLAVARAPU PRAKASH, ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS OF VISAKAPATNAM:

Hearty Congratulations to Most Rev. Dr. Mallavarapu Prakash, on your remarkable achievement of 25 years as Bishop. On behalf of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your exemplary life, leadership and tireless service to the Church. May God continue to shower you with wisdom, strength and grace to continue to guide His Faithful and to spread the Gospel.

III. HAPPY EASTER:

Christ is Risen, Alleluia. We are going to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on 31st March, 2024, I wish all the Priests, Religious, Faithful and all our Sisters and Brothers, a Very Happy Easter. May the Risen Lord shower His abundant blessings and graces upon all of you.

IV. VOCATION CAMP – ON 18th April, 2024:

***“Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation.”
Mk. 16:1***

In view of selecting students to the vocation to the Priesthood, the Vocations Committee of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad is organizing a one-day vocation camp on 18th April, 2024 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at St. Mary’s Basilica, Secunderabad. A small test will be conducted on the fundamentals on the Catechism.

Hence, we request all the Parish Priests to announce in your Parishes about the Vocation Camp and encourage prospective students to discern and explore their call to the Priesthood.

Young men who have finished SSC or Intermediate or Degree are eligible to come for this camp. Those who are coming for the camp must come with a letter from the parish priest.

CHANCERY NOTICE:

I. REMINDER:

All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions, who have not yet paid the special collections and Second Sunday Collections, are requested to pay as soon as possible. You are asked to clear all dues till March, 2024.

II. INVENTORY, BANK ACCOUNTS & FILES:

All the Parish Priests and Priests working in the Institutions of Archdiocese are asked to update all the account particulars of the parish and institution, prepare the Inventory, update parish files, update bank passbooks and fixed deposits and organize the land documents. All the deans are asked to visit the parishes and institutions in your respective deanery to ensure that the above-mentioned documents are kept in order.

III. NO FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AT ARCHBISHOP’S HOUSE, SEC’BAD FROM 25th MARCH TO 1st APRIL, 2024:

As the financial year 2023-2024 will end on 31st March 2024, there will be no financial transactions in the Archbishop’s House, Sec’bad from 25th March to 1st April, 2024. All Fathers, Sisters and Brothers are requested to take note of it and arrange buying of Host, Candle, Wine and other financial matters with the Procurator’s office accordingly.

IV. AUDIT 2023-2024:

A NOTE FROM AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

All Parishes are asked to get the following documents/books of accounts/statements before coming for audit as given here below.

1. Receipts & Payments Account for the period from 1st April, 2023 to 31st March, 2024 for as many sets of accounts being maintained.
2. Cash book, Ledger and other books like Daily Collection Register, Salary Register, along with supporting documents like Receipts books, Documentary evidence for payments duly signed by the person in charge/authorized, and sanction letter.
3. The Annexure to be prepared and submitted for the audit will be sent to individual parish/In charge priest by email, please contact Procurator if you do not receive it
4. Bank Statements for all the Bank Accounts maintained by Parishes for the period as mentioned above, Fixed Deposits receipts original and copies held as on 31-03-2024.
5. Certificate from the Bank for Closing Bank & Fixed Deposits Balance as on 31st March, 2024

Audit of Parishes from 15th April to 19th April 2024 at Archbishop's House, 10 am to 5 pm

S.NO	NAME OF DEANERY	DATE OF AUDIT
1	NIZAMABAD, SHAMSHABAD, SECUNDERABAD	15-04-2024
2	EMJALA, BOWENPALLY, GAGILAPURAM	16-04-2024
3	YOUTH OFFICE, PASTORAL CENTRE HYDERABAD, RAMANATHAPUR	18-04-2024
4.	TRIMULGHERRY, GAJWEL, VIKARABAD	19-04-2024

