

St. Thomas the Apostle

Pray for us

Prayer to St. Thomas the Apostle

O Glorious Saint Thomas, your grief for Jesus was such that it would not let you believe he had risen unless you actually saw him and touched his wounds.

But your love for Jesus
was equally great and it led you
to give up your life for him.
Pray for us that we may grieve
for our sins which were the cause
of Christ's sufferings.

Help us to spend ourselves
in his service and so earn the title
of "blessed" which Jesus applied to
those who would believe
in him without seeing him.

Amen.

VOL: LI NO. 07

SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

JULY 2024



Archbishop's Message



The Catholic Church celebrates the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola on the 31st July. The celebrity of St. Ignatius of Loyola is popularly centred on his role as the founder of the Society of Jesus whose members are 'the Fathers of the Society of Jesus', but who, for whatever quaint reason, are popularly called 'Jesuits.'

But the true celebrity of St Ignatius of Loyola lies elsewhere! It lies in the Son of God our Lord Jesus Christ's predestined purpose in arresting this man, wallowing in worldly vanity, from pursing it any further, and personally educating him in the truth of His one divine and holy Gospel. St Ignatius, conscientiously wrote down, with admirable precision, this divine education which he had marvelously received in the Holy Spirit from the Son of God Himself at Manresa and named it 'the Spiritual exercises', after realising that the Son of God meant to give the same divine education, with his assistance, to many other men chosen by Him (among whom was our renowned St. Francis Xavier) to join Him in the Holy Spirit in His imminent work of cauterizing, cleansing and sanctifying His 1500 year old Catholic Church through His conciliar action from 1545 to 1563

A,D., and thereby continue to build it with its intrinsic eschatalogical finality in a new geographical and geopolitical situation, highly complicated by a 'new gospel' first enunciated and proclaimed by Martin Luther in 1517, but which was developed and formalised by leading theological dissenters in the European continent (oblivious of the Petrine promise of the Son of God (Mt16/18)) into an ecclesial counter movement called the 'Reformation.' The true and everlasting celebrity of St. Ignatius of Loyola lies in the fact that he provided the Son of God our Lord Jesus Christ with the kind of men needed by Him for His aforementioned purpose, through His aforementioned meek and humble assistance and obedience of faith to Him.

POPE'S INTENTION: JULY 2024

For The Pastoral Care of The Sick: We Pray That the Sacrament of The Anointing of The Sick Confer to Those Who Receive It and Their Loved Ones the Power of The Lord and Become Ever More a Visible Sign of Compassion and Hope for All.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: JULY 2024

For Farmers: Dear Lord, bless our farmers with fertile soil and abundant harvests. Grant them strength and wisdom to nurture the land with care. May their hard work be rewarded with prosperity and blessings.



Solemnities and Feasts

IULY 3rd

St. Thomas Apostle of India (Solemnity)

The Catholic Church in India traces its origin to the preaching of St Thomas the Apostle, who, according to tradition, came to India in 52 A.D., nearly 2000 years ago, and who was martyred in Mylapore, where his tomb is venerated ever since.

The personality of this great figure, with his own characteristic traits, emerges in the Gospel of St John (Jn 11,16; 14,5; 20,24-29). Together with the other Apostles, he formed an intimate community with Jesus of Nazareth and shared all the joys and trials that accompanied him as he moved around the countryside to preach his message of love and unity. Thomas was an impulsive type of man, zealous in reaching out to others, not afraid to ask questions and seek



clarifications when required, who battled with his own resistance and doubts surrounding the extraordinary events of Christ's death and resurrection in Jerusalem. He is the one who, touching Jesus' wounds after the resurrection, had all his doubts disappear and his faith moved to a new level. He simply believed, exclaiming from the depths of his heart: "my Lord and my God". It finally came home to him the full import of what had happened: Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, thus overcoming suffering and death and offering new hope for all humanity. A new era had begun.

Thomas understood his own mission as that of sharing this experience, as in the words of Jesus, "go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good news to all creation", that is, to proclaim the message and reality of God's unconditional love to all peoples, regardless of creed or colour, nationality or race. Each of the Apostles set out on the mission assigned them by the Lord: "you will be my witnesses, not only in Jerusalem, but throughout Judea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1,8). Source:https://catholic.cafe

IULY 22nd

St. Mary Magdalene (Feast)

On July 22, the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Mary Magdelene, one of the most prominent women mentioned in the New Testament.

Her name comes from the town of Magdala in Galilee, where she was born. Scripture introduces her as a woman "who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out" (Lk. 8:2).

Some scholars identify Mary Magdalene with the sinful woman who anointed the feet of Christ with oil in the house of Simon the Pharisee (Lk. 7:36-50). Others associate her with Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (Lk. 10:38-42, Jn. 11). Some believe the three figures to be one person, while others believe them to be three distinct individuals.



What the Scriptures make certain about Mary Magdalene is that she was a follower of Christ, who accompanied and ministered to him (Lk. 8:2-3). The Gospels record her as being one of the women present at Christ's crucifixion.

In addition, she was the first recorded witness of the Resurrection. The Gospels all describe Mary Magdalene going to the tomb on Easter morning. When she saw that the tomb was empty, she stood outside, weeping. Jesus appeared to her and asked her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" (Jn. 20:15)

She did not recognize him, however, and thought he was the gardener, until he said her name, "Mary!" (Jn. 20:16) Upon hearing this, Mary recognized him. She returned to the grieving disciples to announce to them the message of the Resurrection.

