



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: XLIX NO.01

JANUARY 2022

MARY MOTHER OF GOD
- PRAY FOR US

I WISH ALL THE PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS,
THE FAITHFUL AND ALL BROTHERS & SISTERS.
A VERY HAPPY, GRACE - FILLED & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR - 2022





CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL ON 05TH DECEMBER, '21



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONDUCTED BY ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH COMMISSION ON 04TH DECEMBER, '21



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JANUARY

2022



Archbishop's Message



As the New year dawns, Holy Mother Church expresses her maternal solicitude all her faithful children and for all humanity in our world by seeking and invoking the fullness of God's covenantal blessings on them through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary by liturgically celebrating the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Holy Mother of God. Therefore, let us, one and all, devoutly participate in this solemn liturgical celebration with earnest faith, hope and charity for God and obtain God's gift of covenantal peace and holiness for ourselves and for all our brothers and sisters living amidst the uncertainties that prevail in our present global world situation.

Let us work for God's peace for our families and for all the people of the communities in whose life we share by pursuing God's commandments and works of mercy by diligently fulfilling the daily duties of our proper state of life and personally supporting the efforts of all human persons who do so in our own neighborhood. Let us pray to our heavenly Father in the daily Mass for all people who work all over the world for the preservation, wellbeing and peace of every human being living around them. Let us seek the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary by praying the holy Rosary to her everyday to obtain the grace of the Holy Spirit to become true and zealous workers of Christ's peace for our

world during this new year. Human history teaches us time and again that true and abiding peace in our world is the outcome only of true religious work on the part of all those who work with our Creator to obtain His daily divine providence for the abiding well-being of all His creatures: “Blessed are the peace makers, they shall be called the children of God.”

I wish the Clergy, Religious and Laity a very happy and a grace-filled New Year.

POPE’S INTENTION: JANUARY 2022

For True Human Fraternity: *We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.*



RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
01.09.2021	DAMMAIGUDA	800
02.10.2021	TRIMULGHERRY	600
02.10.2021	SECUNDERABAD	501
09.10.2021	JAHANUMA	29
14.10.2021	LALLAGUDA	300
18.10.2021	METTUGUDA	1000
22.10.2021	VENKATAPURAM	130

Solemnities and Feasts

1. MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (January 1st)



In the early centuries of the Church, once Christmas began to be celebrated as its own feast on December 25 (having originally been celebrated with the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6), the Octave (eighth day) of Christmas, January 1, took on a special meaning. In the East, and throughout much of the West, it became common to celebrate a feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on this day. This feast was never established in the universal calendar of the Church, however, and a separate east, celebrating the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ (which would have taken place a week after His birth), eventually took hold of January 1.

With the revision of the liturgical calendar at the time of the introduction of the *Novus Ordo*, the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating January 1 to the Mother of God was revived—this time, as a universal feast.

In fact, the Church regards the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, as so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's *fiat*: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

One of the earliest titles given by Christians to the Blessed Virgin was Theotokos—"God-bearer." We celebrate her as the Mother of God, because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her.

As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her. *O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!*

Source: learnreligions.com

2. THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (January 2nd)

The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.



Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Saviour.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

Source: catholicculture.org

3. THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (JANUARY 9TH)

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is observed annually. It falls on the Sunday after January 6, so this year the date is January 9. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. It is also known as “Theophany”. The event is a distinct feast day observed in the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican, or Episcopalian Church, as well as the Eastern Orthodox Church. Believers are

invited to not only think about the baptism of the Lord Jesus but also of their own baptism.

Baptism is not uniquely Christian — Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Eastern religions all practiced forms of baptism in antiquity. It is a central religious rite in Hinduism, various Indigenous American nations, and Judaism. Different types of washings and purification by water are practiced in almost every other religion in the world, including Islam, Buddhism, and Shintoism. It is a central religious rite in Hinduism, various indigenous American nations, and Judaism.



The Baptism of the Lord memorializes the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River by John the Baptist at the start of His ministry. Although it was originally one of three Gospel events marked by the Epiphany, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was declared as a separate entity from the other two events — the coming of the Magi, and the wedding at Cana. This was done in 1955 by the then Pope, Pius XII.

This feast closes out the Christmas cycle in the Roman Catholic calendar. The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is considered one of the most important Christian holidays, and it is well-known and looked forward to. It is seen as God revealing Himself to man as people identify with Jesus. It reminds the believer that just as Jesus moved from the baptism waters into ministry, they need to move as His disciples in their lives. On the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, they recommit themselves to their Christian identity. Sunday School and church lessons are prepared on the topic to help congregants with this.

Source: nationaltoday.com

4. THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL (January 25th)

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them

over for imprisonment” (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was “entered,” possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Savior.



One sentence determined his theology: “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfillment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to “present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me” (Colossians 1:28b-29). “For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction” (1 Thessalonians 1:5a).

Paul’s life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ’s victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

So Paul’s great message to the world was: You are saved entirely by God, not by anything you can do. Saving faith is the gift of total, free, personal and loving commitment to Christ, a commitment that then bears fruit in more “works” than the Law could ever contemplate.

Source: franciscanmedia.org

ARCHDIOCESAN EDUCATIONAL FUND :

Fixed Deposit as on 22 nd December, 2021 (with interest 2021-2022)	:	Rs. 6,59,03,210/-
Amount in Savings Account	:	Rs. 17,86,000/-
Set apart interest amount being distributed	:	Rs. 20,30,000/-

Archbishop's Engagements

01. Sat	New Year 2022	
02. Sun	(Morning)	: Mass: Closing of the IX Provincial Chapter of the Sisters of St. Ann of Providence, Bolarum
03. Mon	09:30 a.m.	: Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Holy Name of Jesus Church, Mungode Parish, Nalgonda
04. Tue	10:30 a.m.	: Festive Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Kissannagar
05. Wed	(Morning)	: In Office
06. Thu	11:00 a.m.	: Mass: Inspiration Day Missionaries of Mary Mediatrix at Mary Mediatrix Provincial House, L.B. Nagar
07. Fri	(Morning)	: In Office
08. Sat	09:30 a.m.	: Investiture Ceremony at Fr. Roch Memorial High School, Khairatabad
09. Sun	09:30 a.m.	: Annual Feast, 1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St John's Church, R.C. Puram
10. Mon	10:30 a.m.	: Priestly Ordination of Dn. Kiran Sagar Anthony Reddy SVD at Muthangi
11. Tue	(Morning)	: In Office
12. Wed		: Occupied
13. Thu	10:30 a.m.	: 125 Years Jubilee Celebrations of Holy Family Church, Poluru Parish, Kurnool
14. Fri		: Occupied
15. Sat	10:30 a.m.	: 1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St. Sebastian's Church, Sainikpuri
16. Sun	10:30 a.m.	: Annual Feast, 1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at Infant Jesus Shrine, Gajwel
	05:30 p.m.	: 1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St. Francis Xavier Church, Alwal
17. Mon	10:00 a.m.	: Festive Mass, 1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St Agnes Church, Shapurnagar

