



## MARY, BEACON OF HOPE



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of February brings us lot of joy because of the proximity of the Feast of Our Lady of Gunadala. As we spoke many times in our common meeting that it is the Feast for our entire Diocese and it has been a tradition for the people of our Diocese for the past 97 years. In 2023 we shall celebrate the Centenary. In view of it we are planning to build a Church in her honour. "Go and tell the priests that people should come here in procession, and that a chapel should be built here." This is the message Bernadette received from the "beautiful lady" in the apparition of 2 March 1858. For 97 years, pilgrims have never ceased to come to this grotto of Gunadala hill since its establishment, to hear the message of conversion and hope which is addressed to them.

"What a great thing it is to possess the Cross! He who possesses it possesses a treasure" (Saint Andrew of Crete, Homily X on the Exaltation of the Cross, PG 97, 1020). It is significant that, during the first apparition to Bernadette, Mary begins the encounter with the sign of the Cross. More than a simple sign, it is an initiation into the mysteries of the faith that Bernadette receives from Mary. The sign of the Cross is a kind of synthesis of our faith, for it tells how much

God loves us; it tells us that there is a love in this world that is stronger than death, stronger than our weaknesses and sins. The power of love is stronger than the evil which threatens us. It is this mystery of the universality of God's love for men that Mary revealed in Lourdes. She invites all people of good will, all those who suffer in heart or body, to raise their eyes towards the Cross of Jesus, so as to discover there the source of life, the source of salvation.

The primary purpose of our shrine of Lourdes is to be a place of encounter with God in prayer and a place of service to our brothers and sisters, notably through the welcome given to the sick, the poor and all who suffer. In this place, Mary comes to us as a mother, always open to the needs of her children. Through the light which streams from her face, God's mercy is made manifest. Let us allow ourselves to be touched by her gaze, which tells us that we are all loved by God and never abandoned by him! Mary comes to remind us that prayer which is humble and intense, trusting and persevering must have a central place in our Christian lives. Prayer is indispensable if we are to receive Christ's power. "People who pray are not wasting their time, even though the situation appears desperate and seems to call for action alone" (*Deus*

*Caritas Est*, 36). To allow oneself to become absorbed by activity runs the risk of depriving prayer of its specifically Christian character and its true efficacy. The prayer of the Rosary, so dear to Bernadette and to Lourdes pilgrims, concentrates within itself the depths of the Gospel message. It introduces us to contemplation of the face of Christ. From this prayer of the humble, we can draw an abundance of graces.

Mary's message is a message of hope for all men and women of our day. On the paths of our lives, so often shrouded in darkness, she is a beacon of hope who enlightens us and gives direction to our journey. Through her "yes", through the generous gift of herself, she has opened up to God the gates of our world and our history. And she invites us to live like her in invincible hope, refusing to believe those who claim that we are trapped in the fatal power of des-

tiny. She accompanies us with her maternal presence amid the events of our personal lives, our family lives, and our national lives. Happy are those men and women who place their trust in him who, at the very moment when he was offering his life for our salvation, gave us his Mother to be our own! We need to keep alive the message of Lourdes in Gunadala: Prayer and Reconciliation. Let's all work together and complete this project with joy and enthusiasm.

Personally, I would like to request your prayers as I enter my fifth year of Episcopal Ministry on 2 February. I need your collaboration, encouragement and prayers.



+ **Thelagathoti J. Raja Rao, S.M.M.**  
Bishop of Vijayawada

**MONTHLY RECOLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2020:** The monthly recollection for the pastoral clergy for the month of March, will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2020, Monday. It will start at 09.30 a.m. and will close by lunch. All the pastoral clergy are invited to attend without fail.

**CHRISM MASS AND MONTHLY RECOLLECTION, APRIL 2020:** There will be a monthly recollection for the pastoral clergy of the diocese on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2020, Monday. It will start at 9.30 a.m. and will end with lunch. In the evening at 5.30 p.m. there will be Chrism Mass in St. Paul's Cathedral, Vijayawada. All the priests are obliged to participate in the Chrism Mass.

## INSTRUCTION ON THE USE OF RESPONSORIAL PSALM IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**Responsorial Psalm** is the assembly's response to the Word of God that has been proclaimed and it should be sung whenever possible. It fosters meditation on the Word of God (*GIRM # 61*). On some occasions the responsorial is a canticle from the OT or NT, not precisely a psalm. It is preferable that the psalm be sung. The one who leads the psalm should have the skills of singing and enunciating (*GIRM # 102*) prayerfully entering the spirit of the psalm and leading the assembly's worship.

During our Eucharistic celebrations unfortunately we are not paying any attention to it. Even during the feast days when we have a choir, in most cases the choir sings not a psalm assigned for the purpose but always a song describing the Word of God. How unfortunate that on the Feast day of Holy Cross, or Virgin Mary or another Saint,

such songs are sung! I would like everyone to stop this practice and encourage the use of Responsorial Psalm. I heartily request and encourage the composers to set tunes to Psalms that are melodious with proper Antiphon which can be sung by the assembly. Please discard the habit of '**Anukrama Geetham**' that does not correspond to the Responsorial psalm. When the psalm is sung, it is the Psalmist/cantor who should sing it from the Ambo and help people sing the antiphon, assisted by the choir. Let not choir rob the role of the assembly, rather choir must help assembly to sing the Antiphon. I request everyone in our parishes and the Religious communities to take note of it and when the Mass is celebrated by the Bishop, it is obligatory to sing a Responsorial psalm, as indicated in the liturgy of the Day. During the public celebration this liturgical discipline must be observed.



+ **Thelagathoti J. Raja Rao, S.M.M.**  
Bishop of Vijayawada

## BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS : FEBRUARY - APRIL 2020

Date	Day	Programme
<b>FEBRUARY, 2020</b>		
01	Saturday	: Holy Childhood Celebration, 12:00 Noon : Mass at Allipalli, Eluru Diocese, 06:30 p.m.
02	Sunday	: Fourth Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration of Bishop; : Laying of the Foundation Stone for the New Shrine Church in Gunadala, 5:00 p.m. : Mass at Grotto, Gunadalamatha Shrine
04	Tuesday	: School Day Function of St. Anthony's U.P.School, Atkur 3:30 p.m.
06	Thursday	: Holy Family Feast Day, Mass at Velagalagudem, 6:30 p.m.
07	Friday	: 100 <sup>o</sup> years of the arrival of Sr. Mary Glowrey, JMJ, Guntur, 4:00 p.m.

