



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LII

NO.04

APRIL 2025



HE IS
Risen

EPISCOPAL ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY WISHES
TO OUR BELOVED ARCHBISHOP
CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY

WE THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS & THE FAITHFUL
WISH YOU A HAPPY EPISCOPAL ORDINATION
ANNIVERSARY ON 19TH APRIL, 2025.



**TCBC MEETING HELD FROM 17TH-19TH MARCH, 2025 AT
ST. JOHN'S REGIONAL SEMINARY, RAMANTHAPUR.**



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

APRIL

2025



Archbishop's Message



Some of the most disconcerting pronouncements of the Son our Lord Jesus Christ in His holy gospel to all human persons of good-will were uttered by Him as the antithesis of the 'beatitudes' of the kingdom of heaven which He was about to found on earth. He said, "Woe to you who are rich. For, you have had your consolation. Woe to you who are full, for you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you when men speak well of you, for so they did to the false prophets (Lk.6:24-26)." Notice that our Lord did not say 'cursed are you'; he said 'woe to you.' 'Woe to you' means 'endless miseries await you!' He also illustrated the lifestyle of the people who belong to this category, in his parables of 'the rich man' who planned to 'take his ease, eat, drink, enjoy his rich harvest, and be merry for many years,' on the evening of the day of his death: "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.(Lk.11:19-21)'. And again, the parable of the rich man 'who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.' How did he end up? 'The rich man died and was buried. "And being in torments in Hades he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham and cried and said...I am being tormented in this flame (Lk.16:19-25)." Our Lord proclaims that the endless 'woe' that await all the people of this category are the torments of hell fire! These terrifying pronouncements of the Son our Lord Jesus Christ became intelligible only after

our Lord 'rising bodily from the dead in His Holy Spirit', returned from the tomb and met His eleven apostles and other disciples in his former crucified dead human body but now clothed with the immortality and glory of His divine Sonship through His Holy Spirit, which He secured for His body through His obedience of faith to His Eternal Father even unto death on the Cross. It is through His post-resurrectional encounters with them that He brought them to understand that the good things every man is created to receive and enjoy with his body are not the perishable created things of this world! Every man and woman is created by the Eternal Father to establish his or her definitive belongingness to His Eternal Father not only in his or her human soul, but specifically in his or her human body and inherit the immortality and glory of the Eternal Son's divine Sonship in his or her present human body and enjoy it forever with the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. For this, you must do use your human body and all created goods entrusted by Him to you in this present life according to His commandments and promises in the Law and the prophets as explained by the Son in His gospel and fulfilled victoriously by Him in the use of His own human body in the mystery of His incarnation. 'What doth it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul?' The ability to use one's human body to do the work demanded by God in His Law and His prophets to obtain this promised blessed and divine immortality for our human bodies (as the Blessed Virgin Mary has done and obtained for Her own human body) is given by the Son our Lord Jesus Christ to those who have embarked on this journey of salvation through His Easter gift of the mission of His promised Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth in their spiritual souls through the sacrifice of His Holy Mass and the seven holy sacraments of His one 'high priesthood according to the order of Melchisedek' in our midst in His one holy Catholic Church. Thus, it is at moment of their participation in His one memorial sacrifice of His Cross in their everyday life in Christ that they cry out the mystery of our Christian faith: 'Dying, you have destroyed our death (everlasting woes), and rising, you have restored our life (everlasting blessedness)! Lord Jesus 'come in glory' as 'we await the blessed hope of receiving and enjoying the immortality and glory of your divine Sonship' through your own Holy Spirit in our own human bodies and with you, in the world without end! Let us never forget two cardinal realities of our present life on earth. Firstly, a man's everlasting wealth at the hour of his death is the favour of God who created him! And a man's everlasting liability at the hour of his death is the wrath of God who created him! And secondly, let us sharply

notice everyday, that two different persons are directing our personal use of our bodily selves with all its talents and faculties in our personal lives, definitively and eschatologically, in two opposite ways. On the one hand, God and His Eternal Son our Lord Jesus Christ and their one Holy Spirit are directing a man's personal life through their commandments and promises towards their promised everlasting blessedness; and on the other hand, the Devil and his angels are directing man's use of his faculties and of his human body, in the intimacy of his own personal consciousness towards everlasting woes, through three needs created by them all the time for the use of his bodily life, namely 'the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life,' which express themselves in seven different ways, namely pride, anger, avarice, envy, gluttony and sexual lust as a man's interior psychosomatic self. To which of these two persons, namely God and His Christ or the Devil, a man belongs before the death of his human body, to him he will irreversibly belong in his human soul after the death of his human body and in the body too in his bodily resurrection from the dead on the last day. We are therefore warned by the Son our Lord Jesus Christ Himself during this Easter season to work out our salvation with fear and trembling, particularly because God is at work in each one of us both to will and work for His good pleasure. Happy Easter to all of you.

POPE INTENTION: APRIL, 2025

For the use of the new technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the cries of our times.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: APRIL, 2025

For perseverance of faith in Christ: Let us pray that our faith in Christ, not loose against doubts, fears, and temptations. May our trust in God remain unwavering, emerge stronger and more faithful through life's challenges.



Solemnities and Feasts

APRIL 13

PALM SUNDAY



The Church celebrates Palm Sunday, which is the beginning of Holy Week, the most hallowed time of year for Christians. Palm Sunday commemorates when Jesus entered Jerusalem and was greeted by people waving palm branches. This event serves as a reminder for Christians to welcome Jesus into their hearts and be ready to follow Him. The Palm Sunday service

also includes a reading of the Passion, which narrates the story of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. Palm Sunday is a Christian holiday that occurs on the Sunday before Easter. This celebration celebrates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, mentioned in each of the four Gospels. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin! Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days. In many churches, Palm Sunday is observed with the blessing and sharing of palm branches, symbolizing the branches placed in front of Christ as he entered Jerusalem.

Source: www.christianity.com

APRIL 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY

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

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

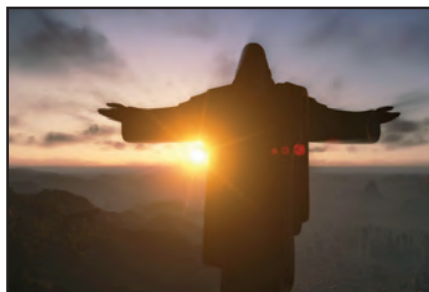


Good Friday is the day on which Catholics commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Catholics are joined by almost all other Christians in solemn commemoration on this day. It is also a legal holiday around much of the world. According to the gospels, Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the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

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



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



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

Source: www.learnreligions.com

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



RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
28-02-2025	Khairathabad	1500
06-03-2025	South lallaguda	500
07-03-2025	Bolarum	30
10-03-2025	Sultan Bazar	100
11-03-2025	Kukatpally	2000
13-03-2025	Golconda	30
17-03-2025	Secunderabad	850
17-03-2025	Trimulgherry	520
17-03-2025	Gajwel	50
19-03-2025	Sainikpuri	130
20-03-2025	Seethalphalmandi	220
21-03-2025	Mettuguda	5000
24-03-2025	Bowenpally	230
25-03-2025	Begumpet	310
27-03-2025	Mahendra Hills	200
27-03-2025	Emajala	200
27-03-2025	Rev. Fr. Lancy.M	13
Total		11883

Archbishop's Engagements

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

ARCHBISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

APRIL 2025

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------|--|
| 03. | Thu | 04.00 p.m. | : Installation of Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala at St Peter's Catedral Grounds, Gnanapuram, Visakhapatnam. |
| 07. | Mon | | : In Office |
| 09. | Wed | 10.00 a.m. | : Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Paul Prakash Saginala at St. Joseph's Boy's High School Grounds, Mariapuram, Kadapa. |
| 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. |
| 11. | Fri | | : In Office |
| 13. | Sun | | : Palm Sunday |
| 14-16 | [Mon-Wed] | | : Holy Week |
| 17. | Thu | 06.00 p.m. | : Holy Thursday Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| 18. | Fri | | : Good Friday |
| 19. | Sat | 11.00 p.m. | : Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad. |
| 20. | Sun | 09.15 a.m. | : Easter Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| 22. | Tue | 10.00 a.m. | : Blessing and Inauguration of St. Ann's Convent (CSSA) at Kusaiguda. |

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|------------|---|
| 23. | Wed | 10.30 a.m. | : First Profession and Silver Jubilee Celebrations at Holy Spirit Convent, Jeedimetla. |
| 24. | Thu | 10.00 a.m. | : Priestly Ordination of Dn. Pentareddy Manohar Akhil at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda. |
| 25. | Fri | 10.00 a.m. | : Final Commitment of CSA Sisters at St. Ann's Provincialate, Alwal. |
| 26. | Sat | 10.30 a.m. | : Silver and Golden Jubilee Celebrations of JMJ sisters at JMJ Provincialate, Somajiguda. |
| 27. | Sun | | : Divine Mercy Sunday |
| 30. | Wed | | : Wedding at Kurnool |

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: MAY

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------|------------|---|
| 01. | Thu | 10.30 a.m. | : Festive Mass and First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St. Joseph's Church, Patancheruvu. |
| | | 06.00 p.m. | : Festive Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. |
| 03. | Sat | 10.00 a.m. | : First Holy Communion and Confirmations & Silver Jubilee of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Arogyanagar Parish. |
| 04. | Sun | 05.30 p.m. | : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St. Ignatius Church, Gagillapuram. |
| 05. | Mon | 05.00 p.m. | : Priestly Ordinations at Our Lady of Grace Shrine, Aliabad. |
| 06-07 | [Tue-Wed] | | : CCBI – 97 th Executive Committee Meeting at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore. |
| 08-09 | (Thu-Fri) | | : CBCI Standing Committee Meeting at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore. |

12. Mon 10.00 a.m. : Priestly Ordination of Dn. Guvvala Anil Sagar, TOR at Christ the King Church, Ramanthapur
- 06.00 p.m. : Priestly Ordination of Dn. Shekhar (Pallottine) at St. Anthony's Church, Mudfort
13. Tue 10.00 a.m. : Festive Mass at Our Lady of Fathima Church, Godumakunta.
16. Fri 10.30 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations and 100 years Jubilee Celebrations at Sacred Heart Church, Bachupally, Nedunoor Parish.
17. Sat 05.00 p.m. : Diaconate Ordinations at Our Lady of Grace Shrine, Aliabad.
18. Sun 10.00 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Our Lady of Fathima Church, Damaiguda.
- 06.00 p.m. : Mass (Family Convention) at Holy Family Church, Trimulgherry.
24. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Festive Mass & Blessing of Adoration Chapel at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Jagadgirigutta.
25. Sun 09.30 a.m. : Laying the Foundation Stone & First Holy Communion and Confirmations at St Mother Teresa Church, Manikonda.
26. Mon 05.30 p.m. : Priestly Ordination of Dn. Sundar David (SDB) at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda.
31. Sat 10.30 a.m. : Festive Mass and First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Maria Rani Church, Neela Camp.

