



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LII

NO.03

MARCH 2025



ASH
WEDNESDAY

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*





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MARCH

2025



Archbishop's Message



Lent is a privileged time of God the Father's love for all us, His children in Christ Jesus His Son our Lord and in His Holy Spirit. Holy Mother Church proclaims this love of God to all Her children in multiple ways during this holy season to make God's work of redemption, sanctification and salvation in each one of them eschatologically successful! Hence our first task during this Lenten season is to discover the truth and specificity of this unspeakable love of God the Father for each one of us and learn how to respond to it salutarily.

God Who is Self-existent, True, Eternal and Creator, brought each one of us into existence as a human person in a spiritual soul in 'His own image and likeness', in our individual mother's womb, nine months before He brought each one of us into this visible world on earth out of her womb, to encounter the fullness of His Self-revelation to us through His works on earth and initiate us into the happiness of knowing Him, being loved by Him and being drawn by Him to the everlasting happiness of eternal life with Himself. The personal, dynamic and committed manner in which God our Creator does this work, is the substance of His covenantal relationship with Israel and constitutes the content of the books of the Holy Bible. And this content constitutes God's 'word' to every human person created by Him. Hence an intellectual and intentional, orderly, methodical and meditative reading of this book is necessary for any human person who desires to receive from God Himself, the education necessary for his or her successful personal life with Him, to be progressively enlightened and inspired by the irrigation of the five faculties

of his or her human spiritual soul with the gifts and fruits of His own Holy Spirit, and thereby be drawn into the truth and abiding fulfilment of everlasting covenantal personal life with Him through the grace of His own Holy Spirit. Hence, Holy Mother Church calls upon all her believing children during this Lenten season to receive an increase of this divine education in the aforesaid manner and grow in true and everlasting covenantal life with Him by receiving His free gift of His own Holy Spirit from Him, from His incarnate Son our Lord Jesus Christ through His high priestly work in His one memorial sacrifice of the Cross, namely the Holy Mass, on all the altars of His one Catholic Church and His most Holy Sacraments for us and for our salvation.

Therefore remember, that whereas through Adam's sin 'to dust you shall return,' nevertheless, through the obedience of God's only-begotten Son to His Eternal Father in His human nature on the Cross for us and for our salvation (which He presents to His Eternal Father in every Holy Mass), we shall be raised bodily from the dead in the Holy Spirit by Him, and brought to everlasting bodily life with Him and with His Eternal Father in the Holy Spirit 'on the last day,' in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary forever. On that day, as our heavenly Mother has been from the day of Her glorious bodily assumption in the Holy Spirit into heaven, so shall we, Her children in Christ, also be forever. Therefore Holy Mother Church exhorts each one of us, as She signs our foreheads with the blessed ash on Ash Wednesday: "Turn away from sin, and be faithful to the good news" of the Son our Lord Jesus Christ.

POPE INTENTION: MARCH, 2025

For Families in Crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: MARCH, 2025

For Anger Management: Lord help us to manage our anger and frustrations. Calm our emotions and guide us to respond wisely. Fill us with your peace, patience, and understanding.



Solemnities and Feasts

MARCH 05

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent-and a wonderful opportunity to make yourself 100% available to God!

How available to God are you? 50%? 75%? 96.4%? No matter what your answer, Ash Wednesday is the perfect time to decide that you will spend this Lent increasing that number.

On Ash Wednesday, you can get your forehead blessed with ashes at Mass or a prayer service. These ashes are a reminder that we need to repent. Repentance

is a powerful invitation. When John the Baptist first appeared in the desert of Judea, this was his message: "Repent, prepare the way of the Lord" (Matthew 3:2). Later, when Jesus began his ministry, he led with this message: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17).

But what does it mean for us to repent, here and now, more than two thousand years later? It means the same as it did to the people walking around the dusty pathways in their sandals, trying to inch closer to Jesus as he passed through their town or village. Repent means "to turn back to God." We all find ourselves needing to turn back to God many times a day, in ways small and large. It is not a matter of guilt and it is not a shameful thing. It is simply that we are a better version of ourselves when we return to his side!

The Early Christians used ashes to show repentance as well, but not just on Ash Wednesday! After going to confession, it was common for the priest to give the person ashes on their forehead. Catholics have been receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday since the time of St. Gregory the Great. In 1091, Pope Urban II encouraged the entire Church to use ashes on Ash Wednesday. If you want to get blessed with ashes this Ash Wednesday, be sure to check with your local parish. Most churches celebrate Mass or have a prayer service on Ash Wednesday, and all are welcome to attend and be blessed with ashes.

Source: www.vaticannews.va

MARCH 19

St. Joseph the Worker

In addition to being the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster-father of Jesus, St. Joseph was a carpenter. Through his work of manual labour, Joseph provided for the Holy Family, and shared in the divine plan of salvation.

Joseph, the "Just Man"

The Gospel of St. Matthew describes Joseph as a "just man", which in the language of the Bible means one who loves and respects the law as the expression of the will of God. Like Mary, Joseph too was visited by an angel, who appeared to him in a dream. And, again like Mary, her spouse, Joseph said "Yes", when the angel revealed that the Child she bore was conceived of the Holy Spirit.