5. 2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF JAN. 2024

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1	23-01-2024	Aliabad	2500	51	23-01-2024	Mahendra Hills	2200
2		Alirajpet		52	23-02-2024	Madinaguda	1500
3		Ammuguda		53		Mallapur	
4		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		54		Manikonda Mission	
5		Arul Colony		55		Mariapuram(Adibatla)	
6	17-01-2024	Balaji Nagar	10000	56	06-02-2024	Medchal	1346
7		BalaiahNagar(Old Alwal)		57		Medipally	
8		Band Lines		58		Mettuguda	
9		Bandlaguda Jagir (Kismatpur)		59		Miyapur	
10		Banjara Hills		60		Moul-Ali	
11	17-01-2024	Basuregadi	3190	61	20-01-2024	Mudfort	12000
12		Bayyaram		62		Muthangi	
13		Bazar Ghat		63		Nacharam	
14		BHEL - MIG		64		Nandrakal	
15		Begumpet		65		Narayankhed	
16	19-01-2024	Bhoiguda	15000	66	29-01-2024	Nedunoor	300
17		Bodhan		67		Neela Camp	
18		Boduppall		68	14-02-2024	Nizamabad	2200
19		Bolarum		69		Pargi	
20		Borabanda		70		Patancheru	
21	10-01-2024	Bowenpally	10000	71		Ramachandrapuram	
22		Cherlapally		72	16-01-2024	Ramanthapur	3200
23		Chintalacheruvu		73		Ramnagar	
24		Church Colony		74		Sadasivpet	
25		Dammaiguda		75		Sainikpuri	
26	14-02-2023	Dharmaram	900	76	16-01-2024	Sanathnagar	20000
27		Dayanandnagar		77		Sangareddy	
28		Emjala		78		Santhoshnagar	
29		Gaddiannaram		79	23-02-2024	Sappers Lines	1500
30		Gagillapuram		80		Secunderabad	
31	30-01-2024	Gajwel	8000	81		Shabad	
32		Gandhinagar		82		Shamshabad	
33		Garrison (Trimulgherry)		83	17-01-2024	Shanthinagar	3680
34		Ghatkesar		84		Shapurnagar	
35		Gokonda		85		Siddipet	
36	17-02-2024	Gothumakunda	14682	86		Seethaphalmandi	
37		Gunfoundry		87	18-01-2024	Sultan Bazar	3000
38		Jadi Jamalpur		88		Suraram	
39		Jagadgirigutta		89		Tandur	
40		Jahanuma		90		Toopran	
41	17-01-2024	Jogipet	3500	91	24-01-2024	Trimulgherry	34500
42		Joipet		92		Uminthal	
43		Kalwakole		93		Vanasthalipuram	
44		Kamareddy		94		Venkatapuram	
45		Khairatabad		95		Vikarabad	
46	23-02-2024	KissanNagar(Armoor)	2176	96	16-01-2024	Yapral	3500
47		Kukatpally		97		Yeddu mylaram	
48		Lallaguda		98		Yellareddy	
49		L. B. Nagar		99		Zaheerabad	
50		Lillipur				Total	269904

Pastoral News

1. FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR THE NEW PRESBYTERY AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH, NIZAMABAD ON 26TH JANUARY, 2024

It was an auspicious and a joyous occasion for the Parish community of St. Ann's church, Nizamabad as the foundation stone was laid for the New Presbytery at Nizamabad, Hyderabad. After seeking approval by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony for the new parish house in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, the decision was made by the parish advisory body and parish community to begin the construction.



The foundation stone was laid by Rev. Fr. Y. Balashowry VG, Accompanied by Rev. Fr. Victor Emmanuel the Chancellor and Procurator, Fr. Madanu Joseph the Parish Priest and the property committee on 26th January 2024, at 11:30am in the presence of the Parishioners, contractors and engineers. The parish house will be built for the accommodation of the parish priest for the pastoral needs of the parishnours at St. Ann's Church Nizamabad. Let us pray for the successful completion of this new parish house in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad

**2. FESTIVE MASS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS
AT ST. JOHN DE BRITTO CHURCH, BAYYARAM ON 03RD FEBRUARY,
2024**



**3. ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT AVE MARIA INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL, RAMANTHAPUR ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2024.**



4. ASH WEDNESDAY MASS AT ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SECUNDERABAD 14TH FEBRUARY, 2024.



6. ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST. MARY'S CENTENARY DEGREE COLLEGE, SECUNDERABAD ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2024.