29th March, 2025
Archbishop's House

+ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

I. HAPPY EASTER:

Christ is Risen, Alleluia. We are going to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on 20th April, 2025, I wish all the Priests, Religious, Faithful and all our Sisters and Brothers, a Very Happy Easter. May the Risen Lord shower His abundant blessings and graces upon all of you.

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 also 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. GRATITUDE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL JUBILEE 2025 & BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL:

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the grand success of the Jubilee 2025 Procession and Celebration as well as the Bicentenary Celebration of St. Joseph's Cathedral held on 18th March 2025.

I am especially grateful to Monsignor Yeruva Balashowry, whose steadfast commitment, meticulous planning, and tireless efforts ensured the smooth execution of these historic events. His dedication and leadership have left an indelible mark on these milestone celebrations.

A word of deep appreciation also goes to my brother Bishops of the Telugu Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC) for their esteemed presence, prayers and solidarity during the celebrations. Their participation added great spiritual significance and ecclesial unity to these events.

To the Clergy, Religious and Lay Faithful who wholeheartedly participated in the liturgical celebrations, coordinated various committees and engaged in

organizing the logistics, I express my sincere appreciation. Your untiring service and collaborative spirit truly reflected the synodal journey of the Church, emphasizing communion, participation and mission.

A special word of thanks to the Youth Band whose vibrant and soulful performance brought a joyful conclusion to the programme.

May the abundant blessings of Almighty God accompany all of you who contributed in various capacities to the success of these landmark celebrations. As we journey together during this Holy Year of Jubilee, may we continue to be **“Pilgrims of Hope,”** witnessing to God’s grace and mercy in our lives.

IV. 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.

V. RUN FOR JESUS:

FTC and Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenism invite all of us to participate in RUN FOR JESUS an Evangelical and Ecumenical Rally on 19th April, Holy Saturday, at 6 am starting from St Mary’s Basilica. Encourage your parishioners and friends to participate to share our faith in Risen Christ to everyone. I encourage all Religious men and Women and Faithful to participate in large numbers.

VI. ORGANIZE SUMMER CAMPS IN ALL PARISHES:

“Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not swerve from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

As the summer holidays approaches, it is a fitting opportunity to engage our children and youth in **faith-enriching and skill-building activities.** In this regard,

I am pleased to direct that **Summer Camps for Children and Youth** be organized in **all the parishes** of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad during the month of **May 2025**.

Purpose and Objectives:

1. **Deepen Faith and Spiritual Growth** through catechism and Bible study.
2. **Promote Leadership and Responsibility** through team-building activities.
3. **Enhance Creative Talents** by encouraging participation in music, art and cultural programs.
4. **Inculcate Life Skills and Moral Values** to shape well-rounded and responsible individuals.

Suggested Activities:

- ♦ Daily Eucharistic Celebration, Prayer Sessions, Catechism and Bible Study
- ♦ Leadership and Personality Development Workshops
- ♦ Arts, Crafts and Cultural Programs
- ♦ Sports, Games, and Group Activities
- ♦ Sessions on Social Responsibility, Environmental Care and AI

Coordination and Reporting:

- ♦ Parish Priests are requested to take the lead in coordinating the camp with the support of Religious, Catechists, Catechism Teachers, Youth coordinators and Parish councils.
- ♦ A **detailed report** of the camp, along with photos and feedback, should be submitted to the **Archdiocesan Office**.

I encourage you to actively promote this initiative and ensure the enthusiastic participation of children and youth in your parishes. May this endeavour bear abundant fruit, nurturing the faith and talents of our young generation and helping them grow as responsible disciples of Christ

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. AUDIT 2024-2025:

A NOTE FROM AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

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

1. Receipts & Payments Account for the period from 1st April, 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.

SLNo.	Name of Deanery	Date of Audit
1.	Nizamabad Shamshabad Secunderabad	05-05-2025
2	Emjala Bowenpally Gagilapuram	06-05-2025
3	Hyderabad Ramanathapurpastoral Centreyouth Office	07-05-2025
4.	Trimulgherry Gajwel Vikarabad	08-05-2025

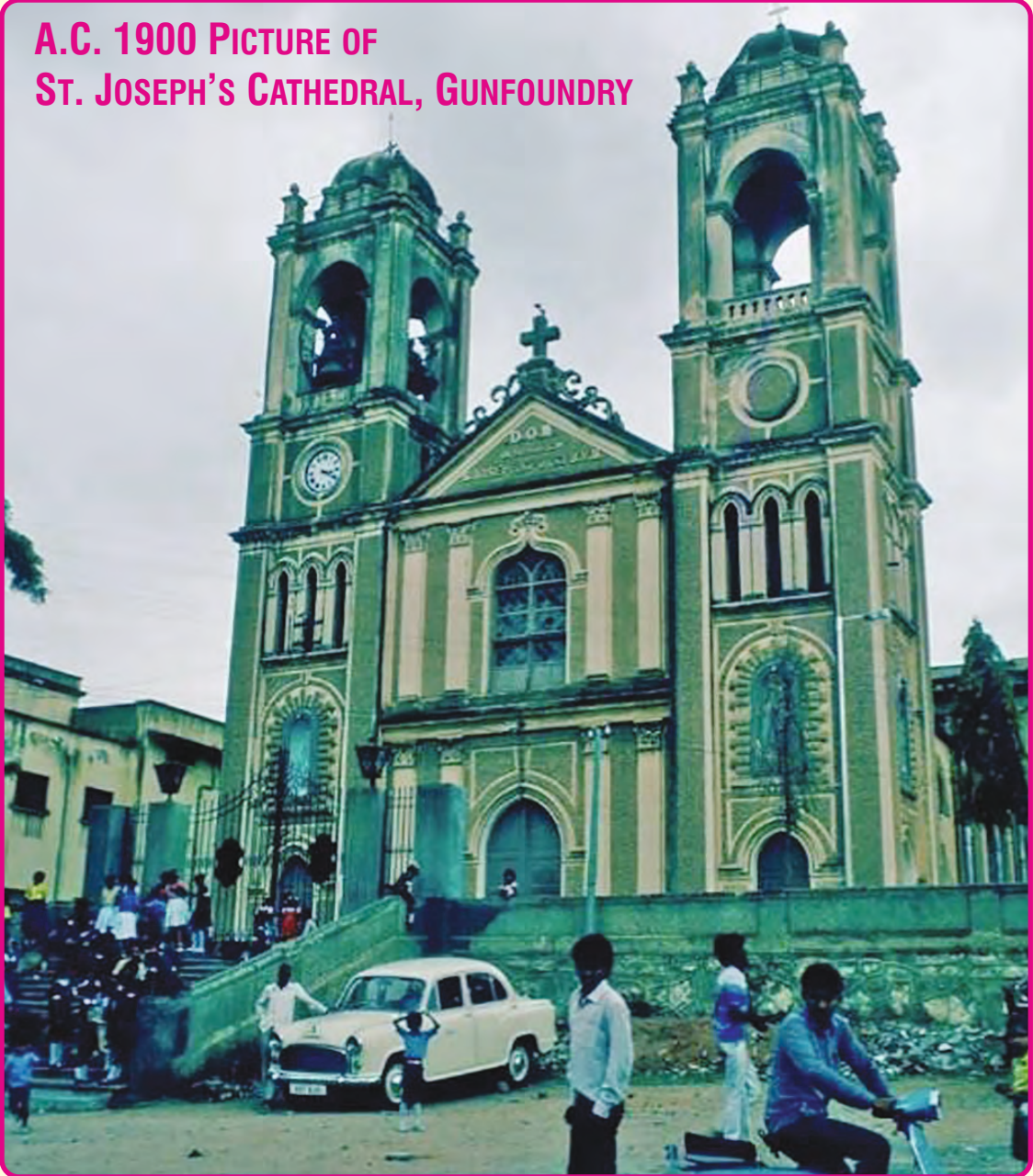
VII. 2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1	04-03-2025	Aliabad	600	52	27-03-2025	Mahendra Hills	3480
2		Alirajpet		53	14-02-2025	Madinaguda	2500
3	10-02-2025	Ammuguda	2500	54	13-02-2025	Mallapur	996
4		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		55		Manikonda Mission	
5	25-03-2025	Arul Colony	9250	56	21-02-2025	Mariapuram (Adibatla)	940
6	10-03-2025	Balaji Nagar	1000	57		Medchal	
7		Balaiah Nagar (Old Alwal)		58	25-02-2025	Medipally	2200
8		Band Lines		59	21-03-2025	Mettuguda	5780
9	12-03-2025	Bandlaguda Jagir (Kismatpur)	38589	60		Miyapur	
10		Banjara Hills		61		Moul-Ali	
11	18-03-2025	Basuregadi	840	62	22-03-2025	Mudfort	5000
12	12-02-2025	Bayyaram	700	63		Muthangi	
13	24-03-2025	Bazar Ghat	2000	64		Nacharam	
14	10-03-2025	BHEL - MIG	3180	65		Nandrakal	
15	12-03-2025	Begumpet	6430	66		Narayankhed	
17	17-03-2025	Bodhan	200	67	24-03-2025	Nedunoor	300
18		Boduppall		68	24-02-2025	Neela Camp	300
19	11-02-2025	Bhoiguda	5000	69		Nizamabad	
20	13-02-2025	Bolarum	10500	70	13-03-2025	Pargi	
21	22-03-2025	Borabanda	3300	71	13-03-2025	Patancheru	950
22	24-03-2025	Bowenpally	9000	72	14-02-2025	Ramachandrapuram	6000
23		Cherlapally		73		Ramanthapur	
24		Chintalacheruvu		74	14-02-2025	Ramnagar	10891
25		Church Colony		75	14-03-2025	Sadasivpet	150
26		Dammaiguda		76	19-03-2025	Sainikpuri	4700
27	17-03-2025	Dharmaram	1250	77	10-02-2025	Sanathnagar	19200
28		Dayanandnagar		78		Sangareddy	
29	15-02-2025	Emjala	20000	79	24-03-2025	Santhoshnagar	2000
30	20-03-2025	Gaddiannaram	2975	80		Sappers Lines	
31		Gagillapuram		81	11-02-2025	Secunderabad	55510
32	17-03-2025	Gajwel	400	82		Shabad	
33	12-02-2025	Gandhinagar	3000	83	24-03-2025	Shamshabad	1500
34	17-02-2025	Garrison (Trimulgherry)	698	84	14-02-2025	Shanthinagar	3720
35	14-02-2025	Ghatkesar	800	85	12-03-2025	Shapurnagar	1635
36		Golconda		86		Siddipet	
37		Gothumakunda		87	17-03-2025	Seethaphalmandi	3200
38		Gunfoundry		88	10-03-2025	Sultan Bazar	3000
39	17-03-2025	Jadi Jamalpur	200	89	10-02-2025	Suraram	3000
40	18-02-2025	Jagadgirigutta	3500	90		Tandur	
41		Jahanuma		91		Toopran	
42		Jogipet		92	14-02-2025	Trimulgherry	22500
43		Jojipet		93		Uminthal	
44		Kalwakole		94		Vanasthalipuram	
45		Kamareddy		95	17-03-2025	Venkatapuram	4000
46		Khairatabad		96		Vikarabad	
47		Kissan Nagar(Armour)		97	10-02-2025	Yapral	3500
48		Kukatpally		98	25-02-2025	Yeddumylaram	630
49	06-03-2025	Lallaguda	13000	99		Yellareddy	
50	10-03-2025	L. B. Nagar	7200	100		Zaheerabad	
51		Lillipur				Total	313694