Source: www.catholicnewsagency.com

St. James, Apostle (Feast)

Among the Twelve Apostles were two named James: James, the son of Zebedee and James, the son of Alpheus. The former is traditionally called James the Greater, and the latter is traditionally called James the Lesser, perhaps because the former was taller than the latter, or more likely because of the greater importance James the Greater played in the Gospel narrative.



James the Greater, whom we honor today, was the brother of John, the Gospel writer. Their mother is traditionally believed to be Salome, who is identified as the sister to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hence, if Salome and Mary were siblings, then James and John were Iesus' cousins.

In John's Gospel (John 1:35–51), two of John the Baptist's disciples were with John when he saw Jesus walking by. The Baptist said of Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples then left the Baptist and followed Jesus. One of the disciples was Andrew, and the other is traditionally believed to be James the Greater. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark record James' calling a bit differently. "[Jesus] walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him" (Mark 1:19–20). James and John most likely came from a family of means. Their father, Zebedee, most likely employed other fishermen alongside his sons. Their mother, Salome, is said to have been one of the women who supported Jesus and the disciples out of her own means. And John was entrusted with the care of Jesus' mother, partly implying that he had the means to do so.

Source:https://mycatholic.life/

| RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Date | Parish/Individual | No. of Masses | | | | | |
| 06-06-2024 | METTUGUDA | 4000 | | | | | |
| 14-06-2024 | SECUNDERABAD | 800 | | | | | |
| 19-06-2024 | MOULA - ALI | 41 | | | | | |
| 24-06-2024 | TRIMALGHERRY | 550 | | | | | |
| 25-06-2024 | EMJALA | 100 | | | | | |
| 26-06-2024 | METTUGUDA | 4700 | | | | | |
| | Total | 10,191 | | | | | |

Archbishop's Engagements

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

JULY

01. Mon 10.00 a.m.: Memorial Mass of Most Rev. Thumma Bala the

Archbishop Emeritus of Hyderabad at St. Mary's

Basilica, Secunderabad.

02. Tue : In Office

03. Wed 6.00 p.m. : Silver Jubilee Mass at St. Thomas Church, Sultan-

Bazar.

04-05 Thu -Fri : In Office

07. Sun 9.00 a.m. : Festive Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church,

Seethafalmandi.

15-16 Mon-Tue : In Office

17. Wed 10.00 a.m.: Distribution of Higher Education Scholarships.

18-19 Thu-Fri : In Office

21. Sun 9.00 a.m. : Festive Mass and First Holy Communion and

Confirmations at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church,

New Bowenpally

22-25 Mon-Thu : In Office

27. Sat 5.30 p.m. : Silver Jubilee Mass of Rev. Fr. Anthony Sagayaraj at

Degree And P.G College, King Koti.

28. Sun 10.15 a.m. : Festive Mass at St. Ann's Church, Mallapur

5.00 p.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Our

Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Jagdirigutta.

29. Mon 10.30 a.m. : Final Profession of JMJ Sisters Hyderabad Province

at St. Theresa's Convent, Sanathnagar.

30. Tue : In Office

31. Wed 6.00 P.M. : St. Ignatius Feast: Programme at St. Patricks High

School Secunderabad.

ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS: TENTATIVE

AUGUST

04. Sun 9.30 a.m. : Festive Mass at St. John Maria Vianney Church,

Bhoiguda.

6.00 P.M. : Festive Mass at St. Alphonsus Church, Banjara Hills.

11. Sun 09.45 p.m. : Golden Jubilee Mass of St. Vincent De Paul Society At

Khairathabad

18. Sun 09.30 a.m. : Festive Mass and First Holy Communion and

Confirmations at St. Bernard's Church, Ammaguda.

29. Thu 06.00 p.m.: Flag Hoisting Mass at Shrine of Our Lady of Health,

Khairathabad.

30. Fri 06.30 a.m.: Founders Day Celebration at Home for the Aged,

Bhoiguda.

29th June, 2024 Archbishop's House + Cardinal Poola Anthony Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

I. DEANERY LEVEL MONTHLY RECOLLECTION:

All the Deans are here-by requested to conduct the Monthly Recollection at Deanery level in the month of July, 2024. All the clergy are requested to attend the "Deanery Level Recollection" and if anyone is unable to attend the recollection, please inform the respective Deans. All the Deans are here-by requested to note down the minutes of the meetings with the list of the participants and send a copy of the same to the Archbishop's House, Secunderabad.

II. SEMINARIAN FUND:

We have a fund For Seminarians and young priests. We have sent the Brochures and forms to all the parishes. Please announce in the churches and encourage the faithful to come forward to support the future priests. For further details please contact procurator's Office.

III. PARISH PRAYER GROUPS:

All the Parish Priests and Priests in charges of the Parishes are asked to form small prayer groups in every Parish in the Archdiocese. These groups will assist the parish priests to visit the sick, to pray for them, to help some families who need counseling, pray for various needs of the Parish, Archdiocese and the universal Church. Encourage people to join these prayer groups and come together for prayer and adoration once a week at a convenient time in the parish church.

IV. MASS INTENTIONS:

- We have introduced issuing of receipts for Mass Intentions in the Archdiocese from 1st June, 2024. This is to bring an order. We are responsible to celebrate every intention we receive. Keep a notebook to note the details of the receipt books of Mass Intentions given to your parish and submit the details at the time of Audit Keep required intentions for the priests in the parish and Deposit the balance amount in the parish account and forward the same to the Archbishop's House office.
- Only Parishes, Mass centers or Chapels under the custody of a parish are allowed to take Mass Intentions. Any other places where masses are allowed, Parish Priest, in that locality, is asked to monitor the offered Intentions. Throughout Hyderabad Archdiocese Mass intention amount is Rs. 100/- only.