Archdiocesan News

1. LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES – RETROUVAILLE PROGRAM, BIRDY, HYDERABAD

The Don Bosco LIFE Resource Mission in Hyderabad recently organized a transformative event called “Retrouvaille - A lifeline for married couples” from February 9th to 11th, 2024. This Christian marriage program aims to assist couples in restoring their marital bond and rebuilding a loving relationship.

This event marked the first time the Retrouvaille program was held in Hyderabad, thanks to the initiative of the Mission Office - Don Bosco Life (DBL) team, including Fr. Noel Maddhichetty SDB, Mr. Antic Joseph, Mrs. Pokisha Mary, Mr. Joseph Vatti, and Mrs. Kavita Mary, couples from the Parish of Don Bosco Shrine, Bandalaguda. Recognizing the challenges faced by families today, this team reached out to deserving families by participating in the Retrouvaille program in Bangalore in October 2023.

The movement of Retrouvaille in Hyderabad was made possible with the dedicated support of Fr. Arulraj CSC, the Secretary of the Family Commission of

CCBI, the Retrouvaille team of Bangalore, presenting couples from Bangalore and Mumbai, and collaboration with Fr. David Francis, the Family Apostolate Commission of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. Over five weekends, the program will be facilitated and coordinated by Mr. Charles Raj and Mrs. Kavitha Raj, Coordinators of the Retrouvaille community in Bangalore, along with the DBL team in Hyderabad.

The primary aim of the program was to enhance key skills among couples, including communication, dialogue, listening, and understanding that feelings are valid without being judged as right or wrong. Through sharing their own marital journeys of romance, disillusionment, misery, and awakening, presenters enabled participating couples to reflect on their own marriages and grasp the challenges they face.

Participants learned techniques to express their thoughts and emotions effectively, leading to forgiveness, healing, and a rediscovery of their shared life journey as a harmonious family unit. The program also fostered a profound sense of spiritual connection to God and the other through prayers, hymns, and celebration of the Eucharist, with support from 160 Retrouvaille communities worldwide.

The program doesn't conclude here; it continues for the next three consecutive Sundays, delving deeper into the insights gained over the weekend. All couples seeking to rekindle their marital bond are encouraged to participate in this ongoing journey of rediscovery through helpourmarriage.org.

- Antic Joseph

2. CELEBRATION OF WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – FEBRUARY 2024

THEME: "Love beyond words"

The Family Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad celebrated World Marriage Day on February 17th, 2024, at St. Mary's Pharmacy College Auditorium. Around 50 couples, including gold and silver jubilarians, attended, making it a significant celebration honouring marriage as a sacrament.

Fr. Victor Emmanuel, representing His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, initiated the event with apologies for the Cardinal's absence due to an unforeseen emergency. The evening commenced with Holy Eucharist led by Fr. A Sagayaraja and Fr. Vincent Arokiadas, both silver jubilarians, alongside other priests from the Archdiocese.

In his sermon, Fr. A. Sagayaraja underscored the importance of the Sacrament of Matrimony, rooted in the Book of Genesis, highlighting fidelity in marriage as akin to God's faithfulness to His people.

Following the homily, all couples renewed their marriage vows, reaffirming their commitment and celebrating the enduring love that binds them. Fr. David reminded couples to pray for priests, drawing parallels between a priest's commitment to the Church and marital commitment.

Post-Eucharist, the event featured various activities celebrating marriage's sanctity. Amanda and Jonathan led an icebreaker session, fostering a warm ambiance. Sophia and Justin elucidated World Marriage Day's significance, elucidating its symbolism and traditions.

The cutting of the cake symbolized the joy of marriage, followed by accolades for jubilant couples and priests for their dedication. Each of the jubilarians were presented with specially crafted mementos. Sylvie and Joachim extended gratitude in the concluding vote of thanks, stressing marriage's pivotal role in fostering strong families and communities.

In essence, World Marriage Day 2024 was a poignant celebration reaffirming love, commitment, and faithfulness, emphasizing marriage's significance in individual lives, families, and society at large.