St. Joseph's Cathedral

Gunfoundry, Hyderabad

A.C. 1900 PICTURE OF
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY



OVERVIEW

Name of the Parish	: St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry, Hyderabad
Year of Establishment	: 1820 AD.
Patron of the Parish	: St. Joseph, Husband of Mary.
Status of the Church	: Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad and Historical & Protected Monument, Heritage building as per HUDA (Hyderabad Urban Development Authority).

Grottos, Chapel & Shrines:

- Grotto of our Lady of Lourdes
- Shrine of Our Lady of Vellankanni
- Shrine of St. Joseph
- Shrine of Infant Jesus
- Adoration Chapel
- Grotto of Our Lady of Good Health at Church Compound
- St. Francis Xavier chapel at Goshamahahal
- St. Sebastian and St. Roch at St. Sebastian Lane
- St. Josephs Grotto and Mother Mary's Grotto at Sadhubai Lane

Cemetery : St. Josephs Cathedral, *Garden of Departed Souls*, Narayanguda.

Feast Day : 19th March (Solemnity of St. Joseph the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Parish Celebration : 1st May (Feast of St. Joseph the Worker)

Pastoral Care : Archdiocesan Priest.

INTRODUCTION

Nestled in Hyderabad, India, St. Joseph's Cathedral is a stunning Roman Catholic edifice and the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. This cathedral, dedicated to St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated as one of the most beautiful religious landmarks in Hyderabad and Secunderabad, Telangana.

LOCATION

St. Joseph's Cathedral occupies a central location in Gunfoundry, Hyderabad. Positioned north of Abids and King Kothi. The cathedral's perimeter is defined by All Saints High School (East), Rosary Convent High School (West), St. Joseph's Girl's High School (North), and St. George's Grammar School (South). Vehicular and pedestrian access is facilitated by Gun Foundry Streets numbered 1, 2, 3, and 5. The closest law enforcement presence is the Abid's Police Station, situated 900 meters from the cathedral, while the Gowliguda Fire Station, located in Jam Bagh, is just 2.3 kilometres away.

CATHEDRAL'S INFLUENCEON:

Surroundings

- The St. Joseph's Cathedral has been a catalyst for the growth of Catholic minority institutions, providing educational opportunities to students of all religious backgrounds.
- Several schools in the vicinity, including All Saints High School, Little Flower High School, St. Paul's High School, St. Joseph's Girls School, St. Joseph's Public School, and Rosary Convent High School, are renowned for their high-quality education and comprehensive student development, with some achieving national recognition.
- Institutions like St. Joseph's Degree and PGDM College have become prominent centres of higher education, further contributing to the area's popular educational landscape.
- Hospitals like 'Fernandez' provide essential healthcare services to the broader community.

SOCIETY

Established in the 1800s, the cathedral has served as a cornerstone of community life. It has been truly instrumental in preserving and propagating family values and virtues for generations, thereby contributing significantly to the character of the society.

CULTURE

- The cathedral attracts diverse linguistic communities daily, fostering a rich tapestry of cultures.
- Despite its Western architectural and liturgical influences, the church actively preserves Indian cultural traditions. For example, Holy Mass is celebrated not only in Latin and English but also in various Indian regional languages.

HISTORY

Bhagyanagar/FakhundaBunya d or Hyderabad was founded by Mohammed Quli Qutub shah in 1589 during Qutub Shahi Dynasty at Golconda from 1500 to 1686 A.D. In 1687 Aurangzeb conquered it after a siege of eight months and annexed it to the Moghul Empire.



Hyderabad was established as a separate state in 1724 by Mir Qamruddin Chin Qilich Khan, son of Aurangzeb's General Gazi-ud-din Khan Feroz Jung, and was conferred the Title of Nizam-ul-mulk and Asaf Jah. He made himself virtually independent of Delhi and exercised a nominal authority over the entire South. The Nizam's Domain was over the entire Deccan Region. The Asaf Jahi Dynasty lasted till September 13, 1948, when Indian Troops marched into Hyderabad and Nizam VII acceded Hyderabad into the Indian Union.

Luis do Salvador, a Franciscan Missionary, was sent to the Kingdom of Vijayanagar in 1505 and it was through him that the first contact of the Telugu's was

made with Christianity. Antonio do Padre, another Franciscan, came to India sometime before 1530 and converted many to the Faith in the kingdom of Vijayanagar. The Jesuits arrived in the kingdom in 1561. But it took almost 30 years for them to have an easy access to the king of Vijayanagar to preach in his kingdom, where they worked till the end of the century.

Pope Urban VIII appointed Matteo de Castro, a native of Goa, Vicar Apostolic of Idalkan and after the required permission received from the king of Bijapur, the Vicariate was confirmed on May 3, 1638. In 1645 the Vicariate of Idalkan was extended to the Kingdoms of Golconda and Pegu. In the Kingdom of Golconda, the Theatines worked hard for the spread of the good news. Francesco Manco who came to the kingdom in December 1640 established two Christian Communities: one at Golconda and the other at Masulipatanam (now Machilipatnam).

While the Theatines were working zealously in and around Masulipatanam now Machilipatnam, the Augustinians came to Golconda and were permitted by the King to construct Churches in his Kingdom. It was during the Provincial ship of Francisco do Piedade; they constructed the Church of Our Lady of Good Succor at Bhagyanagar (Jahanumah) in 1652. There were 100 Christians looked after by Anthony of St. Joseph. Six miles away from the church, they constructed another Church of Our Lady of the Rosary (Hyderabad), where there were 300 Christians, looked after Peter di Silveira. On the insistence of the Propaganda in 1663 the Augustinians left the Mission after the Churches of Golconda were handed over to the Theatines, it was only in 1759 that Gaetano Astiano came to Hyderabad and the Nizam, to have more European

Christians in the army, permitted him to construct a Church and to preach the Gospel in his dominion. By this time, the Vicariate of Idalkan was handed over to the Carmelites on September 20, 1696, with the headquarters at Surat. In 1720 the island of Bombay was included in the Vicariate and gradually it acquired the name of Vicariate of Bombay. The Archbishop of Goa appointed a priest in Hyderabad in 1798 who has the title of "Vicar Vara of the Eastern Ghats" with a circle of out-stations including Bidar, Jalna, Illespur, Tandur, Nagpur, Amraoti and another unrecognizable name. On April 30, 1800, Peter Alcantara, Vicar Apostolic of Bombay, sent John Luigi to Hyderabad.

Hyderabad was separated from the Bombay Vicariate and was joined to the Madras Vicariate in 1843 which was itself detached from Goa and erected into a

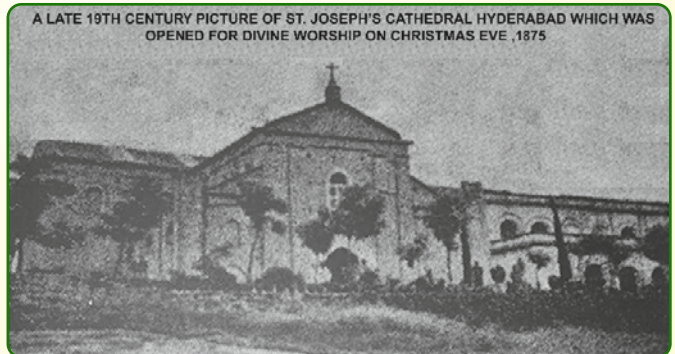
Vicariate on July 3, 1832. Fr. Daniel Murphy* was already working in Hyderabad since 1838. (*read- 'Endearing Journey' book published by St Mary's Basilica in 2016, authored by Ronald J Deshmukh, commemorating 175 years of the church and Catholic faith in the Telugu region and intriguing info on Fr Daniel Murphy).