V. RELIGIOUS APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Rev. Fr. Pasala Poulson MHM, Parish Priest at St. Gonsala Garcia Church, Pargi
- 2. Rev. Fr. Nanduri Bartholomew SAC, Parish Priest at St. Anthony's Church, Sappersline

9. 2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2024

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Pastoral News

1. FLAG HOISTING AND MASS AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, GANDHINAGAR ON 01ST JUNE, 2024.



2. FESTIVE MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH, LALAGUDA ON 09THJUNE, 2024.



3. FESTIVE MASS AT ST. ANTHONY'S SHRINE, METTUGUDA ON 13^{TH} JUNE, 2024.



4. FESTIVE MASS AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, BAZARGHAT ON 13^{TH} JUNE, 2024.



5. FESTIVE MASS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ON 23RD JUNE, 2024.



6. SUMMER CAMP AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, BANDLINES PARISH FROM 01ST MAY TO 31ST MAY 2024.



It was God's grace and with blessings of Our Cardinal, Archbishop Poola Anthony, one month summer camp at our lady of Lourdes Church was very meaningful and useful. Every day the children gathered in the Church at 9 am and started the day with Praise and Worship, Rosary, Mercy prayer and blessings of the Eucharistic Lord.

After receiving the blessings from

the Lord, the children were taught spiritual activity songs which made them to be happier and more active. After the activity songs they were dictated 10 questions and answers from the bible both from Old Testament and New Testament every day. They were given stationery like long note books, pencils etc, to write down the notes dictated during the class. At the end of the month the children memorised 300 question and answers. Later they were made to repeat orally and were asked to memorize.

After learning the word from the bible, they were shown videos depicting biblical characters like Adam and Eve, Noah etc

After the video show, they were asked to play for some time organised by the volunteers.

From 11.00 am to 11.30 am the children,the youth, the senior citizens,the women and volunteers were given sumptuous snacks,and cool drinks. Sometimes the parishioners came forward to sponsor snacks and even food to the participants. For four Saturdays we conducted four different competitions like painting competition, fancy dress competition, singing competition and spiritual song dance competition, at the end of the month on 30th, oral exam and written exam was conducted from nursery to 5th class children and on 31st oral and written exam was conducted from 6th class students to degree students including youth and women. Those who got good marks were awarded with cash prize and also with gifts too. The participants for other competition were also awarded for their performance every Sunday during the month. I am indeed grateful to the people who guided the summer camp so systematically, also the volunteers, the sponsors etc for the summer camp and were also honoured with a shawl on Sundays after the Mass.

-Fr.Dion Isaac Parish priest

7. THE PORTIUNCOLA INDULGENCE

August 1st Evening to 2nd Evening.

St Francis of Asisisi (b. 1181 d.1226), who had previously repaired the chapels of San Damiano and San Pietro della Spina, was enraptured by the Portiuncola, a nick name which means "the little portion." He loved its formal name—Santa Maria degli Angeli (Our Lady of the Angels), its poverty reflective in its nick name, its isolation and silence, and its proximity to the leper hospitals where he tended the pitiable residents.

Francis made the Portiuncola the headquarters of his Order on presenting the Benedictines a yearly rent of a basket of fish. On **October 3, 1226**, after blessing his friars and asking to be laid naked on the ground so as to come to the Father in utter destitution, Francis died at the Portiuncola.

The Portiuncola Indulgence is a special favor granted by the Pope to St. Francis at his request: "to grant a full pardon of all sins to all who, having

repented and confessed their sins, shall visit this church" in the Church of Portiuncola. This is the same Church where Pope John Paul II began the historic Inter Religious Dialogue.



THE PORTIUNCOLA INDULGENCE TODAY

The Indulgence may now be gained in any basilica, cathedral, or parish church of Franciscans, anywhere in the world, on August 2. The person wishing to gain the Indulgence must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Intend to gain the Indulgence; **2.** Be detached from all sin; **3.** While in the church pray one Our Father, one Apostle's Creed, and one other prayer of the individual's choice; **4.** Pray for the intentions of the Pope (prayerfully saying an Our Father and a Hail

Mary will suffice although other prayers may be said) **5.** Receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist within twenty days or less, either before or after August 2.

We the Franciscan friars at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ramnagar, Hyderabad, will welcome all the pilgrims from $1^{\rm st}$ August with the Hoy Mass at 6pm, and on the $2^{\rm nd}$ August, Holy Mass at 6.30am. Friars will be available for Confessions, prayers and blessing all through the day and until the evening, concluding with the Holy Mass, celebrated at 6pm.

Please do come and make the best of this gracious opportunity from the Lord. May Mary, Our Lady of the Angels intercede for us.

Fr. Praveen Dsouza, OFM Parish Priest Fr. Chinnappa Reddy, OFM Guardian

8. Distribution of Education Material to Poor Children by Cardinal Poola Anthony

On June 8, 2024, Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad and Chairman of HASSS, launched the "Vidya Vikas Kiranam" program. In a significant event, he distributed educational materials to over 500 children, marking the beginning of a project aimed at reaching 2,700 poor students across the archdiocese. Each parish is responsible for identifying 25 deserving children to receive aid.