- Sylvester Isaac (Member, Family Apostolate Team)

Parish Level celebrations of World Marriage Day

1. World Marriage Day celebration at **St. Michael's Church- Golconda Parish** by Fr. Maria Shekar and team. A good number of couples turned up on Sunday February 11th 2024 for the celebrations that included a special world marriage day liturgy and a renewal of marital vows by all the couples present

Fr. Maria Shekar

2. World Marriage Day, observed on February 18, 2024, at St John the Baptist Church, saw a lively gathering of couples from diverse backgrounds, united to honor the sacred bond of marriage. Throughout the day's Eucharistic Celebrations, couples renewed their vows and reaffirmed their love for each other. Fr. Samuel Arugolalu O F M Cap, our Parish Priest, delivered a Spirit-filled homily across all four Holy Masses, emphasizing the importance of resilient marriages in nurturing strong families and communities. Through



prayers and blessings, couples were urged to continue cherishing their relationships and promoting a culture of love and unity. The event concluded on a joyful note, leaving attendees strengthened and smiling, filled with renewed commitment. **Henry Sanjivi** (for the Parish Council of St. John the Baptist Church)



National News

1. CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI) XXXVI BIENNIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

FINAL STATEMENT

Jan. 31-Feb. 07, 2024, St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, India

INTRODUCTION

1. With joyful confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ, we, the 170 Bishops of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), gathered at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bengaluru, from January 31 to February 07, 2024, for our XXXVI General Assembly to reflect on the theme: The Church's Response to the Current Socio-Political Situation of the Country and the Benefits and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Our reflection was done against the backdrop of the ongoing 'Synod on Synodality' (October 2021- October 2024) with the theme Communion-Mission-Participation which encapsulates the essential nature of the Church. Synodality calls us to listen to the Spirit and to each other, "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Cor 12:13). We were inspired by the call of Pope Francis: "Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all" (Fratelli Tutti 8).

I. THE CURRENT SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION AND OUR RESPONSE

2. Ours is an ancient civilization with a rich cultural heritage of unity in diversity. Indians cherish the values of religious harmony, non-violence and peace which are enshrined in the Constitution. During the CBCI Meeting, responding to the signs of the time, we first reviewed the situation currently prevailing in our country. India has made tremendous advances in the scientific, technological, economic and other fields - the country has been acknowledged as an emerging economic power in the world. The Christian Community feels proud of our country's progress. However, we do find grave reasons for concern:

- 2.1. Economic development in our country seems to have benefitted only a small percentage. The rate of unemployment has vastly increased. Large scale migration has caused untold misery to many. So also, scientific and technological development has not yet reached the majority of our people especially in the rural areas, resulting in a digital divide.
- 2.2. We feel that development is often done to the detriment of ecology, disrupting the life especially of our tribal brothers and sisters, many of whom are being dispossessed of their lands. We have also witnessed in anguish the sufferings of the fisherfolk in the coastal areas and the long-drawn out struggle of the farmers.
- 2.3. There is an apprehension that divisive attitudes, hate speeches and fundamentalist movements are eroding the pluralistic, secular ethos which has always characterized our country and its Constitution. The Fundamental Rights and Minority Rights guaranteed in the Constitution should never be undermined.
- 2.4. Attacks on Christians continue to increase in different parts of India. Destruction of homes and churches, harassment of personnel serving in orphanages, hostels, educational and healthcare institutions on false allegations of conversion have become common. We are appalled by prolonged violence in Manipur resulting in the huge loss of life and livelihood.
- 2.5. There is a widespread perception that the important democratic institutions of our country are weakening, the federal structure is under stress and the media are not fulfilling their role as the fourth pillar of democracy.
- 2.6. There is an unprecedented religious polarization which is harming the cherished social harmony in our country and endangering democracy itself.
3. Our Response to the present situation is along the path of non-violence, healing, justice and reconciliation. With this in view, we propose the following:
 - 3.1. As Christians, our first response is PRAYER, “for with God all things are possible” (Matthew:19:26). The CBCI asks that each Diocese observes Friday, 22 March 2024 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for peace and harmony in our country.
 - 3.2. We renew the Church’s commitment to serve the weaker sections of society irrespective of caste, creed and gender so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach the least and the last.
 - 3.3. We want to ensure that our families, communities and institutions imbibe and promote the values of the Constitution.
 - 3.4. We appeal to our political leaders to make all attempts to preserve the basic

structure of the Constitution, particularly the Preamble which declares India to be a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC committed to Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