The life of St. Joseph shows us the dignity of human work, which is the duty and the perfection of human beings, who in this way



exercise dominion over creation, share in the work of the Creator, offer their service to the community, and participate in God's plan of salvation. Joseph loved his work. He never complained of weariness, but as a man of faith elevated it to the exercise of virtue. He found contentment in his work, because he did not aspire to wealth and did not envy the rich; for Joseph, work was not a means to satisfy his own greed, but an instrument to support his family.

And, following God's commandment, on the Sabbath St. Joseph observed the weekly rest and took part in the celebrations. We should not wonder at this noble conception of the humble work of manual labour: already in the Old Testament, in fact, God was seen symbolically as a winegrower, a sower, a shepherd.

Source: www.vaticannews.va

MARCH 25

The Annunciation of the Lord



The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Source: www.franciscanmedia.org

Archbishop's Engagements

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

ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

MARCH 2025

01. Sat 10.30 a.m. : Visit of Fr. Arturo Sosa, SJ Superior General
06.00 p.m. : Inauguration and blessing of Renovated St. Francis Xavier's Chapel at Bhoiguda Parish
04. Tue : In Office
05. Wed 06.00 a.m. : Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Basilica, Secbad.
07. Fri 11.30 a.m. : Mass at "Bible Maha Sabha" at Mariagiri, Veeraghattam, Srikakulam Diocese.
- 10 – 13 (Mon – Thu) : In Office
- 17-19 Mon-Wed : TCBC Meeting at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur
18. Wed 05.00 p.m. : Feast of St. Joseph, Bicentenary Celebrations & Inauguration & Blessing of New Adoration Chapel and Presbytery, Archdiocesan Level Jubilee 2025 at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.
21. Fri : In Office
- 24-27 (Mon-Thu) : In Office
31. Mon : In Office

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: APRIL

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|------------|--|
| 10. | Thu | 09.30 a.m. | : Clergy Recollection at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| | | 05.45 p.m. | : Chrism Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| 17. | Thu | 06.00 p.m. | : Holy Thursday Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| 19. | Sat | 11.00 p.m. | : Easter Vigil at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad |
| 20. | Sun | 09.15 a.m. | : Easter Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| 22. | Tue | 10.00 a.m. | : Blessing and Inauguration of St. Ann's Convent (CSSA) at Kushaiguda. |
| 23. | Wed | 10.30 a.m. | : First Profession and Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Holy Spirit Convent, Jeedimetla. |
| 25. | Fri | 10.00 a.m. | : Final Commitment of CSA Sisters at St. Ann's Provincialate, Alwal |
| 26. | Sat | 10.30 a.m. | : Jubilee Celebrations at JMJ Provincialate, Somajiguda. |

28th February, 2025
Archbishop's House

+ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS		
Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
01-02-2025	BOLARUM	35
10-02-2025	AMMUGUDA	38
10-02-2025	DIVINE LIGHT MINISTRIES	45
11-02-2025	SECUNDERABAD	750
14-02-2025	TRIMALGHERRY	550
21-02-2025	SURARAM	50
22-02-2025	METTUGUDA	5000
25-02-2025	JAGADGIRIGUTTA	40
	TOTAL	6508

Communications

I. BICENTENARY CELEBRATION OF ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL & JUBILEE 2025:

With immense joy and gratitude to God, we invite you all to join us in celebrating the **Bicentenary of St. Joseph's Cathedral** and for the **Jubilee 2025 celebrations in the Archdiocese**. This historic milestone is a witness to the steadfast faith and dedication of our community over the past 200 years.

As part of the jubilee festivities, we are blessed to witness the **Blessing and Inauguration of the Adoration Chapel, Parish Pastoral Centre and two Grottos**, which will further enrich our spiritual journey and provide spaces for prayer, reflection and pastoral care.

Date: Tuesday, 18th March 2025 at 5 pm.

Venue: St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad - 01

Special Guests: All Bishops of the Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC).

On this special occasion, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to **Monsignor Yeruva Balashowry, the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Cathedral**, for his commitment, vision and tireless efforts in bringing these sacred projects to completion. His dedication has been instrumental in the realization of these new spaces, which will serve as places of worship, community engagement and spiritual renewal for generations to come.

We are blessed to have the esteemed presence of **all the Bishops of the Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC)**, who will grace this occasion with their prayers and blessings. Their presence is a true demonstration to the unity and strength of our faith community.

Let us come together as one family to celebrate God's faithfulness and seek His blessings for the years ahead. May St Joseph continue to guide and protect our Archdiocese as we embark on this new chapter. We look forward to your presence and prayers on this joyous occasion.

II. MONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND CHRISM MASS IN APRIL:

1. Archdiocesan Monthly Recollection, for all the Archdiocesan and Pastoral Clergy working in Hyderabad, is arranged at **St. Joseph's Cathedral**, on 10th April,

2025, Thursday, from 09.30 am to 01.00 pm. All the Archdiocesan and Pastoral Clergy are to participate in this recollection for the good and immediate preparation for the Holy Week and Easter.