18. Tue	(Morning)	:	In Office
19. Wed	05:30 p.m.	:	Founders Day & Diaconate Ordinations of brothers belonging to Holy Spirit Fathers Congregation at Pentecost Chapel, Provincial House, Ramanthapur
20. Thu	(Morning)	:	In Office
21. Fri	(Morning)	:	Bharathamithram
	05:30 p.m.	:	Confirmations at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jagadgirigutta
22. Sat	10:30 a.m.	:	Festive Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Gnanapuram (Basuregadi Substation)
	04:30 p.m.	:	1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St Anthony's Shrine, Mudfort
23. Sun	10:30 a.m.	:	1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St Joseph's Church, Bolarum
24. Mon		:	Occupied
25. Tue	10:00 a.m.	:	Festive Mass, 1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St Paul the Hermit Church, Nandrakal
26. Wed	08:30 a.m.	:	Visit to St Ignatius High School, Gagillapuram
27. Thu	(Morning)	:	In Office
28. Fri		:	In Office
29. Sat	09:00 a.m.	:	Investiture Ceremony at Sacred Heart high School, South Lallaguda
	05:30 p.m.	:	Silver Jubilee of St Joseph's Junior College, Trimulgherry
30. Sun	08:00 a.m.	:	1 st Holy Communions & Confirmations at St Anthony's Shrine, Mettuguda
31. Mon		:	Occupied

30thDecember, 2021
Archbishop's House

+ Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

1. All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions are requested to start preparing Annual Returns for the year 2021, from January to December, which are to be sent to Rome in the First Quarter of 2022. Forms of Annual Returns will be sent to you by post. If you have not received the forms by 31st December 2021, please contact Chancellor & Procurator or Secretary. Please send the filled in forms by 15th January 2022 to the Chancellor & Procurator or Secretary, Abp's house, Sec'bad.
2. We had meeting with Vicar General, Chancellor & Procurator, Deans, Directors of HASSS, Youth and Family Commission and Secretary of HAES on 6th December. In each Deanery we are planning a priest in charge for social, educational and pastoral ministries. Please cooperate with Deans and Priest In-charges for smooth administration.
3. Please keep in mind a great concern, **Safer Spaces**, various abuses the Church is very much concerned about. Please go through the various documents especially on child abuse and regulations for work places. Please remember '0' tolerance in this regard. Be safe and allow others to be safe in your care. This is a great concern in our institutions too. Be watchful always that the children who come to our institutions are protected and safe. We have to be responsible to the trust the parents have in us. Please instruct the teachers in this regard.
4. We have various commissions and committees in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. I would like to modify the commissions and committees as various national commissions are asking us to appoint full time co coordinators. I will form new commissions and committees and publish in the February issue of Shepherd's call.
5. The Parish Priests/Religious/ Heads of the Institutions are requested to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18th to 25th January, 2022 and the Ecumenical Sunday on 23rd January, 2022. Kindly offer prayers for the unity of Christians as desired and prayed by the Lord Jesus Christ himself (cf. Jn.1:21).
6. I appeal to all the Parish Priests and Principal celebrants in Parish Churches to wear an ALB on all Sundays and Solemnities from 1st of January 2022, The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God.
7. Please collect your copies of ORDO from Archbishop's House.

8. We must encourage local benefactors for our Seminarians and young priests to remind the faithful of their responsibility as Catholics to support Seminarians. We are planning "**Sponsor a Seminarian/Young Priest**" programme. Details will be sent to the parishes. Please encourage the people to sponsor a seminarian.
9. All the Deans are here-by requested to conduct the Recollection at Deanery level for the month of January, 2022. All the Clergy are requested to attend the "Deanery Level Recollection" and if anyone is unable to attend the recollection, please inform the respective Deans. All the Deans are here-by requested to note down the minutes of the meetings with the list of the participants and send a copy of the same to Archbishop's House, Secunderabad.
10. Please submit second Sunday and special collections at the Archbishop's House.
11. **TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS:**

Rev. Fr. Pasala Innaiah : Appointed as the Treasurer of Hyderabad Archdiocese Educational Society (HAES), which comes into immediate effect in addition to his present assignment as Head-master of Sacred Heart High School, South Lallaguda, Secunderabad.

Archdiocesan News

1. JOURNEYING WITH FAMILIES – A TRAINING CUM CONSULTATION PROGRAM FOR PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE

The Year "**Amoris Laetitia Family**" is an initiative of Pope Francis, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within Parishes, Deaneries, Dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations. The Year "*Amoris Laetitia Family*" began on the Feast Day of St Joseph, 19th March 2021. In line with this initiative, the Family Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad is organizing **Journeying with Families** - a one-day training cum consultation for all priests and religious of the Archdiocese on **Friday 14th January 2022 at Jeevan Jyothi, Begumpet from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**. The training will help priests and religious to be involved with the families in your deanery and parishes and contribute to the strengthening of family bonds. **Please send at least two members from your congregation for the same.**

Lunch, tea and resource material will be provided.

Last date for registration is 12th January 2022. Registration forms have been e-mailed to all Deans and Major Superiors.

Upcoming Programs:

- **World Marriage Day celebrations – 19th February 2022**
- **Training Program for Families/Couples – May 8th 2022**
- **Grandparents Day – 24th July 2022**

- Fr. David Francis, Director, Family Apostolate

2. REPORT ON CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL ON 5TH DECEMBER 2021

"Go to Joseph, and do whatever He tells you." Gen. 41: 55

We the Parish community of St. Joseph's Cathedral took it as a privilege to celebrate closing of the year of St. Joseph in our archdiocese at our Cathedral. We are very grateful to our beloved Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Poola Anthony for his grateful gesture towards our Parish.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has proclaimed, 8th December 2020, to 8th December 2021, as the year of St. Joseph, who is the patron Saint of our Archdiocese and our Parish too, and it was really providential that this year is also a Year we celebrate 200 years establishment of our St. Joseph's Cathedral. We celebrated the Closing of the Year of St. Joseph in the archdiocese of Hyderabad on 5th December 2021.

On this remarkable occasion, we gathered at All Saints High School and we began with a Prayer to St. Joseph by Archbishop imploring God's blessing through the intercession of St. Joseph on the Clergy of archdiocese and on the Religious and the Laity of the archdiocese followed by garlanding the Statue of St. Joseph. We began procession with Statue of St. Joseph reciting Rosary of St. Joseph. Procession was very grand with lighted candles. It was feast to the eyes to see more than 50 priests dressed up in their priestly attire at the entrance of the church proceeding towards the church from All Saints High School. Archbishop and all the priests proceeded towards the altar and lighted a lamp as a sign of dispelling darkness. The Pontifical High Mass was really a spirit and grace filled celebration. Liturgy was very meaningful and apt for the celebration. Good number of Laity participated in the celebration. Parish Priest expressed his words of gratitude to all the gathering present there. The Celebration came to an end with a delicious dinner to all the priests and religious and snacks to all the faithful.

-Fr. A. Pranith, Asst. Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry

3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY ON 28TH NOVEMBER, '21

The First Holy Communion and Confirmation is the process of initiation of the child, into the family of Christ, and is preceded by the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance. These three Sacraments are all part of the initiation of the child in the Church. These Sacraments help the child to understand the responsibilities of being a Christian, and lead a life of faith.

St Joseph's Cathedral had its First Holy Communion and Confirmation for the children of the parish on 28th November 2021. There were 53 children: 33 girls, and 20 boys, including 5 adults who were trained for 2 months in the spiritual classes by the teachers preparing them for the three Sacraments.