- 3.5. We urge all citizens to enroll as voters and exercise their sacred duty to vote wisely so that we elect leaders who are committed to constitutional values and to the uplift of the poor.
- 3.6. We reiterate our demand that the Government grant Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians and other discriminated minorities. Similarly, the Government should desist from any attempt to deprive Christian Tribals of their Scheduled Tribe status and also from delisting of the tribal population of our country.
- 3.7. While we demand for the protection of our Fundamental and Minority Rights guaranteed by the Constitution, we will continue to be law abiding and responsible citizens of our beloved Motherland.
- 3.8. We request our Parish and Diocesan Commissions for Ecology to sensitize people about the ecological dangers in our present lifestyle such as overusing non-renewable resources of the earth, pollution of water and air, and wastage of food. We want to inculcate in all an attitude of caring for our 'common home'.
- 3.9. We will journey together with all people of goodwill, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows. We will conscientize the members of the Church to build bridges with their brothers and sisters of different faiths through Inter-Religious Dialogue and neighbourhood communities.

II. CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO THE BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

4. In the context of our mission, at the General Assembly, we deliberated on the benefits and challenges of Artificial Intelligence (AI) recognizing digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, as gifts of God. Pope Francis urges us: "Let us boldly become citizens of the digital world" (World Communications Day Message, 2024).
5. AI holds out the promise of tremendous benefits in the fields of health care, agriculture, education and research, engineering, recreation, business and finance. However, AI systems can be misused: In the wrong hands, the very same technologies can become tools that spread hatred, violence, manipulation and social bigotry. There is the danger that the human data collected by Digital platforms and AI can be misused to undermine the privacy of individuals and

families. Hence, the CBCI urges the Government to engage with all stakeholders to regulate the development and use of AI so as to encourage the best practices and prevent abuses.

6. Human beings, in all their social and cultural diversity, cannot be reduced to 'mere data' or be defined by algorithms. Hence, we recommend that:
 - 6.1. The Communication Office in each Diocese organize well-planned media programmes whereby the entire community - children, youth, families, religious and clergy - can be educated in the responsible use of digital and AI tools, safeguarding against manipulation and abuse. We want to promote ethical use of AI to be responsible citizens of the digital world.
 - 6.2. Our Diocesan and Regional Commissions for Social Communications and Youth Associations harness the available AI tools for effective faith formation and creative sharing of the Good News. We appeal to our young people who are skilled in AI to help in this endeavour.
 - 6.3. Dioceses, Religious Congregations and Lay Associations equip our youth to benefit from the opportunities offered by the AI revolution.
7. The Catholic Church in India firmly reiterates that the path to integral human development lies in promoting justice, equality, truth and freedom as a communitarian effort for the common good. For this, AI can serve as a useful instrument, provided that the human person in all his or her complexity, dignity and sanctity is respected and protected.

CONCLUSION:

8. As Pilgrims of Hope, in the spirit of Synodality, the Church in India moves ahead towards the Jubilee Year 2025. Over the years, Christians have served the country with dedication, whether it be in the Armed Forces, in education and literacy, in health and social services. Our service to the country has been acknowledged by many of our fellow citizens. As loyal citizens of India, we will continue serving our country whatever be the cost, walking in the footsteps of Jesus our Master who proclaimed: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Luke 4:18-19). We pray for the welfare and prosperity of our country as we entrust our country to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, the Star of Hope.



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

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23rd February 2024

Your Eminence/ Your Beatitude/ Your Grace/ Your Excellency/ Your Lordship,

Greetings to you from the CBCI Secretariat.

It is with fraternal joy that I congratulate and thank all the Cardinals, my fellow Archbishops and Bishops for the co-operation and support extended for the successful completion of the 36th General Body Meeting of CBCI.