- 08 Saturday : Provincial Chapter of SAB, Guntupalli, Inaugural Mass, 7:00 a.m.  
 09 Sunday : GUNADALAMATHA FESTIVAL  
 10 Monday : GUNADALAMATHA FESTIVAL  
 11 Tuesday : GUNADALAMATHA FESTIVAL  
 12 Wednesday : Leaving for Bangalore for CBCI Meeting  
 13 -19 : CBCI Plenary, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore.  
 20 Thursday : Returning to Vijayawada  
 22 Saturday : Arogyamatha Chapel blessing, Lankala Kalavakonta, Konkepudi Parish, 6:30 p.m.  
 23 Sunday : Feast of Siluvagirinagar Parish, Mass at 6:30 p.m.  
 24 Monday : Rajavaram Feast, Agiripalli Parish, Mass at 6:30 p.m.  
 25 Tuesday : Recollection, PIME Community, Eluru, 9.00 a.m.  
 26 Wednesday : ASH WEDNESDAY, St. Paul's Cathedral, Mass at 6.30 a.m.  
 28 Friday : Feast of the Holy Cross, Siluvagattu, Mass at 6:30 p.m.  
 29 Saturday : General Body Meetings at SSC, Gunadala, 11:00 a.m.

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**MARCH, 2020**

- 01 Sunday : Arogyamatha Feast at Kalidindi, 6:30 p.m.  
 02 Monday : Leaving for Hyderabad  
 03 - 05 : TCBC Meeting, Hyderabad  
 06 Friday : Returning to Vijayawada  
 09 Monday : MONTHLY RECOLLECTION for the Clergy  
 09 -18 : Pastoral Visits to Parishes.  
 11 Wednesday : Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Vennanapudi, 6:30 p.m.  
 17 Tuesday : Mass at St. Antony's Shrine, Guntur, 6:30 p.m.  
 19 Thursday : New Chapel Blessing, Joseph Nagar, Telaprolu, 10:00 a.m.  
 20 Friday : Our Lady of Lourdes Feast, Bodavada-Jammavaram, 6:30 p.m.  
 23 - 04 April : Pastoral Visits to Parishes

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**APRIL, 2020**

- 06 Monday : MONTHLY RECOLLECTION for the Clergy  
 : Chrism Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral, 05:30 p.m.  
 15 Wednesday : Blessing of Renovated chapel at Puttagunta, Arugolanu, 10:00 a.m.  
 17 Friday : Blessing of New Chapel at Patha Poranki, Kanuru Parish, 09:30 a.m.  
 18 Saturday : Blessing of Grotto at Jayapuram, Bantumilli Parish, 06:00 p.m.  
 22 Wednesday : DIOCESAN PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS at Gunadala, 5:00 p.m.  
 26 Sunday : Golden Jubilee Celebration of Pedana Parish, 6:00 p.m.  
 27 Monday : Blessing of Parish Church of Kanchikacherla, 10:00 a.m.  
 29 Wednesday : Parish Feast of Musunuru, 6:30 p.m.  
 30 Thursday : First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Mudinepalli, 6:30 p.m.



INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER  
FEBRUARY, 2020

**Listen to the Migrants' Cries**

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.



POPE'S QUOTE

"The Gospel is a call to holiness in concrete actions."

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS  
FOR THE XXVIII WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2020  
11 February 2020**

***"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28)***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

1. Jesus' words, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (*Mt 11:28*) point to the mysterious path of grace that is revealed to the simple and gives new strength to those who are weary and tired. These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. How many people suffer in both body and soul! Jesus urges everyone to draw near to him – "Come to me!" – and he promises them comfort and repose. "When Jesus says this, he has before him the people he meets every day on the streets of Galilee: very many simple people, the poor, the sick, sinners, those who are marginalized *by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system...* These people always followed him to hear his word, a word that gave hope! Jesus' words al-

ways give hope!" (*Angelus*, 6 July 2014).

On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, Jesus repeats these words to the sick, the oppressed, and the poor. For they realize that they depend entirely on God and, beneath the burden of their trials, stand in need of his healing. Jesus does not make demands of those who endure situations of frailty, suffering and weakness, but offers his mercy and his comforting presence. He looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze is not one of indifference; rather, it embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love.

2. Why does Jesus have these feelings? Because he himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Indeed, only those who personally experience suffering are then able to comfort others. There are so many kinds of grave suffering: incurable and chronic diseases, psychological diseases, situations calling for rehabilitation or palliative care, numerous forms of disability, children's or geriatric diseases... At times human warmth is lacking in our approach to these. What is needed is a personalized approach to the sick, not just of *curing* but also of *caring*, in view of an integral human healing. In experiencing illness, individuals not only feel threatened in their physical integrity, but also in the relational, intellectual, affective and spiritual dimensions of their lives. For this reason, in addition to therapy and support, they expect care and attention. In a word, love. At the side of every sick person, there is also a family, which itself suffers and is in need of support and comfort.

3. Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labour and are burdened", and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me". In him, you will find strength to face all the worries and questions that assail you during this "dark night" of body and soul. Christ did not give us prescriptions, but through his passion, death and resurrection he frees us from the grip of evil.

In your experience of illness, you certainly need a place to find rest. The Church desires to become more and more the "inn" of the Good Samaritan who is Christ (cf. *Lk 10:34*), that is, a home where you can encounter his grace, which finds expression in closeness, acceptance and relief. In this home, you can meet people who, healed in their frailty by God's mercy, will help you bear your cross and enable your suffering to give you a new perspective. You will be able to look beyond your illness to a greater horizon of new light and fresh strength for your lives.

A key role in this effort to offer rest and renewal to our sick brothers and sisters is played by healthcare workers: physicians, nurses, medical and administrative professionals, assistants and volunteers. Thanks to their expertise, they can make patients feel the presence of Christ who consoles and cares for the sick, and heals every hurt. Yet they too are men and women with their own frailties and even illnesses. They show how true it is that "once Christ's comfort and rest is received, we are called in turn to become rest and comfort for our brothers and sisters, with a docile and humble attitude in imitation of the Teacher" (*Angelus*, 6 July 2014).