His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad, arrived in the evening and was received by Rev. Msgr. Yeruva Balashowy, Parish Priest, Assts. Parish Priests' Fr. Joji Thambi, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Pranith, and other Priests.

His Grace then proceeded to the Rosary Convent, and was greeted by the first Holy Communicants in their beautiful white dresses, which was followed by group photo of His Grace with the first Holy communicants, Priests, God Parents, and teachers.

The first Holy communicants, led the procession to the Church. The first week advent Candle was lit by the Archbishop followed by the Holy Mass. The Archbishop preached a beautiful and a meaningful Homily to the Congregation, especially to the first Holy Communicants. The Solemn, meaningful, rites and rituals of the First Holy Communion service started and His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Poola Anthony administered the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist to the first Holy communicants.

After the Holy Mass, the 60th birthday of His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Poola Anthony was celebrated, by His Grace cutting the cake with the first Holy Communicants.

-Fr. A. Pranith, Asst. Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry

4. REPORT ON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONDUCTED BY ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH COMMISSION ON 04TH DECEMBER, '21

My idea of Christmas whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple, loving others. Christmas is a season of joy and love and most importantly celebrating the Birth of Christ. Youth Commission, Archdiocese of Hyderabad came up with an extraordinary event this year to embrace that love and birth of Christ by conducting a Christmas Celebration on 4th December at St Ann's School Grounds, Secunderabad.

Unlike the other years, this year it was a celebration alone. In spite of a short notice good number of participants took part to make it more precious. The guest of honour for the evening were children from orphanages from the city along with their in-charge sisters and it was amazing to see most of the youth coming forward to sing praises to the Lord.

The event began with a prayer service headed by Sr Jasmine the Lady Animator of Youth Commission to invoke God's blessings on us. As we began each parish came up to perform with their angelic voices including traditional carols to the most recent carols released. Every group had a unique and beautiful style of singing which added a special spark to the event. A stunning performance was given by the Children from Auxilium Navajeevana home that left every person there to tap their feet. The youth from St Joseph's college and Salesian youth took part to make the event a grand one.

After the performances, a marvellous performance was given by the Archdiocese of Hyderabad Gospel Band, with a compilation of carols from different languages. The audience joined with them in singing and dancing and that filled the whole place with the true spirit of Christmas.

The celebration was also live streamed by Liturgy TV and Sangamam Plus TV to make sure it reached a lot of people who couldn't make it to the program due to various reasons. Simultaneously, cake cutting and distribution of gifts, which was a wholehearted generous contribution of the youth, to the children was done to bring a smile on their faces. The phenomenal and lovely evening ended with a fellowship meal for everyone.

The celebration was a good success headed by Rev. Fr. Richard the Youth Director of Hyderabad along with the youth office members and everyone who participated as it ignited the spirit of love and joy in everyone.

5. REPORT ON YOUTH ANIMATION PROGRAMME CONDUCTED BY ARCHDIOCESAN YOUTH COMMISSION ON 12TH DECEMBER, '21

Gaudete Sunday was indeed a joyful Sunday as it gave the youth office a wonderful opportunity to interact with the youth. The Youth Commission visited Holy Trinity Church, Begumpet on 12th December 2021 for a Youth Animation program for the parish youth. Every young person from the parish came forward to be part of this program.



It started with the Eucharistic celebration offered up for all the youth. All of us gathered for a brief talk given on the topic “Role and importance of youth in the Catholic Church.” All the youth agreed with the common point that every young person is valued and is chosen. Then we had a question game in which some

funny real life incidents were asked to be shared and everyone had funny yet beautiful incidents to share and it brightened our day.

Followed by the talk, very informative interactive session took place. Each and every person had some important insight about the importance of youth in Catholic Church and the world and that was pretty good. A few concerns and reality was also shared about youth ministry such as too much competitiveness and lack of acceptance which is being ignored at certain levels. We then had another fun game called “Guess the song” in which a group of pictures were displayed and the youth had to identify the hymn or bible verses from those pictures. The game went on with a lot of enthusiasm and encouragement given by the Parish priest Rev. Fr. Alex. Some final regards about the youth being active and to take the mission of Christ forward was given by Rev. Fr. Alex and Rev. Fr. Suresh and the program winded up with a beautiful group picture.



**6. FEAST OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CELEBRATED AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES' CHURCH, BANDLINES
ON 08TH DECEMBER**



National News

1. “LITURGICAL BOOKS: TRANSLATION-ADAPTATION PUBLICATION” RELEASED PANJIM, GOA 17TH DECEMBER, ‘21 (CCBI)

Archbishop Filipe Neri urges to make liturgical celebrations more meaningful: Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) and the Metropolitan Archbishop of Goa and Daman, urged the faithful to make liturgical celebrations more meaningful, active and participatory. The Archbishop was speaking at the launching of the book “Liturgical Books: Translation-Adaptation-Publication” on Friday, 17 December, 2021, at Archbishop’s House, Panjim.



“The liturgical celebration becomes more experiential when it is celebrated in the vernacular languages. Language is the means by which we express thoughts and also religious experiences. The translation of the liturgical books and its adaptations in vernacular languages should follow the procedural norms and it should help the faithful to participate in the liturgical celebrations more meaningfully,” said Archbishop Ferrão.

The CCBI published the above-mentioned book, following the promulgation of Pope Francis’ *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium*, with which the norms of §§ 2 and 3 of can. 838 of the Code of Canon Law were changed. The recent Decree, published on 22 October, 2021 by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, outlines the practical meaning of the 2017 reforms to the canon law on liturgical adaptations.

The book contains: (1) The Decree giving effect to the dispositions of canon 838 of the C.I.C.; (2) The Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium* (3) Canon 838 in the light of Conciliar and Post-Conciliar sources; and (4) A Key to the Reading of the *Motu Proprio Magnum Principium*.

For copies kindly contact the CCBI General Secretariat or call Mobile no. +91-9886730224.

-Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General, CCBI

2. THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

“We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (Mt 2:2)

Jointly prepared and published by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity & the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

BIBLICAL TEXT FOR 2022 (Matthew 2:1-12)

INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME FOR THE YEAR 2022

“We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him” (Mt 2:2)

According to the Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12), the appearance of the star in the sky of Judea represents a long-awaited sign of hope, that leads the Magi, and indeed all peoples of the earth, to the place where the true king and Saviour is revealed. This star is a gift, an indication of God’s loving presence for all humanity. To the Magi it was a sign that a king was born. With its rays, it leads humanity towards a greater light, Jesus, the new light who enlightens every person and who leads us into the glory of the Father and the splendour of his radiance. Jesus is the light who has come into our darkness when, by the Holy Spirit, he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became human. Jesus is the light who went even further into the darkness of the world when for our sake and for our salvation, he emptied himself and became obedient unto death. He did this to light our way to the Father, so that we might come to know the Father and know the love he has for us, who gave his only Son for us, so that believing in him we might not perish but have eternal life.