In the light of the presentations and discussions we had during the eventful meeting, we have come to know of the importance of prayer for our Nation and thus we unanimously decided on observing **Friday, 22nd March 2024** as the '**National Day of Fasting and Prayer**' for the Church and the Nation.

I, humbly and earnestly exhort all of you to ensure that the '**National Day of Fasting and Prayer**' is observed in the most fruitful way in your respective dioceses or regions so that the power of prayer is harnessed to its fullest for the good of our nation. Mentioned below are a few suggestions put forward by CHARIS India which could be adopted at the parish/diocese/regional/state level:

1. Chain rosary
2. Jericho Prayer
3. Holy hour in every parish
4. 40 hours adoration with fasting
5. Night Vigil
6. Way of the Cross, Divine Mercy at a specified time in every parish
7. Bible passage readings with reflection

Seeking your continual support and joining in prayers for the Church and our Nation.

Yours sincerely,

+ Andrews Thazhath

Archbishop Andrews Thazhath
President of CBCI

International News

POPE FRANCIS

1. CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. VICES AND VIRTUES. 7. SORROW

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our itinerary of catechesis on vices and virtues, today we will look at a rather ugly vice, sadness, understood as a despondency of the soul, a constant affliction that prevents people from feeling joy at their own existence.

First and foremost, it must be noted that, with regard to sadness, the Fathers had made an important distinction: There is, in fact, a sadness that befits Christian life, and that by God's grace, can be changed into joy. Obviously, this should not be rejected and is part of the journey of conversion. But there is a second kind of sadness that *creeps into the soul and prostrates it into a state of despondency*: it is this second kind of sadness that must be resolutely and assiduously fought, because it comes from the evil one. This distinction can also be seen in [the letter of] Saint Paul, who wrote to the Corinthians: "godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death" (2 Cor 7:10). There is, therefore, a friendly sadness that leads us to salvation. Think of the prodigal son from the parable: when he reaches the depths of his degeneracy, he feels great bitterness, and this prompts him to come to his senses and to decide to return home to his father (cf. Lk 15:11-20). It is a grace to lament over one's own sins, to remember the state of grace from which we have fallen, to weep because we have lost the purity in which God dreamed of us.

But there is a second sadness, which is instead an *ailment of the soul*. It arises in the human heart when a desire or hope vanishes. Here we can refer to the account of the disciples of Emmaus. Those two disciples leave Jerusalem with a disappointed heart, and they confide to the stranger who at one point accompanies them: "We had hoped that he — Jesus — was the one to redeem Israel" (Lk 24:21). The dynamic of sadness is linked to the *experience of loss*. Hopes arise in the heart of man, which are sometimes dashed. It can be the desire to possess something that instead we

are unable to obtain, but it can also be something important, such as an emotional loss. When this happens, it is as if man's heart falls from a precipice, and the emotions he feels are discouragement, weakness of spirit, depression and anguish. We all go through ordeals that generate sadness in us, because life makes us conceive dreams that are then shattered. In this situation, after a time of turmoil, some cling to hope, but others wallow in melancholy, allowing it to fester in their hearts. Does one take pleasure in this? See: sadness is like *the pleasure of non-pleasure* ; it is like taking a bitter candy, without sugar, unpleasant, and sucking on that candy. Sadness is taking pleasure in non-pleasure.