4. Dear healthcare professionals, let us always remember that diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic treatments, research, care and rehabilitation are always in the service of the sick person; indeed the noun "person" takes priority over the adjective "sick". In your work, may you always strive to promote the

dignity and life of each person, and reject any compromise in the direction of euthanasia, assisted suicide or suppression of life, even in the case of terminal illness.

When confronted with the limitations and even failures of medical science before increasingly problematic clinical cases and bleak diagnoses, you are called to be open to the transcendent dimension of your profession that reveals its ultimate meaning. Let us remember that life is sacred and belongs to God; hence it is inviolable and no one can claim the right to dispose of it freely (cf. *Donum Vitae*, 5; *Evangelium Vitae*, 29-53). Life must be welcomed, protected, respected and served from its beginning to its end: both human reason and faith in God, the author of life, require this. In some cases, conscientious objection becomes a necessary decision if you are to be consistent with your “yes” to life and to the human person. Your professionalism, sustained by Christian charity, will be the best service you can offer for the safeguarding of the truest human right, the right to life. When you can no longer provide a cure, you will still be able to provide care and healing, through gestures and procedures that give comfort and relief to the sick.

Tragically, in some contexts of war and violent conflict, healthcare professionals and the facilities that receive and assist the sick are attacked. In some areas, too, political authorities attempt to manipulate medical care for their own advantage, thus restricting the medical profession’s legitimate autonomy. Yet

attacking those who devote themselves to the service of the suffering members of society does not serve the interests of anyone.

5. On this XXVIII World Day of the Sick, I think of our many brothers and sisters throughout the world who have no access to medical care because they live in poverty. For this reason, I urge healthcare institutions and government leaders throughout the world not to neglect social justice out of a preoccupation for financial concerns. It is my hope that, by joining the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, efforts will be made to cooperate in ensuring that everyone has access to suitable treatments for preserving and restoring their health. I offer heartfelt thanks to all those volunteers who serve the sick, often compensating for structural shortcomings, while reflecting the image of Christ, the Good Samaritan, by their acts of tender love and closeness.

To the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all those who bear the burden of illness, along with their families and all healthcare workers. With the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

*From the Vatican, 3 January 2020*  
Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Jesus

*Franciscus*  
FRANCIS

# COMMUNICATIONS

**FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF OUR BISHOP:** 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2020 is the fourth anniversary of my Episcopal Consecration as the Bishop of the Diocese. I request your valuable prayers for me that the Spirit may strengthen me to lead you to good pastures and be at your service for your good and the good of the diocese. I also appreciate and wholeheartedly thank you for your kind cooperation and immeasurable service in God's work. Please continue to support with the same zeal and dedication.

**MONTHLY RECOLLECTION:** Monthly Recollection for the Pastoral Clergy for the month of February, 2020 will be at Vicariate level. All the priests are requested to attend the recollection without fail. The Vicars Forane are requested to intimate the dates of their respective Vicariate Recollections to the Bishop.

**SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS :** Those who have taken money from the Bishop's House during the current financial year, i.e. 2019- 2020 should submit an up-to-date statement of accounts with bills and vouchers for audit, before the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020. All those who have taken money and have not spent the money are to return the balance amount to procure before the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 as no balances should remain outside the Society Accounts at the end of the financial year, the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

**ANNUAL RETURNS FORMS-2019:** Parish Priests, Heads of the Institutions

and Convents who have not yet collected the Annual Returns Forms, kindly collect them from the Bishop's House and submit the same duly filled in, to the Bishop's House. When filling the forms, kindly pay attention to the record of the previous year in order to avoid glaring inconsistencies and irregularities. Undue delay in submitting these forms causes a lot of inconvenience to the office.

**PASTORAL COUNCIL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:** All the parish priests are requested to send the names of the office bearers of Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee to the Bishop's Secretariat at the earliest. Very few parish priests have sent the names..For any guidance on the formation of these councils/committees, please approach Fr. Kolakani Marianna, the Judicial Vicar.

**DATA OF THE LOCAL VOCATIONS:** We are trying to take stock of the Vocations to Priesthood/Religious Life that the diocese has produced and we seek the assistance of all the Parish Priests in order to collect this data. The data has already been requested from the Parish Priests through an email from the Bishop's office.

We appeal once again to the Parish Priests to collect the data of all Vocations to Priesthood/Religious Life that your parish has produced. Please take the help of the Catechists in your parish

to collect this information. The data required is the following:

1. **Name and Surname of the Priest/Brother/Sister:**
2. **Name of the Village from which he/she hails:**
3. **Name of the Religious Congregation/Diocese to which he/she belongs:**
4. **Year of Ordination/Religious Profession:**
5. **Current Appointment/Place of Work:**
6. **Contact Information: Address, Mobile Number, Email**
7. **Date of Death, if expired:**

Kindly collect the above information for each of the Priest/Brother/Priest/Seminarian hailing from your parish and send the same to the Secretaries of the Bishop.

**INNER HEALING RETREAT FOR PRIESTS & RELIGIOUS AT DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE, MURINGOOR, POTTA:** Divine Retreat Centre is conducting a special Inner Healing Retreat (in English) for Priests and Religious

from 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 to 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2020. It will be directed by Fr. Augustine Vallooran VC, Fr. Jose Prakash and Fr. John Prince Puthenpurackal VC. Please do make avail of this special retreat to renew and nourish the spirit.

**COMMUNIO INDIA SUNDAY:** As it is already published in the previous issues, **Communio India Sunday** in our diocese is shifted to the second Sunday of February, 2020 in order to facilitate better contributions by placing it at a more suitable period of the year within the context of calendar of collections in the diocese. We will take the special collection for Communion India on 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. The Parish priests hereby requested to send the **Communio India Sunday Collection** to Bishop's House as soon as possible.