The Magi saw the star and followed it. Traditionally commentators have seen in the figures of the Magi a symbol of the diversity of peoples known at that time, and a sign of the universality of the divine call which appears in the light of the star shining from the east. They also see in the Magi’s eager search for the new-born king, all humanity’s hunger for truth, for goodness and for beauty. Humanity has been longing for God since the beginning of creation in order to give him homage. The star appeared as the divine child was born in the fullness of time. It heralded God’s long-awaited act of salvation which begins in the mystery of the incarnation.

The Magi reveal to us the unity of all nations desired by God. They travel from far-off countries, and represent diverse cultures, yet they are driven by the same hunger to see and know the new-born king, and are gathered into the little

house in Bethlehem in the simple act of giving homage and offering gifts. Christians are called to be a sign to the world of God bringing about this unity that he desires. Drawn from different cultures, races and languages, Christians share in a common search for Christ and a common desire to worship him. The mission of the Christian people, therefore, is to be a sign like the star, to guide humanity in its hunger for God, to lead all to Christ, and to be the means by which God is bringing about the unity of all peoples.

Part of the Magi's act of homage is to open their treasures, to offer their gifts, which from Christian antiquity, have been understood as signs of different aspects of Christ's identity: gold for his royalty; incense for his divinity; and myrrh foreshadowing his death. The diverse gifts, therefore, provide us with an image of the particular insights that different Christian traditions have into the person and work of Jesus. When Christians gather together and open their treasures and their hearts in homage to Christ, all are enriched as the gifts of these insights are shared.

The star rose in the east (Mt 2:2). It is from the east that the sun rises, and from what is called the Middle East that salvation appeared by the mercy of our God who blessed us with the dawn from on high (Lk 1:78). But the history of the Middle East was, and still is, characterized by conflict and strife, tainted with blood and darkened by injustice and oppression. Most recently, since the Palestinian Nakba (the exodus of Palestine's Arab population during the 1948 war) the region has seen a series of bloody wars and revolutions and the rise of religious extremism. The story of the Magi also contains many dark elements, most particularly Herod's despotic orders to massacre all the children around Bethlehem who were less than two years old (Mt 2:16-18). The cruelty of these narratives resonates with the long history and difficult present of the Middle East.

It was in the Middle East that the Word of God took root and bore fruit: thirty and sixty and one hundredfold. And from this east that the apostles set out to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). The Middle East gave thousands of Christian witnesses and thousands of Christian martyrs. And yet now, the very existence of the small Christian community is threatened as many are driven to seek a more secure and serene life elsewhere. Like the light which is the child Jesus, the light of Middle Eastern Christianity is increasingly threatened in these difficult times.

Jerusalem is a powerful symbol for Christians because it is the city of peace where all humanity was saved and redeemed. But today peace is missing from the city. Various parties stake their claim to it and disregard others. Even prayer in Jerusalem has become subject to political and military measures. Jerusalem was the city of kings, indeed the city that Jesus will enter triumphantly, acclaimed as king (Lk 19:28-44). Naturally the Magi expected to find the new born king revealed by the star in this royal city. However, the narrative tells us that, rather than being blessed by the birth of the Saviour king, the whole of Jerusalem was in tumult, much as it is today.

Today, more than ever, the Middle East needs a heavenly light to accompany its people. The star of Bethlehem is a sign that God walks with his people, feels their pain, hears their cries, and shows them compassion. It reassures us that though circumstances change and terrible disasters may happen, God's faithfulness is unfailing. The Lord neither slumbers nor sleeps. He walks beside his people and brings them back when they are lost or in danger. The journey of faith is this walking with God who always watches over his people and who guides us in the complex paths of history and life.

For this Week of Prayer, the Christians of the Middle East chose the theme of the star that rose in the east for a number of reasons. While many Western Christians celebrate Christmas, the more ancient feast, and still the principal feast of many Eastern Christians, is the epiphany when God's salvation is revealed to the nations in Bethlehem and at the Jordan. This focus on the theophany (the manifestation) is, in a sense, a treasure which Christians of the Middle East can offer to their brothers and sisters around the world.

The star leads the Magi through the tumult of Jerusalem where Herod plots the murder of innocent life. Still today, and in various parts of the world, innocents suffer violence and the threat of violence, and young families flee tyrants such as Herod and Augustus. In this context people look for a sign that God is with them. They seek the new-born king, the king of gentleness, peace and love. But where is the star that leads the way to Him? It is the mission of the Church to be the star that lights the way to Christ who is the light of the world. By being such a star, the Church becomes a sign of hope in a world of troubles and a sign of God's presence with his people, accompanying them through the difficulties of life. By word and through action Christians are called to light the way so that Christ might be revealed, once

again, to the nations. But the divisions between us dim the light of Christian witness and obscure the way, preventing others from finding their way to Christ. Conversely, Christians united in their worship of Christ, and opening their treasures in an exchange of gifts, become a sign of the unity that God desires for all of his creation.

The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity conscious that the world shares many of the travails and difficulties that they experience, and yearns for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who can overcome darkness. The COVID-19 global pandemic, the ensuing economic crisis, and the failure of political, economic and social structures to protect the weakest and most vulnerable, have underlined the global need for a light to shine in the darkness. The star that shone in the east, the Middle East, two thousand years ago still calls us to the manger, to where Christ is born. It draws us to where the Spirit of God is alive and active, to the reality of our baptism, and to the transformation of our hearts.

After encountering the Saviour and worshipping him together, the Magi return to their countries by a different way, having been warned in a dream. Similarly, the communion we share in our prayer together must inspire us to return to our lives, our churches and our world by new ways. Travelling by new ways is an invitation to repentance and renewal in our personal lives, in our churches and in our societies. Following Christ is our new path, and in a volatile and changing world Christians must remain as fixed and determined as the constellations and the shining planets. But what does this mean in practice? Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to defending human dignity, especially in the poorest, the weakest and those marginalized. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society. This is a call for churches to work together so that young people can build a future that accords to God's heart, a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice, and love. The new way between the churches is the way of visible unity that we sacrificially seek with courage and audacity so that, day after day, "God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 15:28).

Order of Worship

L - Leader; R - Reader; C- Congregation

Opening

The clergy and other participants enter in procession while hymn is sung.

I. Call to Worship

L. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C. Amen.

L. Brothers and sisters, we are united today with fellow believers in the four corners of the world as we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church. We do this with worship resources prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. Our texts are inspired by the visit of the Magi to the new-born King, as described in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: "We observed his star in the East, and have come to pay him homage." Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too. Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing that God can dispel our darkness with his light. As we pray today for the unity of the Church, may we and our communities also be lights that guide others to Jesus the Saviour.

L. Glory be to you Father Almighty, for you have revealed yourself through your creation and invited all people to stand in your presence. We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives and have come to worship him just as the Magi did. We offer him ourselves today and we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

C. **Unite us with one another as we come from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, old and young, men and women to bow down before you and offer you homage, our heavenly king. Amen.**

Hymn (*O Worship the King or any other suitable Hymn*)

II. Prayer of Praise and Confession

L. We glorify you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth, for you have set the lights in the vault of the sky. You separated light from darkness and arranged signs to mark sacred times, and days and years. You studded the firmament with stars. How majestic are your works, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands!

C. We glorify you, O Lord.

L. We praise you for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion but sent your Son to brighten our darkness and be our light and our salvation. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the darkness.

