

Hatima Vani



News Letter
Diocese of Warangal



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క్రీస్తు జయంతి శుభావకంక్కలు



All Souls Day at Fatimanagar Cemetery



Liturgical Orientation Seminar organazised by TCBC Commission for Liturgy at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur



Bio-Ethics Seminar & Study of Administration at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore



Grotto Blessing at Chinna Mandava, Nagulavancha Parish, Khammam Diocese

Bethlehem Christmas in India 2023



Silent Night amidst Shouts of Joy

Merry Christmas 2023, in General, serves as a classic reminder of Christ's sacrifice for mankind. Sacrifice, in His incarnation, divine becoming human! Jesus is the logo of all things pure, humble, divine and sin-free, sent to earth by God to save humans from all evils and pretensions! God dwells in pure hearts. Christmas, at the same time silently and loudly proclaims the disclosing God, dwelling among Humans. The reason is "Love binds God to man and man to man". He pitches his tent among men



(Jn 1:14). He infused divine nature into sinners with a lesson on how to be a nobleman. This insight is Christmas, which is not a ritual but reality and revelation. The glad tidings of his birth were brought first to simple shepherds through angels (Lk 1: 8-12). Christmas banishes fear from man. Real Christmas is personal, believing, obeying and sharing the eyewitness of seeing God. Christmas is about giving, not grabbing. Simple shepherds bowed before the baby in the manger, in swaddling clothes, and worshipped their Chief Shepherd. On that silent night their shouts of joy could not awaken those around from their slumber. That was in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, celebrated in India in 2023 in order to wake up 'into the haven freedom' as Tagore prayed!

In India, All Religions Join in 'The Bada Din'

Palestine, the birth country of Jesus greets India, which is the birthplace of Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism, and marks the birth of Jesus with a national holiday. Indians call Christmas *bada din* (the Big Day). Christmas is a **national holiday** in India, just like for any other festivals like Diwali, Id, etc. It is celebrated by Christians and non-Christians alike. Christmas celebrations in India vary from region to region, but there are some common traditions that are observed throughout the country. One of the most popular Christmas traditions in India is the **Midnight Mass**. This is a special service that is held on Christmas Eve at midnight. Christians attend Midnight Mass to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. After the service, many families go home for a Christmas feast.

Christmas among other Faiths

Compared to other religious festivals, Christmas is quite a small festival in India, due to the number of people who are Christians (about 2.3%) compared to people who belong to other religions. The population of India is over 1.4 Billion, so there are over 30 million Christians in India. So that is quite a lot of people for whom December 25th is very important. Christmas is an annual celebration around the world commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed on December 25 as a religious and cultural event. The festival is associated with carols, baking cakes and cookies, having get-togethers, Christmas decorations like stars and charms, a general feeling of festive cheer, and not to forget, the legend of Santa Claus. Culturally, Christmas is about getting together with the people of other faiths and ideologies, one is fond of, people one loves or likes. It's great fun, it's the joy of giving. It's very Indian to just celebrate the aspect of being around people who matter.

Religious and Cultural

It is believed that Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, the son of God on December 25 in Bethlehem. Jesus of Nazareth was a spiritual leader whose teachings formed the foundation of Christianity. Although the Bible does not mention a specific date for his birth, Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor — designated December 25 as Christmas, which became a day to commemorate Christ's birth. On the eve of one of the most important holidays in the world, people attend midnight Masses at churches, and families decorate their homes with Christmas ornaments, decorations and the tree. Kids are told stories of Santa Claus, who is an imaginary old man in red with a white attire with a long white beard, bearing a bag full of toys with his reindeers at drag for children who have been 'good' throughout the year. Children believe he arrives at midnight and leaves gifts under the decorated tree.

Christmas Traditions observed in India

There is a large community of Christians living in India, and they do celebrate Christmas, like erecting a Christmas tree in their homes, decorating their homes with bow wreaths, etc. It's such a diverse country that even the celebrations vary from region to region. But the commonalities remain. Christian friends would distribute plum cakes in schools, colleges and streets. We can find huge Christmas trees erected in various malls across major metropolitan cities in India. *The way Christmas is celebrated is simply amazing with carols, decorations and merry environment.* Instead of having traditional Christmas Trees, a banana or mango tree is decorated or whatever tree people can find to decorate! Sometimes people use mango leaves to decorate their homes. In Southern India, Christians often put small oil burning clay lamps on the flat roofs of their homes to show their neighbours that Jesus is the light of the world. Christians in Mumbai use many Christmas traditions from Goa including the star lanterns and manger scenes. People like to make sure they have the best the nativity scene in Cribs!

In north-west India, the tribal Christians of the Bhil folk, go out night after night for a week at Christmas to sing their own carols the whole night through. They go to surrounding villages singing to people and telling the Christmas story. Father Christmas or Santa Claus delivers presents to children from a horse and cart. He's known as 'Christmas Baba' in Hindi, 'Baba Christmas' in Urdu (both of those mean Father Christmas); 'Christmas Thaathaa' in Tamil and 'Christmas Thatha' in Telugu, both of those mean Christmas grandfather; and 'Natal Bua' (Christmas Elder Man) in Marathi. In Kerala state, he's known as 'Christmas Papa.'

In Many different languages in India, I greet YOU:

In Hindi Happy/Merry Christmas is 'Śubh krisamas' (शुभ क्रिसमस); Urdu it's 'krismas mubarak' (کریسمس مرک); in Sanskrit it's 'Krismasasya shubhkaamnaa'; in Gujarati it's 'Anandi Natal' or 'Khushi Natal' (આનંદી નાતાલ); in Bengali 'shubho bôrodin' (শুভ বড়দিন); in Tamil it's 'kiristumas vâlttukkal' (கிறிஸ்துமஸ் வாழ்த்துக்கள்); in Konkani it's 'Khushal Borit Natala'; in Kannada it's 'kris mas habbada shubhaashayagal' (ಕ್ರಿಸ್ ಮಸ್ ಹಬ್ಬದಾ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು); in Mizo it's 'Krismas Chibai'; in Marathi it's 'Śubh Nātāl' (शुभ नाताल); in Punjabi it's 'karisama te nawām sāla khuśayāṁwālā hewe' (ਕਰਿਸਮ ਤੇ ਨਵਾਂ ਸਾਲ ਖੁਸ਼ਯਾਂਵਾਲਾ ਹੇਵੇ); in Malayalam it's 'Christmas inte mangalaashamsakal'; in Shindi it's 'Christmas jun wadhayun' and

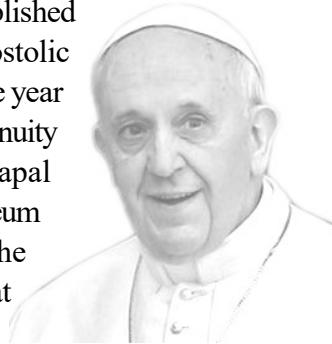
in Telugu it's '*Christmas Subhakankshalu'*

II. Holy Father's General Intention: For Persons with Disabilities

We Pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society and that intuitions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

III. Message of Pope Francis: "Laudate Deum": the Pope's cry for a response to the climate crisis

On 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis published an apostolic exhortation, Laudate Deum (Praise God). This apostolic exhortation is sequel to Laudato Si' which was published in the year 2015. Laudate Deum's means Praising God. Laudate Deum's continuity with its predecessor is indicated by its name. Usually with Papal documents, the opening line explains the title. But with Laudate Deum there is a coda: the final sentence brings new perspective to the meaning of the name given to the text. This is a summary of that document.