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO DIOCESE IN JANUARY, 2020

## SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

S.No.	PARISH	CONTRIBUTION	S.No.	PARISH	CONTRIBUTION
1.	St. Paul's Cathedral	₹ 15,569	37.	Jyothinagar	₹ 2,210
2.	St. Peter's Co-Cathedral	₹ 17,220	38.	Kaikaluru	₹ 2,050
3.	Agiripalli	₹ 413	39.	Kalidindi	₹ 1,321
4.	Ajithsinghnagar	₹ 3,324	40.	Kambhampadu	₹ 289
5.	Arugolanu	₹ 676	41.	Kanchikacherla	₹ 2,412
6.	Assisi Nagar (Konkepudi)	₹ 1,270	42.	Kankipadu	₹ 2,239
7.	Avanigadda	₹ 1,735	43.	Kanuru	₹ 4,250
8.	Avutapalli	₹ 7,275	44.	Keesara	₹ -----
9.	Azzampudi	₹ 1,155	45.	Kesarapalli	₹ 5,363
10.	Bantumilli	₹ 601	46.	Koduru	₹ 654
11.	Bhaskaraopeta	₹ 420	47.	Kondapalli	₹ 2,846
12.	Bhyravapatnam	₹ 830	48.	Kondapavuluru	₹ 730
13.	Bodavada-Jammavaram	₹ 1,135	49.	Korukollu	₹ 420
14.	Bommuluru	₹ 1,387	50.	Kotapadu	₹ 365
15.	Carmelnagar	₹ 1,103	51.	Kothapalli	₹ 170
16.	Challapalli	₹ 1,562	52.	Kuchipudi	₹ -----
17.	Chandarlapadu	₹ 378	53.	Labbipeta	₹ 3,870
18.	Chanubanda	₹ 319	54.	Lourdunagar	₹ 644
19.	Chatrai	₹ 650	55.	Machilipatnam	₹ -----
20.	Chillakallu (Nov.376, Dec. 493)	₹ 455	56.	Mallavalli	₹ 620
21.	Christurajapuram	₹ 2,120	57.	Manginapudi	₹ 394
22.	Edara	₹ 1,260	58.	Mariapuram (Lakshmiapuram)	₹ 887
23.	Edulagudem	₹ 943	59.	Mucchintala	₹ 1,135
24.	Enikepadu	₹ 900	60.	Mudinepalli	₹ 1,170
25.	Gampalagudem	₹ -----	61.	Mulapadu	₹ -----
26.	Gannavaram	₹ 1,820	62.	Munagalapalli	₹ 598
27.	Gollapudi	₹ 1,950	63.	Musunuru	₹ 526
28.	Goodmanpeta	₹ 1,618	64.	Mylavaram	₹ 2,057
29.	Gudivada	₹ 3,000	65.	Nagayalanka	₹ 1,036
30.	Gudlavalleru	₹ 2,000	66.	Nandigama	₹ 3,230
31.	Gunadala	₹ 47,598	67.	Nawabupeta	₹ 879
32.	Guntupalli	₹ 1,328	68.	Nehrupeta	₹ -----
33.	Jagannadhapuram	₹ -----	69.	Nunna	₹ -----
34.	Jaggayyapeta	₹ -----	70.	Nuzvid-Town	₹ 2,336
35.	Jakkampudi (Jeevan Nagar)	₹ 409	71.	Pamarru	₹ 577
36.	Joji Nagar	₹ 4,411	72.	Pedda-Mustabad	₹ 1,030

S.No. PARISH	CONTRIBUTION	S.No. PARISH	CONTRIBUTION
73.Pedana	₹ 1,035	88.Thukkuluru	₹ 835
74.Penamaluru	₹ 2,067	89.Tiruvuru	₹ 942
75.Penugolanu	₹ 240	90.Uppaluru	₹ 1,350
76.Pezzonipeta	₹ 7,126	91.Vanukuru	₹ 1,237
77.Polukonda	₹ 956	92.Vatsavai	₹ 149
78.Pydurupadu	₹ 310	93.Velagalagudem	₹ 419
79.Rajareswaripeta	₹ 1,582	94.Vellaturu	₹ 1,180
80.Ramanakkapeta	₹ 767	95.Velpur	₹ 830
81.Ranigarithota	₹ 940	96.Vennanapudi	₹ 430
82.Sahayanagar (Ibrahimpattam)	₹ 1,129	97.Ventrappagada	₹ 430
83.Saradhanagar	₹ 1,087	98.Vissannapeta	₹ 1,056
84.Satyanarayanapuram	₹ 2,546	99.Vuyyuru	₹ 2,210
85.Siluvagattu	₹ 252	100. Yesupuram	₹ 370
86.Siluvagirinagar	₹ 410		
87.Telaprolu	₹ -----	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>₹ 2,05,027</b>

### MASSES

04.01.2020	Jaggayyapeta	@Rs.100	40	₹	4,000
13.01.2020	Challapalli	@Rs.100	50	₹	5,000
23.01.2020	Uppaluru	@Rs.100	11	₹	1,100
25.01.2020	Gudivada	@Rs.100	10	₹	1,000
20.01.2020	Kesarapalli	@Rs.100/-	110	₹	11,000
27.01.2020	Joji Nagar	@Rs.100/-	26	₹	2,600
28.01. 2020	St. Peter's Co-Cathedral	@Rs.100	107	₹	10,700
30.01.2020	Gundalamatha Shrine	@Rs.100/-	829	₹	82,900
31.01. 2020	Edara	@Rs.100	425	₹	42,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>1608</b>	<b>₹</b>	<b>1,6,800</b>

### FAMILY CARDS

28.01. 2020	St. Peter's Co-Cathedral	₹	5,590
31.01. 2020	Gunadalamatha Shrine	₹	7,230
<b>Total</b>		<b>₹</b>	<b>12,820</b>