The report of then Vicar Apostolic to the Propaganda Fide on December 28, 1800, says, "In the Kingdom of Golconda there are 7 Churches all built and administered by Jesuits. John Luigi was appointed Priest in Hyderabad," Fr Dubious MEP, writing to his superior on March 26, 1802, says "a few years earlier, Fr. Anthony, a native priest, constructed a Church at Hyderabad to serve the needs of 1600 Christians in a place belonging to the East India Company. In September 1848, due to Padroado disturbances, Fr. Daniel Murphy came to stay in Chadderghat, now Hyderabad (Nizam's Territory). The Seminary opened by him in 1854 at Secunderabad was shifted to Hyderabad in 1855 under the patronage of 'All Saints' and thus began the very first Institute of the Vicariate.

Later the Church at Hyderabad was entrusted to Fr. John Mac Issey in 1855. The need of a girl's school was much felt, and the sister of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loretto Sisters) arrived on December 21, 1856, feast of St. Thomas and were received by Fr. Murphy at St. Thomas Church, Hyderabad. The Muslim Government was not very open to other religions, and it was most certainly difficult to get the required permission. Lack of personnel also restrained the sisters from working both in Secunderabad and Hyderabad. Meanwhile, due to health reasons the sisters left the Vicariate.

Msgr. Dominic Barbero, Vicar Apostolic, enjoyed the favour of the First Minister of Nizam, Nawab Asman Jah. After getting the required permission on December 16, 1868, Fr. A Tagliabue bought an extensive plot of land near

Kotha Basti now Gunfoundry to build a School, Church and Convent. Though Established in 1820 AD, Msgr. Peter Caprotti; Vicar General, laid the foundation of the present-day Cathedral on March 19, 1869. Fr. L Malberti took charge [Grab your reader's attention with a great quote from the document or use this space to emphasize a key



point. To place this text box anywhere on the page, just drag it.] in 1872 and with the aid of local Christians and his family and friends in Italy; he completed the main building that was opened for divine worship on Christmas Eve of 1875. In 1876 St. Joseph's Seminary was constructed (which now houses St. Joseph's Degree & P G College).

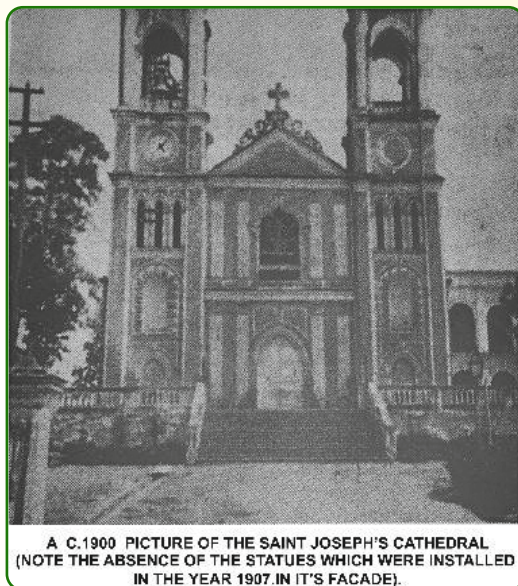
In 1886 Hyderabad was made separate Diocese and Msgr. P Caprotti was appointed its first Bishop. In the consistory held on March 17, 1887, Pope Leo XIII notified St. Joseph's Church to be the Cathedral of the Diocese. The then Parish boundary was from the Krishna District in the East, Sholapur in the West, Trimulgherry in the North to Nellore in the South.

Sisters of St Ann of Divine Providence, of Turin started the Girls School in 1890. It slowly developed into the new famous Rosary convent High School along with a branch in vernacular, St. Joseph's Girl's high school.

The cathedral's towers and facade were completed in 1891, followed by the installation of five of the eight bells, shipped from Milan, in 1892. These magnificent bells, celebrated as among the region's finest, were not only precisely attuned but also artistically synchronized to the traditional Marian hymns, an absolutely and incredibly innovative feat for the era. In 1950, at the proclamation of the Dogma of Assumption, the Cathedral Choir, under Mr. F.J. Campos, performed these hymns, creating a symphony that must have resonated magnificently throughout the surrounding area.

The arduous task of transporting and hoisting these bells to the tower's summit, accomplished without the aid of cranes, speaks to the remarkable engineering of the era. Their resonant peal, reportedly audible as far as Secunderabad Cantonment, has long been a part of local lore.

Revered by the local community, the cathedral bells are believed to ward off storms and lightning. In anticipation of severe weather, they are rung with fervent intensity, alerting residents to impending danger. This sacred sanctuary attracts



countless pilgrims yearly, drawn by deep faith. The cathedral's historical richness is further evidenced by its once-displayed Italian imports: statues, detailed mural carvings depicting the 14 Stations of the Cross, and various artifacts, some of which have been lost. The cathedral's seminary, grappling with fluctuating enrolments, experienced multiple phases of reopening and restructuring. Fr. Caprotti revived it in 1894, followed by Fr. Vigano in 1900, and ultimately, Fr. Vismara, who established an Apostolic School in 1921, relocating it to its present location in 1996.

Meanwhile, Fr. Vigano invited the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and the Girl's school was handed over to them on December 11, 1903. The Little Sisters of the poor were invited, and the Home for the Aged was started at Mulk-a-pet (now Malakpet) on October 31, 1903, which was shifted to its present site on June 29, 1907. The Franciscan Missionaries of Mary started an Ambulatory on August 12, 1911. In 1913 one of the sisters was appointed Matron at Osmania General Hospital.

In 1918 they started work at the camp hospital (Isolation Hospital). Pleased by the self-less services rendered by these pious Nuns, the Nizam constructed chapels for them at their place of work. The St. Michael's at Osmania and St. Roch's at the Isolation Hospital (now Fever Hospital) in 1922. Fr. Vismara invited the Franciscan Brothers (OFM MINOR) to administer All Saints' School, and they took charge on June 21, 1925, but left to work in Bidar on July 5, 1928. Fr. Vismara then invited the brothers of St. Gabriel, who took charge of the School on June 2, 1932. From here it developed into St. Mark's Boys Town, Little Flower & St. Paul's. Over the years, from 1924, Cathedral has produced 23 vocations both to the Diocese and Religious.

Within the cathedral's sacred embrace lie the remains of beloved bishops and priests, whose simple yet virtuous lives continue to inspire. They carried the light of Christ with profound humility, dedicating themselves to guiding others towards God. Notably, Fr. L. Malberti, a visionary whose unwavering dedication led to the cathedral's construction amidst the constraints of a less permissive regime, rests here. The revered Rector of All Saints', a man deeply devoted to the cathedral, chose to be consecrated within its walls, a testament to his profound affection. Even though other bishops were consecrated in Rome or Milan, Msgr. P. Caprotti, though he passed away in Yercaud, was brought back to his beloved cathedral for his final resting place.

"The man who was full of virtue yet lived like a pauper" was how Msgr. A Beretta described Msgr. Vismara, upon the death of this noble soul and most loved

father of Hyderabad. He served the longest as the Bishop of Hyderabad; His Bishopric did not deter him from cycling to any part of his diocese, taking lift sometimes from Lorries or buses, to pay a visit to his people and celebrating the Eucharist for them. He too is laid here.



Fr. Malberti



Fr. Caprotti



Fr. Vismara

Over the decades, many changes were made to the interior of the Cathedral. Fr. D. Magri changed the old Altar and used marble of Yercaud and added the existing Altars of Our Lady and St. Anthony. H E H Mir Osman Ali Khan, the 7th Nizam of Hyderabad, was a frequent visitor to the Cathedral. He used to attend especially the Midnight services at the Cathedral. The clock on the church-tower, an antique original European oil painting of the Blessed Mother and Christ Child (Madonna and the Child by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo), The Chandeliers, furniture and many more were all gifted by him. He paid regular maintenance both for the priests and the building itself. He also helped in the maintenance of the All-Saints' boarding and orphanage. Cathedral was supported by his munificence till 1970's.

In 1953 the Diocese was handed over to the native clergy. By this time the boundary was reduced to Nalgonda on the East, Mahabubnagar in the South, Vikarabad in the West and Trimulgherry in the North. In 1964 Cathedral has its first native Parish Priest Fr. Alfred Fernandez, who was a vocation from St. Joseph's Cathedral itself and who went on to become the Bishop of Allahabad. After the Second Vatican Council, Msgr. A. Fernandez installed the Altar facing the people. Fr. M Dhanaraju built the present Altar in 1978.

The Pastoral Institute for Laity, the premier Institute for the training for the laity in all spheres and especially in their participatory role in the Church, was started and administered by PIME missionaries in 1977. It was entrusted to the Diocesan Clergy in 1983. They assisted the parish youth in putting up the Holy Family Dispensary in the Church premises the following year.

For two centuries, St. Joseph's Cathedral has served as the Mother Church for the entire Hyderabad State, giving rise to numerous churches, including shrines such as Our Lady of Health in Khairatabad, Infant Jesus in Emjala, and St. Jude's in Vikarabad. The most recent parish to be established from its territory is the historic St. Thomas Church at Sultan Bazaar. The cathedral's current parish boundaries

extend from Gandhinagar in the north to Hyderabad Railway Station in the west, Osmania Hospital in the south, and YMCA in the east.

Throughout its rich history, the cathedral has benefited from dedicated parish priests who have provided invaluable service to the community. Extensive construction, including the grand entrance stairway and a multipurpose hall beneath a large terrace, was undertaken during Rev. Fr. Thumma Lourdu's tenure. Rev. Fr. C. Arogyam oversaw the completion of the renovation. Mgr. S. Bernard then added the Adoration Chapel, "Come Adore Come Worship." In May 2012, Fr. Raju Alex was appointed parish priest, revitalizing the community with his 25 years of pastoral experience. He restored the cathedral's former splendour, establishing the "Spouse of Christ" Prayer Tower, the parish's long-standing newsletter, "The Twin Towers," were revived, and the unique "Apostolic Square," featuring statues of the 12 apostles and Jesus the Good Shepherd, was installed and inaugurated by Archbishop Thumma Bala. The construction of the new St. Josephs Block, formerly the Caprotti Building, commenced under his leadership.