In his inspiring address, Cardinal Poola Anthony highlighted the transformative power of education, encouraging the children to study hard, excel, and become self-reliant. Fr. Anthony Madanu, Executive Director of HASSS, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Cardinal and Rev. Fr. Victor Emmanuel, Chancellor of the diocese, for their support. He also thanked the parish priests and coordinators for their efforts in bringing the children to the event.

The "Vidya Vikas Kiranam" program exemplifies the Church's dedication to education and social service, aiming to alleviate material needs and promote long-term growth and self-sufficiency. This initiative brings hope and opportunity to underprivileged children in Hyderabad, reflecting the Church's commitment to fostering community development and addressing social inequalities.

Mrs. KALPANA Coordinator HASSS

Archdiocesan News

1. FOURTH WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

The **Fourth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** will be celebrated on Sunday, 28th July 2024. The theme chosen by the Holy Father is ""**Do not cast me off in my old age"** (cf. Psalm 71:9). The Theme is meant "to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture."

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to the life of the Church, the World Day seeks to support the efforts of every ecclesial community to forge bonds between the generations and to combat loneliness, in the awareness that – as Scripture states – "It is not good for man to be alone" (Gen 2:18).

Dear Fathers, Sisters & Brothers we encourage you to celebrate this event in your parishes/institutions/deanery on Sunday 28th July 2024 or any appropriate Sunday at one of the masses. The Archdiocesan Family Apostolate will e-mail you the Pastoral guidelines and liturgy of the day.

The Family Apostolate will be celebrating the Fourth World Day of Grandparents and Elderly at the Archdiocesan level on Sunday 28th July 2024 at St. Ann's High School Secunderabad (ICSE) starting at 10:00 a.m. Please send representatives from your parish to join this celebration. The details for registration have been e-mailed to you.

-Fr. David Francis

2. REPORT - GRAY & GRACEFUL

The FAMILY APOSTOLATE, Archdiocese of Hyderabad, conducted an event Titled, GRAY & GRACEFUL –SENIORS MEET which was the first of its kind on 06th of June, 2024. The meeting was held at Satyodayam Retreat House Tarnaka. The meeting which was well attended, began on a prayerful note with Fr. David choosing a line from Psalm 71: "Do not cast me off in my old age"- the theme for the 2024 celebration of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, a day which our Archdiocese has been celebrating since July 2021. Fr. David called attention to elderly Biblical characters like Elizabeth, Sarah, Anna, Samuel and others, who could inspire us today.

This was followed by a brief input by Ms. Nirmala Nair on "The Golden years" about aging gracefully and gratefully: being thankful for the Gifts of Life, Health, Time, Friends etc, which we often take for granted. Since the long-term memory of seniors is generally good, the gathering enjoyed singing together a couple of old, much-loved songs of yesteryears. This was followed by a game and some refreshments. The highlight was a game of Tambola. Winners were given special gifts.

It was then time for the attendees to share their thoughts, ideas and opinions. To begin with they expressed their happiness and appreciation for the programme, and wished to meet in a similar manner every month, preferably in the same place viz Satyodayam Retreat House. (Other suggestions included: having a half-day session which could include Mass and preparing a Handbook for Seniors regarding their rights). * Father announced the next Seniors Meet would be held on the first Thursday of July (4th July 2024). He also extended an invitation to all to attend and to be actively involved in celebrating the upcoming World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on July 28th. The meeting closed with a Hymn to Our Lady.

-Ms. Nirmala Nair

3. Lenten Campaign Contributions from 26th April 2024 to 27th June 2024

| S.No. | Name of the Parish & Institutions | R.No. | Date | Amount |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | StJudes Shrine , Vikarabad | 926 | 26-04-2024 | 14,600.00 |
| 2 | Infant Jesus Shrine | 927 | 29-04-2024 | 45,000.00 |
| 3 | StJosephs Church | 928 | 30-04-2024 | 5,500.00 |
| 4 | Archdiocese of Hyderabad Society | 929 | 30-04-2024 | 25,000.00 |
| 5 | Auxilium Church | 930 | 02-05-2024 | 11,430.00 |
| 6 | Nirmala Dhyana Sadhan | 931 | 03-05-2024 | 4,000.00 |
| 7 | Auxilium Navajeevana Society | 932 | 06-05-2024 | 2,000.00 |
| 8 | StLourdes Church | 933 | 10-05-2024 | 5,000.00 |
| 9 | StAnns Church | 934 | 10-05-2024 | 10,000.00 |
| 10 | StMichael Church | 935 | 12-05-2024 | 52,206.00 |
| 11 | St.Ignatius Church | 936 | 12-05-2024 | 7,000.00 |
| 12 | StMichael Church | 938 | 17-05-2024 | 20,774.00 |
| 13 | St.Bernards Church | 939 | 24-05-2024 | 43,830.00 |
| 14 | Our Lady of Rosary | 940 | 27-05-2024 | 10,000.00 |
| 15 | Maria Rosa Mystica Church | 941 | 03-06-2024 | 11,710.00 |
| 16 | Shrine Of Our Lady Of Health | 942 | 11-06-2024 | 30,000.00 |
| 17 | Capitania Convent | 943 | 17-06-2024 | 9,600.00 |
| | | | | 3,07,650.00 |

Thank You: Dear Rev. Parish priests/Principals/Directors/Superiors, On behalf of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad and the Hyderabad Archdiocese Social Service Society, I Thank you for making efforts to mobilize the funds for the Lenten Campaign Contributions. God bless you for your generosity.