PIOUS COLLECTIONS - 2019

S. NO	PARISH	Mission Sunday	Holy Childhood	St. Peter's Pence	St. Peter the Apostle	Education & Human Rights	Justice Sunday	Jyothirmai	Lafy Sunday	Lenten Campaign	Vocations	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday
1.	<b>St. Paul's Cathedral</b>	3,91,842								10,690		9,860	20,130
	Adoration Convent	1,000											
	Nirmala Convent	10,000								5,000			
	Maris Stella Convent	10,000											
	Deepti Bhavan												
	Nirmala Niketan												
Pavithratma Niketan													
2.	<b>St. Peter's Co-Cathedral</b>	2,53,220	1,800	3,500	1,400	1,200	1,200	2,200	1,100	18,050	1,100	9,470	28,650
	Sacred Heart Convent	9,500											
	Atkinson Senior Sec. School	2,00,205											
	St. Anthony's Convent	5,000											
	St. Anthony's RCM Ele. School	5,000											
	St. Anthony's RCM H. School	10,000											
3.	<b>Agripalli</b>	11,600	350	450	400	250	300		250		200	973	1,171
	SFS School	3,000											
	St. Ann's Jeeva Nilayam	1,500											
	St. Ann's Community	1,600											
4.	<b>Ajithsingnagar</b>	33,686										1,817	4,315
	St. Ann's Health Centre	6,000										547	451
5.	<b>Arugolalu</b>	3,494											
	Sneha Bhavan Convent												
6.	<b>Assisi Nagar (Konkepuudi)</b>	8,440	400	300	500	200	350	450	400		200	2,400	4,100
	Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate	2,500											
7.	Assisi Health Care Society	4,000											
	<b>Avanigadda</b>	32,145	400	300	400	200	250	300	250	3,175		2,460	4,050
	St. Ann's Convent	11,500											
	St. Ann's Hospital												

S. NO	PARISH	Mission Sunday	Holy Childhood	St. Peter's Pence	St. Peter the Apostle	Education & Human Rights	Justice Sunday	Jyothirmai	Lalty Sunday	Lenten Campaign	Vocations	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday
8.	<b>Avutapalli</b> St. George's High School St. George's Orphanage Assisi Convent/FCC Sacred Heart Convent Clara Sadan Convent, Atkur	34,320 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000	20,340 1,000 1,000 1,000 1,000							3,850		3,858	12,561
9.	<b>Azzampudi</b> M.F. Seminary Ursuline Nivas	10,730 1,000										1,408	3,260
10.	<b>Bantumilli</b> Suvartha Bhavan, Malleswaram	10,111 1,000	200	100	100	100	100	200	200		100		
11.	<b>Bhaskaraopeta</b>	1,100										360	750
12.	<b>Bhyravapatnam</b>	11,150	400	300	400	100	150	350	250		70		
13.	<b>Bodavada- Jammavaram</b>	14,190	300	200	300	100	150	250	200		100	2,130	2,680
14.	<b>Bommuluru</b>	14,430								4,078		2,056	3,481
15.	<b>Carmelagar</b> Carmel Ashram St. Joseph's Studentate Don Bosco House Prasanth Bhavan Vijaya Mary Convent Madonna Convent	33,780 2,000	600	400	500	200	250	350	300	3,000	200	1,552	6,984
16.	<b>Chaliapalli</b>	5,000	200	100	200	100	100	150	150	1,600		1,030	1,520
17.	<b>Chandralapadu</b>	7,380										840	1,065
18.	<b>Chanubanda</b>	4,250	200	100	200	100	150	200	200	320		723	2,108
19.	<b>Chatrai</b> Holy Rosary Convent	3,900	200	100	200	100	150	200	250				
20.	<b>Chillakallu</b> Joy Nivas Asha Kiran Convent	4,500 1,000								2,000		792	1,909
21.	<b>Christurajapuram</b> Maria Rani Mandhir Christ the King English Medium School Cluny Sisters (Woodpet)	26,170 1,000 35,000	4,350							3,500		2,759	3,247
22.	<b>Edara</b>	20,090	800	600	700	300	400	500	500	1,080	200	1,411	1,936

S. NO	PARISH	Mission Sunday	Holy Childhood	St. Peter's Pence	St. Peter the Apostle	Education & Human Rights	Justice Sunday	Jyothirmai	Lafy Sunday	Lenten Campaign	Vocations	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday
23.	<b>Edulagudem</b>	7,273	200	150	250			200					
24.	<b>Enikepadu</b> Jeevodaya Provincialate FCC Sisters	5,410 2,500	200	100	200	100	100	150	100		100	1,043	2,380
25.	<b>Gampalagudem</b> San Jose E.M.School	4,485 4,400	2,000									600	1,400
26.	<b>Gannavaram</b> Peter Claver Convent	58,100 10,000	5,735	650	630	410	440	390	430	1,530	510	2,130	3,380
27.	<b>Gollapudi</b> St. Anthony's Convent Atkinson School	24,500 21,000	500	250	300					1,220		1,360	2,130
28.	<b>Goodmanpeta</b> Holy Cross Convent	7,000											
29.	<b>Gudivada</b> Sacred Heart Convent	92,130 33,675	600	450	450	250	200	300	300		200	15,402	27,400
30.	<b>Gudlavalluru</b>	30,400	500	300	400	200	250	300	250	4,084	200	1,213	4,035
31.	<b>Gunadala</b> St. Joseph's Convent Society of Sister of St. Anne, Madhavaram St. Ann's Home St. Joseph's Girls' High School St. Joseph's Ele. School St. Ann's Convent, Prasadampadu St. Ann's High School St. Joseph's English Medium High School St. Aloysius Convent St. Louis Gonzaga Convent	2,21,660 1,000 3,000 6,400 4,000 2,000								2,000 500			26,454 48,090
32.	<b>Guntupalli</b> Subhodaya St. Ann's Convent <b>Jagannadapuram</b> St. Joseph's Convent	25,070 3,100 10,350	400	250	350	200	160	350	200			1,660	2,250
33.													858
													2,895