2. All the Clergy are called upon to come and participate in Chrism Mass, which will be held on 10th April, 2025, Thursday, at 05.45 pm at **St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry**. 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.**

III. VOCATION CAMP – ON 23rd April, 2025:

“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 23rd April, 2025 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, Second Sunday Collections and Mass Intentions are requested to pay as soon as possible. You are asked to clear all dues till March, 2025.

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, 2025:

As the financial year 2024-2025 will end on 31st March 2025, there will be no financial transactions in the Archbishop's House, Sec'bad from 25th March to 1st April, 2025. 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 2024-2025: ANOTE 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, 2024 to 31st March, 2025 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 31-03-2025.
5. Certificate from the Bank for Closing Bank & Fixed Deposits Balance as on 31st March, 2025.

***Audit of Parishes from 05th May to 09th May 2025 at Archbishop's House,
10 am to 5 pm***

S.NO	NAME OF DEANERY	DATE OF AUDIT
1	NIZAMABAD SHAMSHABAD SECUNDERABAD	05-05-2025
2	EMJALA BOWENPALLY GAGILAPURAM	06-05-2025
3	HYDERABAD RAMANATHAPUR PASTORAL CENTRE YOUTH OFFICE	07-05-2025
4.	TRIMULGHERRY GAJWEL VIKARABAD	08-05-2025

V. 2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1		Aliabad		50		Lillipur	
1		Aliabad		51		Mahendra Hills	
2		Alirajpet		52	16-01-2025	Madinaguda	2200
3	10-02-2025	Ammuguda	2500	53	24-01-2025	Mallapur	1000
4		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		54		Manikonda Mission	
5		Arul Colony		55	22-01-2025	Mariapuram (Adibatla)	1210
6		Balaji Nagar		56		Medchal	
7	12-12-2025	Balaiah Nagar (Old Alwal)	9910	57	25-02-2025	Medipally	2200
8		Band Lines		58		Mettuguda	
9	24-01-2025	Bandlaguda Jagir (Kismatpur)	45000	59		Miyapur	
10		Banjara Hills		60		Moul-Ali	
11	06-02-2025	Basuregadi	900	61	21-01-2025	Mudfort	10000
12	12-02-2025	Bayyaram	630	62		Muthangi	
13		Bazar Ghat		63		Nacharam	
14	03-02-2025	BHEL - MIG	3000	64		Nandrakal	
15	21-01-2025	Begumpet	6850	65		Narayankhed	
16	01-02-2025	Bhoiguda	10000	66		Nedunoor	
17		Bodhan		67	24-02-2025	Neela Camp	300
18		Boduppall		68	06-02-2025	Nizamabad	2200
19	17-01-2025	Bolarum	15110	69		Pargi	
20		Borabanda		70		Patancheru	
21	18-01-2025	Bowenpally	10000	71		Ramachandrapuram	
22		Cherlapally		72		Ramanthapur	
23		Chintalacheruvu		73	20-01-2025	Ramnagar	15700
24		Church Colony		74		Sadasivpet	
25		Dammaiguda		75		Sainikpuri	
26		Dharmaram		76	14-01-2025	Sanathnagar	19000
27		Dayanandnagar		77		Sangareddy	
28		Emjala		78		Santhoshnagar	
29		Gaddiannaram		79		Sappers Lines	
30	27-01-2025	Gagillapuram	2630	80	21-01-2025	Secunderabad	52806
31		Gajwel		81		Shabad	
32	16-01-2025	Gandhinagar	3000	82		Shamshabad	
33	27-01-2025	Garrison (Trimulgherry)	1123	83	17-01-2025	Shanthinagar	4155
34	21-01-2025	Ghatkesar	800	84	15-01-2025	Shapurnagar	4441
35	06-02-2025	Golconda	13712	85		Siddipet	
36		Gothumakunda		86	29-01-2025	Seethaphalmandi	4280
37		Gunfoundry		87		Sultan Bazar	
38		Jadi Jamalpur		88	15-01-2025	Suraram	3000
39	16-01-2025	Jagadgirigutta	3500	89	06-02-2025	Tandur	780
40		Jahanuma		90		Toopran	
41		Jogipet		91	28-01-2025	Trimulgherry	36500
42		Joipet		92		Uminthal	
43		Kalwakole		93		Vanasthalipuram	
44		Kamareddy		94		Venkatapuram	
45	21-01-2025	Khairatabad	20000	95		Vikarabad	
46		KissanNagar(Armour)		96	13-01-2025	Yapral	3500
47		Kukatpally		97	14-01-2025	Yeddumylaram	1000
48		Lallaguda		98		Yellareddy	
49		L. B. Nagar		99		Zaheerabad	
						Total	312937

Pastoral News

1. MASS AT JEEVAN JYOTHI (LCRI), BEGUMPET ON 01ST FEBRUARY, 2025.

LCRI - Hyderabad Celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life

February 01, Hyderabad: The joy of unity, love, and shared purpose was beautifully reflected as LCRI - Hyderabad celebrated the World Day for Consecrated Life on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Themed “Pilgrims of Hope on the path to Peace,” the event took place on Saturday, 1 February 2025, at Jeevan Jyothi, Begumpet, graced by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony. Also present were Fr Stany SJ, ATRCI President; Fr Thomas Santiago, Salesian Provincial; Fr Sarath, Local CRI President; Generals and Superiors of various Congregations; along with over a hundred religious and priests.