The Global Climate Crisis

Pope Francis begins with the facts. The climate's current situation is volatile and headed toward catastrophe, and Laudate Deum clearly identifies this reality. "Our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point," he writes. Pointing to overwhelming scientific evidence that climate change is the result of human activity, Francis describes how the last 200 years of pollution and extraction have led the world to this crisis point. The disastrous situation is already apparent in deadly natural disasters, collapsing ecosystems, and rising temperatures worldwide. Still, many continue to deny the climate crisis or look the other way in favor of profit and productivity. In the face of that neglect, Pope Francis calls on all to remember the connectedness of everything and that salvation is communal.

Critique of the Technocratic Paradigm

Hard truths in hand, Pope Francis returns to an obstacle he first described in Laudato Si', the technocratic paradigm. Technocracy, as the letter explains, is the belief that goodness and truth come directly from advances in technology and the growth of economic power. In the context of the climate crisis, it provides the illusion that it is possible to invent solutions without examining the underlying spiritual and economic problems that brought the world to this point. Expecting that simply moving from gas cars to electric cars or from beef cattle to lab-grown meat will be enough to resolve the crisis is a misguided assumption. Rather, Pope Francis recalls that the human person is also a part of creation, and cannot be separated from it, no matter how powerful scientific developments become. Those advancements tell us little about how they are actually to be used, and most often, the question is not "Should it be done?" but only "Is it possible?"

Weakness of International Politics

Governments do little to provide real guidance either, let alone constructive legislation. Pope Francis laments the lack of cooperation between countries to address the climate crisis, even

though successful efforts on past international concerns offer a helpful model. The sort of collaboration that Laudate Deum envisions instead begins not in the centers of power but in the grassroots. “It is no longer helpful for us to support institutions in order to preserve the rights of the more powerful without caring for those of all,” the letter states explicitly. For too long, the margins have been ignored, the poor and exploited made miserable by the same filthy, rotten system destroying the Earth. Respecting the dignity of each person and the necessity of our common home requires the creation of new global mechanisms of discussion and decision-making.

Climate Conferences: Progress and Failures

The current global mechanisms for addressing the climate crisis are fundamentally toothless. Pope Francis briefly details the history of the COP meetings, which have been held yearly since 1995. Over the past thirty years, these international conferences have been a source of hope but have yet to result in action or progress. Scientific understanding of the climate crisis continues to grow, and the international accords seemingly reflect this, though in reality, they fall short of implementation. Too often, wealthy and powerful countries put their own interest ahead of the global common good and are not held accountable.

What to Expect from COP28 in Dubai?

The trend of making international promises only for nations to back on them, simply put, must come to an end. The crisis is now too dire to ignore the need for substantial change. Though new technology or scientific advances are important for the short term, the change Laudate Deum calls for is much more profound. Our problems are deeper than environmental concerns—they are social and political, concerning everyone. You don’t need to be a tree-hugger or a wildlife biologist to care about the future of the planet and our children. COP28 has the opportunity to be the conference that finally recognizes the real depth of the crisis that humanity is facing. It can respond and make real, meaningful strides toward climate justice.

Spiritual Motivations

In this concluding section, Pope Francis offers the image of a community on pilgrimage: United by God to each other and all of creation; we walk a journey of conversion that turns from the sinful degradation of the earth and towards faithfulness to God, the creator of all things. We cannot take God’s place. A Christian response to the climate crisis is not about recycling or buying an electric car. Repackaged consumerism will not be enough, though Laudate Deum clarifies that wealthy countries like the United States are obligated to renounce extractivism and overconsumption.

“‘Praise God’ is the title of this letter. For when human beings claim to take God’s place, they become their own worst enemies.” Pope Francis is inviting the whole church to a renewed vision of community and solidarity, where Catholics are willing to stand alongside their poor and exploited brothers and sisters as prophets of another better world. We are being called to collaborate with Christ’s liberating grace active in the world, alive in our hearts, our communities, and our Earth.

IV. Ordinary Jubilee 2025

**To
The Clergy and Consecrated
Diocese of Warangal**

Dear Fathers and Sisters

At the Direction of the Vatican, Warangal Diocese shall have the inauguration of the Preparations for the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 on December 03, 2023.

It is only preparations for the Jubilee 2025, not the Celebrations. It will be inaugurated on 24 November, 2024 by the Holy Father.

The inauguration of the Preparations comprise of three elements:

a) Unveiling of the Logo of the Jubilee 2025: The logo could be unveiled by printing it on an eco-friendly fabric board or could be unfurled as a flag with logo printed on white background. All the “**parishes and the religious institutes**” are invited to make the logo posted in their premises.

(b) A special Mass by Bishop in the Cathedral 03 December 2023 where the congregation could be introduced to the preparations for the Jubilee 2025.

(c) Recital of Jubilee 2025 prayer begins on 03 December 2023 and will be recited till the end of the Jubilee Year 2025. Please find the below, Logo of Jubilee Year and the logo with explanation, prayer in Telugu & English, Mass introduction and Homily notes.