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34.	<b>Jagayyapeta</b> St. Ann's Hospital	40,600	7,010							1,750		1,670	5,750
35.	<b>Jakkampudi (Jeevan Nagar)</b> Carmel Rani Nivas	3,500 7,775	500	300	400	200	250	500	300	800	200	1,076	2,154
36.	<b>Joji Nagar</b> St. Ann's Convent	37,030	800	600	700	400	400	500	500		200	770	
37.	<b>Jyothinagar</b> Christu Jyothi Nilayam JMJ Junior College Jyothi T.M. High School JMJ E. M. School JMJ College Hostel Jyothi Orphanage Jyothi Health Care Centre	67,880 10,000 12,000 10,000 10,000 3,225 2,000 1,000	500	500	500	400				3,767			2,465
38.	<b>Kaikaluru</b> Ursuline Convent	20,550 1,000	400	250	350	200	150	200	200	1,200	200	1,050	1,290
39.	<b>Kalidindi</b> St. Joseph's Convent	20,050										1,008	2,312
40.	<b>Kambhampadu</b>	6,147										541	4,357
41.	<b>Kanchikacherla</b> Vijaya Rani Convent	31,320								1,373		1,020	4,158
42.	<b>Kankipadu</b> Arogyamatha Convent(SD)	1,01,566	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	50,683	1,000	5,120	5,820
43.	<b>Kanuru</b> Camel Matha Niketan	64,800 3,000	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,470	9,150
44.	<b>Kesara</b> Immaculate Provincialate BJT College	12,000 22,310 10,000											
45.	<b>Kesarapalli</b>	43,562	500	500	500	500	300	250	200	32,763	500	3,782	7,288
46.	<b>Koduru</b>	10,500								1,245		1,405	2,805
47.	<b>Kondapalli</b> St. Ann's Convent St. Ann's Hospital	42,236 5,000	500	350	400	200	250	350	300	1,010	200	2,762	3,620
48.	<b>Kondapavuluru</b>	6,600										920	1,355
49.	<b>Korukollu</b> St. Ann's Convent	9,430	200	100	100	100	100	150	150	2,680		2,330	1,210

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50.	<b>Kotapadu</b>	1,830	200	100	100								
51.	<b>Kothapalli</b>	3,300	200	100	100	100	100	100	100				
52.	<b>Kuchipudi</b> Holy Spirit Convent	5,050											
53.	<b>Labhipeta</b> St. Ann's Hospital St. Clare's Convent	31,850 37,000 2,000	1,500	1,050	1,050	300	500	600	550	600	300	2,650	5,910
54.	<b>Lourdunagar</b>	8,705	300	200	250	100	100	150	150	1,040	100	503	
55.	<b>Machilipatnam</b> Nirmala Convent Holy Family Convent	1,52,000 1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000				2,000				
56.	<b>Mallavalli</b> Adoration Convent De Paul Health Centre	6,854 1,000	200	100	150	100	100	150	100		100	1,018	1,077
57.	<b>Mangnapudi</b> Tharangani Matha Convent	16,210								750		1,320	4,730
58.	<b>Mariapuram (Lakshimpuram)</b>	12,770	500	300	400	200	250	350	300	1,720	200	1,710	5,830
59.	<b>Muchintala</b>	9,000								560		1,610	2,930
60.	<b>Mudinepalli</b> Sahayamatha Convent Sahayamatha School	15,150 1,000 2,000	2,140	200	350	100	100	150	150	1,225	200	1,405	2,015
61.	<b>Mulapadu</b>	3,160											
62.	<b>Munagalapalli</b> St. Lucy Convent	10,845	250	350	200	400	350	450	300	300	400	586	1,087
63.	<b>Musunuru</b> Nazareth Pretranalaya	5,780	200	150	150	100	100	150	150	1,000		889	1,999
64.	<b>Mylavaram</b> Little Flower Convent	10,046	360	200	310	150	180	250	270	2,541	260	2,018	3,038
65.	<b>Nagayalanka</b> Christu Nivas	4,850 1,000	200	100	150					1,000		1,054	2,632

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66.	<b>Nandigama</b> Don Bosco Convent	66,957	1,000	800	900	300	400	600	500	600	300	2,638	4,794
67.	<b>Nawabupeta</b> St. Joseph's Convent	8,300 1,000	400	300	350	200	200	300	250		100		
68.	<b>Nehrupeta</b> Pavanatma Nilayam	9,630										620	1,158
69.	<b>Nunna</b> St. Joseph's Convent St. Ann's Sneha Sadan St. Ann's Bhavan (Surampalli)	16,000 2,000 4,000								5,000			
70.	<b>Nuzvid-Town</b> St. Ambrose Seminary St. Ann's Convent St. Clare's Convent	12,500 20,700 20,000	600	410	350	325	225	430	330	5,189 7,040	370	3,069	3,339
71.	<b>Pamaru</b> Little Flower Convent	3,050								2,000			
72.	<b>Pedda - Mustabad</b>	23,725	400	300	350	200	200	350	400		300		
73.	<b>Pedana</b> Premanjali Convent	8,000 1,000	400	300	350	150	150	200	250	1,100	200	1,061	1,453
74.	<b>Penamaluru</b> Vimala Sadan Convent	22,500	500	500	500	350	350	350	350	4,000		1,500	3,000
75.	<b>Pezzonipeta</b>	51,350	1,030	750	870	610	740	520	360	9,790	420	4,325	11,175
76.	<b>Penugolanu</b>	2,000	320	380	560								
77.	<b>Polukonda</b>	12,760	500	300	400	200	200	300	350		100		
78.	<b>Pydurupadu</b>	1,000										416	1,025
79.	<b>Rajarajeswaripeta</b>	14,032	900							911		691	916
80.	<b>Ramanakapeta</b> Holy Family Convent	9,000	200	100	150	100	100	150	150		100	750	890
81.	<b>Ranigarithota</b>	18,400	400	300	350	200	200	300	250			1,332	2,465
82.	<b>Sahayanagar (Ibrahimpattam)</b>	4,500										1,414	1,866
83.	<b>Saradhanagar</b>	9,900	300	200	250	100	100	200	150			1,002	2,074
84.	<b>Satyanayanapuram</b> JMJ Convent	48,040 2,000	1,200	1,000	1,100	900	1,000	1,700	1,200	17,396 3,000	800	2,246	5,682