The monk Evagrius recounts that all vices aim at pleasure, however ephemeral it may be, whereas sadness enjoys the opposite: *lulling oneself into endless sadness*. Some prolonged griefs, in which a person continues to expand the void of one who is no longer there, are not proper to life in the Spirit. Certain bitter resentments, where a person always has a claim in mind that makes them take on the guise of the victim, do not produce a healthy life in us, let alone a Christian one. There is something in everyone's past that needs to be healed. Sadness can turn from being a natural emotion into an evil state of mind. Sadness is a cunning demon. The Desert Fathers described it as a worm of the heart, which erodes and hollows out its host. This is a good image: it helps us understand. A worm in the heart that consumes and hollows out its host. So what should I do when I feel sad? Stop and look: is this a good sadness? Is it a sadness that is not so good? And react according to the nature of the sadness. Do not forget that sadness can be a very bad thing that leads us to pessimism, that leads us to a selfishness that is difficult to cure. Brothers and sisters, we must beware of this sadness and think that Jesus brings us the joy of resurrection. As much as life may be filled with contradictions, defeated desires, unrealized dreams, lost friendships, thanks to Jesus' resurrection we can believe that *all will be saved*. Jesus rose again not only for himself, but also for us, to *redeem all the happiness* that has remained unfulfilled in our lives. Faith casts out fear, and the resurrection of Christ removes sadness like the stone from the tomb. For a Christian every day is an exercise in resurrection. In his famous novel, "The Diary of a Country Priest", Georges Bernanos, has the parish priest of Torcy say this: "Joy is in the gift of the Church, whatever joy is possible for this sad world to share. Whatever you did against the Church, has been done against joy". And another

French writer, León Bloy, left us this wonderful phrase: “The only real sadness [...] is not to become a saint”

May the Spirit of the Risen Jesus help us to defeat sorrow with holiness.

2. CYCLE OF CATECHESIS. VICES AND VIRTUES. 8. ACEDIA

Dear brothers and sisters,

Among all the capital sins, there is one that is often overlooked, perhaps because of its name, which is often incomprehensible to many: I am talking about acedia. This is why the term acedia is often substituted by another in the list of vices, one which is much more commonly used: sloth, or laziness. In reality, laziness is more an effect than a cause. When people are idle, indolent, apathetic, we say they are lazy. But as the wisdom of the ancient Desert Fathers teaches us, the root of this laziness is often acedia, which literally means “lack of care”, in Greek. It is a very dangerous temptation, which one must not joke about. It is as though those who fall victim to it are crushed by a desire for death: they feel disgust at everything. Their relationship with God becomes boring to them, and even the holiest acts, those that used to warm their hearts in the past, now appear entirely useless to them. A person begins to regret the passing of time, and the youth that is irretrievably behind them.

Acedia is defined as the “noonday devil”: it grips us in the middle of the day, when fatigue is at its peak and the hours ahead of us seem monotonous, impossible to live. In a famous description, the monk Evagrius represents this temptation thus: “The eye of the slothful person is continually fixed on the windows, and in his mind he fantasizes about visitors. When he reads, the slothful person often yawns and is easily overcome by sleep, wrinkles his eyes, rubs his hands and, withdrawing his eyes from the book, stares at the wall; then turning them back to the book, he reads a little more [...]; finally, bowing his head, he places the book underneath it, and falls into a light sleep, until hunger awakens him and urges him to attend to his needs”; in conclusion, “the slothful man does not do God’s work with solicitude” [1]. Contemporary readers perceive in these descriptions something that closely recalls the evil of depression, both from a psychological and a philosophical point of view. Indeed, for those who are gripped by acedia, life loses its significance, prayer

becomes boring, and every battle seems meaningless. If in youth we nurtured passions, now they seem illogical, dreams that did not make us happy. So, we let ourselves go, and distraction, thoughtlessness, seem to be the only ways out: one would like to be numb, to have a completely empty mind. It is a little like dying in advance, and it is ugly.