+ Uduamala Bala
Bishop of Warangal

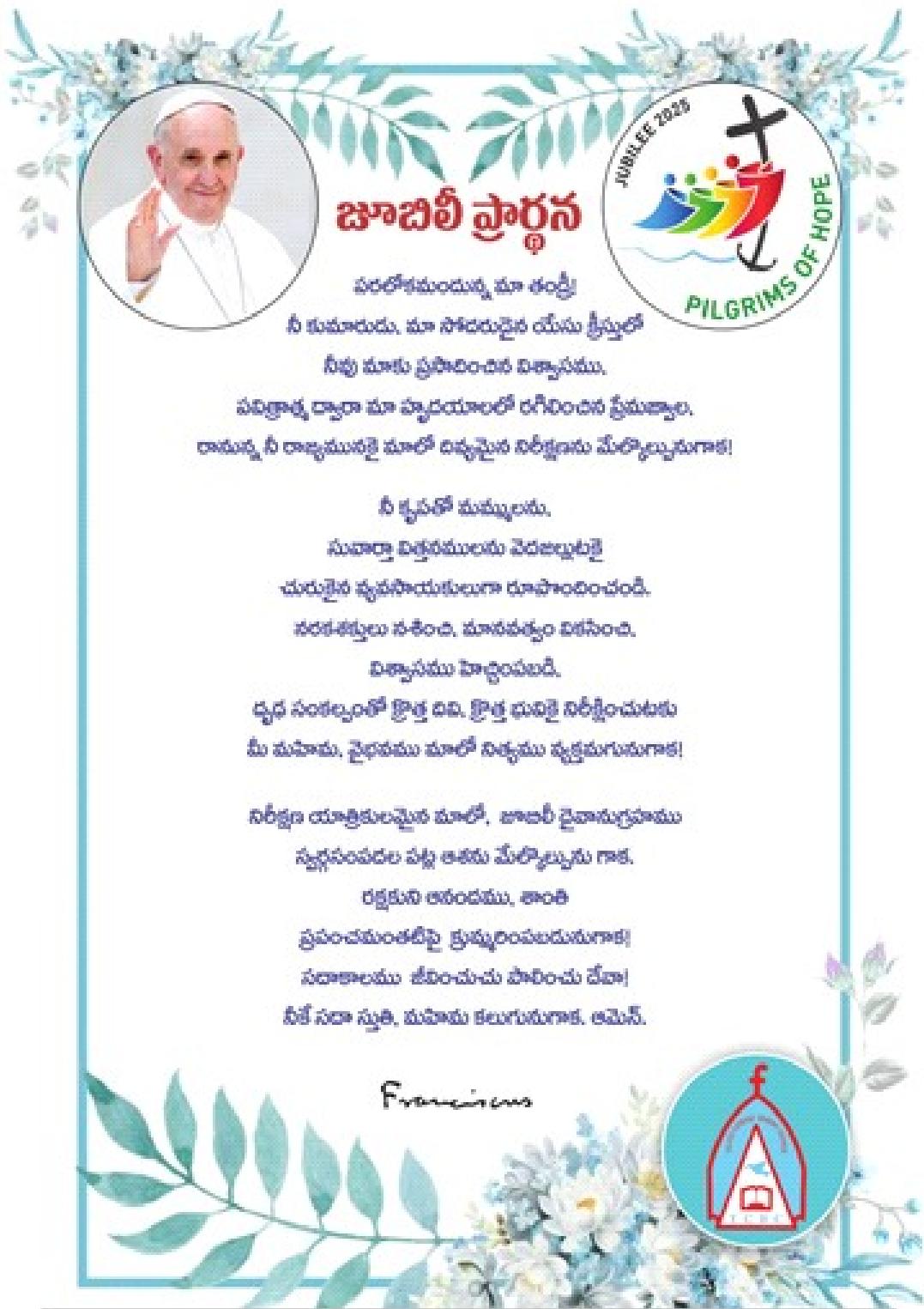


శ్రీమతి కియం
 అచ్చి వ్యాపి వరిలిపేయుని
 ఆ, ఎందుకంటి
 మనకు ఎళ్లవ్వుపూ అవసరం,
 ముఖ్యాగా దాలా
 క్షుమైన క్షాలరో.

ఒక తెరవాట ఊరంలో
 ఉన్న క్రాన్, చలనంలో
 ఉన్న తరంగాలపై
 రసను లాప
 నిధించే యంకోగా
 యాంకం
 పెంచుచుండి.
 ఆ యెక్కు, పార్యుత్రి
 చిప్పొం.

బోమ్మలు ప్రపంచంలోనీ
 నాయగు మూలల నుండి
 మానవానిని సూచిస్తాయి.
 ప్రజల మధ్య
 సంఘీభావాన్ని
 విపరింపదనికి వారు
 ఒఫర్నోకరు ఆర్టింగ్సం
 చేసుకున్నారు, మొదమొదు
 సిఱువ్వు పట్టుపున్నారు.

జీవితము తీర్మానాల్ని
 గుర్తుపెస్తుంది సముద్రం.
 తరమగా, వ్యక్తిగత
 సంఘులను అలాగే ప్రపంచంలోనీ
 సంఘులను, మండ్ల మహింత తీర్మానా
 చెర్చి వెళ్లాయి,
 గొప్ప ఆశను డెమాండ్
 చెప్పాయి.



Jubilee 2025 Prayer (after Communion or the end of the Mass)

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity
and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Mass Introduction and Homily Notes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Our Holy Mother Church has completed the First Session of the XVI General Assembly of the Synod on synodality, reflecting on 'communion, mission, participation.' The journey began in October 2021 with the Diocesan Phase, when all the faithful of the Local Churches were involved in the discussion; in the Continental Phase we discerned on different voices that emerged across the Episcopal Conferences; and in the Universal Phase deliberations have been made on communion, mission, and participation, and the synthesis report, 'A Synodal Church in Mission' is its fruit.

Integrating the synodal journey, and responding to the invitation of the Holy Father, the Church in India, inaugurates today the preparations for the Ordinary Jubilee 2025.

'Pilgrims of Hope' is the motto of the celebrations of Ordinary Jubilee 2025. Our Holy Father Pope Francis underscores the importance of hope in Christian life amidst uncertainties and hardships created by the pandemic and wars.

Learn, Pray, and Walk – these are the three words that we need to remember today. In the preparatory year (2023-2024), that we inaugurate today, we will learn the Four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council (on Bible, Worship, Church, and World) and will pray with the Church for the entire humanity. And in 2025 we will walk the Jubilee Doors in Rome making a pilgrimage to the Four Basilicas.

The logo for the Jubilee 2025 – that we unveil shortly – shows four figures in four colours representing the entire humanity hailing from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other in solidarity and fraternity. The figure at the front holds fast to the cross, which gives us hope. The rough waves under the figures represent the present context of the world which is marked by turmoil and troubles. The lower part of the cross has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is a symbol of hope. The image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual effort, but as a collective enterprise. At the bottom of the logo lies the motto of the Jubilee Year 2025: '*Peregrinantes in Spem*' ('Pilgrims of Hope').

The Jubilee 2025 is meant to celebrate God, the Church, and each of us. The post-pandemic war-hitting world today needs 'hope.' As pilgrims of hope let us light candle of hope in our families, workplaces, parishes, Diocese, and society.

May Christ the King instil in us the ray of hope, and inspire us to walk his path of service.

We shall unveil the Jubilee 2025 logo now.

2. Homily Notes

[The following text explains the Jubilee 2025, its meaning, purpose, preparation, and celebration. The text serves as a tool for homily preparation. At the end of the Prayers of the Faithful, the Celebrant, during the silent pause, shall invite the congregation to pray for the effectiveness of the preparations for the Jubilee 2025]

a. Jubilee in the Bible. Etymologically, the word 'jubilee' comes from the Hebrew word 'yobel' (= ram's horn) which was used as a trumpet to announce the beginning of the 50th year, i.e., the completion of 49 years (7 times 7 years). According to Lev 25:8-13 the celebration of the jubilee year entails release of slaves, forgiveness of debts, repatriation of property. In other words, jubilee is understood as four R's: Rest (the land is given rest); Review (an inventory of life, livestock, personnel, and land is taken); Restore (setting the societal clock back to zero); and Reconcile (aligning our relationships right with God and one another). The 'holy year' which the Prophet Isaiah (cf. Isa 61; See Also Lk 4) speaks of also alludes to jubilee. Here, the holy year is understood as the year of recalling and announcing God's favour and mercy. From the biblical point of view, celebration of a jubilee makes us retrospect the past (liberation), live in the present (consolation), and set our vision on the future (moving forward). Besides, jubilee is the celebration of time, and since it is the celebration of time it is a gift from God. That is why we pray at the Easter Vigil: 'all times belong to him and all ages.'

b. Jubilees in History. The first ordinary jubilee year ('holy year') was announced in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII. Initially, ordinary jubilee was celebrated once in 100 years; Pope Clement VI in 1343 began to celebrate it every 50 years; in 1470 Pope Paul II made it every 25 years. There have also been 'extraordinary' holy years: in 1933 Pope Pius XI celebrated 1900th anniversary of the Redemption (based on this, some charismatic

groups propagate 2033 as the jubilee of the Great Mission Command, but the Church has not officially endorsed it); in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The previous ordinary jubilee was the Great Jubilee 2000, for which we had three years of preparation: 1997 (God the Son), 1998 (God the Holy Spirit), and 1999 (God the Father). Jubilee events entail entering the holy door, undertaking pilgrimages, and obtaining indulgences.

c. **Characteristics of the Jubilee.** The Dicastery for Evangelization, Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelization in the World, which coordinates the celebrations, spells out seven characteristics of the Jubilee: (i) Pilgrimage (journey, crossing of boundaries, going across the fields, with other journeying companions); (ii) Holy Door (powerful sign, four Roman Basilicas, Jesus is the Door, journey to the interior of a church); (iii) Reconciliation (placing God at the centre of our lives, restoration of social justice, confession); (iv) Prayer (being open to God's presence and his offer of love); (v) Liturgy (public prayer of the Church, summit and font, opening of the door); (vi) Profession of faith (identity of the baptized person, Apostolic Creed, Nicene Creed); and (vii) Indulgences (experience of God's mercy, offering up sufferings).