Every year, 2 February is dedicated to celebrating Consecrated Life in the Church, and this year’s Jubilee theme, “Pilgrims of Hope,” added greater depth and significance to the occasion. The event served as a moment to thank God for the gift of religious community, inspired by the scripture, “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

The celebration began with a candle procession, a profound symbol of hope and peace. His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony presided over the Festive Holy Eucharist, delivering an inspiring homily in which he affirmed that every religious person is a gift to the Church, called to be a bearer and witness of Christ by spreading hope, joy, love, and peace in the world. He encouraged all religious to cherish their vocation and remain steadfast in the teachings of Christ.

At the conclusion of the Eucharistic celebration, Cardinal Poola Anthony expressed his deep appreciation for the dedication and service of religious communities in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. He also urged the religious to actively engage in the Prison Ministry within the diocese, emphasizing its importance as a mission of compassion and evangelization.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Fr Sarath, CRI President, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the religious communities for their enthusiastic participation. The celebration ended on a joyful note with a fellowship gathering, strengthening bonds of faith and fraternity among all present.

2. FESTIVE MASS & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CHURCH, SANTHOSH NAGAR ON 02ND FEBRUARY, 2025.



3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. ANTHONY'S SHRINE, METTUGUDA ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2025.



4. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, MUDFORT ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2025.



5. MASS & BLESSING OF FORMATION HOUSE AND SCHOOL AT ST. ANN'S CONVENT, MADINAGUDA ON 15TH FEBRUARY, 2025.



We are grateful to God for the opportunity to launch the extended school building of St. Ann's High School and St. Ann's Formation House in Hyderabad Province, Madinaguda, on February 15th, 2025. This momentous milestone exhibits our unwavering commitment to education and formation. The event began with a Holy Eucharistic liturgy and blessing by His Eminence, Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad. Rev. Mother Anthonamma, Superior General of CSSA, presided over the inauguration, while Sr. Ann Rose, Provincial Superior, the unveiling of the new edifice. The ceremony was graced by the presence of our loving sisters, neighbouring priests, staff, students, and well-wishers, making it a wonderful celebration of thanks and hope.

6. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. THERESA'S CHURCH, SANATHNAGAR ON 16TH FEBRUARY, 2025.



7. INAUGURAL MASS FOR “SIGNIS INDIA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY-2025” AT MSI, RAMANTHAPUR ON 18TH FEBRUARY, 2025.



8. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT OUR LADY OF ROSARY CHURCH, MIYAPUR ON 23RD FEBRUARY, 2025.



Archdiocesan News

1. WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH BASILICA

Celebrating the World Day of Consecrated Life at St. Mary's Church Basilica, Secunderabad



Our parish community came together to celebrate the World Day of Consecrated Life, a special day to honor and express gratitude to our beloved religious sisters and fathers. This year, being the Jubilee Year, the parish community, along with the youth, took

up the initiative to celebrate this occasion with great fervor.

The Eucharistic celebration began with a special Mass introduction, highlighting the significance of consecrated life. The prayers of the faithful were also tailored to honor the sisters and fathers. As a token of appreciation, the sisters and fathers were welcomed with a warm gesture of pinning a brooch and presenting decorated candles.

In his homily, our parish priest emphasized the vital role religious play in the Church and the numerous blessings they bring to our parish community. He reminded us that consecrated life is a gift to the Church, and we are grateful for this gift, as Pope Francis so aptly puts it.

The celebration concluded with a token of appreciation presented to the sisters and fathers, followed by a high tea gathering. This special day reminded us of the importance of mercy, compassion, and forgiveness, and we are grateful for the inspiring example of our sisters.

As we celebrated the World Day of Consecrated Life, we were reminded of the powerful witness of our fathers & sisters. May their example inspire us to live our lives more fully in the service of others.

-Fr. John Vijay

2. FAMILY COUNSELLING TRAINING PROGRAM 2024 - 2025 CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

FAMILY APOSTOLATE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

Family Apostolate of Archdiocese of Hyderabad organized and successfully completed its first Certificate Training program in Family Counselling at Jyothirmai Animation Centre, TCBC Secretariat, Secunderabad. The National Secretary of Family Commission Rev. Fr. Arul and Ms. Jayashree an experienced licensed psychologist From Chennai were the main resource persons. With help from trained Counsellors Sr. Selvi and Fr. Prathap Regional Secretary of Family Commission TCBC. The course certificates were provided by Peyton Institute for Families in Bangalore and approved by CCBI.



The training program, which began on September 21, 2024, and continued through February 23, 2025, involved thirty-three participants, including three religious Sisters, from various backgrounds. Thirty participants completed the course, earning their Family Counselling Course certificates. The program covered six modules held on the third Saturday and Sunday of each month. Its aim was to equip participants with professional counselling skills, including psychotherapy and cognitive therapies, enabling them to help individuals, couples, and families navigate personal issues and relationship challenges.