C. We praise you, O Lord.

L. We worship you, O Lord, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit. You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

C. We worship you, O Lord.

L. We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to reflect this light around us, in our various churches and diverse cultures and to witness to Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

C. We thank you, O Lord.

L. May all the peoples bow before you and worship you. We have often preferred darkness, but you have given us light. Therefore, we come to you confessing our sins and saying:

C. We confess before you that we have turned away from your ways and disobeyed your ordinances. We have disfigured your good creation and squandered its resources through our consumerist practices. We have polluted your rivers and seas and poisoned your air and soil and contributed to the extinction of many species.

(Silence)

C. We have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have allowed our own needs and desires to prevail over our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted the seeds of distrust towards the other.

(Silence)

C. We have separated people based on ethnicity, religion and gender and we have claimed Jesus on our side in any war we waged. Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O Lord, as we come before you in repentance.

(Silence)

L. Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in the fullness of time to redeem all the people, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us

our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world.

(Silence)

L: Almighty God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives our sins.

C: Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices.

Chant or a suitable Hymn

Holy God!

Holy Mighty!

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

Psalm 8 (*responsively*)

R. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

C. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

R: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

C. what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

R. Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.

C. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

R. All sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

C. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Hymn

III. Proclamation of the Word of God

First Reading : Isaiah 9:2-7

Hymn

Second Reading : Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

Gospel Reading : Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon

(Moment of silence or hymn)

Nicene Creed *(according to the tradition of the Eastern Churches)*

IV. Sharing Christ's Light

A piece of dark blue cloth is hung to evoke the night sky, on which a large star is placed. Paper stars are made available for the worshippers, who are invited to come forward and add their stars to the cloth.

L. A star led the Magi to Christ. Today this star points to the presence of Christ, who has been revealed to us and whose light shines on us. As the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem, we gather under this star today, adding our own stars to the sky, uniting our own gifts and prayers for the visible unity of Church. As we journey towards that goal, may our lives together give a luminous witness that leads others to know Christ.

V. Prayers of Intercession

L. With faith and confidence, we come in prayer, before God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

R. The Magi came from the East to pay homage and offer special gifts from their cultures and countries. We pray today for all Christian communities around the world in all of their diversity of worship and tradition: Lord, we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of Christians is threatened by violence and oppression.

C: O, Lord hear our prayer *(spoken or sung)*

R. The early years of the Lord's life were marked by violence and massacres at the orders of the despot Herod. We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where its results are tangible: Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing in order to defend the oppressed and include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your Kingdom among us.

C. O, Lord, hear our prayer

R. After the visit of the Magi, the holy family experienced migration through the wilderness and became refugees in the land of Egypt. We pray for all the refugees and uprooted people in this world: Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

C. O, Lord, hear our prayer

R. The birth of Jesus was good news for all, gathering people from different nations and religions in worship of the holy child. We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey.

C. O, Lord, hear our prayer

R: The Magi returned to their home by a different way. We pray for our churches in this changing world: Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe.

C. O, Lord, hear our prayer

R. When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy. Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on him so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and who has taught us to pray, saying:

C. Our Father in heaven...

Hymn

VI. Sending and Blessing

L. Go now and live as children of light.

C. For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

L. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

C. Let us wake from sleep and Christ will shine upon us.

L. Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Amen. Thanks be to God.

Parting Hymn

ECUMENISM SUNDAY

January 23, 2022 (3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME)

Neh : 8:2-4a, 5,6, 8-10; Ps : 19:8,9,10, 15; 1 Cor : 12:12-30; Lk : 1: 1-4,14-21

INTRODUCTION:

Today is the third Sunday in the Ordinary Time of our liturgical calendar. For us in India it is also the “Ecumenism Sunday”, a day dedicated for special prayers for the unity of all Christians. In fact, from the 18th of this month we have been joining the Christians all over the world praying for Unity among us. We will conclude the Week of Prayer for the Christian Unity tomorrow, the feast of St.Paul’s Conversion which calls for the conversion of our hearts for unity. Selfishness and pride coupled with various historical factors have caused division amongst us. The Church continues to suffer from it and requests us, her children, gathered around this altar to pray earnestly to the Heavenly Father to bring all of us back to His Son’s one and only fold.

First Reading: Neh. 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

During the Babylonian captivity, the People of Israel had lost their land and unity as they were scattered all over. They also lost their temple, the symbol of unity, and also had lost the Book of the Law, their great treasure from God through Moses that had kept them united as the chosen people. In this reading we hear the joy of the entire people of God on finding the long-lost Book. The Christians divided among themselves for various reasons have really lost the joy in the Lord as the Israelites. The newly found Book returned their joy in the Lord. We will be able to live the joy of the Lord only when we are united in Christ and not when we are scattered.

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 12: 12-30

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” Jesus told Paul meaning that the Christians he was persecuting were His Body. It is this body that is wounded by our divisions and bleeding. All Churches and ecclesial communities together complete the ‘One Church of Christ’. This realization is the need of the hour as Christians strive to unite as the one Body of Christ.

Gospel Lk : 1:1-4; 4:14-21

The Spirit of the Lord anointed Jesus to proclaim the Good News. All Christians share this mission through their baptism. Disunity among Christians is a stumbling

block to carry out this important mission. The poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed all await the Good News of Christ that liberates them. The urge to spread the message of Christ prompted Luke to write the Gospel. There is urgency – we need to unite to proclaim the Gospel of liberation

POINTS FOR HOMILY

Introduction to each reading given above could be developed to become an integral part of the homily. A few more points are given here:

The Holy Spirit is the uniting force while it is Satan who brings division: divisions in the family, in the parish and in the church. The nascent church that spread to different parts of the world through the efforts of the apostles absorbed different cultures and traditions by Christianising them. These different traditions contributed to the beauty of the One Body of Christ. Unfortunately, these very elements have caused divisions in the same Body of Christ which persist even to this day. Division is a scandal. Each one of us should take care that differences in language, culture, tradition, status, region, nationality etc., should not divert us from the message of Christ which binds us together as His One Body.

Vatican II states that the “Church of Christ subsists in the Roman Catholic Church ... many elements of sanctification and of truth are found outside of its visible structure. These elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity” (LG 8). These gifts present in the other churches are God’s gifts to the entire Church. The other churches and ecclesial communities have gifts to offer us and enrich us. We need to dialogue and come together as one flock of Christ to reap the benefits of all these gifts.

“United we stand, divided we fall”. The inherent weakness of the Church in the Middle East is on account of the first great division of the Church into East and West in 1054 AD. Various attempts for unity failed and has rendered the Church weak. As a result, Constantinople (the centre of the Eastern Church) fell and Christianity was almost wiped out from the very city built for Christendom. Once considered as one of the great centres of Christianity, it now has only a negligible presence. Today the entire region has become an easy target of anti-Christian terrorism.

The people in Jesus’ home town Nazareth wanted to kill Jesus for his message. Even today numerous are the martyrs who have been shedding their blood for their faith in Christ. They belong to different churches and ecclesial communities. Pope Francis reminds us that those terrorists who kill Christians do not ask to which church they belong. Their belonging to Christ alone is there as on for their death,

most of the time very violent and gruesome. Ecumenism of Martyrdom brings about full communion among the Christians.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, gathered around this altar as God's one family let us place all our petitions before our heavenly Father and pray especially for the gift of unity in the church.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our Holy Father Pope Francis who is reaching out to people proclaiming the "good news to the poor, freedom to the captives, sight to the blind and liberty to the oppressed". May his ministry inspire every Christian to unite as one body to proclaim this message of Christ to the nations.