d. **The purpose of the Jubilee is threefold:** (i) To celebrate Jesus. In the jubilee year we primarily celebrate Jesus, the incarnate Son of the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. We commemorate his birth, life, teaching, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection. We take conscious and fruitful efforts 'to know him more clearly, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more nearly.' (ii) To celebrate the Church, which is our Mother and Teacher. We renew our commitment to our Holy Catholic Church by owing our communion and contribution. And (iii) To celebrate us. We celebrate each one of us, with unique gifts and charisms, vocations and ministries, lifestyles, and values. The Jubilee 2025 invites us to 'remember' God, to 'review' our relation to God and God's Church, and to 'restore' our relationships with God and God's people. Celebration of Jesus, Church, and us happens in the context of our synodal journey in communion, mission, and participation.

e. **The year of learning and praying (2023-2024):** The Holy Father wishes that the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council be studied to obtain direction and guidance for God's people. We are asked to read the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council (*Dei Verbum*, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, *Lumen Gentium*, and *Gaudium et Spes*), to understand the general themes of the Council, and to explore Jesus, the Church, and our lives in the world today. The Dicastery of Evangelization has brought forth 35 booklets giving background information to the Second Vatican Council and to the Four Constitutions. In the year of prayer we are called to pray with the Universal Church, in the Local Churches, for the entire humanity. We may reflect on prayer in Christian life, sacraments, sacramentals, pious practices, and popular devotions as well. The Dicastery has published 9 notebooks on prayer.

f. **Year of Jubilee (2025):** In the Jubilee Year we shall enter the Holy Doors of the four Major Basilicas (Saints Peter and Paul, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul outside the walls). We may also enter the doors for hope, lighting a ray of hope in prisons, homes for the elderly and the dying destitute, hospitals, and refugee camps.

The Ordinary Jubilee 2025, an integral part of the synodal journey, invites us to be pilgrims of hope, givers of hope, and livers of hope.

V. New Liturgical Year: Season of Advent (Dec. 3)

The New Liturgical Year in the Church begins with the season of Advent a time to help us prepare for Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfillment of our longing for the Savior with the birth of Jesus. So, what is Advent: It's the season that lasts about four weeks, beginning four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The Church's Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days. So, Advent is a season of anticipation that leads up to Christmas.



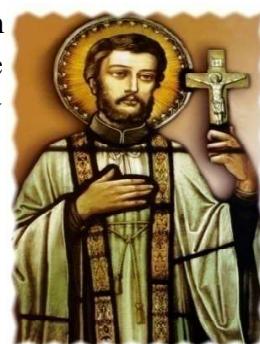
Advent Traditions: One of the primary traditions of Advent is the lighting of the Advent wreath. Each candle lit represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. The circle of branches of the wreath symbolize the eternal cycle of the seasons while the evergreens and lighted candles signify the persistence of life in the midst of winter. **Advent Candles** The Advent wreath contains 4 candles. All of the candles are purple except the third (which is rose). The symbolic meanings of the candles can vary but they are often:

1. **Hope** - expectation of what is to come and sometimes prophecy
2. **Love** - sometimes called the Bethlehem Candle
3. **Joy** - this rose candle is often called Mary's Candle
4. **Peace** - it can often be called the Angel's Candle

Colors of Advent: The color of Advent is purple. You'll see purple used quite often in banners around the church or in the vestments of the clergy. Purple is used at Advent as it is at Lent to represent the penitential nature of the season. In fact, Advent used to be known as "little Lent." The color is a symbolic reminder for us to be preparing ourselves for the coming of our Lord. The third Sunday during Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. The word Gaudete means "rejoice." On that Sunday your priest may wear rose vestments. This color is meant to remind us that Christmas is drawing near.

VI. Feast of St. Francis Xavier (Dec. 4)

Francis was born in Xavier, in the Kingdom of Navarre on April 7th 1506. He was born into a rich farming family, whose fortunes were severely damaged during the war with Aragon. Francis went to study in Paris, where he met Ignatius of Loyola, who would convince Francis to follow a religious life and become a priest. Francis was reluctant at first, leading Ignatius to ask the now-famous question: "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Along with Ignatius, Francis became one of the founders of the Society of

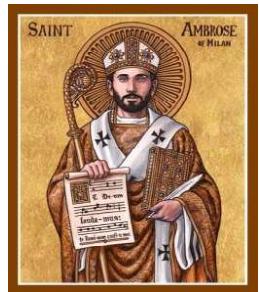


Jesus, commonly known as the Jesuits. They made private vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to the Pope. They also vowed to go to the Holy Land to convert “infidels.”

Francis left Rome for the Indies in March 1540. His future as arguably the greatest Christian missionary since St. Paul began almost by accident. He wasn’t originally chosen to be a missionary, but one of the two originally selected by Ignatius fell ill, so Ignatius asked Francis to go as a replacement. Over the next 12 years, Francis led a series of overseas missions, mainly in the Portuguese Empire of the time - Mozambique, Malacca and notably Goa. He was the first Christian missionary to travel Japan and on to Borneo and the Moluccan Islands. For his evangelist work, he became known as the “Apostle of the Indies”. Francis was waiting to travel to take his missionary work to mainland China when he died from a fever on Shangchuan Island on December 2nd 1552. Francis was made a saint by Gregory XV on March 12th 1622. Saint Francis Xavier’s relics are kept in a silver casket, inside the Born Jesus Basilica in Goa.

VII. St. Ambrose (Dec. 7)

The life of St. Ambrose (b. 337 AD) may be one of the best examples of how God’s plans can be completely different from our own. And St. Ambrose’s response provides a wonderful message for how saying “yes” to God and striving for holiness in our own lives can be an important witness to others. As governor of two Roman provinces headquartered in Milan, Ambrose attended the election of a new bishop to simply help keep the peace between the Nicene Church and the Arians. Well-loved for his fairness and charity, the assembled crowd called for His appointment to the see and he suddenly found himself the new bishop of Milan. Not yet baptized a Christian or versed in Christian theology, he refused and went into hiding. But, with the Emperor Gratian’s approval, Ambrose finally accepted. He was baptized, ordained and consecrated the bishop of Milan within the week. Popular, persuasive and a fierce defender of the truth, Ambrose became one of the most influential figures of the fourth century and of Church history. Known primarily for his defense of Church teaching against the growing Arian heresy in his time, Ambrose repeatedly found himself tangling with emperors, but his humility and generosity fueled his popularity and increased his political power. Ambrose is one of the four original Latin doctors of the Church, along with Augustine, Jerome and Gregory the Great. His extensive writings include treatises on ethics, the priesthood, sacraments, the role of Mary and the liturgy. A late student to Scripture, Ambrose used his background in Greek philosophy to share the lessons of the Old Testament through the lens of its heroes. Ambrose is credited with composing hymns that are the foundation for hymns used to this day. His influence as an orator may be best demonstrated by the impact his influence had on St. Augustine. Tradition teaches that Augustine was unimpressed with



Christian theology, but was forever changed by meeting Ambrose. Augustine's mother, St. Monica, credits Ambrose with Augustine's conversion, calling him, "An angel of God who uprooted her son from his former ways and led him to his convictions of Christ." Ambrose is the patron of Milan, beekeepers, beggars and learning. His feast day is Dec. 7, the date he was consecrated bishop. His zealous embrace of God's plan for him can be an inspiration for all who say "yes" to God's unexpected plans for them.