Throughout the course, participants received personal counselling, fostering self-awareness and emotional rejuvenation. For the final module, each participant counselled at least one person and presented their case studies, along with a visual representation or collage of their own personal transformation. The program concluded with group skits demonstrating the counselling tools learned, which were evaluated by the resource persons.

The course concluded on Sunday 23rd February evening with the awarding of course certificates to all the participants who successfully completed the course. Fr. Arulraj National Secretary of Family Commission moderated the certificate presentation ceremony. Fr. Y M Joseph was the chief guest who presented the certificates to the participants. Fr. Victor Emmanuel the Chancellor & Procurator of Archdiocese of Hyderabad, Fr. Raju Alex the Secretary of TCBC, Fr. Pratap the Regional Secretary of Family Commission TCBC, Ms. Jayashree, the main resource person, Fr. Anthaiah, Regional Secretary for Ecumenism, Fr. Valentine, parish priest of St Joseph's parish, Bolarum, Sr. Selvi, Fr. David and Roger and Jessy, the secretary couple of the Archdiocesan Family apostolate. A few family & friends of the participants also joined for the certificate presentation ceremony and cheered the participants on receipt of their course certificates.

-Fr. David Francis, Roger & Jessy

3. WORLD MARRIAGE DAY 2025 – CELEBRATING MARITAL AND PRIESTLY COMMITMENT IN THE JUBILEE YEAR

The Family Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, together with Worldwide Marriage Encounter celebrated World Marriage Day on Saturday 15th February 2025 at St. Mary's Pharmacy College Auditorium, Secunderabad. At this program priests, religious and married couples who are celebrating their jubilees in 2025 were specially felicitated.

The joyous occasion began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, presided



over by silver jubilee priests-Fr S. Aloysious, Fr Allam Arogya Reddy, and Fr Viji Joseph-along with Fr Victor Emmanuel, Fr Lancy, Fr David Francis, Fr. Anthaiah, Fr. Y Bala, and Fr. Naveen Joggu. Assisting in the liturgy was Deacon M. Akhil. In

attendance and providing support were the young choir from St Joseph's Church, Bolarum. The theme of the day was – "The Celebration of Endless couple Love".

Fr. Viji Joseph began by highlighting the sacred nature of marriage, noting that it is the only sacrament where the couple administers it to each other before God. He reminded the congregation that marriage is part of God's divine plan,

quoting, “It is not good for man to be alone,” and expressed gratitude for God's presence in their lives.

In his homily, Fr. Allam Arogya Reddy described marriage as a sacred bond within God's eternal plan. He emphasized that although human existence may seem small in creation, each person is uniquely chosen for their spouse. He stressed that a fulfilling marriage requires God's grace, reflecting on how Adam and Eve's fall, due to rejecting God's love, was followed by His grace strengthening marriages. He encouraged couples to embrace both joy and struggle, urging them to mirror Christ's sacrificial love in their relationship.

A special and touching moment of the event was the renewal of marriage vows by the jubilarians, priests, religious and the couples, reaffirming their commitment before God and the community. Following this, Fr Victor Emmanuel addressed the gathering, noting the significance of the celebration coinciding with the Church's Jubilee Year. He conveyed Cardinal Poola Anthony's congratulations to the jubilarians-priests, nuns and couples-thanking them for their faithful witness. He also extended gratitude to Fr David Francis and the Family Apostolate team for their efforts in organizing the event and assured the continued support of the diocese in family ministry.

The celebration continued with a vibrant cultural program, expertly compered by Sr Mabel. Justin and Sophia gave an insightful talk on the history and significance of World Marriage Day, followed by an engaging interactive game, led by Sr Mabel. The couples and priests then joined in the ceremonial cutting of a cake, marking the joyous occasion.

Fr Aloysious shared an insightful acronym, DAD, relevant to both married couples and clergy: Discovery (learning new things about each other), Acceptance (embracing both strengths and challenges), and Dialogue (open communication for better relationships), with an added D for Divine Grace, essential for fulfilling God's will.

The event ended with the recognition of jubilarians, including priests, nuns, and married couples, who were honored with mementos for their commitment

and faithfulness. John Roger Anthony and Jessy, the Secretary Couple of the Family Apostolate, shared a report on past and future activities. Sr. Flavia concluded with a vote of thanks, appreciating everyone who contributed to the event's success. The gathering celebrated love, faith, and



dedication, highlighting the beauty of both married and consecrated life in service to God and His people.

-Sylvester Isaac for the Family Apostolate team

4. UNITY IS OUR VOCATION, UNITY IS OUR LIFE

"That all may be one"

- John 17:21

We come across this prayer by Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He was condemned to death. In 1943, amidst the violence and destruction of World War II in Europe, a 23-year-old girl Chiara Lubich received her spiritual awakening from these words of the Gospel. Following Jesus, she believed that God is indestructible, and He loves each one of us immensely.

Also, she was given the intuition how to realize this immense love of God despite the sufferings in the world? By striving for a complete and perfect unity, as expressed by Jesus in John 17:21. With this inspiration from the Holy Spirit, Chiara Lubich and her first companions of consecrated virgins went on to found one of the largest lay Catholic movements in the world called the Focolare Movement.