Faced with this vice, which we recognize to be very dangerous, the masters of spirituality provide various remedies. I would like to note one that to me seems most important, and which I would call the patience of faith. Although in the clutches of acedia, man's desire is to be "elsewhere", to escape from reality, one must instead have the courage to remain and to welcome God's presence in the "here and now", in my situation as it is. Monks say that for them the cell is the best teacher of life, because it is the place that concretely and daily speaks to you of your love story with the Lord. The demon of acedia wants to destroy precisely this simple joy of the here and now, this grateful wonder of reality. It wants to make you believe that it is all in vain, that nothing has meaning, that it is not worth taking care of anything or anyone. In life we meet slothful people, people about whom we say, "He is boring!", and we do not like to be with them; people who even have an attitude of boredom that is infectious. This is acedia. How many people, in the grip of acedia, stirred by a faceless restlessness, have stupidly abandoned the good life they had embarked upon! The battle of acedia is a decisive one, that must be won at all costs. And it is a battle that did not spare even the saints, because in many of their diaries there are some pages that confide terrible moments, of genuine nights of the faith, when everything appears dark. These saints teach us to get through the night in patience, accepting the poverty of faith. They recommended, under the oppression of acedia, to maintain a smaller measure of commitment, to set goals more within reach, but at the same time to endure and persevere by leaning on Jesus, who never abandons us in temptation. Faith, tormented by the test of acedia, does not lose its value. On the contrary, it is the true faith, the very human faith, which despite everything, despite the darkness that blinds it, still humbly believes. It is that faith that remains in the heart, like embers beneath the ashes. It always remains. And if one of us falls prey to this vice, or to the temptation of acedia, try to look within and fan the embers of faith; that is how we keep going.

Dates & Events to Remember

19. St Joseph Spouse of BVM (Sol)
24. Palm Sunday
28. Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper



29. Good Friday
30. Holy Saturday
31. Easter Sunday

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

01. Fr. Chinnabathini Gnanaprakash
07. Fr. Viji Joseph
11. Fr. Madanu Francis Showry
12. Fr. Dodda Bala
14. Fr. MadanuLourdu Vijay Kumar
16. Fr. Bandanadam Prashanth
17. Fr. Thomas Andrew raj



17. Fr. Yeruva Bala
18. Fr. Therukunnel M. Matthew
18. Fr. Kata Joseph
23. Fr. Thirumalareddy Showreddy
23. Fr. Wilson Davis
24. Msgr. Yeruva Balashowry

Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

04. Fr. Sleeva Kumar Aloysius
06. Fr. Madanu Joseph Sr.
12. Most Rev. Dr. Thumma Bala (Archbishop Emeritus – Episcopal Ordination)
12. Fr. Marineni Varaprasad
13. Fr. Mettu Arogyam
14. Fr. Kandi Marreddy
14. Fr. Madanu Joseph Jr.
14. Fr. Yeruva Bala
18. Fr. Mettu Johannes
18. Fr. Thanugundla Gabriel
19. Fr. Chinnabathini Charles
19. Fr. Chinnabathini Jayaraj
19. Fr. Gangarapu Balaswamy

19. Fr. Madanu Francis Showry
19. Fr. Micheal Thiagaraj
21. Fr. Yeruva Thomas
21. Fr. Yeruva Joji Reddy
22. Fr. Gade Showreddy
23. Fr. Dodda Bala
24. Fr. Lancelot Menezes
25. Fr. Guvvala Anthony
26. Fr. Govindu Arogyaswamy
27. Fr. Chinnabathini Gnanaprakash
27. Fr. Micheal Selvaraj
29. Fr. Madanu Chinnaiiah
30. Fr. Mettu Arogyam
31. Fr. Thathireddy Jayaraj Reddy



Necrology

01. Fr. Vatti Albin Reddy
05. Fr. Bandanadam Marianna (Sr.)
25. Fr. Ignatius Elenhott

MAY ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.

Local news items, which might be of interest to the Archdiocese may be addressed to :

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Hearty Congratulations



Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrao
New President of the FABC



His Grace Most Rev. Dr. M. Prakash
Archbishop of Visakhapatnam

Prayerful Wishes

Ordination to Priesthood:

11th October 1979

**Bishop of Cuddapah,
July 1998 – July 2002**

**Bishop of Vijayawada on
15th August 2002**

**Apostolic Administrator of
Eluru Diocese on 19th August 2009**

**Archbishop of the Metropolitan
Diocese of Visakhapatnam
on 9th August 2012. to 17th Feb, 2024**

**Apostolic Administrator of
Srikakulam Diocese on
2nd January 2019**

Hearty Congratulations



Most Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera
The Apostolic Administrator of the
Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam



Msgr. Sagili Prakash
Bishop Elect of Khammam



Msgr. Karnam Dhaman Kumar
Bishop Elect of Nalgonda



Msgr. Gorantla Johannes
Bishop Elect of Kurnool