Msgr. Yeruva Balashowry who was appointed the Parish Priest in May 2018 took the construction work forward. St. Joseph's Block was blessed & inaugurated by Most Rev. Thumma Bala D.D., Archbishop of Hyderabad on 21st December 2019 on 50th Year of the Priestly Ordination anniversary of Archbishop Thumma Bala. Under the leadership of Msgr. Yeruva Balashowry the new Soundsystem, Pulpit and the Cathedra (Seat of the Archbishop) was rebuilt and was blessed and inaugurated by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony the Archbishop of Hyderabad on the solemn occasion Celebrating the Year of St. Joseph, the Inauguration of Bicentennial Celebrations of the cathedral.

During his tenure, significant infrastructure developments transformed the cathedral grounds, including the reflooring of the Apostolic Square, the installation of new interlock-tile flooring throughout the campus, and the construction of new shrines dedicated to St. Joseph, Our Lady of Velankanni, and Infant Jesus. A brand-new presbytery, the St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Centre, and the Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel (dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Most Chaste Heart of Joseph) were also completed. These projects were inaugurated on March 18, 2025, the eve of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, marking the conclusion of the five-year bicentennial celebrations (2020-2025). The inauguration presided over by His Eminence, Cardinal Poola Anthony and attended by fifteen bishops and over two hundred priests. We took this opportunity to also commemorate the Jubilee Year celebrations of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

Pope Leo XIII

256th Pope who granted the status of Cathedral to St Joseph's church.



ARCHITECTURE

St. Joseph's Cathedral, distinguished by its Italian architectural style, stands as a unique landmark. It accommodates over 500 worshippers, while the belfry houses five magnificent bells, imported from Milan, Italy. These bells not only enhance the structure's aesthetic appeal but are also cleverly crafted to harmonize with the traditional hymns that echo through the worship in and during the Holy Mass. From this belfry's summit, one can enjoy panoramic city views. Inside, a statue replicating Michelangelo's 'Pieta' graces the cathedral. Extensive renovations, conducted between 2004 and 2008, included a new roof, flooring, lighting, and electrical fixtures, necessitating temporary services in the multipurpose hall. The sanctuary now features a 6-foot granite wainscot, complementing the restored artwork: marble altars, statues of Mary and St. Anthony, an antique European oil painting gifted by a Nizam, and a bas-relief Stations of the Cross. Reopened in December 2007 for Christmas celebrations, the cathedral also saw the construction of a grand entrance stairway and terrace with a multipurpose hall, which was previously initiated by Rev. Fr. Thumma Lourdu in 2001 but completed under Rev. Fr. C. Arogyam in the latter years.

Under the stewardship of Rev. Msgr. Yeruva Balashowry, significant additions were made to the church, including new shrines dedicated to St. Joseph, Our Lady of Velankanni and Infant Jesus. A new presbytery, the St. Joseph's Parish Pastoral Centre, and the Sacred Heart Adoration Chapel. These enhancements were designed in a Roman and Baroque architectural style, featuring Corinthian columns and digital stained-glass windows depicting revered events from the life of Christ. The lower windows showcase symbols of the Thrice Holy Trinity, while the front windows portray the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Most Chaste Heart of St. Joseph, to whom the chapel is dedicated-The Most Holy Family. The church's façade was renovated and adorned with new lighting fixtures representing St. Joseph, the Immaculate Mary, and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Indeed, through the intercession of St. Joseph, the silent worker, Jesus has worked wonders through his devoted shepherds and their faithful flock. Not merely restored through time, the cathedral blossoms with each generation, an enduring miracle, two centuries strong and counting.

ATTRACTIONS IN AND AROUND THE CATHEDRAL

- Marble statues of St. Anthony and Mother Mary
- Relic of the original Cross of Christ
- Relic of St. Anthony of Padua
- Relic of St. Thomas the disciple of Jesus
- Stations of the cross in high Bas Relief made in Europe
- Chandeliers gifted by the Nizam HEH Osman Ali Pasha
- Painting of Mother Mary and Child Jesus by [Bartolomé Esteban Murillo](#) gifted by the Nizam

- Bell tower with 5 bells imported from Milan with each bell dedicated to a saint (St. Joseph, St. Peter, St. Thomas, St. Francis Xavier & Our Lady of Assumption) and the year of manufacturing these bells is dated back to 1902
- Clock on the Bell tower gifted by the VII Nizam
- Statue of the Pieta –a replica of the famous Michelangelo painting
- A grotto of our Lady of Lourdes
- New Sacred Heart Adoration chapel
- Statues of St. Sebastian and St. Roch which are famous for their veneration by people of all faiths in commemoration of the plague which effected the people in Hyderabad.
- A unique Statue of St. Joseph Carved out from wood
- Tombs of the founders of the church (PIME Priests)
- New Cathedra-Chair of the Archbishop
- Shrine of St. Joseph
- Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni
- Shrine of Infant Jesus
- Renovated Apostolic Square

GRAND CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL & THE ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE YEAR 2025

On March 18, 2025 the eve of the solemnity of St. Joseph, the faithful gathered in great reverence and joy to celebrate the grand closing ceremony of the bicentennial of St. Joseph's Cathedral, coinciding with the Archdiocesan Jubilee Year 2025-the Jubilee Year of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ with the theme Pilgrims of Hope. This momentous occasion was graced by the presence of **His Eminence, Cardinal Poola Anthony**, along with esteemed bishops of the Telangana Catholic Bishops' Council (TCBC).

Among the distinguished guests were:

- **Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala**, Bishop of Warangal and Archbishop-Designate of Visakhapatnam
- **Most Rev. Dr. Moses D. Prakasam**, Bishop of Nellore
- **Most Rev. Dr. Polimera Jaya Rao**, Bishop of Eluru
- **Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Raja Rao**, Bishop of Vijayawada
- **Most Rev. Dr. Vijayakumar Rayarala**, Bishop of Srikakulam
- **Most Rev. Dr. Sagili Prakash**, Bishop of Khammam
- **Most Rev. Dr. Gorantla Johannes**, Bishop of Kurnool
- **Most Rev. Dr. Karnam Dhaman Kumar**, Bishop of Nalgonda
- **Most Rev. Dr. Gali Bali**, Apostolic Administrator of Kadapa
- **Most Rev. Dr. Pilli Anthony Das**, Coadjutor Bishop of Nellore
- **Most Rev. Dr. Maipan Paul**, Bishop Emeritus of Khammam
- **Most Rev. Dr. Govindu Joji**, Bishop Emeritus of Nalgonda
- **Rev. Msgr. Saginala Paul Prakash**, Bishop-elect of Kadapa

The event commenced with a grand welcome for Cardinal Poola Anthony and the bishops, setting the tone for a deeply spiritual and historic day. This was followed by the blessing of the newly renovated St. Joseph's Cathedral, a significant milestone in its 200-year journey. Additionally, the ceremony included the blessing and inauguration of the **New Adoration Chapel, New Presbytery & Parish Pastoral Halls, the Grotto of Our Lady of Velankanni, the Grotto of St. Joseph, the Grotto of Infant Jesus**, and renovated cathedral the **renovated Apostolic Square**.

A solemn moment of the celebration was the hoisting of the **Jubilee Flag**, symbolizing the enduring faith and unity of the Catholic community. This was followed by a symbolic **procession with the Jubilee Cross**, in which faithful from various parishes of the Hyderabad Deanery participated with devotion.

The highlight of the day was the **Holy Mass**, presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, accompanied by the bishops and priests. The homily, delivered by **Bishop Sagili Prakash of Khammam**, emphasized the significance of the Cathedral and the Jubilee Year, reassuring the faithful that **"hope does not disappoint."**

Following the Mass, a heartfelt felicitation ceremony was held to honor all the bishops, recognizing their commitment to the Church and its mission. The celebrations culminated in a **fellowship meal**, bringing together over **3,000 faithful** in a spirit of community and thanksgiving. The event concluded with a vibrant musical performance by **the Band from Bandlines Parish and the Gospel Youth Band of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad**.

This magnificent celebration was orchestrated under the fatherly guidance of **Rev. Msgr. Y. Balashowry, Parish Priest and Vicar General**, along with the dedicated efforts of **Fr. A. Pranith Joji, Fr. Joseph Thambi and Fr. Christopher**. Their leadership, along with the unwavering support of the **Parish Council Members and various committees**, ensured the seamless execution of this historic event.

The closing ceremony of the **Bicentennial of St. Joseph's Cathedral** and the **Archdiocesan Jubilee Year 2025** will remain a cherished memory, strengthening the faith and unity of the Catholic community for generations to come.