Let us pray to the Lord:

We pray for our bishop N ..., all the bishops of our country and all those consecrated and dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. May they strive for the cause of unity among Christians.

Let us pray to the Lord:

We pray for the rulers and leaders of our nation. May they strive to effectively protect the unity of the nation freeing themselves from the narrow mindedness and intolerance in the name of caste, community and creed.

Let us pray to the Lord:

We pray for all the persecuted Christians all over the world, and especially in the Middle East. May God strengthen them in their faith and comfort them in their sufferings. May the persecutors be touched by God and the persecution come to an end soon ushering in a new era of peace and brother hood.

Let us pray to the Lord:

We pray for all those who are serving the cause of unity at different levels in the Church. May the Spirit of the Lord inspire and lead them to find ways and means to hasten the much-desired unity among all the Christians. **Let us pray to the Lord.**

Celebrant: God our Heavenly Father, hear the prayers of your children praying for the gift of unity in the Body of Christ your beloved Son. Grant them the grace to remain united and witness to the Gospel values. We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

People: Amen.

- Forwarded by CCBI Commission for Ecumenism

క్రైస్తవ సమైక్యతా ఆదివారం

దివ్యబలిపూజ - ఆరాధనాక్రమం

జనవరి 23, 2022 (మూడవ సామాన్య ఆదివారం)

పరిశుద్ధ గ్రంథ పాఠాలు:

నెహెమ్యా, 8:2-4,5-6,8-10; కీర్తన, 19:8-10,15; 1 కొరింథీ, 12:12-30 ; లూకా, 1:1-4,14-21

ఉపోద్ఘాతం

దైవార్చనా సంవత్సరంలో నేడు శ్రీసభ మూడవ సామాన్య ఆదివారాన్ని కొనియాడుతుంది. భారతదేశ కథోలికులు ఈ ఆదివారాన్ని క్రైస్తవ సమైక్యతా ఆదివారంగా కూడా కొనియాడుతున్నారు. నేడు వివిధ క్రైస్తవ శాఖల సమైక్యత కోసం ప్రార్థిస్తున్నాం. జనవరి 18వ తేదీ నుండి కథోలిక శ్రీసభ ప్రపంచంలోని వివిధ క్రైస్తవ శాఖలతో కలిసి ప్రత్యేక ప్రార్థనలు, సమావేశాలు నిర్వహిస్తూ, క్రైస్తవ సమైక్యతాసాధన కోసం దృఢంగా కృషి చేస్తుంది. పునీత పౌలు గారి మనోపరివర్తన మహోత్సవంతో క్రైస్తవ సమైక్యత అష్టమ దినాలు ముగుస్తాయి. పునీత పౌలు గారి మనోపరివర్తన మన పరివర్తనకు ప్రేరణగా నిలచి, క్రైస్తవ శాఖల మధ్య సమన్వయం, సమైక్యత పెంపొందాలని శ్రీసభ ఆశిస్తుంది. స్వార్థం, గర్వం లాంటి దుష్ట లక్షణాలతో ప్రేరేపితమైన కొన్ని చారిత్రక సంఘటనలు క్రైస్తవుల మధ్య విభజనలు సృష్టించాయి. ఈ దివ్యబలి పూజ పీఠం చుట్టూ చేరిన మనందరం, ఈ విభజన గాయాలనుండి మన శ్రీసభ త్వరగా కోలుకోవాలని, మనందరం ఒకే మందగా, ఒకే మేపరిని ఆరాధిస్తూ కలిసి మెలసి ఐక్యతతో ముందుకు నడవాలని ఆ తండ్రి దేవుని ప్రార్థించుదాం.

దైవ వాక్యార్చన (మూడవ సామాన్య ఆదివారపు పాఠాల్ని వినియోగించడమైనది)

మొదటి పాఠం: నెహెమ్యా గ్రంథం, 8:2-4,5-6,8-10

బాబిలోనియా ప్రవాసంలో నున్న యిస్రాయేలు ప్రజలు తమ దేశాన్ని, భూభాగాన్ని పోగొట్టుకొని, ఐక్యత కోల్పోయి బంధీలుగా చెల్లాచెదురయ్యారు. వారు తమ ఐక్యతకు చిహ్నమైన యెరుషలేము దేవాలయాన్ని, తమను దేవుడెన్నుకున్న ప్రజలుగా ఐక్యంగా ఉంచిన ధర్మశాస్త్ర గ్రంథాన్ని కోల్పోయారు. దేవుడే మోషే ద్వారా ఆ గొప్ప నిధిని తమకు ఇచ్చారని యిస్రాయేలీయుల ప్రగాఢ నమ్మకం. ఈ మొదటి పఠనంలో దీర్ఘకాలికంగా పోగొట్టుకొన్న ధర్మశాస్త్ర గ్రంథాన్ని కనుగొన్న యిస్రాయేలీయుల ఆనందోత్సాహాలను విన్నాం. వివిధ కారణాల వలన విభజనకు గురైన క్రైస్తవులు యిస్రాయేలీయులు లాగా ప్రభువులోనున్న ఆనందాన్ని, సంతోషాన్ని కోల్పోయారు. తిరిగి దొరికిన ధర్మశాస్త్ర గ్రంథం ప్రభునిలో వారి ఆనందాన్ని తిరిగి తీసుకొచ్చింది. మనం వివిధ క్రైస్తవ శాఖలుగా విభజింప బడినప్పుడు కాకుండా, ఏకైక మేపరైన క్రీస్తు కాపుదలలో ఐక్యంగా ఉన్నప్పుడు నిజమైన ఆనందాన్ని పొందగలం.

రెండవ పాఠం : 1 కొరింథీ, 12:12-30

“నీవు హింసించు చున్న క్రీస్తును నేనే” క్రీస్తు ప్రభువు పునీత పౌలుతో పలికిన ఈ మాటలకు అర్థం పరమార్థం తెలుసుకుందాం. పునీత పౌలు మనోపరివర్తనకు పూర్వం తాను హింసించిన క్రైస్తవులు, క్రీస్తు ప్రభుని దేహమని, క్రైస్తవులందరూ ఆయన శరీర భాగాలని మనం గ్రహించాలి. నేడు మనం చూస్తున్న విభజనలు క్రీస్తుని దేహాన్ని గాయ పరుస్తున్నాయి. అన్ని క్రైస్తవ సంఘాలు, చిన్న చిన్న క్రైస్తవ శాఖలు కలిస్తేనే ‘ఏక క్రీస్తు సంఘంగా’ తయారవ్వగలదు. క్రైస్తవ సంఘాలన్నీ ఈ సత్యాన్ని తెలుసుకొని క్రీస్తుని దేహంలో ఒక్కటిగా, ఐక్యంగా ఉండటానికి, కృషి చేయాల్సిన అవసరత చాలా వుంది.