Reminder: Dear Rev Fathers/Head of the Institutions/Religious Superiors we request you to forward whatever the collections made towards Lenten campaign from your parishes/ convents/institutions /communities. Kindly forward your contributions to "HASSS Lenten Campaign Account" at the earliest. We look forward your journey with HASSS in promoting this campaign. Thank you.

Rev. Fr. Madanu Anthony Executive Director HASSS

Regional News

1. SECOND BATCH OF DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY GRADUATION AT ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE

Out of the 40 students who initially joined the second batch of the Diploma in Theology program, only six successfully completed it due to the challenges posed by COVID-19. This unique course is conducted by professors from St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur, in collaboration with the Family of Faith.

On Wednesday, June 19, 2024, these six students received their Diplomas in Theology from His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony. The graduation ceremony was attended by all priests and parish priests of the Archdiocese, who were gathered for their day of recollection.

The program's classes, led by professors from St. John's Seminary, are held at St. Mary's Pharmacy College, Secunderabad, every Saturday from 5 PM to 8 PM. The fourth batch began on June 22, 2024. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact their parish priest for more information about joining the program.

It was also announced that those who have completed the Diploma in Theology will be utilized in their respective parishes as animators for the parish council, youth groups, catechism teachers, and for conducting seminars on various topics within the parish. The fourth batch has started on 22nd June 2024 and there were 23 students registered so far. We request Parish Priests to encourage your parishioners to join before the first week of July, which is the deadline for admissions.

-Sylvester Issac Completed Diploma in Theology, Second Batch



2. REPORT ON THE TELUGU REGION CATHOLIC ADVOCATES MEETING HELD AT ROSS HILL, VISAKHAPATNAM ON 16, 17 JUNE, 2024 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MOST REV. JAYA RAO POLIMERA, THE BISHOP OF ELURU, APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF VISAKHAPATNAM AND THE CHAIRMAN FOR TCBC COMMISSION FOR CANON AND CIVIL LAW

The third annual convention of the Telugu region catholic advocates was held at Ross Hill, Visakhapatnam on 16, 17 June, 2024 under the chairmanship of Most



Rev. Jaya Rao Polimera, the Bishop of Eluru, the apostolic administrator of the archdiocese of Visakhapatnam and the Chairman of the commission for Canon and Civil Law under Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC). 67 advocates consisting of

lay persons, men and women; priests and religious men and women participated in the Convention. Honourable Judge, Sri Dunna Ramulu, District judge, Ongole was the chief guest and the main speaker. Sri Veluri Raghuram, the Public prosecutor was invited as a guest speaker.

Majority of the participants arrived by 4 pm on the 16th June at Ross Hill, Visakhapatnam. Rev. Fr. Alex Raju, deputy secretary to the TCBC (Telugu catholic bishops council) welcomed the guests. Rev. Fr. Kondala Joseph provided a good accommodation. His lordship, Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera arrived at the venue by 5 pm and spent an hour with the participants and welcomed them to the city of Viskhapatnam and the archdiocese of Visakhapatnam. He said that he wanted the advocates to interact after the lectures by the speakers and asked Rev. Sr. Jessy Kurian, the Supreme Court advocate to moderate the interaction. Rev. Fr. J. John Prakash, Chancellor of the archdiocese and one of the organisers of the event briefed the participants about the two day's programmes. Rev. Fr. P.Bala, the vicar general of the diocese of Eluru, one of the organisers of the event explained to them the programme of the evening. Mr.B.K.Joseph was kind enough to arrange a free tour of the submarine museum on the R.K.Beach, Visakhapatnam. Later the participants

visited the archbishop's House in Maharanipeta. Fr.J.John Prakash arranged a sumptuous meal for all at Mantris Hotel, Visakhapatnam, thanks to the sponsorship of the dinner by the chairman himself.

The next day, many others joined for the breakfast, 69 including the speakers. The first session began at 9 am. Rev. Fr. Raju Alex, the TCBC deputy secretary welcomed the gathering. Rev.Fr. DuggimpudiBalashowry, the vicar general of Visakhapatnam gave a brief introduction to the convention. Sr. Jacintha SJA invited to the dais the chairman, Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera to preside over the meeting. Honourable judge, Sri Dunna Ramulu was welcomed on to the dais. A thunderous applause set the stage in motion. Rev. Fr. J. John Prakash gave an electrifying introduction about the chief guest and the main speaker of the day, Honourable Sri Dunna Ramulu, the district judge of Ongole. Honourable Sri Dunna Ramulu has an LLM in constitutional law from Bombay University, LLM in labour law from Andhra University and a Ph.D. in constitutional law from Andhra University. He is presently pursuing Ph.D. on Jesus Christ - Arrest, trial and judgement in reference to Roman and Hebrew Law. He practised law in Bombay High Court for 7 years. He returned to his home state to become a judicial officer. He was a State topper in Junior Civil Judge examination and later selected in 2010 and appointed direct district judge with distinction. Presently he is working as the district judge at Ongole.

To the utmost satisfaction of all present, he delivered a thunderous lecture on the Constitution of India and Indian Democracy. He explained about the roots of Indian Constitution. He gave a clarion call to all the advocates not to simply practise law but become sentinels of the Constitution and salt of Democracy in the country. He asked them to be pro active advocates who will stand by the side of the poor and innocent. He said, pleader in court should be a leader in society.