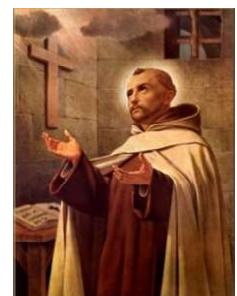
VIII. Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec. 8)

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin." In 1854, Pope Pius IX's solemn declaration, "Ineffabilis Deus," clarified with finality the long-held belief of the Church that Mary was conceived free from original sin. Mary was granted this extraordinary privilege because of Her unique role in history as the Mother of God. That is, she received the gift of salvation in Christ from the very moment of her conception. Even though Mary is unique in all humanity for being born without sin, she is held up by the Church as a model for all humanity in Her holiness and Her purity in her willingness to accept the Plan of God for her. Every person is called to recognize and respond to God's call to their own vocation in order to carry out God's plan for their life and fulfill the mission prepared for them since before the beginning of time. Mary's "Let it be done to me according to Thy Word," in response of the Angel Gabriel's greeting, is the response required of all Christians to God's Plan. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a time to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary, and to recognize with greater clarity, the truth that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfill a particular mission that he and only he can fulfill. "The word of the Lord came to me thus: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jeremiah 1:5-6)



IX. St. John of the Cross (Dec. 14)

John is a saint because his life was a heroic effort to live up to his name: "of the Cross." The folly of the cross came to full realization in time. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Mark 8:34b) is the story of John's life. The Paschal Mystery through death to life strongly marks John as reformer, mystic-poet, and theologian-priest. Ordained a Carmelite priest in 1567 at age 25, John met Teresa of Avila and like her, vowed himself to the primitive Rule of the Carmelites. As partner with Teresa and in his own right, John



engaged in the work of reform, and came to experience the price of reform: increasing opposition, misunderstanding, persecution, imprisonment. He came to know the cross acutely—to experience the dying of Jesus—as he sat month after month in his dark, damp, narrow cell with only his God. Yet, the paradox! In this dying of imprisonment John came to life, uttering poetry. In the darkness of the dungeon, John’s spirit came into the Light. There are many mystics, many poets; John is unique as mystic-poet, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God in the Spiritual Canticle.

But as agony leads to ecstasy, so John had his Ascent to Mt. Carmel, as he named it in his prose masterpiece. As man-Christian-Carmelite, he experienced in himself this purifying ascent; as spiritual director, he sensed it in others; as psychologist-theologian, he described and analyzed it in his prose writings. His prose works are outstanding in underscoring the cost of discipleship, the path of union with God: rigorous discipline, abandonment, purification. Uniquely and strongly John underlines the gospel paradox: The cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial to self to union with God. If you want to save your life, you must lose it. John is truly “of the Cross.” He died at 49—a life short, but full.

X. Nativity of the Lord (Dec. 25)

God used amazing events to communicate that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah who would be the Savior of the world. Give this one-page handout to anyone who has questions about

the leading messages regarding Christ’s birth:



Message One:- God Promised Christ’s Arrival

Throughout History: The promise of the coming Savior appears like a thread running through the Old Testament, starting with a hint after the first recorded sin.

Message Two:- God Became a Man :The most astounding message of the Nativity is that God became man. John tells us God became flesh and lived with us (John 1:14)

Message Three:- Angels Testified to Christ’s Coming: The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, not only to prepare her, a virgin, for bearing the Son of God, but to give her specific instructions concerning him.

Message Four:- Witnesses Proclaimed Christ the Messiah: Eight days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to the temple. Simeon, who had been promised he wouldn’t die before seeing the Lord’s Christ, said, “My eyes have seen your salvation.

Message Five:- Christ Came for Our Salvation: Jesus came to fulfill thousands of years of prophecy. He would be the one who not only represented God, but was God (John 1:1). When Adam and Eve sinned...

XI. Saint Stephen (Dec 26)

Saint Stephen is recognized as a saint and the first martyr in Christian theology. He was condemned for committing blasphemy against the Jewish Temple, and was stoned to death circa the year 36. Saint Stephen is a recognized saint in many Christian theologies, and is considered to be the first Christian martyr. According to the fifth book of the Bible's New Testament, the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen was denounced for blasphemy after a dispute with members of a Jewish synagogue circa the year 36. According to Chapters 6 and 7 of the Book of Acts, he was condemned and stoned to death the scene of which was depicted in Dutch artist Rembrandt's "The Stoning of Saint Stephen." Today, Western Christians annually celebrate "St. Stephen's Day" on December 26.



XII. Feast of St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist (Dec. 27)

Today is the third day in the octave of Christmas. The Church celebrates the Feast of St. John, apostle and evangelist. Born in Bethsaida, he was called while mending his nets to follow Jesus. He became the beloved disciple of Jesus. He wrote the fourth Gospel, three Epistles and the Apocalypse. His passages on the pre-existence of the Word, who by His Incarnation became the light of the world and the life of our souls, are among the finest of the New Testament. He is the evangelist of the divinity of Christ and His fraternal love. With James, his brother, and Simon Peter, he was one of the witnesses of the Transfiguration. At the Last Supper, he leans on the Master's breast. At the foot of the cross, Jesus entrusts His Mother to his care. John's pure life kept him very close to Jesus and Mary in years to come. John was exiled to the island of Patmos under Emperor Domitian.



Patron: Against poison; art dealers; authors; bookbinders; booksellers; burns; composers; editors; engravers; friendships; lithographers; painters; papermakers; poisoning; printers; publishers; tanners; theologians; typesetters; writers; Asia Minor; Taos, New Mexico; Umbria, Italy; diocese of Cleveland, Ohio; diocese of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

XIII. Feast of Holy Innocents (Dec. 28)

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the



whereabouts of “the newborn king of the Jews,” whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also “do him homage.” They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and “ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under.” The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children...” (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

XIV. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph (Dec. 31)

Feast of the Holy Family, Roman Catholic religious festival falling on the first Sunday after Christmas. Although major feast days dedicated to each member of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—also exist, the Feast of the Holy Family commemorates their life together, and the celebration focuses on religious family life. Because of the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, a feast for the Holy Family has been observed by the Copts from early times. In Western Christianity, however, a cult of veneration for the Holy Family as a group, rather than as individuals, did not arise until the 17th century and was not officially recognized until the feast day was formally instituted in 1921 under Pope Benedict XV. Originally celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany (January 6), the Feast of the Holy Family was moved to the Sunday after Christmas in 1969, bringing it within the Christmas season.



The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, ‘God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary’s sake. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.’ (First Homily on the ‘Missus Est’).