సువార్త పాఠం : లూకా, 1:1-4,14-21

ప్రభుని ఆత్మ యేసు క్రీస్తుని శుభవార్తను బోధించుటకు అభిషేకించింది. ప్రతి క్రైస్తవుడు జ్ఞానస్నానం ద్వారా ఈ సువార్త పరిచర్యకు పిలువ బడ్డాడు. క్రైస్తవ సంఘాల మధ్య నున్న విభజనలు ఈ పరిచర్యకు ఆటంకాలుగా నిలుస్తున్నాయి. పేదలు, బంధీలు అణగ ద్రొక్కుబడుతున్నవారు క్రీస్తు ప్రభుని సువార్త బోధ కోసం, విముక్తి కోసం ఎదురు చూస్తున్నారు. క్రీస్తు ప్రభుని ప్రేమ సందేశం ప్రకటించాలన్న ఆశే లూకా గారిని తన సువార్త రచించడానికి ప్రేరేపించింది. ప్రస్తుతం క్రీస్తుని ప్రేమ సందేశం ప్రకటించాల్సిన అవసరత చాలా వుంది. ఐక్యంగా కలసి మెలసి పరిచర్య చేద్దాం.

ప్రసంగానికి ఉపకరించు అంశాలు (మూడు పరిభుద్ధ గ్రంథ పాఠాలకు ఉపోద్ఘాతముగా ఇవ్వబడిన అంశాలను ప్రసంగానికి వినియోగించుకోవచ్చును. ఈ క్రింది మరి కొన్ని అంశాలను కూడా ఉపయోగించుకోగలరు).

పవిత్రాత్మ ఐక్యత కోసం పనిచేస్తుంటే, సాతాను కుటుంబాలలో, గురుమండలాల్లో మరియు క్రైస్తవ సంఘాలలో విభజనలు సృష్టించడానికి దురుద్దేశ్యంతో ప్రయత్నిస్తుంటుంది.

అపొస్తలులు విభిన్న సంస్కృతుల్ని, సాంప్రదాయాల్ని, సుహృద్భావంతో, సహృదయంతో స్వీకరించి (ఆదిమ శ్రీసభ వ్యాప్తికి, విస్తరణకు) ప్రపంచంలోని పలు ప్రాంతాలకు నూతనంగా ఆవిర్భవించిన శ్రీసభను విస్తరించారు. ఈ విభిన్న సాంప్రదాయాలు, సంస్కృతులు క్రీస్తుని ఏక శరీరమైన శ్రీసభ గొప్పతనాన్ని సూచిస్తున్నాయి. దురదృష్టవశాత్తు ప్రయోజనకరమైన ఆనాటి అంశాలే, ఈనాడు క్రీస్తుని దేహమైన శ్రీసభలో విభజనలకు కారణాలయ్యాయి. శ్రీసభలోని ఈ విభజనలు శ్రీసభకు చాలా బాధాకరమైన కళంకం. మన బాషలు, సంస్కృతులు, సాంప్రదాయాలు, ప్రాంతాలు, హోదాలు, మనల్ని ఏక శరీరంగా ఐక్యపరచే క్రీస్తు సందేశం నుండి ప్రక్కకు మళ్లించకుండా జాగ్రత్త వహించాలి.

రోమన్ కత్లిక శ్రీసభలో క్రీస్తు ఏర్పరిచిన సంఘం ఎప్పటికీ కొనసాగుతూనే ఉంటుందని ద్వితీయ వాటికన్ మహాసభ ప్రకటించింది. “పవిత్రత, సత్యం మున్నగు అంశాలు కనిపించే సంస్థాగత పరిపాలన వెలుపల కనిపిస్తాయి. ఈ అంశాలు (పవిత్రత, సత్యం) క్రీస్తు శ్రీసభకు ఇచ్చిన వరాలు. చాలా దృఢంగా విశ్వ క్రైస్తవ ఐక్యత కోసం అనునిత్యం ఇవి మనలను ప్రేరేపిస్తుంటాయి” (*Lumen gentium*, 8). కత్లికేతర సంఘాల్లో కూడా ఈ వరాలు వున్నాయి. ఇవి క్రైస్తవులందరి ఉపయోగార్థం అనుగ్రహించబడ్డాయి. అవి మనల్ని సుసంపన్నం చేయగలవు. మనందరం ఈ వరాల ప్రయోజనాల్ని పూర్తిగా పొందడానికి సంయుక్త చర్యలకు, సంప్రదింపులకు చొరపు తీసుకొని క్రీస్తుని ఏకైక మండలాగా కలసి ముందుకు నడవాలి. “కలసి వుంటే కలదు సుఖం” అన్నారు పెద్దలు. కానీ మధ్య ప్రాచ్య దేశాల్లో నాటి స్వాభావిక బలహీనతలు క్రీ.శ. 1054 నం. లో తూర్పు, పశ్చిమ క్రైస్తవ సంఘాలుగా విభజింప బడటానికి దారి తీసాయి. తిరిగి ఐక్యతా పునఃస్థాపన కోసం చేసిన అన్ని ప్రయత్నాలు విఫలమయ్యాయి. శ్రీసభను ఈ విభజన క్రమేపీ బలహీన పరిచింది. తత్ఫలితంగా తూర్పు క్రైస్తవ దేశాల ప్రధాన కేంద్రమైన ‘కాన్స్టాంటినోపుల్’ క్రైస్తవ సంఘం పూర్తిగా బలహీన పడిపోయింది. క్రైస్తవ మత సామ్రాజ్య పునాదిగా పిలువబడే నగరం నుండి క్రైస్తవ మతం దాదాపుగా తుడిచిపెట్టుకు పోయింది. ఒకప్పుడు క్రైస్తవ మత ప్రధాన కేంద్రంగా పరిగణింపబడి, నేడు అతి తక్కువ క్రైస్తవ ఉనికిని కలిగి ఉండడం చాలా బాధాకరం. నేడు ఈ ప్రాంతం క్రైస్తవ వ్యతిరేఖ ఉగ్రవాదానికి సులువైన లక్ష్యంగా ఉంది.

క్రీస్తుని స్వస్థలం నజరేతులోని ప్రజలు, ఆయన సందేశం, బోధనలు అర్థం చేసుకోలేక పోయారు. ఆయన్ని చంపాలనుకొన్నారు. నేటికీ క్రైస్తవ విశ్వాసం కోసం తమ రక్తాన్ని చిందిస్తున్న వారు, ప్రాణాలు త్యాగం చేస్తున్న హతాశాక్షులు చాలా మంది ఉన్నారు. వారిలో వివిధ క్రైస్తవ శాఖలకు, సంఘాలకు చెందిన వారున్నారు. క్రైస్తవులనే లక్ష్యంగా చేసుకొని

జరిపే ఉగ్రవాదులు చాలా ధారుణం. ఈ ఉగ్రవాదులకు క్రైస్తవ శాఖలతో సంబంధం లేదు. ఈ ఉగ్రవాదులు తమ ఏకైక లక్ష్యమైన క్రైస్తవులు ఏ సంఘానికి, ఏ శాఖకు చెందిన వారని చూడరని పోప్ ఫ్రాన్సిస్ గుర్తు చేస్తున్నారు. ఈ ఉగ్రవాదులు చాలా సార్లు చాలా ఘోరంగా, హింసాత్మకంగా, భయంకరంగా ఉంటున్నాయి. ఈ మతహింసలు, హతఃసాక్షి మరణాలు మనకు కనువిప్పు కలిగించి క్రైస్తవ ఐక్యత దిశగా మనల్ని ముందుకు నడిపించాలి.