Rev. Sr. Jessy Kurian heaped bundles of praise on him while thanking him for the innovative and informative lecture he delivered. She said, though she met many judges in High Court and Supreme Court of India, honourable Sri Dunna Ramulu is a different person having vast knowledge about the Indian Constitution, having every information on the tip of his fingers.

His lordship, Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera expressed his personal appreciation for the honourable judge and highlighted some of the points enumerated by the speaker. He threw open the discussion to the floor. The participants made meaningful references to his lecture and sought clarifications from the honourable judge. The honourable judge made good interventions and the entire hall was wonderstruck.

There was a press meet during which his lordship explained the goal and objectives of the Telugu region catholic advocates forum established under his leadership. He called for a thorough appreciation of the Indian constitution. He advised the advocates to uphold justice in the framework of the Constitution.

Then the gathering was dispersed for lunch at 1.30 pm.

The second session resumed at 2.30 pm. The guest speaker, Sri Veluri Raghuram, Public prosecutor and Joint director was welcomed by Sr.Jacintha SJA. Sri.P.Chittibabu, advocate from Vizianagaram introduced the speaker to the house. He spoke on Freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Though it is a fundamental right, he said, it has some limitations. He also said that freedom to propagate one's religion is enshrined in the constitution. He brought to the notice of the house the remarks made by the Supreme Court in taking up cases on the basis of information posted in WhatsApp or social media. He advised the advocates not to misuse this



freedom of expression.

The floor made intelligent references to the lecture and Sri. Veluri Raghuram, a seasoned and senior advocate clarified their doubts referring to the Law.

It was the turn of the Chairman, his lordship, Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera, the Bishop

of Eluru, the apostolic administrator of the archdiocese of Visakhapatnam and the Chairman of the commission for Canon and Civil Law Telugu Catholic Bishops Council to deliver his presidential address. He praised the Indian Constitution as the best Constitution in the world and called the entire legal fraternity to be well versed in the Constitutional Law. He spoke at length about the importance of Law in the society and asked all the advocates present to stand for the poor. The hall thundered passionately with a roaring applause.

The participants felicitated His lordship, Bishop Jaya Rao Polimera, honourable Judge Sri D.Ramulu and Sri. Veluri Raghuram with a huge garland and shawls. Rev. Fr. Alex Raju, deputy secretary proposed Vote of thanks thanking everybody involved in making this great event happen in Visakhapatnam. A special appreciation was made to Rev. Fr. J. John Prakash, the chancellor of the archdiocese who took major share in organising the event. The two day convention came to an end with the singing of National Anthem by all the participants.

-Fr. Bala, V.G., Eluru diocese

International News

Cycle of Catechesis. The Spirit and the Bride. The Holy Spirit guides the people of God towards Jesus our hope.

1. "All Scripture is inspired by God". Knowing God's love through God's words.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning, welcome!

Let us continue the catechesis on the Holy Spirit who guides the Church towards Christ our hope. He is the guide. Last time we contemplated the work of the Spirit in creation; today we will see it in revelation, in which the Sacred Scripture is witness inspired by God and authoritative.

The Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy contains this statement: "All Scripture is inspired by God" (3:16). And another passage in the New Testament says: "Men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Pt 1:21). This is the doctrine of the divine inspiration of the Scripture, that which we proclaim as an article of faith in the Creed, when we say that the Holy Spirit "has spoken through the prophets". The divine inspiration of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures, is also He who explains and makes them perennially living and active. From inspired, He makes them inspiring. The Sacred Scriptures "as inspired by God", says Vatican Council II, "and committed once and for all to writing ... impart the word of God Himself without change, and make the voice of the Holy Spirit resound in the words of the prophets and Apostles" (21). In this way the Holy Spirit continues, in the Church, the action of the Risen Jesus who, after Easter, "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Lk 24:45).

Indeed, it can happen that in a certain passage of the Scripture, that we have read many times without particular emotion, one day we read it in an atmosphere of faith and prayer, and then that text is unexpectedly illuminated, it speaks to us, it

sheds light on a problem we are living, it makes God's will for us clear in a certain situation. To what is this change due, if not to an enlightenment of the Holy Spirit? The words of the Scripture, under the action of the Spirit, become luminous; and in those cases, we touch with our own hands how true is the statement in the Letter to the Hebrews: "The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword" (4:12).

Brothers and sisters, the Church is nourished by the spiritual reading of the Sacred Scripture, that is, by reading under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that inspired it. At its centre, like a beacon that illuminates everything, there is the event of the death and resurrection of Christ, which fulfils the plan of salvation, realizes all the figures and the prophecies, unveils all the hidden mysteries and offers the true key to reading the entire Bible. The death and resurrection of Christ is the beacon that illuminates all the Bible, and it also illuminates out life. Revelation describes all of this with the image of the Lamb that breaks the seals of the book "written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals" (cf. 5:1-9), that is, the Scripture of the Old Testament. The Church, Bride of Christ, is the authorized interpreter of the inspired text of the Scripture; the Church is the mediator of its authentic proclamation. Since the Church is gifted with the Holy Spirit - this is why she is the interpreter – she is the "pillar and bulwark of the truth" (1 Tm 3:15). Why? Because she is inspired, held steady by the Holy Spirit. And the task of the Church is to help the faithful and those who seek the truth to interpret the biblical texts correctly.