XV. Bishop's Schedule in December, 2023

- 1-2: Cochin-Trivandrum, Kerala: Rev. Fr. Augusto Colombo's Demise Study
- 3: Advent begins: Inauguration of the Preparations for the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 at Fatima Cathedral and Communio Sunday
- 4: am Church Annual feast and Confirmations at Badrachalam Parish
pm Blessing of SHJ House for priests at Venkatapuram.Khammam Diocese
- 6 Warangal Office
- 7: am New Church Blessing & laying a foundation stone for Presbytery at Giriprasad Nagar, Khammam Town
pm Grotto Blessing at Allinagaram of Bayyaram Parish.
- 8: am Joint Christmas Recollection at St. Joseph's Seminary, Khammam
pm. Karunagiri Matha Feast & Inauguration of the Preparations for the Ordinary Jubilee 2025 at Karunagiri, Khammam
- 9: CRI Warangal Christmas Meeting at Millennium School, Muchrela
- 11: am WADES General Body Meeting at Bishop's House, Fatimanagar
pm UMCC second Preparatory Meeting at Ecclesia Full Gospel Church, Fatimanagar
- 12: Amruthavani Governing Body and General Body Meeting, Hyderabad
- 14: Warangal Clergy Christmas Recollection, Bishop's House, Fatimanagar
- 15: am Grotto Blessing at Sadashivapuram in NelaKondapalli Parish.
pm Laity Pre-Christmas Celebrations
- 16: Church Annual Feast and Confirmations at Kothalingala Parish
- 17: am Banjara Christmas at Yesugutta, Mahabubabad
pm United Megha Christmas Celebrations at St. Anthony's Cultural Shrine, Fatimanagar
- 18: Lodi Pre-Christmas Celebrations, Fatimanagar
- 19: Pre-Christmas Celebrations at St. Mother Teresa School, Choppadandi
- 20: am Pre-Christmas Celebrations at C.S.S.A Mudigonda Community,
pm Infant Jesus Procession and Blessing at Madhira
- 21: Christmas Greetings at Bishop's House, Fatimanagar
- 22: Christmas Greetings at Bishop's House, Fatimanagar
- 24: Christmas Vigil Mass at Fatima Cathedral, Fatimanagar
- 25: Christmas Day Mass at Bheemaram Village
pm Christmas Day Evening Mass at Samudrala Village, Ippaguda Mission

- 28: New Chapel Blessing at Muddunuru Village, Mittapally Parish
 30: Millennium High School Annual Day Celebrations, Mucherla

January, 2024

- 1: English New Year Vigil Mass at Fatima Cathedral, Fatimanagar
 Day Mass at Mother Teresa Convent, Assisi Parish, Kasibugga
 4: am Blessing of Renovated Church at Dachapuram, Khammam Diocese
 pm Ordinations at St. Francis Xavier Church in Kothagudem, Khammam Diocese
 5: Church Annual Feast and Confirmations at Manuguru Parish
 10: Silver Jubilee of Presentation High School, Cherial
 12: Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph's High School, Husnabad
 13: Centenary Celebrations of Rayannakunta Village, Mariapuram Parish
 14: Confirmations and dvajastambam Blessing at Gadavarikani Parish
 15: Blessing of Chapel at Chennuru in Pedda Korukondi Parish, Khammam Diocese

XVI. Communications

1. Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters

This is to communicate to you all by the following “Public Notice” as per the Decree of Supreme Tribunal, Rome, Ref: Gen/Com/GCL/1047/2018-2023, regarding the status of former brother S. Jesuraj Soosai’s at Bala Yesu English Medium School, Devaruppula in Warangal Diocese sent by the Superior General and President of Brothers of the Sacred Heart. The Brothers’ society published the same decree in the local news papers today for the information of the public society.


BROTHERS OF THE SACRED HEART
 Rev. Br. M.Velankanni SHJ
 Superior General
 November 21, 2023

BALA YESU ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL, DEVARUPPULA
 Run by the Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred
 Heart of Jesus, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu - 627002,
 India.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 (Ref: Gen/Com/GCL/1047/2018-2023)

It is hereby announced that Br.S.Jesuraj Soosai, former member of our Congregation, residing in the premises of Bala Yesu English Medium School, Devaruppula-506 302, Warangal District, Telangana, ceased to be a member of the Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with effect from May 23, 2023, as per the Decree of the Supremo Tribunale della Segnatura Apostolica, Rome, as the final verdict for his hierarchical recourse petition with the Supreme Authority.

S.Jesuraj Soosai is no more the member of the Congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He has no right to hold the administration of the Bala Yesu English Medium School, Devaruppula. The Congregation is not responsible for his personal contracts and dealings with the public on any matters.

Rev.Br.Lourdu Raju D.Joy SHJ is the Correspondent of the Bala Yesu English Medium School, Devaruppula. The public may contact him for any dealings. His contact number 9490554688.

By the Superior General & President


Tel : +91 462 2579 150 | Fax : +91 462 2577 671
 e-mail : superiorgeneral@bshindia.com
 Web : www.brothersindia.org

9H, North High Ground Road
 Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli
 Tamil Nadu, India - 627 002

Good News to the Poor in the Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**+ Udamala Bala
 Bishop of Warangal**

FATIMA VANI - DECEMBER - 2023

2. Appointments: Rev. Fr. Pentareddy Baltha Raj is appointed as the Incharge-director of Father Colombo Nursing College with the effect from November 1, 2023.

3. Annual Returns for the year 2023, from January to December: All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions are requested to start preparing Annual Returns for the year 2022 from January to December, which are to be sent to Rome in the First Quarter of 2024. Forms of Annual Returns will be sent to you by post. If you don't get them, please contact Chancellor & Procurator or Secretary to Bishop, and get the forms by all means. After receiving the forms, please fill them correctly & fully and send them latest by end of January to the Chancellor & Procurator or Secretary to Bishop.

4. Christmas Recollection: In preparation for Christmas, a recollection is arranged for the clergy on 14th of December, 2023, from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm at Fatimanagar. All the Priests are requested to participate in it without fail.

5. Ordos 2024: Ordos 2024 are available at Bishop's House. Please avail @ Rs. 50/- to celebrate liturgy in holy and meaningful manner!

6. Advent Begins on 03 December 2023: Advent, (from Latin *adventus*, “coming”), in the Christian church calendar, the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and also of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. In Western churches, Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to November 30 (St. Andrew’s Day) and is the beginning of the liturgical year. In many Eastern churches, the Nativity Fast is a similar period of penance and preparation that occurs during the 40 days before Christmas. The date when the season was first observed is uncertain. Bishop Perpetuus of Tours (461–490) established a fast before Christmas that began on November 11 (St. Martin’s Day), and the Council of Tours (567) mentioned an Advent season.

The liturgical meaning of the Advent season referred to the dual “coming” of Jesus—then Roman Catholicism the traditional liturgical colour for Advent is violet; many Protestant denominations have adopted blue or purple. The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, is commonly marked by the use of rose-colored vestments and candles.

7. Communio India contribution for the Year 2023: The Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) has come up with the idea of establishing a ‘Funding Agency’ in India, similar to the one like ‘MISSIO’ in Germany. The idea of establishing Communio is to raise funds in our country, with a view to helping the Mission Dioceses and Religious Congregations in India for the variety of needs they have. This year it falls on 3rd of December. I request the Parish Priest to observe the Communio India Sunday any Sunday in December 2023-January 2024

and send the offerings and contributions of that Sunday to Rev. Fr. Kommareddy Joseph, the procurator as early as possible. Kindly announce that they can contribute any Sunday/ Day of the year for the purpose. Let them take the envelops and give back any day during the year. It is out of Love and obligation towards the Church in Motherland, India.

8. News from the Pastoral Centre

Dear Parish Priests and Heads of the institutions in the Diocese of Warangal. There is a Denary and Diocese level Bible Quiz Competitions for Adult and Catechism Children Quiz Competitions 2024. The following are the dates and syllabus, please do announce in your parish and institutions and encourage the faithful and children to participate.