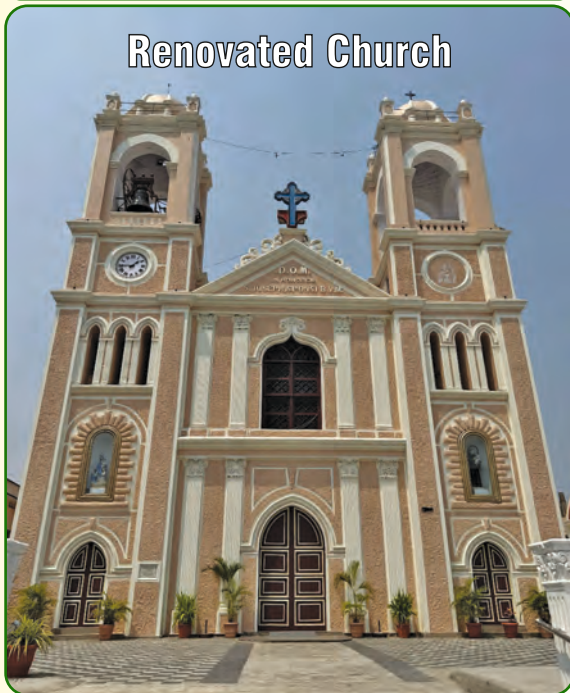




Demolition of Old Presbytery



Laying of Foundation Stone for Adoration Chapel



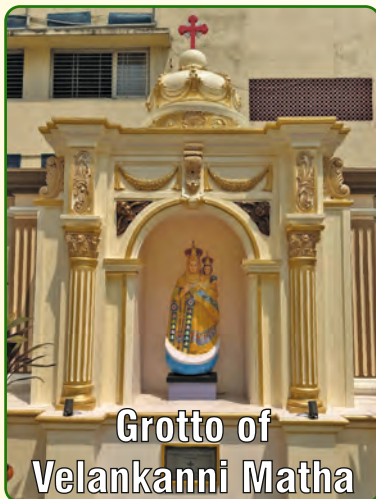
Renovated Church



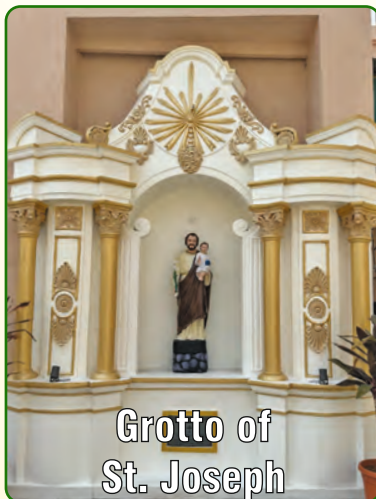
New Adoration Chapel



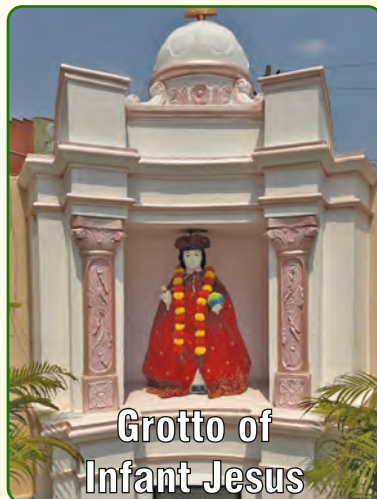
New Presbytery and Parish Pastoral Halls



Grotto of Velankanni Matha



Grotto of St. Joseph



Grotto of Infant Jesus

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS OF ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL & THE ARCHDIOCESAN JUBILEE YEAR 2025





Pastoral News

1. INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF RENOVATED ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHAPEL AT BHOIGUDA PARISH ON 01ST MARCH, 2025.



2. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, GOLCONDA PARISH ON 02ND MARCH, 2025



Archdiocesan News

1. CHURCH GAGILLAPUR DEANERY YOUTH RETREAT AT ST. AGNES CHURCH, SHAPUR NAGAR.

Church Gagillapur Deanery had organised one day retreat on the theme “**Hope Does Not Let Us Down**” at St. Agnes Church, Shapur Nagar on 1st March 2025. Very Rev. Fr. Benjamin Chinnabathini, Dean and Parish Priest of Church Gagillapur and Rev. Fr. A. Pranith, Youth Director Archdiocese of Hyderabad, all the Parish Priest’s of Church Gagillapur Deanery were invited to animate the retreat.

The retreat began with the flag hosting ceremony, where the ICYM flag was raised with great enthusiasm. The ceremony was followed by the ICYM National Anthem, uniting the youth in their mission and setting the spiritual tone for the day.



Rev. Fr. Govindu Arogya Swamy, Director of the Pastoral Center, led the youth into a time of adoration. During the praise and worship session, he shared a powerful reflection on hope and encouraged the youth to trust in God’s plan, even in times of struggle. His words were deeply inspiring and resonated with many participants.

The morning session concluded with the Eucharistic Celebration. Rev. Fr. Benjamin Chinnabathini, Dean and Parish Priest of Church Gagillapur and Rev. Fr. A. Pranith, Youth Director Archdiocese of Hyderabad, as main host along with Rev.



Fr. Pasala Innaiah, Parish Priest of St. Joseph Church, Medchal, Rev. Fr. Madanu Chinnaiah, Parish Priest of St. Agnes Church, Shapur Nagar, Rev. Fr. Govindu Arogya Swamy, Pastoral Center Director, Rev. Fr. Prabhakar, Assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady Of Fatima church, Karunagiri Shrine, Suraram celebrated the Holy Mass. This sacred moment allowed the youth to come together in communion, reaffirming their faith and commitment to God.

Following the Eucharistic Celebration, the newly elected ZEXCO 2025-2027 (Zonal Executive Committee) team of Church Gagillapur Deanery took their oath of

service. The youth leaders pledged to serve the community faithfully, and all priests present blessed the new leaders, praying for God's guidance as they embraced their roles.

A key highlight of the retreat was Rev.Fr. A. Pranith, Youth Director Archdiocese of Hyderabad, session on the Jesus Youth movement. He spoke about the importance of the movement and explained the six pillars of Jesus Youth: personal prayer, the Word of God, sacramental life, fellowship, evangelization, and social concern. Rev.Fr. Pranith's talk inspired many youth to integrate these pillars into their lives, empowering them to live as true disciples of Christ.

The retreat ended with the vote of thanks by our Youth President of Church Gagillpur Deanery Mr. Harry Joshua - **Mr. Ch. Revanth, General Secretary.**

2. LIVING WATERS - LENTEN YOUTH RECOLLECTION AT ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL, ON 23RD MARCH, 2025, SECUNDERABAD.

The Lenten Youth Recollection Program, "Living Waters," was a blessed event that brought together over 100 youth from the Deanery of Secunderabad. The program was organized by Jesus Youth, Hyderabad, and was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries.

The event commenced with a warm welcome by MC Jennifer and Bibin, followed by icebreakers and action songs led by the JY Hyderabad Music Team. Rajinikanth from the Jesus Youth Council, Telugu Region, extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries present, including Fr. Pranith, Archdiocese of Hyderabad Youth Director; Fr. Jerome, Diocese of Hyderabad; Sr. Alphonsa, Provincial Superior, Sisters of Charity; Sr. Brigit, Procurator, Sisters of Charity; and Vandana Aka, JY International Assistant Coordinator.

Fr. Pranith invoked the Holy Spirit's guidance as we lit the lamp, and the Music Team led the congregation in worship. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Pranith and Fr. Jerome, who delivered a thought-provoking homily. Quoting Scripture, Fr.



Jerome emphasized the importance of not being influenced by the world, but rather being influencers for God. He also highlighted the two types of water - destructive and life-giving - encouraging the youth to depend on Jesus, the source of living waters.

After the Mass, the participants enjoyed a sumptuous lunch, followed by action songs and group discussions. The discussions focused on what the youth had given up during Lent, their personal prayer experiences, and what they could start doing to make Lent more meaningful. The afternoon session included the Stations of the Cross, led by each group, and a skit performed by the JY team. The program concluded with a healing and reviving Adoration led by Vandana Aka, followed by an overview of Jesus Youth in Hyderabad and programs in the city. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Pranith, Fr. Jerome, Fr. Pranay and the Sisters of Charity for their presence and guidance. We also thank the JY Hyderabad Music Team, the organizers, media team Sudeep, and all the volunteers, especially the Emmaus boys, who worked tirelessly to make this event a success.



May the Living Waters of Jesus Christ continue to nourish and guide our deanery youth, empowering them to be influencers for God in their parish and college.

-Fr. Pranith, Archdiocese of Hyderabad Youth Director

3. BLESSING OF THE NEWLY RENOVATED HASSS TRAINING CENTRE ON 10TH MARCH, 2025

On March 10th, 2025, His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony blessed the newly renovated HASSS Training Centre, marking a significant milestone in community empowerment. The four-month renovation, supported by the Diocese of Köln, transformed the facility with four training halls, a Round Table Conference Hall, computer training space, dining hall, chapel, and upgraded infrastructure.

The comprehensive upgrades include air-conditioned rooms, improved dormitories, and the Director's residence, with complete electrical, drainage, and plumbing improvements. Cardinal Poola Anthony was joined by Vice-Chairman Fr. Y. Bala and Procurator & Chancellor Fr. Victor during the blessing ceremony.

The Centre now stands as a crucial hub for skill development, education, and empowerment, with a focused mission to serve marginalized communities. HASSS



remains committed to fostering change through learning and service, expressing deep gratitude to the Diocese of Köln for their invaluable support in this transformative project. **-Fr. Anthony Madanu, Executive Director HASSS**

4. CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY INAUGURATES CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTRE IN BANJARA HILLS ON 21ST MARCH, 2025.

In a landmark initiative promoting peace and harmony within the Christian community, **Cardinal Poola Anthony** expressed his profound gratitude and joy at the inauguration of the **Christian Community Mediation Centre** at **St. Alphonsus Church, Banjara Hills**. This significant step, undertaken with the support of the **Hon'ble High Court of Telangana** and the **Telangana State Legal Services Authority**, aims to resolve conflicts with **compassion, wisdom, and fairness**.

During the inaugural address, **Cardinal Poola Anthony** emphasized the essence of faith in fostering peace, recalling the words of **Jesus Christ**: *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God."* (**Matthew 5:9**). He highlighted that the very heart of Christianity is the call to be peacemakers, and this mediation centre would serve as a beacon of reconciliation within the community and a Centre for Hope and Reconciliation.

The **Christian Community Mediation Centre** is a first-of-its-kind initiative that encourages community members to seek mediation before resorting to litigation. Cardinal Anthony urged the residents of **Banjara Hills** to **embrace this initiative**,



reassuring them that certified personnel are readily available to assist in conflict resolution. He urged individuals facing disputes to seek guidance at the centre first, transforming conflict into an opportunity for understanding, resolution, and healing.

“We are happy that **Aruna Bahuguna, IPS (Retd.)**, has taken a keen interest in being part of this mediation centre along with a dedicated team,” the Cardinal added, acknowledging the commitment of professionals contributing to this noble cause.