One way of conducting spiritual reading of the word of God is that which is called the lectio divina, a word whose meaning we perhaps do not understand. It consists of dedicating a time of the day to the personal and meditative reading of a passage of the Scripture. And this is very important: every day, take the time to listen to, to contemplate, reading a passage from the Scripture. And therefore, I recommend you always to have a pocket edition of the Gospel and keep it in your bag, in your pocket... So, when you are travelling, or have a little free time, take it and read it. This is very important for life. Get a pocket Gospel and during the day read once, twice, when you have the chance. But the quintessential spiritual reading

of the Scripture is the community reading in the Liturgy in the Mass. There, we see how an event or a teaching, given by the Old Testament, finds its full expression in the Gospel of Christ. And the homily, that comment by the celebrant, must help to transfer the Word of God from the book to life. But for this, the homily must be brief: an image, a thought and a sentiment. The homily must not go on for more than eight minutes, because after that, with time attention is lost and the people fall asleep, and they are right. A homily must be like that. And I want to say this to priests, who talk a lot, very often, and one does not understand what they are talking about. A brief homily: a thought, a sentiment and a cue for action, for what to do. No more than eight minutes. Because the homily must help transfer the Word of God from the book to life. And among the many words of God that we listen to every day in Mass or in the Liturgy of the Hours, there is always one that is meant specially for us. Something that touches the heart. Welcomed into the heart, it can illuminate our day and inspire our prayer. It is a question of not letting it fall on deaf ears!

Let us conclude with a thought that can help us to fall in love with the Word of God. Like certain pieces of music, the Sacred Scripture too has a base note that accompanies it from the beginning to the end, and this note is the love of God. 'The whole Bible", observes Saint Augustine, "does nothing but tell of God's love". [1] And Saint Gregory the Great defines the Scripture as "a letter from God Almighty to His creature", like a letter from a bridegroom to his bride, and exhorts us to "learn and know the heart of God in the words of God". [2] "Through this revelation", says Vatican Council II again, "the invisible God, out of the abundance of His love, speaks to men as friends and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself" (Dei Verbum, 2).

Dear brothers and sisters, keep reading the Bible! But do not forget the pocket Gospel: carry it in your bag, in your pocket, and at some moment during the day, read a passage. And this will make you very close to the Holy Spirit, who is in the Word of God. May the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Scriptures and now breathes from them, help us to grasp this love of God in the concrete situations of life. Thank you.

2. POPE'S ADDRESS: 3 ESSENTIAL ASPECTS OF THE SERVICE OF CHOIRS IN THE CHURCH, TO THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHOIRS MEETING AT THE VATICAN ON 08TH IUNE, 2024.

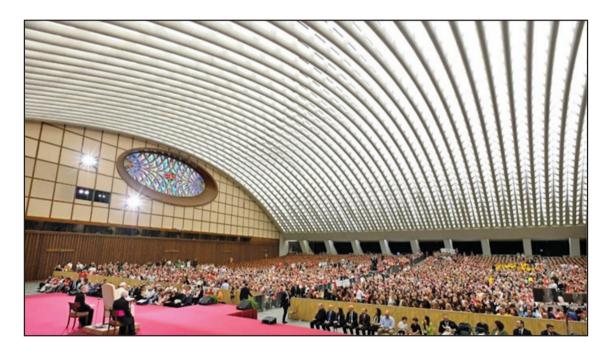


Have you seen that the spontaneity of children speaks louder than the best of speeches? Children are like that; they express themselves as they are. We must take care of children because they are the future, they are hope, and they are also witnesses to spontaneity, innocence and promise. Indeed, that is why Jesus said that he wanted

children to come close. When the apostles said to them, "Go away!", the Lord said, "No, no, let the children come!". Children are the privileged ones. For this reason, Jesus said: "it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs". We must learn from the spontaneity that they have just displayed. Moreover, they did not come enticed by pieces of candy – afterwards they realized there was candy – instead they came because they wanted to come. That is how they are. Let us not forget the lesson they have taught us today. Thank you! I extend a warm welcome to all of you, and I particularly thank Monsignor Marco Frisina and Nova Opera for promoting this initiative, which takes place on the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of the Choir of the Diocese of Rome. This anniversary encourages all of you to continue the precious service you provide, both in Rome and in many other parts of the world. Your fourth International Meeting brings together parish and diocesan choirs, scholæcantorum, chapel choirs, directors and musicians. You have come together in the Vatican to explore more deeply the significance of music in service to the liturgy. It is very good to see you here, coming as you do from many different places yet all united by faith and a passion for music. You are an eloquent

sign of unity. For this reason, I want to draw your attention to three essential aspects of your service: harmony, communion, and joy.

First: Harmony: - Music creates harmony, thereby reaching everyone, consoling those who suffer, rekindling enthusiasm in the downhearted, and bringing forth wonderful values such as beauty and poetry, which reflect God's harmonious light. Music, indeed, is a universal and immediate language that requires no translation or elaborate explanation. Both experts and ordinary people can appreciate it, each grasping different aspects to varying degrees, yet all drawing from the same richness. Moreover, music educates us how to listen, to pay attention and study; it elevates emotions, feelings, and thoughts, guiding people beyond the whirlwind of haste, noise, and a merely material vision of life, and helping them to contemplate themselves and the reality around them better. Thus, it grants to those who cultivate it a wise and serene outlook, which makes it easier to overcome divisions and rivalry and so to be in harmony, much like the instruments of an orchestra or the voices of a choir. It encourages us to be vigilant about "off-key notes" and to correct "dissonance", which are useful for the dynamics of compositions as long as they are integrated into a wise harmonic fabric.