• Dates for Denary Level Bible Quiz Competitions for Adults

1. Karimnagar Denary and Jangaon Denary **ON - 21st Jan 2024**
2. Mahabubabad Denary and Ookal Denary**ON - 28th Jan 2024**
3. Karunapuram Denary and Fatimanagar Denary**ON - 04th Feb 2024**

Diocese Level Finals on 25th Feb, 2024

Syllabus for Adults (All): Denary Level - Book of 1 Samuel Chapter 1 to 20

Diocese Level - Book of 1 Samuel Chapter 1 to 31

• Dates for Denary and Diocese Level Catechism Children Quiz Competitions

1. Karimnagar Denary and Janagam Denary **on – 07th Jan 2024**
2. Mahabubabad Denary and Ookal Denary **on - 14th Jan 2024**
3. Karunapuram Denary and Fathimanagar Denary **on - 15th Jan 2024**

Diocese Level Finals on 10th Feb, 2024

Syllabus for Catechism Children Category 1 and 2 is already announced in the meeting.

Place and Time will be announced later

Note:

- **Please announce in the Parishes and Institutions** and see that groups participate in Deanary level.
- **Only seven in a group** and you are allowed to send only one group from your Parish and one group from your Institution Category 1 and 2.
- Ask the Catechism Children to prepare from now so that they can be perfect in Bible and catechism.
- Ask the faithful to prepare from now so that they can be perfect in Bible.
- **Please encourage the spirit of studying Bible ‘Knowing Bible is Knowing God.**

Fr. G. Kamal, Director

9. News from LODI MSSS: As we work to create light for others, we naturally light our own way.” — Mary Anne Radmacher

I. Title of the Project: Sustainable Livelihood Based Food Security program for the Marginalized Communities of 20 villages of Raikal Mandal of Jagityal district.

- Donors from KKS & BMZ, Germany Mr. Philipp, Mr Marvin & Mr. Vijay visited Lodi MSSS on 24th October, 2023 and evaluated project activities and accounts. On the second day (25th October), they visited a few project villages of Raikal Mandal. They visited Vermi pits, Kitchen gardens, Check dams, Backyard poultry, Desiltation program, Feeder channels, irrigation ponds, Stone gully plugs and Rock Field Dam. Later they interacted with beneficiaries, women Self-help groups, user committees, mandal committees and village leaders. They were satisfied with all the activities of the project.
- 56 vermi pits were constructed for 56 farmers in 7 villages of Raikal mandaL

II. Snehahastham: Cancer care campaign program

- We have established five Nutrition gardens / Kitchen gardens for five cancer patients under ‘Snehahastham’ program, in collaboration with ‘Caritas India’ in Guduru mandal of Mahabubabad district. Cancer patients are helped to grow vegetables and fruits at the backyard of house by using kitchen waste water.
- 12 cancer patients were given Nutrition support. Lodi coordinators visited the patients and handed over food items at their door step.

III. Fatima Mahila Sahakara Sangam

- 2630 members of Fatima Mahila Sahakara Sangam of 65 villages of 28 parishes were supported with the loan of Rs. 1,20,80,000/-.

IV. CABA Project

- Children’s Day (14th November, 2023) was celebrated for 80 HIV children in Lodi premises.
- Mandal level advocacy meeting was conducted in Lodi for 35 members.
- With the generous help of a local donor, one poor Engineering student of CJITS was helped with a new laptop, tuition fee and hostel fee.

Fr. S. Inna Reddy, Director-LODI MSSS

10. NEWS from WADES: Laying Foundation Stone Ceremony of CBSE at St. Paul's, Jangoan

The foundation stone laying ceremony of St. Paul's CBSE School, Jangoan was held at the School premises in the presence of reverend fathers, sisters, well wishers, parents and students on 28th October, 2023. The programme began with words of welcome by Rev. Fr. N. Maria Joseph, HM & Correspondent.



Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala DD, President WADES, Bishop of Warangal and Apostolic Administrator of Khammam blessed and laid the foundation stone for the St. Paul's CBSE building. The academic session for the new batch of CBSE students commenced upto grade II in the month of June, 2023 with limited seats of 150. We are very happy that we reaped a good harvest of 116 students in the first year itself.

In his address, his Lordship expressed that a long pending dream has come true today. He reiterated that quality education provided to students in the initial stages provides a strong foundation for the future years. Further, he said that a strong foundation, noble thoughts and self-confidence will enable children to be successful. On the commemoration of this occasion, impressive cultural programme was performed. The programme ended with a note of gratitude to all those who rendered their service in making the programme a memorable one.

Fr. N. Joseph, H.M. & Correspondent- St. Paul's High School, Jangoan

11. Celebrations of St. Cecilia Feast

Choir (Hymns) Singing helps to enhance Harmony and Unity in Christ. It is a symbolic expression of bonds that binds our Soul, hearts and emotions. It cheers the spirit and lightens the hearts of the faithful. With the able leadership, Guidance ,Prayerful support, encouragement and active initiative by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, we the committee could conduct the group singing Competitions for all the choir groups belonging not only to Catholic Churches but also in uniting all other denominations belonging to Indian Pentecostal churches, Ecclesia, Baptist, Alpha Omega, Glorious Ministries of Warangal Tricity on 11th November 2023 at St. Joseph Degree College, Kumarapally (Thota Badi), Hanumakonda. Almost 60 choir groups participated in the group singing competitions. Eminent Judges from Hyderabad fame in the field of Music and Gospel Singing played a key role for the day and judged over the following Criteria: Raga, Pitch (Scale), Rhythm and Group Coordination. Lunch was served for about 700 members that day.

Christian Music Festival: On 22nd November 2023 a Group Singing concert with Singers for about 150 members from all the denominations sang hymns of praise together echoing with

one voice with a Title of the program as Christian Divine Melodies(CDM)-2023 and a caption as “One shepherd One flock”. His Lordship Dr. Udumala Bala, Chairman of SCMA, Bishop of our Warangal Diocese and Apostolic Administrator of Khammam Diocese was the chief guest along with Special Guest of Honour Shri Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar Garu, MLA (Warangal West). Along with them we also had Rev Pastor Supriya Sarvesh representing from CSI – Karimnagar Diocese, Rev Pastor Devavaram representing Baptist Churches gave greetings and blessings, Priests from various Parishes, Pastors, Sisters, Faithful from all churches, Musicians and Music Lovers also took part in the musical fest. 30 + hymns along with ONENESS hymn sung by choir mesmerized the faithful gathered at the venue. Food was served for about 800 members on that festive evening.

Catholic Church: 1st Prize Winners - St.Pauls Church,Jagityal Parish, 2nd Prize Winners - St.Josephs Aspirants, Kumarapally Parish &Holy Spirit Church , Bheemaram, 3rd Prize Winners - St.Francis of Assisi Parish, Warangal & Fatima Cathedral, Fatimanagar Parish, 4th Prize Winners - Arogyamatha Church, Karunapuram Parish, 5th Prize Winners - Christ the King Church , Pegadapally

Other Denominations : 1st Prize Winners - IPC, Waddepally, 2nd Prize Winners- Alpha Omega Church, Kazipet, 3rd Prize Winners - Penual Baptist Church, Kazipet, 4th Prize Winners-Telugu Baptist Church, Waddepally & CSI,Hanamkonda, 5th Prize Winners- Carmel Baptist Church, Kazipet. Apart from the above prizes ,Music Academy also gave 7 Consolation Prizes and a Participation Mementos for each and every Participatory Choir Groups as an encouragement and for their Active Participation.

Prize Distribution for winner groups and Participation Mementos for all the Participatory Choir groups were given by the Guests on that day. Prizes were given based on marks scored by the choir groups based on Judgment criteria for the Catholics and Non-Catholics choir groups.