Sri Ch. Panchakshari, Member Secretary, briefed the gathering about the **aims, objectives, and functions** of the centre. He expressed hope that similar mediation centres would soon be operational across the state to serve people in distress. The High Court of Telangana has promoted this initiative by training and certifying laypeople as mediators under the Telangana State Legal Services Authority (**TSLSA**).

The TSLSA will supervise the centre’s activities, ensuring that cases referred by police stations, statutory bodies, government departments, institutions, organizations, families, and societies are handled with due diligence. If disputes are successfully resolved through mediation, the TSLSA will pass an order. However, if unresolved, parties may approach the appropriate court for further legal action.



Cardinal Poola Anthony concluded the event by invoking God’s wisdom and grace to guide the mediation centre’s work. He expressed his desire for the centre to

serve all individuals, regardless of background, and become a model of peace and reconciliation.”May this place be a testimony to the **power of reconciliation**, and may it serve as an **inspiration for peace in society**. Let us pray that this centre fosters harmony and understanding among all,” he stated. The inauguration ended with a short program and with snacks for all.

Timings for mediation and Mediators:

Monday	: 5:00pm to 6:30 pm	- Aruna Bahuguna IPS Ret
Tuesday	: 5:00pm to 6:30 pm	- Agnes Reeves
Wednesday:	10:00am to 12:00 Noon	- Edward Joseph
Thursday	: 5:00pm to 6:30 pm	- Agnes Reeves
Friday	: 5:00pm to 6:30 pm	- Aruna Bahuguna IPS Ret
Saturday	: 10:00am to 12:00 Noon	- Edward Joseph

5. HOLY CHILDHOOD DAY CELEBRATIONS AT GAGILLAPURAM DEANERY LEVEL WITH THE THEME OF JUBILEE YEAR 2025, AND ALSO DEANERY LEVEL CLERGY MONTHLY RECOLLECTION ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH CAMPUS, CHINTALCHERU PARISH, REDDYPALEM VILLAGE.

On 26th February, 2025 Chintalcheru Parish Community organized Gagillapuram Deanery Level Holy Childhood Day Celebrations at Holy Spirit Church Campus, Chintalcheru Parish, Reddypalem Village. Around 160 Children and 15 Animators from various parishes of Gagillpauram Deanery participated in these celebrations.

Program for the children was conducted from 09.30 a.m. to 06.00 p.m. Rev. Fr. Yeruva Amal Kumar, Parish Priest of Chintalcheru Parish, in the Introductory note said that taking inspiration from the exhortation of His Holiness Pope Francis to encourage the children to actively participate in Christian Mission, and the call of His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad, to celebrate



Jubilee Year 2025 at various levels, this program has been organized commemorating both Holy Childhood Day and Jubilee Year 2025. He explained to the Children about the importance the Catholic Church gives towards the faith formation and education of Children through Holy Childhood Society, Rome. Children were taught about the various activities taken up all over the world, for the good of the children, by Holy Mother the Church through Holy Childhood Society. One of the main such activities is Holy Childhood Day Celebrations.

The main resource person for the day was Rev. Fr. Yeruva Joji SDB, Salesian Youth Director, assisted by his team Mrs. Kiran Jyotsna Madam and others. Holy Childhood Day Program was conducted in the newly Built Holy Spirit Multi-Purpose Hall. Rev. Fr. Y. Joji SDB began the program with Prayer and then led the children in Eucharistic Adoration glorifying and thanking God Almighty for giving all of us and specially children an opportunity to come close to Christ present in the Most Holy Blessed Sacrament. After the Eucharistic Adoration, Rev. Fr. Y. Joji SDB took the first session on the topic ‘Pilgrims of Hope’ in the light of Jubilee Year 2025 connecting it to the lives of the children with Biblical background. After the break, the second session was

taken by Mrs. Kiran Jyotsna Madam on the topic 'Growing in Faith and Life' encouraging the children to actively participate in Christian Mission. During the above-said sessions, children actively participated through prayer, worship, action songs, interactions, group discussions, etc. After the sessions, there was lunch break.

During the after-noon session we had parish level competitions: Gospel Enactment, Singing and Dance competitions. Children participated in all the competitions with great enthusiasm. In the Gospel Enactment competition, the following parishes were awarded prizes: first prize - Gagillapuram Parish, second prize - Suraram Parish and third prize - Chintalcheru Parish. For singing competition, children were asked to sing only spiritual songs. The following parishes were awarded prizes: first prize - Suraram Parish, second prize - Chintalcheru Parish and third prize - Gagillapuram Parish. In the thematic dance competition, the following parishes were awarded prizes: first prize - Jagadgirigutta Parish, second prize - Chintalcheru Parish and third prize - Basuregadi Parish. All the winners were awarded medals. Participatory mementos were given to all the 160 children who participated in the program.

The same day we also had Deanery Monthly Recollection for the Clergy. While the children under the guidance of Resource Persons and Animators had program in the Multi-Purpose Hall; the Deanery Clergy participated in the Recollection in the Church. Rev. Bro. T. Marianand Reddy, SG, Carmel High School Principal and Superior gave the Recollection talk. During the talk he shared his vocation story and experiences in his 25 years of Religious Life.

Around 04.00 p.m. we had concelebrated Holy Eucharistic Celebration by the Deanery Priests in the Church, in which the Parish Faithful joined along with 160 children. Holy Mass was offered to thank and glorify the Lord for giving us an opportunity to bring the Deanery children together and strengthen their Catholic faith. The Liturgy for the Holy Mass was organized by the children of Chintalcheru Parish, i.e., Altar serving, Choir, Readings, Gifts offering, Aarathi, etc. Prayer of the Faithful were led by two representatives from each parish. Concluding the program, Rev. Fr. Chinnabathini Benjamin, Dean of Gagillapuram Deanery, spoke about the Church commitment towards the spiritual growth of children.

I would like thank Rev. Fr. Ch. Benjamin, Dean of Gagillapuram Deanery, for all his cooperation, collaboration and support in organizing these two programs at Deanery Level at Chintalcheru Parish. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Yeruva Joji SDB and his team for leading the children on Holy Childhood Day. I remain grateful to Rev. Bro. Thumma Marianand, SG, for leading the Deanery Clergy during the Recollection. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Parish Priests, Deanery Clergy, Animators and Children from various Parishes for all their cooperation and support without whom this program would not have been possible.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Carmel School Brothers Community, Sisters of St Ann's of Bangalore Convent Community, Church and Village Elders, Youth and Mahila Mandal of Chintalcheru Parish for all their support and services for organizing this program.

I would like to specially appreciate and acknowledge the services rendered by Chintalcheru Parish Children under the guidance of Mr. Pasala Vijay Kumar Sir, towards making all the necessary arrangements for the program, namely, cleaning and decorating both the Church and Multi-Purpose Hall, organizing the Liturgy, Choir, designing Mementos and Medals, making necessary arrangements for food and snacks, volunteering for various activities throughout the day, after the program rearranging things, etc. May God bless them all.

Rev. Fr. Yeruva Amal Kumar, Parish Priest, Chintalcheru Parish

6. PRISON MINISTRY –TELANGANA-PMI ON 26.2.2025.

Prison Ministry Volunteer's Training Program.

It was a great day for the volunteers of prison ministry Telangana on 26.2.2025. Our Cardinal Most Rev. Poola Anthony, the Archbishop of Hyderabad, wished us by giving us his blessings and encouragement for the conduct of the volunteer's training program. It was conducted on 26.2.2025 from 09.30 a.m. to 01.00 p.m. at St Mary's Junior College, Secunderabad. The program started with the opening prayer, Recitation of Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by Lighting of the Lamp by the Chief Guest Mrs. Christine Lazarus Garu, Ex-MLA, by me, Fr. Dion Isaac, the state Coordinator, Ms. Regina, State Secretary, Ms. Diana, Team In charge, and the Senior Volunteers. The lighting of the Lamp reminded us that Jesus is the Light of the World. It also enlightened us that prison ministry is the Jesus' Ministry for the brethren behind the bars to help the inmates to come out of darkness and live in the light in a decent, dignified and in a right way. I, as the state coordinator, gave a brief introduction about prison ministry in Telangana and the history of prison ministry India, and also about the present active working body at the national office in Bangalore under the coordination of Fr. Francis Kodiyan, the national coordinator, and Sr. Amala, the national secretary.



-Fr.Dion Isaac, Prison Ministry State Coordinator, Telangana.

Regional News

1. CONFERRING MINISTRIES OF LECTORS & ACOLYTES BY MOST REV. POLIMERA JAYA RAO, BISHOP OF ELURU AT ST. JOHN'S REGIONAL SEMINARY ON 18TH MARCH, 2025.



International News

1. CYCLE OF CATECHESIS – JUBILEE 2025.

Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 7. “My eyes have seen your salvation” (Lk 2:30). The presentation of Jesus at the Temple

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we will contemplate the beauty of “Jesus Christ, our hope” (1 Tim 1:1), in the mystery of His presentation at the Temple.

In the *narratives of Jesus’ infancy*, the evangelist Luke shows us Mary and Joseph’s obedience to the Law of the Lord and to all its prescriptions. In reality, in Israel there was no obligation to present the child at the Temple, but those who lived listening to the Word of the Law and wished to conform to it, considered it a valuable practice. So did Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel, who was barren; God heard her prayer and she, having had her son, took him to the temple and offered him to the Lord forever (cf. 1Sam 1:24-28).

Luke therefore recounts Jesus’ first act of worship, celebrated in the holy city, Jerusalem, which will be the destination of His entire itinerant ministry from the moment He makes the firm decision to go up there (cf. Lk 9:51), heading towards the fulfilment of His mission.

Mary and Joseph do not simply embed Jesus in a history of the family, the people, of the covenant with the Lord God. They take care of His growth, and introduce Him into the atmosphere of faith and worship. And they too gradually grow in their comprehension of a vocation that far surpasses them.