Second: Communion: - Choral singing is done together, not alone. This also speaks to us about the Church and the world in which we live. Our journey together can be likened to the performance of a great "concert", where each person offers their contribution according to their abilities, playing or singing their "part", and so discovering their unique richness from the symphony of communion. In a choir or orchestra, each member relies on the others, and the success of the performance depends on the commitment of each individual. All must give their best according to their role, respecting and listening in harmony with those around them, without seeking personal prominence. This mirrors the life of the Church and our own lives, where we are all called to fulfil our role for the benefit of the entire community, so that a song of praise to God may rise from all over the world (cf. Ps 47:1)

Finally: Joy: - You are custodians of a centuries-old treasure of art, beauty, and spirituality. Do not let the mentality of the world taint it with self-interest, ambition, jealousy, or division, for such things, as you know, can infiltrate the life of choirs as well as communities, making them places that are no longer joyful but sad and burdensome, even leading to their disintegration. To this end, it will be good for you to maintain the lofty spiritual tenor of your vocation through prayer and meditation on the word of God, participating in the liturgies you animate not only with your voices but also with your minds and hearts, and by enthusiastically living your daily lives accordingly, so that your music may increasingly be a joyful selfoffering to God, who with his love attracts, enlightens, and transforms everything (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13). In this way, you will fulfil the exhortation of Saint Augustine: "Let us praise the Lord with our lives and our tongues, with hearts and mouths, with our voices and our behaviour" (Sermo 256). Dear sisters and brothers, I thank you for your visit, and especially for your service to the Church's prayer and evangelization. I accompany you with my blessing and I ask you please, while you sing, to pray for me. Thank you!

3. CATHOLIC CHURCH SETS SAIL FOR SEA SUNDAY ON 14TH JULY

Vatican, June 29, 2024: Catholic communities around the world will come together this year on July $14^{\rm th}$ to celebrate Sea Sunday, a day dedicated to pray for those who work in the maritime sector and for those who take care of them. Cardinal



Michael Czerny, head of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, marks the occasion by sending a message. In his message, the Cardinal emphasizes the often-overlooked role seafarers play in our lives. "Seafarers are among the least visible members of all of humanity. And, it's by way of their invisible efforts that we are able to receive many of our necessities," he states. The Cardinal also highlights the challenges seafarers face including injustices, exploitation, and inequalities. He commends volunteers, chaplains, and local port churches who advocate for the dignity and rights of these workers. The spread of Christianity relied heavily on sea travel with Apostles and missionaries sailing to new lands to share their faith. Cardinal Czerny sees this history as an inspiration for the modern Church, emphasizing the importance of encountering new cultures and embracing possibilities beyond familiar shores. The message extends to seafarers from all nations and faiths. The Cardinal hopes that "the people of the sea can feel part of the Church wherever they may go.

-By Joicy Pinto

Dates & Events to Remember

Feasts and Solemnity

- 03. St. Thomas Apostle of India [Sol]
- 04. St. Elizabeth Of Portugal [Op.M]
- 05. St. Anthony Zaccaria, Pt [Op.M]
- 06. St. Maria Goretti Vgn & Mrtr [Op.M]
- 08. Sts. Augustine Zhao Rong, Pt & Comps, Mtrs [Op.M]
- 11. St. Benedict, Abbot [M]
- 13. St. Henry [OP.M]
- 15. St. Bonaventure, Bp & Dr [Op.M]

- 16. St. Our Lady of Carmel [Op.M]
- 20. St. Apollinaris, Bp &Mrtr [Op.M]
- 22. St. Mary Magdelene [F]
- 23. St. Bridgit Of Sweden, Vgn [Op.M]
- 24. St. Charbel Makhluf, Pt [Op.M]
- 25. St. James, Apostle [F]
- 26. Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of Bvm [M]
- 29. Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus [M]
- 30. St. Peter Chrysologus, Bp & Dr [Op.M]
- 31. St. Ignatius Loyola, Pt [M]

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

- 02. Fr. Selva Kumar Aloysius
- 02. Fr. Tharigopala victor Emmanuel
- 05. Fr. Romald Joseph
- 06. Fr. Anthony Sagayaraja
- 06. Fr. Swarna Bala Prabhakar
- 10. Fr. Chinnabathini Jayaraj
- 11. Fr. Michael Thiagaraj

- 12. Fr. Bandaru Baltharaj
- 15. Fr. Golamari Arogya Reddy
- 17. Fr. Thanugundla Solomon
- 18. Fr. Madanu Anthony (sr)
- 19. Fr. MarneniArogyam
- 23. Fr. Prince Xavier Seelam
- 25. Fr. Chinnabathini Charles



Necrology

- 14. Fr. Bandanadam Julian
- 16. Fr. Pancras Fernando
- 26. Fr. Joseph chanayil
- 26. Fr. Walter pinto
- 30. Fr. Bandanadam Marianna

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 :

The Editorial Team, SHEPHERD'S CALL

Archbishop's House, H.No: 9-1-17/1, 11, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad 500 003, T.S.

Tel. 040-27805545, 27805418, Fax: 040-27800709 E-mail: shepherdscall1953@gmail.com

Website: www.archdioceseofhyderabad.org

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Cardinal Poola Anthony distributed educational materials to 2,750 underprivileged children through the "Vidhya Vikasa Kiranam" program at HASSS.





Cardinal Poola Anthony wishes & imparts his blessings to all the Grand Parents Grand Parents Day: Holy Mass at St. Ann's Secunderabad (ICSE) on Sunday 28th July at 10.00 am

ST JAMES Pray for us