With special blessings from the Holy Father, the Focolare works as a Marian Movement in 180+ countries of the world today. In India, the Focolare is present among Catholic communities in Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Darjeeling, Goa and also in Secunderabad.

One of the hallmarks of this Movement is to live the Word of

God in all circumstances of life. This has given rise to many social projects where people can experience the love of God through concrete acts of mercy. For example, the Focolare's Udisha project in Mumbai caters to the nutritional and educational needs of slum communities. This project was inaugurated by Chiara herself when

she visited Mumbai in 1990. In Coimbatore, the Focolare works to build bonds of fraternity and mutual love with sisters and brothers of other faiths.

In Secunderabad, the Focolare community meets to share their lived experience of the Word of Life twice a month at the Satyodayam Retreat Centre House since 2022 without fail. To put into practice the Word of Life in December 2024, For nothing will be impossible with God. (Lk 1:37), the local Focolare community reached out to the elderly inmates of the Little Sisters Home For The Aged (Bhoiguda) to make it possible for them to experience the joy of the Christmas season.

5. PILGRIMS OF HOPE AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BOLARUM (SUMMARY)

In celebration of the 2025 Jubilee Year, St. Joseph's Church, Bolarum, embraced the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" by welcoming the Holy Jubilee Crucifix into the parish on February 1st, 2025. This sacred symbol of Christ's sacrifice was venerated during First Saturday Rosary, Holy Mass, and First Friday Adoration.

Journey of the Jubilee Crucifix

The crucifix travelled across the parish, visiting almost 150 families, including non-Christian households who eagerly welcomed it, experiencing unity and the transformative power of prayer. The Sisters of St. Ann of Providence and the Sisters of Chennai, along with school staff, students, and parents, also honoured the crucifix with prayers and devotion.

Testimonies of Faith & Miracles

- ♦ Mrs. Sri Latha (Macha Bolarum) testified that her long-held prayer intentions were fulfilled after welcoming the crucifix into her home.
- ♦ Ms. Pavani (Janapriya Apartments), a Hindu graduate, found hope in Jesus after an accident left her paralyzed. Parish members prayed for her healing, strengthening her faith in Christ's love and miracles.

A Call to Reconciliation & Pilgrimage

The Jubilee Crucifix inspired deeper faith, conversion, and unity within the parish. Parish Priest Fr. Valentine D'Mello guided the faithful, and special prayers and hymns were shared via parish WhatsApp groups. On February 25, 2025, the crucifix was taken to Nagaram by Fr. Paul as part of its continued journey.

The parish expresses gratitude to Cardinal Archbishop Poola Anthony for this spiritual opportunity. May the Cross of Christ continue to be a source of strength, hope, and renewal.

-Sr. Jyothi Gabbur & Youth Member Cynthia Rosie
St. Joseph's Church, Bolarum

International News

1. Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025.

Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 4. « Blessed are you who believed » (Lk 1:45). The Visitation and the Magnificat

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will contemplate the beauty of Jesus Christ our hope in the mystery of the Visitation. The Virgin Mary visits Saint Elizabeth; but it is above all *Jesus*, in His mother's womb, who *visits His people* (cf. Lk 1:68), as Zechariah says in his hymn of praise.

After the astonishment and wonder at what has been announced to her by the Angel, Mary gets up and sets out on a journey, like all those who are called to in the Bible, because "the only act with which man can respond to God who is revealed to him is that of unlimited readiness" (H.U. von Balthasar, *Vocation*, Rome 2002, 29). This young daughter of Israel does not choose to protect herself from the world; she does not fear dangers and the judgements of others, but goes out towards other people.

When we feel loved, we experience a force that sets love in motion; as the apostle Paul says, "the love of Christ impels us" (2Cor 5:14), it drives us, it moves us. Mary feels the push of this love, and goes to help a woman who is her relative, but also an elderly woman who, after a long wait, is welcoming an un hoped-for pregnancy, difficult to deal with at her age. But the Virgin also goes to Elizabeth to share her faith in the God of the impossible and her hope in the fulfilment of His promises.

The encounter between the two women produces a surprising impact: the voice of Mary, "full of grace", who greets Elizabeth provokes the prophecy in the child the older woman is carrying in her womb, and inspires in her a dual blessing: "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" (Lk 1:42). And also a beatitude: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (v. 45).

Faced with the recognition of the messianic identity of her Son and her mission as mother, Mary does not speak of herself but of God, and raises a praise full of faith, hope and joy, a song that resounds every day in the Church during the prayer of Vespers: the *Magnificat* (Lk 1:46-55).

This praise to God the saviour, which gushed forth from the heart of his humble servant, is a solemn memorial that synthesizes and fulfils the prayer of Israel. It is interwoven with biblical resonances, a sign that Mary does not want to sing "out of the choir" but to tune in with the forefathers, exalting her compassion for the humble, those little ones whom Jesus in his preaching will declare "blessed" (cf. Mt 5:1-12).

The prominent presence of the paschal motif also makes the *Magnificat* a hymn of redemption, which has as its backdrop the memory of the liberation of Israel from Egypt. The verbs are all in the past, imbued with a memory of the love that lights up the present with faith and illuminates the future with hope: Mary sings of the grace of the past, but she is the woman of the present who carries the future in her womb.