In the Temple, which is a “house of prayer” (Lk 19:46), the Holy Spirit breathes, speaks to the heart of an elderly man: Simeon, a member of the holy people of God schooled in expectation and hope, who nurtures the desire for the fulfilment of God’s promises to Israel by through the prophets. Simeon perceives in the Temple the presence of the Lord’s Anointed One, he sees the light that shines in the midst of the peoples plunged “in darkness” (cf. Is 9:1) and he goes to meet that child who, as Isaiah prophesies, “is born to us”, He is the son who “is given to us”, the “Prince of Peace” (Is 9:5). Simeon embraces that child who, small and helpless, rests in his arms; but it is he, in fact, who finds consolation and the fullness of his existence by holding Him to himself. He expresses this in a canticle full of heartfelt gratitude, which in the Church has become the prayer at the end of the day:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel” (Lk 2:29-32).

Simeon sings the joy of those who have seen Him, who have recognized Him and are able to transmit to others the encounter with the Saviour of Israel and of the peoples. He is a witness of faith received as a gift and communicated to others; he is a witness of the hope that does not disappoint; he is a witness of God’s love, which fills the heart of man with joy and peace. Filled with this spiritual consolation, the elderly Simeon sees death not as the end, but as fulfilment, fullness; he awaits it like a “sister” that does not annihilate but introduces to the true life that he has already foretasted and in which he believes.

On that day, Simeon is not the only one to see salvation made flesh in the child Jesus. The same also happens to Anna, a woman more than eighty years old, a widow, entirely devoted to service to the Temple and consecrated to prayer. Indeed, upon seeing the child, Anne celebrates the God of Israel, who has redeemed His people in that very child, and tells others about Him, generously spreading the prophetic word. The song of redemption of two elders thus emits the proclamation of the Jubilee for all the people and for the world. Hope is rekindled in hearts in the Temple of Jerusalem because Christ our hope has entered it.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us too imitate Simeon and Anna, these “pilgrims of hope” who have clear eyes capable of seeing beyond appearances, who are able to detect the presence of God in smallness, who know how to welcome God’s visit with joy and rekindle hope in the heart of brothers and sisters.

2. Cycle of Catechesis – Jubilee 2025.

Jesus Christ our Hope. I. The Infancy of Jesus. 8. “Son, why have you done this to us?” (Lk 2:49). The finding of Jesus in the Temple

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this last catechesis dedicated to the childhood of Jesus, we will start from the episode in which, at twelve years of age, He stays in the Temple without telling His parents, who are anxiously looking for Him and find Him after three days. This account presents us with a very interesting dialogue between Mary and Jesus, which helps us to reflect on the *path of the mother of Jesus*, a journey that was certainly not easy. Indeed, Mary set out on a spiritual itinerary during which she advanced in her understanding of the mystery of her Son.

Let us look back at the various stages of this journey. At the beginning of her pregnancy, Mary visits Elizabeth and stays with her for three months, until the birth of the little John. Then, when she is now in her ninth month, due to the census she goes with Joseph to Bethlehem, where she gives birth to Jesus. After forty days they go to Jerusalem for the presentation of the child; and they return on a pilgrimage to the

Temple every year thereafter. But with Jesus still a baby they had taken refuge in Egypt for a long time to protect Him from Herod, and only after the king's death did they settle again in Nazareth. When Jesus, having become an adult, begins His ministry, Mary is present and a protagonist at the wedding at Cana; then she follows Him "at a distance", up to His last journey to Jerusalem, and until His passion and death. After the Resurrection, Mary remains in Jerusalem, as Mother of the disciples, sustaining their faith while awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout this journey, the Virgin is a *pilgrim of hope*, in the strong sense that she becomes the "daughter of her Son", the first of His disciples. Mary brought into the world Jesus, Hope of humanity; she nourished Him, made Him grow, followed Him, letting herself be the first to be shaped by the Word of God. As Benedict XVI said, "We see how completely at home Mary is with the Word of God ... we see how her thoughts are attuned to the thoughts of God, how her will is one with the will of God. Since Mary is completely imbued with the Word of God, she is able to become the Mother of the Word Incarnate" (Encyclical *Deus caritas est*, 41). This unique communion with the Word of God does not however save her the effort of a demanding "apprenticeship".

The experience of twelve-year-old Jesus going missing during the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem frightens Mary to the point that she also speaks for Joseph as they take their son back: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety" (*Lk* 2:48). Mary and Joseph felt the pain of parents with a missing child: they both thought that Jesus was in the caravan with their relatives, but after not seeing Him for an entire day, they began the search that would lead them to retrace their steps. Upon returning to the Temple, they discover that He who, in their eyes, until a short time before, was still a child to protect, suddenly seems grown up, capable now of getting involved in discussions on the Scriptures, of holding His own with the teachers of the Law.

Faced with His mother's rebuke, Jesus answers with disarming simplicity: "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (*Lk* 2:49). Mary and Joseph do not understand: the mystery of God made child exceeds their intelligence. The parents want to protect that precious son under the wings of their love; instead, Jesus wants to live His vocation as the Son of the Father who is at His service and lives immersed in His Word.

Luke's *infancy narratives* thus close with Mary's final words, which recall Joseph's paternity towards Jesus, and with Jesus' first words, which recognize that this paternity traces His origins from that of His heavenly Father, whose undisputed primacy He acknowledges.

Dear brothers and sisters, like Mary and Joseph, full of hope, let us also set out in the footsteps of the Lord, who does not allow Himself to be contained by our precepts, and allows Himself to be found not so much in a place, but in the response of love to the tender divine paternity, a response of love that is filial life.

Dates & Events to Remember

13. Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
17. Holy Thursday
18. Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
20. Easter Sunday

27. Divine Mercy Sunday
28. St Peter Chanel, [PP & Mtr] or St Louis Montfort [Priest]
29. St. Catharine of Siena, [Vir & Dr, M]

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

02. Fr. Yeruva Joji Reddy
03. Fr. Kurapati Jaya Prathap
10. Fr. Mekala Sleeve Raju
10. Fr. Pasala Sleeve Raju



17. Fr. Mettu Johannes
20. Fr. Yeruva Showreddy
27. Fr. Pasala Maria Raju
30. Fr. Thumma Solomon

Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

02. Fr. Kommareddy Lourdu Marreddy
07. Fr. Golamari Louis Reddy
07. Fr. Madanu Prathap
07. Fr. Mirapakayala
Melchizedek Kennedy
07. Fr. Thirumalareddy Showreddy
07. Fr. Swarna Bala Prabhakar
08. Fr. Sunil Kumar Reddy Pallela
09. Msgr. Yeruva Balashowreddy
11. Fr. Madanu Lourdu Vijay Kumar
11. Fr. Mallavarapu Sundar Rao
11. Fr. Chinnabathani John Paul
11. Fr. Madanu Amal Raj
11. Fr. Madanu Anthony
11. Fr. Gali Matyas Reddy
11. Fr. Pasala Jose Paul
11. Fr. Yeruva Marreddy
12. Fr. Mekala Sleeve Reddy
12. Fr. Pasala Innaiiah
12. Fr. Pasala Joseph (Sr.)
12. Fr. Yeruva Showreddy
12. Fr. Madanu Balashowry

12. Fr. Bandaru Baltharaj
13. Fr. Thirumalareddy Anthony
13. Fr. Christopher Joseph Michael
14. Fr. Kata Sleeve Raju
15. Fr. Bandanadam Prashanth
15. Fr. Madanu Anthony (Sr.)
15. Fr. Madanu John
15. Fr. Golamari Vinay Kumar
15. Fr. Yelugu Jude Raj
15. Fr. Yeruva Amal Kumar Francis
17. Fr. Chatarajupally
Balashowry
17. Fr. Chinnabathini Jojappa
17. Fr. Daniel Selvaraj
17. Fr. Gollapudi Praveen Kumar
17. Fr. Mayaluru Jeevan Kumar
17. Fr. Reddimasu Anand Rao
17. Fr. Richard John
17. Fr. Thumma Fatima Reddy
17. Fr. John Vijay Kumar
17. Fr. Romald Joseph
17. Fr. Polisetty Balaswamy

19. Cardinal Poola Anthony (Episcopal Ordination)

19. Fr. A. E. Raju Alex
20. Fr. Samala Marianna Michael
20. Fr. Thathireddy Pranay
21. Fr. Valentine J. D'mello
23. Fr. Jerome Emmanuel Lewis
23. Fr. Yeruva Bala Sudhir
25. Fr. Thathireddy Julian
26. Fr. Kurapati Jaya Prathap
27. Fr. Gali Samson
27. Fr. Bandanadam Anand
29. Fr. Dodda Sundar
30. Fr. Dasari Gova Showraiah
30. Fr. Madanu Ignatius Maria Shekar
30. Fr. Madanu Isaac
30. Fr. Pasala Maria Raju
30. Fr. Thumma Udaya Bhasker
30. Fr. Udagandla Julian
30. Fr. Vemparla Vijaya Shekar
30. Fr. Vincent Arokiadas

Necrology



02. Fr. Gade Solomon
04. Fr. Madanu Pradeep Kumar
05. Fr. Ch. Balashowry
(Swamy Balananda)

05. Fr. Ignatius Gnanapragasam
08. Fr. Leonard Vaz
10. Fr. Rosario Cammilus Fonseca
10. Fr. Thumma Rayappa

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: shepherds�all1953@gmail.com

Website: www.archdioceseofhyderabad.org

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



**INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF RENOVATED
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHAPEL AT BHOIGUDA PARISH ON 01ST MARCH, 2025.**



ASH WEDNESDAY MASS AT ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SECUNDERABAD ON 05TH MARCH, 2025.



BLESSING OF THE NEWLY RENOVATED HASSS TRAINING CENTRE ON 10TH MARCH, 2025

**BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AND ARCHDIOCESAN LEVEL JUBILEE 2025
AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY ON 18TH MARCH, 2025**



**HEARTY
CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
BISHOP ELECT!**

**HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS
HAS APPOINTED
RT. REV. DR. PRAKASH SAGINALA
THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KADAPA**



**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION ON
09TH APRIL 2025**