సకల విశ్వాసుల ప్రార్థనలు

గురువు : క్రీస్తుని ఏక కుటుంబంగా ఈ దివ్యబలి పూజ పీఠం చుట్టూ చేరిన ప్రియ సహోదరీ సహోదరులరా! మన అవసరాల కోసం ముఖ్యంగా క్రైస్తవుల ఐక్యత కోసం తండ్రి దేవుని ప్రార్థించుదాం!

అందరు: ఓ ప్రభువా, మా ప్రార్థన ఆలకించండి.

1. పేదలకు శుభవార్తను, బంధీలకు విమోచనను, అంధులకు దృష్టిని, అణగారిన వారికి స్వేచ్ఛను ప్రకటిస్తూ ప్రజలకు పరిచర్య చేస్తున్న మన పవిత్ర జ్ఞాన తండ్రి, పోప్ ఫ్రాన్సిస్ గారి కోసం ప్రార్థించుదాం. క్రీస్తుని సువార్తా ప్రేమ సందేశం ప్రపంచ మంతటా ప్రకటించబడాలని, క్రైస్తవ సంఘాలన్నీ క్రీస్తుని ఏక శరీరంలాగా ఐక్యంగా ఉండాలని, జగద్గురువుల పరిచర్య ప్రతి క్రైస్తవునికి స్ఫూర్తి దాయకంగా ఉండాలని ప్రార్థించుదాం. **అందరు : ఓ ప్రభువా ..**
2. మన (పేరు) పీఠాధిపతులు కోసం, మన భారత దేశంలోని పీఠాధిపతులందరి కోసం, సువార్తా పరిచర్యకు అంకితమైన వారందరి కోసం ప్రార్థించుదాం. ముఖ్యంగా క్రైస్తవుల మధ్య ఐక్యతా సాధన కోసం, వీరు చేసే కృషి ఫలించాలని ప్రార్థించుదాం. **అందరు : ఓ ప్రభువా ..**
3. మన దేశ పాలకుల కోసం, నాయకుల కోసం, ప్రభుత్వాధికారుల కోసం ప్రార్థించుదాం. కుల మత భేదాలకు అతీతంగా, వర్గ వర్ణ సంకుచిత మనస్తత్వానికి లోబడకుండా, దేశ సమైక్యత కోసం శ్రమించాలని, వీరి శ్రమ ఫలించాలని ప్రార్థించుదాం. **అందరు: ఓ ప్రభువా ..**
4. ప్రపంచ వ్యాప్తంగా ముఖ్యంగా మధ్య ప్రాచ్య దేశాల్లో దాడులకు, హింసలకు గురవుతున్న క్రైస్తవులందరి కోసం ప్రార్థించుదాం. వారు విశ్వాసంలో బలపడాలని, బాధలలో దేవుని ఓదార్పును తోటివారి ఆదరణను పొందాలని ప్రార్థించుదాం. ఉగ్రవాదుల్ని, హింసకు ప్రేరేపించే వారిని దయగల దేవుడు తాకి పరివర్తన కలుగజేసి, శాంతి, సౌభ్రాతృత్వపు సమాజ స్థాపన జరగాలని ప్రార్థించుదాం. **అందరు: ఓ ప్రభువా ..**
5. శ్రీసభలో వివిధ స్థాయిల్లో క్రైస్తవులందరి ఐక్యత కోసం పరిచర్య చేస్తున్న వారందరి కోసం ప్రార్థించుదాం. ప్రభుని కాంక్ష, మనందరి ఆకాంక్ష అయిన క్రైస్తవ ఐక్యతా సాధన వేగవంతంగా సాగాలని, సలహాలు, సూచనలు, మార్గాలు కనుగొనేలా, ప్రభుని ఆత్మ వారిని ప్రేరేపించాలని ప్రార్థించుదాం. **అందరు : ఓ ప్రభువా**

గురువు : పరలోక మందున్న మా తండ్రి! మీ కుమారుని శరీరమైన క్రీస్తుని సంఘం, క్రైస్తవ సంఘాల ఐక్యత కోసం మీ బిడ్డలు చేసిన ప్రార్థన ఆలకించండి. ఐక్యతతో కలసి మెలసి ఉండటానికి, సువార్త విలువలకు సాక్ష్యంలా జీవించటానికి కావలసిన అనుగ్రహాల్ని అనుగ్రహించండి. మీ ప్రియ కుమారుడు క్రీస్తు నామాన వేడుకుంటున్నాం. **ఆమెన్.**

మూలం	: భారతదేశ కఠోలిక పీఠాధిపతుల సమాఖ్య (CCBI) క్రైస్తవ సమైక్యతా విభాగం
సమర్పణ	: తెలుగు కఠోలిక పీఠాధిపతుల మండలి క్రైస్తవ సమైక్యతా విభాగం
స్వేచ్ఛానువాదం	: గురుశ్రీ బత్తిని బాలస్వామి, గుంటూరు పీఠం

Dates & Events to Remember

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 01. Mary, Mother of God (S) | |
| 02. The Epiphany of the Lord (S) | |
| 03. The Most Holy Name of Jesus (Op.M) | |
| 04. St Elizabeth Ann Seton (Op.M) | |
| 07. St Raymond of Penyafort, Pt (Op.M) | |
| 09. The Baptism of the Lord (F) | |
| 13. St Hilary, Bp & Dr (Op.M) | 22. St Vincent, Dn & Mrtr (Op.M) |
| 14. Bl Devasagayam Pillai, Mrtr (Op.M) | 24. St Francis De Sales, Bp & Dr (M) |
| 17. St Antony, Abbot (M) | 25. The Conversion of St Paul, Ap (F) |
| 20. St. Fabian, Pope & Mrtr and St. Sebastian, Mrtr (Op.M) | 27. Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bps (M) |
| 25. St Agnes, Vrg & Mrtr (M) | 28. St Thomas Aquinas, Pt & Dr (M) |
| | 31. St John Bosco, Pt (M) |



Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01. Fr. Pasala Innaiah | |
| 01. Fr. Vemparla Vijaya Shekar | |
| 02. Fr. Reddimasu Anand Rao | |
| 06. Fr. Pamiseti Praveen Kumar | |
| 06. Fr. Vedamuthu Kulandai Swamy | |
| | 15. Fr. Pidikirala Prabhudas |
| | 18. Fr. Madanu Ajith Kumar |
| | 26. Fr. Chinnabathini Jojappa |
| | 28. Fr. Vaddamalla Vinod Kumar |



Necrology

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 02. Fr. Christie Daniel |
| 08. Msg. Kambam Joseph |
| 11. Fr. George Parathiparambil |
| 12. Fr. Francis Perez |
| 15. Fr. Marneni Maraiah |
| 17. Fr. Allam Marreddy |
| 27. Most Rev. Alfred Fernandez |



**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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CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS WAS CELEBRATED

BY MOST REV. DR. POOLA ANTHONY AT ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SECUNDERABAD



CHRISTMAS DAY MASS WAS CELEBRATED

AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, GUNFOUNDRY





**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2021
CELEBRATED AT L.B. STADIUM ON 21ST DECEMBER, '21**