The first part of this canticle praises God's action in Mary, a microcosm of the people of God who adhere fully to the covenant (vv. 46-50); the second ranges from the work of the Father in the macrocosm of the history of His son (vv. 51-55), through three key words: memory, mercy, promise.

The Lord, who bowed down to the humble Mary to fulfil "great things" in her and make her the mother of the Lord, began to save His people starting from the exodus, remembering the universal blessing promised to Abraham (cf. *Gen* 12:1-3). The Lord God who is the faithful for ever, showered an uninterrupted stream of merciful love "from age to age" (v. 50) upon the people loyal to the covenant, and now manifests the fullness of salvation in His Son, sent to save the people from their sins. From Abraham to Jesus Christ and the community of believers, the Passover thus appears as the hermeneutical category for understanding every subsequent liberation, up to that realized by the Messiah in the fullness of time.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord today for the grace to be able to wait for the fulfilment of every one of His promises; and to help us to welcome Mary's presence in our life. By following her example, may we all discover that every soul that believes and hopes "conceives and begets the Word of God" (Saint Ambrose, *Exposition of the Gospel according to Luke* 2, 26).

2. Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025.

Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 5. "To you is born this day a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2,11). The birth of Jesus and the shepherds' visit

In our Jubilee journey of catechesis on Jesus, who is our hope, today we will reflect on the event of his birth in Bethlehem.

The Son of God enters history as our travelling companion, and begins to travel while still in His mother's womb. The evangelist Luke tells us that as soon as He was conceived, He went from Nazareth to the house of Zechariah and Elizabeth; and then, at the end of the pregnancy, from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Mary and Joseph were forced to go to the city of King David, where Joseph had also been born. The long-awaited Messiah, the Son of the God Most High, allows Himself to be counted, that is, counted and registered, like any other citizen. He submits to the decree of an emperor, Caesar Augustus, who thinks he is the master of all the earth.

Luke places Jesus' birth in "an exactly datable time" and in "an exactly indicated geographical setting", so that "the universal and the concrete touch each other" (BENEDICT XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, 2012, 77). God, who comes into history, does

not dismantle the structures of the world, but wants to illuminate them and recreate them from within.

Bethlehem means “house of bread”. There, the days of childbirth were fulfilled for Mary and there Jesus was born, bread descended from heaven to satisfy the hunger of the world (cf. Jn 6:51). The angel Gabriel had announced the birth of the Messianic King in the sign of greatness: “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule of the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Lk 1:32-33).

However, Jesus is born a way entirely unprecedented for a king. Indeed, “while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn” (Lk 2:6-7). The Son of God is not born in a royal palace, but at the back of a house, in the space where the animals are kept.

Luke thus shows us that God does not come into the world with resounding proclamations; he does not manifest himself with noise, but begins his journey in humility. And who are the first witnesses of this event? They are shepherds: men of little culture, malodorous from constant contact with the animals, they live on the margins of society. And yet they practice the occupation by which God himself makes himself known to his people (cf. Gen 48:15; 49:24; Ps 23:1; 80:2; Is 40:11). God chooses them as the recipients of the most beautiful news that has ever resounded in history: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a saviour has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger”.

The place to meet the Messiah is a manger. Indeed, it happens that, after such expectation, “for the Saviour of the world, for He for whom all things were created (cf. Col 1:16), there is no room” (Benedict XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, 2012, 80). The shepherds thus learn that in a very humble place, reserved to the animals, the long-awaited Messiah is born, and he is born for them, to be their Saviour, their shepherd. This news opens their hearts to wonder, praise and joyful proclamation. ‘Unlike so many other people, busy about many things, the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation. It is the humble and the poor who greet the event of the Incarnation’ (Apostolic Letter *Admirabile signum*, 5).

Brothers and sisters, let us, too, ask for the grace of being, like the shepherds, capable of wonder and praise before God, and capable of cherishing what He has entrusted to us: the talents, charisms, our vocation and the people he places beside us. Let us ask the Lord to be able to discern in weakness the extraordinary strength of the Child God, who comes to renew the world and transform our lives with his plan full of hope for all humanity.

Dates & Events to Remember

05. Ash Wednesday
18. St. Cyril of Jerusalem Bp and Dr (Op.M)
19. St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M (Sol)
25. The Annunciation of the Lord (Sol)

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01. Fr. Chinnabathini Gnanaprakash | 17. Fr. Yeruva Bala |
| 07. Fr. Viji Joseph | 18. Fr. Therukunnel M. Mathew |
| 11. Fr. Madanu Francis Showry | 18. Fr. Kata Joseph |
| 12. Fr. Dodda Bala | 23. Fr. Thirumalareddy Showreddy |
| 14. Fr. Madanu Lourdu Vijay Kumar | 23. Fr. Wilson Davis |
| 16. Fr. Bandanadam Prashanth | 24. Msgr. Yeruva Balashowreddy |
| 17. Fr. Thomas Andrew Raj | 27. Fr. Christopher Joseph Michael |



Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 04. Fr. Selva Kumar Aloysius | 19. Fr. Michael Thaigaraj |
| 06. Fr. Madanu Joseph (Sr.) | 21. Fr. Yeruva Joji Reddy |
| 12. Fr. Marneni Varaprasad | 22. Fr. Gade Showreddy |
| 14. Fr. Kandi Marreddy | 23. Fr. Dodda Bala |
| 14. Fr. Madanu Joseph (Jr.) | 24. Fr. Lancelot Menezes |
| 14. Fr. Yeruva Bala | 25. Fr. Guvvala Anthony |
| 18. Fr. Mettu Johannes | 26. Fr. Govindu Arogyaswamy |
| 18. Fr. Thanugundla Gabriel | 27. Fr. Michael Selvaraj |
| 19. Fr. Chinnabathini Charles | 27. Fr. Chinnabathini Gnanaprakash |
| 19. Fr. Chinnabathini Jayaraj | 29. Fr. Madanu Chinnaiah |
| 19. Fr. Gangarapu Balaswamy | 30. Fr. Mettu Arogyam |
| 19. Fr. Madanu Francis Showry | 31. Fr. Thatireddy Jayaraj Reddy |



Necrology

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

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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Published from the Archbishop's House and printed at Jeevan Institute of Printing, Sikh Village, Sec'bad 500 009, T.S.

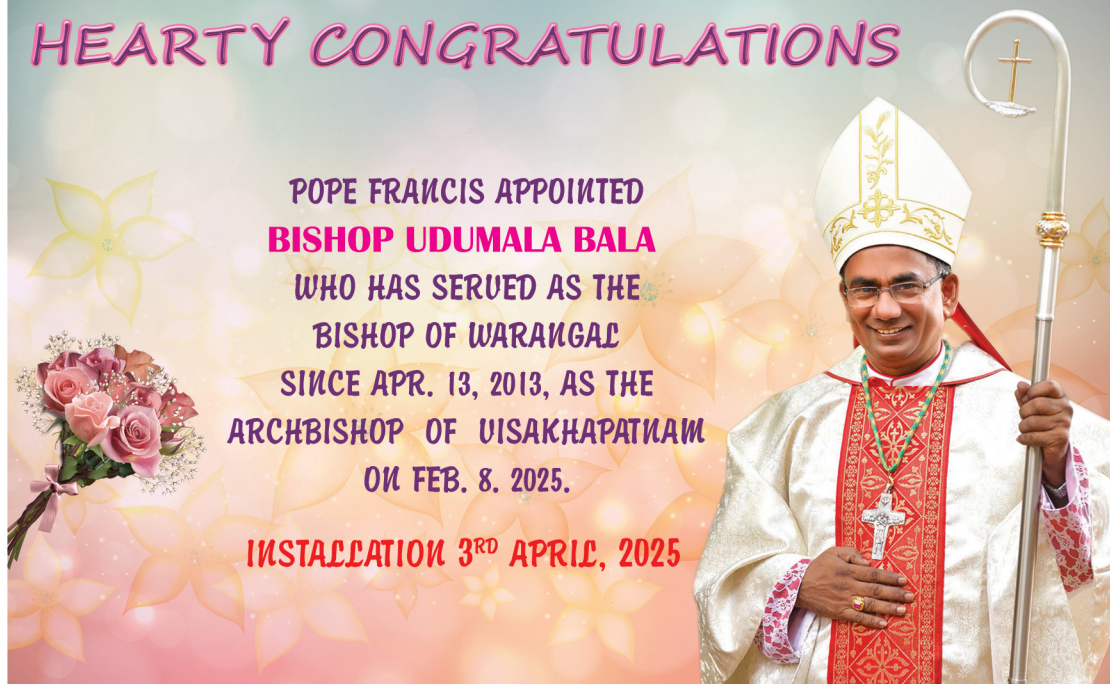
**World Marriage Day Celebrations at
St. Mary's Pharmacy Collage Auditorium,
Secunderabad on 15th Feb, 2025**



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

POPE FRANCIS APPOINTED
BISHOP UDUMALA BALA
WHO HAS SERVED AS THE
BISHOP OF WARANGAL
SINCE APR. 13, 2013, AS THE
ARCHBISHOP OF VISAKHAPATNAM
ON FEB. 8, 2025.

INSTALLATION 3RD APRIL, 2025





Archdiocese of Hyderabad
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL
(GUNFOUNDRY, HYDERABAD)



Solemn Celebrations of the
**Bicentennial of St. Joseph's Cathedral &
the Jubilee Year 2025**

(Pilgrims of Hope)

in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad
on **Tuesday, 18th March, 5.00 pm**
on the eve of the Solemnity of St. Joseph
at **St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry.**

All are
Welcome!

PROGRAMME

5.00 pm : Vesting, Blessing & Inauguration of
† New Presbytery
† Parish Pastoral Centre
† Adoration Chapel &
† Shrines (St. Joseph, Blessed Virgin Mary)



Followed by **Holy Eucharistic Celebration**



**PILGRIMAGE
TO THE
JUBILEE CROSS**

**GAIN INDULGENCE &
RECEIVE BLESSINGS**

- Make Confession
- Participate in the holy Eucharist
- Apostle's Creed
- Perform acts of penance
- Do works of mercy
- Pray for the Pope's intentions

Come let us Thank and Celebrate