S. NO	PARISH	Mission Sunday	Holy Childhood	St. Peter's Pence	St. Peter the Apostle	Education & Human Rights	Justice Sunday	Jyothirmai	Laity Sunday	Lenten Campaign	Vocations	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday
85.	<b>Siluvagattu</b> Assisi Karuna Bhavan	8,000 3,000	300	568	625	150	200	350	310		100	1,685	2,190
86.	<b>Siluvagirinagar</b> Maria Nivas Convent Santhi Nilayam	15,630	400	300	500	200	250	350	400	1,260	100	319	3,818
87.	<b>Telaprolu</b> St. Ann's Convent	16,430	500	400	450	300	350	400	400		200		
88.	<b>Thukkukuru</b> JBL Home	9,050 5,250	200	100	100	100	100	100	100	550	70	593	3,890
89.	<b>Tiruvuru</b> Assisi Seva Sadan St.Catherine's Hospital Jyothi Nilayam	7,120 2,000 2,500 1,500											
90.	<b>Uppaluru</b> St. Ann's Convent	12,250	350	300	500	200	200	250	350				
91.	<b>Vanukuru</b>	30,320	300	200	200	150	150	200	150	200		1,610	2,930
92.	<b>Vatsavai</b> ICM Sisters	19,720 3,100								1,200		679	3,853
93.	<b>Velagalagudem</b>	4,140										436	715
94.	<b>Vellaturu</b>	18,200	300	200	300	100	100	150	150		100	1,797	5,255
95.	<b>Velpur</b> Nirmala Society of F.C.C., Nidamanuru	8,130 10,000	300	250	300	200	200	250	200	650		1,070	1,830
96.	<b>Venannapudi</b>	4,100	200	100	200	100	100	100	100				
97.	<b>Ventrappagada</b> Shanthi Bhavan	14,790 3,000	400	250	300	150	200	300	350		100	1,020	1,560
98.	<b>Vissannapeta</b>	27,104	400	300	450	200	200	250	250		200		
99.	St. Theresa's Convent	26,420	4,750							2,136		2,448	11,412
100.	<b>Yesupuram</b>	6,630											

## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

### Annual Retreat for the Junior Clergy

42 priests of the Diocese participated in the Annual Retreat for the Junior Clergy of Vijayawada which was held from 6<sup>th</sup> January to 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at



Bishop's House. The retreat was guided by Fr. Antony Menezes SVD, the former director of Ishvani Kendra Pune, and the present director of Atma Darshan, Mumbai. Welcoming the preacher and the priests on the first day of the retreat, His Lordship said that retreat is not only a time of being with the Lord but an opportunity to rejuvenate and reinvent ourselves in our pastoral life. The preacher who holds a doctorate in counselling psychology helped the young clergy of the diocese by his psycho-spiritual approach and self-help techniques during the retreat. Fr. Kuchipudi Prasanth, the parish priest of Vennanapudi, while thanking the preacher at the conclusion of the retreat expressed how Fr. Tony while being informative, was also posing thought-provoking questions and

was complimenting each talk with his life experiences to help the retreatants. He also expressed his gratitude to all those who facilitated the retreat in various ways.

*Fr. Marlapati Bhanu Yeswant Kumar,  
Bishop's House, Vijayawada.*

### Parish Feast of Jagannadhapuram

The parish feast of Jagannadhapuram parish was celebrated on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao SMM, the Bishop of Vijayawada in the presence of 25 priests and over 2000 faithful. His



Lordship in his homily, preached about how each of us is called to be the living temples of the Holy Spirit and that it is possible only when everyone lives in unity by the fruits and gifts of the spirit.

The parish priest thanked His Lordship and all the priests and the religious who added grandeur to the celebration through their gracious pres-

ence. He also thanked the parish community for their generosity in contributing towards the feast.

*Fr. Neeluri Mariadas, Parish Priest,  
Jagannadhapuram*

### Ordination Celebration at Korukollu Parish

18<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 was a memorable day to the parishioners of Korukollu as they witnessed the solemn ordination ceremony of Deacon Kurma Bhagya Raju. He hails from Prodhuvaka, the substation of Korukollu parish. On that day, Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao SMM, the Bishop of Vijayawada presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration, while Most Rev. Ivan Albert Pereira, Bishop of Jammu-Srinagar ordained the deacon for the diocese of Jammu-Srinagar.

Rev. Fr. Jose Johh Neelamkavil presented the candidate to the Bishop on behalf of the diocese of Jammu-



Srinagar. Nine priests from Jammu-Srinagar diocese and few others priests of different congregations and dioceses and religious sisters were present for the celebration. The faithful

participated in large numbers. The new priest, Fr. K. Bhagya Raju celebrated his first thanksgiving Mass on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at Prodhuvaka village. It was indeed a great cause of joy to the faithful of Prodhuvaka village as the son of the soil is going on a mission to Jammu-Srinagar diocese.

*Fr. Merugumala Anil Kumar,  
Parish Priest, Korukollu*

## NEWS FROM THE RELIGIOUS

### 75<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Bro. Joseph Thamby at PedddaAvutapalli

**1. The Holy Masses and the Celebrants:-**The Holy Masses were the core and centre of all the celebrations each day. Each day's celebration was begun with the Holy Eucharistic celebration. Dignitaries of Capuchins and dioceses were the main celebrants along with many other concelebrants. Jubilee celebrations were declared open by Rev. Fr. Melchior Kata OFM Cap, the provin-

cial minister of Marymatha Capuchin province during the holy mass on 13<sup>th</sup> morning; he was the main celebrant of the mass, along with priests of the community in Avutapally. All the solemn masses were offered in the morning and in the evening on the stage (Br. Joseph Thamby Kalaavedika). There were masses offered for the faithful in the main church during the day time too. Most Rev. Jayarao Polimera, the bishop of Eluru, Most Rev. Paul Maipan, the bishop of Khammam, Most Rev.

Antony Poola, the bishop of Kurnool diocese, Most. Rev. Joseph Raja Rao



SMM, the bishop of Vijayawada, Fr. Devadas Duguta OFM Cap, the rector of Br. Joseph Thamby Shrine Pedda Avutapally were the main celebrants of the holy masses respectively for the morning and the evening solemn masses on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. Many priests from different dioceses participated in these Eucharistic Celebrations.

## 2. Faith and Faithful ( Pilgrims):-

Lakhs of pilgrims visited the shrine not only on the designated three days of the festival but also the later days, up



to 18<sup>th</sup> of January. People of all faiths visited and prayed for their intentions through the intercessions of the servant of God, Br. Joseph Thamby.

## 3. New Ventures and Religious Articles:

- **Br. Joseph Thamby:** “Br. Joseph Thamby” a biography (in Telugu) written by Fr. Praveen Kumar Gopu OFM Cap, the editor of “Thamby Velugu “ magazine and Fr. Devadas Duguta OFM Cap, the Rector of Br. Joseph Thamby Shrine was released by Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao SMM, the bishop of Vijayawada, during the



Holy Eucharistic celebration on 15<sup>th</sup> of January.