Rev. Fr. N. Surender, Director SCMA& Core Committee Members

12. News from Warangal CRI Unit: Christmas @ 2023

Dear Friends,

Warm Greetings to you all from CRI Warangal Unit. Hope and pray that these lines find you in prime of health and happiness. It is good that we express our togetherness from time to time as the large family of the Religious in this Warangal Diocese. For this purpose, there is no occasion better suited than the Feast of Christmas.

With the spirit of Unity, Christmas gathering is arranged for all the Religious on Saturday, 9th December 2023 at Millennium School, Muchherla. All are requested to participate in it without

fail. When you come kindly bring a Christmas gift minimum worth of Rs. 150/- for your Christmas friend whose name shall be revealed during the programme.

Note:

- Registration fee Rs. 300/-
- Kindly pay the annual subscription Rs 1500/-.
- Those who have paid kindly ignore.

CHRISTMAS SKIT COMPETITION

There will be Christmas skit Competition among the six zones. All the Zonal leaders are requested to prepare your group.

THEME: Christmas in the present scenario

- Guidelines for competition
- Each group should include 20-25 members
- Time duration: 7-10 minutes
- Languages: Telugu and English
- Bring your own Costumes
- Total number of participants should not exceed 25
- Recorded Script or music can be played as background
- There will be judges to allot marks for the performance of each group.

PROGRAMME GUIDE

Date: 09-12-2023 (Saturday) **Time:** 9.00 am to 2.00pm

Venue: Millinnium School, Muchherla

Facilitator: Rev.Fr. Jayaraju, (HGN) Provincial Superior

Holy Mass by: Most Rev. Dr. Uduvala Bala, Bishop of Warangal

Fr. Raja Ratnam Madanu, CRI President

13. Banjara Christmas Celebrations-2023

Venue	Yesu Gutta, Shanigapuram
Date	17-12-2023
Time	10.00 am to 1.00 pm

Fr. V. Simon

14. United Mega Christmas Celebration

Date: 17th of December 2023; **Time:** 6.30 pm

Venue: St. Anthony's Cultural Shrine, Fatimanagar, Kazipet, Hanumakonda Dt.

Chairmen: Bishop Uduvala Bala & Bishop Daniel Kalyanapu

General Convenor: Rev. Fr. G. Kamal (Director- Pastoral Centre)

Co-Convenor: Rev. Dr. Joseph Prabhakar (Vice-President TCF)

15. United Mega Christmas Competitions

వరంగల్లు, హార్ట్‌కొండ, కాజీపేట 11వ ప్రా. క్రీస్తు మహా వేడ్‌కల పాశ్వేలు - 2023 11th UNITED GRAND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 17 డిసెంబర్ 2023 ను 6.30 గంాలకు లభ్యత అంతించాల కంటార్లు ఉన్నాయి. ఫాలిమానగర్, వరంగల్లు జరగన్నియే "ప్రా. క్రీస్తు వేడ్‌కల పాశ్వేలు" అందరికి అష్టవ్యాపారం! ఈ వేడ్‌కలను పురస్కరించుటిని ఏపిద పాశ్వేలు తర్వాతిస్తున్నాము. ప్రతి పాశ్వేలు రు.100/- పాశ్వేలు వివరాలు ఈ క్రింద ప్రకారంగా...					
క్ర. నెం.	అంశం	తేదీ	సమయం	స్థలం	నంతరటింవల్సినవారు
1.	కొలయోగ్ర్యామ (6-8 మంచి బృందం)	03-12-2023 అధివారం	మధ్యాహ్నాం 2 గంాల సుంది నూ. 6 గంాల వరకు	పాశ్వర్లే సంటర్ ఫాలిమానగర్	బుద్ధ వినిది రెడ్డి, యాన.జ. 8328205875 కుమార్ల సుమిజిలు 7989833380 రహ.సి.జ. రఎలింక్ 9866800667 ఇ. వింస్ కుమార్ 9848280214
2.	బైబిల్ క్రీస్తు ఎస్టేరు (6-8 మంచి బృందం)	09-12-2023 శనివారం	మధ్యాహ్నాం 2 గంాల సుంది నూ. 6 గంాల వరకు	పాశ్వర్లే సంటర్ ఫాలిమానగర్	రహ.సా. జ.కమల్ 9398221049 రహ.సి.సభి ప్రభాకర్ 9849614731 శ్రీ కల్పల ప్రచిన్ 9247753198
3.	ఖుప్పు పుసంగం (5 నిమిషాలు) అంశం: బేట్లోములో జర్నూంచుటకు గల ఉద్ఘోషం	09-12-2023 శనివారం	మధ్యాహ్నాం 2 గంాల సుంది నూ. 6 గంాల వరకు	ఐ.పి.సి. పాపయ్యాపేట చమన్, వరంగల్	జాప్పన్ జాన్ మార్క్ 9849638913 సిస్టర్ ఎలిషమ్మ ఎపి.యం.యం. 9121473015 రహ. కొర్సెలియన్ బ్రాంజ్ యం.పి.పి. 7995135780
4.	పాటల పాశ్వేలు 5 కంటే ఎక్కువ సభ్యులు పాల్గొనపచ్చను.	10-12-2023 అధివారం	మధ్యాహ్నాం 2 గంాల సుంది నూ. 6 గంాల వరకు	ఎక్కుయింగ్ గాస్టర్ మిస్ట్రీస్, సిద్ధాంతగర్	రహ.సా. ఎవ. సరెండర్ 9550558343 డా. పి. ఉత్సి కుమార్ 984931009 శే. ప్రశ్న శ్రీ ప్రశ్న 9885956703 సిస్టర్ జ్యేత 9849857762
దా. కె.సి. జాన్ బిన్  కోల్పులోనేటర్, కల్పుల్ కవితీ సర్ : 9177553008					
రహ. భా. జి.కమల్  సహార్డిలోనేటర్, కల్పుల్ కవితీ సర్ : 9398221049					
తుపగర అనిక్కెస్పష్ట సంఘాల ఆధ్యాత్మిక అంశంలో.... 					

14. News from Youth Centre

Youth centre team conducted animation program at Yellapur Parish and in Jaigiri Village. In Yellapur 15 attended this animation program and Jaigir there were 30 members. We insisted on the role of youth in the church and explained about the youth centre activities. Thanks to Fr. Balaraju MF, the parish Priest for his encouragement and support.



Fr. G. Anukiran, Director

Best wishes for Birthday Babies in December

Fr. G. Chinnappa	12-12-1985
Fr. G. Balaswamy	19-12-1965
Fr. Y. Bala	19-12-1967
Fr. G. Thomas (Sr)	30-12-1978

Congratulations on Priestly Ordination Anniversary

Fr. I. Abraham	21-12-1967
Fr. B. Mathias	18-12-1970
Fr. A. Prakash	29-12-1970



Khammam Diocesan Clergy Symposium



Christ the King Feast Celebrations at Maripeda Parish



St. Cecilia Music Day, Warangal Ecumenical Competitions



Bishop Thumma Bala High School Decennial Celebrations, Bachannapet



Confirmations & First Holy Communion at Kazipet Parish



Requim Mass for Mrs. Annamma Mother Fr. Gopu Thomas Senior



Feast Mass at Presentation Provincial House, Fatimanagar



UMCC Preparatory Meeting at Bishop's House Fatimanagar



Blessing of Tailoring Center at Patharlapadu



Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Little Flower Parish, Kalluru, Khammam Diocese