- **Mementoes :-** Mementoes labelled “ Br. Joseph Thamby’s, 75<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary“ conceived and designed by Fr. Melchior Kata OFM Cap, and his definitors, were released by Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao SMM, the bishop of Vijayawada, on 15<sup>th</sup> of January.
- **The Image (statue) of Br. Joseph Thamby:-** The Image (statue) of Br. Joseph Thamby was unveiled , prayed over, and blessed by Fr. Melchior Kata OFM Cap, in the presence of all his definitors, Fr. Devadas Duguta OFM Cap, Fr. Innababu Polamarasetty OFM Cap, Fr. Joseph Paladugu OFM Cap, many other priests and a huge number of pilgrims on 13<sup>th</sup> of January.

• **Br. Joseph Thamby Kalaavedika:-** The renovation and extension of “Br. Joseph Thamby Kalaavedika” is another remarkable venture of the year as well as the jubilee.

**4. Thanksgiving Holy Mass:-** A Thanksgiving Holy Mass was offered in the evening of the last day of the jubilee i.e 15<sup>th</sup> of January by the members of the community (Pedda Avupally) i.e., Fr. Devadas Duguta OFM Cap, the rector of the shrine, Fr. Innababu Polamarasetty OFM Cap, the parish priest, Fr. Joseph Paladugu OFM Cap, the assistant parish priest, Br. Francis Kunnapalli, along with

mass with an inspiring message congratulating Sr. Jyothi on the auspicious occasion and preached on how to live



as a jubilarian and a consecrated person in her future years with renewed spirit graciously and joyfully.



other priests. Glory be to the Triune Godhead, Amen.

*Fr. Innababu Polamarasetty OFM (Cap), Parish Priest, PeddaAvutapally*

**Silver Jubilee Celebration of Sr. Jyothi Joseph MSI in Penamaluru Parish**

On 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 Sr. Jyothi Joseph Satyanapalli MSI (Nirmala Sisters) celebrated the Silver Jubilee of her First Profession at the parish church of Penamaluru, her native place. His Lordship, Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM along with 11 priests celebrated a beautiful and meaningful

Many sisters of different congregations including Nirmala sisters, her family



members, friends and parishioners joined the celebration imploring God’s blessings upon her and congratulated her. Sr. Jyothi is rendering her services in Brazil as a missionary for the past 13 years. She thanked each one present and requested their prayers so that she could continue to live in her mission joyfully. The celebration ended with the felicitation followed by a delicious meal.

*Fr. Nuthalapati Kishore, Parish Priest, Penamaluru*

"Blessed are you among women." Luke-1:42

# GUNADALAMATHA FESTIVAL - 2020

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Gunadala, Diocese of Vijayawada

February  
9, 10, 11



His Excellency  
Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM  
Bishop of Vijayawada

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ !

Mother Mary, by saying "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it done to me according to your word" has dedicated her life completely for the glory of the Lord and for the salvation of the humankind. She has given her Apparitions in many places. Her presence on the hill at Gunadala, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, draws thousands of pilgrims to herself and to her son Jesus, who was crucified on the Cross. Through her intercession thousands of pilgrims receive the manifold blessings of God. We are glad to extend our cordial invitation to you to participate in the Annual Festival celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

## PROGRAMMES

**Novena** : 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
**Candle Procession** : On Novena Days, from the Church to Gunadalamatha Grotto on the Hill at 6.00 pm followed by the Holy Eucharist.

### 31<sup>st</sup> Friday, January 2020 : Flag Hoisting

Flag Hoisting by His Excellency, **Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM**  
 Bishop of Vijayawada at 5.30 pm

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, February 2020 : Laying of the Foundation

Laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Shrine Church of Gunadalamatha by His Excellency, **Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM** on the occasion of the Feast of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple at 5.00 pm

## 09-02-2020 Sunday

- 7.00 am** : **Concelebrated Holy Eucharist**  
**Golden Jubilarian:** Rev. Fr. Abraham Thomas  
**Silver Jubilarian:** Rev. Fr. Dovari Joseph  
 Liturgical Singing : Gunadala Parish Choir Conducted by: **Mr. G. Balaswamy**
- 10.00 am** : **"Kolatham"** by Mylavaram Parish Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Nandipam Jojappa**
- 11.00am** : **"Devotional Dances"** by Diocesan Youth, 'Pray'rana Youth Centre  
 Organised by: **Rev. Fr. Chilukoti John Babu**
- 11.30 am** : **"Holy Eucharist"** in the Shrine Church  
 Officiated by: **Rev. Fr Boddu Anand Babu**, Secretary to the Bishop of Vijayawada
- 01.00 pm** : **"Kolatham"** by Bayyaram Parish, Diocese of Khammam  
 Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Juguntla Prabhakar**
- 02.00 pm** : **"Devotional Dances"** by Diocesan Youth, 'Pray'rana Youth Centre
- 3.00 pm** : **"Marian Procession"** in and around Gunadala
- 6.00 pm** : **Concelebrated Holy Eucharist**  
**Most Rev. Rayarala Vijaya Kumar**, Bishop of Srikakulam  
**Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM**, Bishop of Vijayawada  
 Liturgical Singing: Satyanarayanapuram Parish Choir  
 Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Polisetty Jaya Raju**
- 8.30 pm** : **"Devotional Hymns"** (*Bhakti Geethalu*) by **The Elders**, Gunadala Parish
- 9.30 pm** : **"The Way to Love"** (*Nruthya Rupakam*) by **Kaladarsini** Vijayawada  
 Organised by: **Rev. Fr. Ravindra SJ**, Director, Kaladarsini

- 10.30 pm : **"Poor Lazarus"** (Solo Action) by **Mr. Thota Moses**, Teacher, Gunadala  
 11.00 pm : **"Ballad"** (*Gnana Sundari*) by Catechists of Vijayawada Diocese  
 12.00 pm : **"The Bearer of the Cross"** (*Siluvadhari*) Drama  
 by **Mr. Mutyala Nageswara Rao & Team** Goodmanpeta Parish  
 1.30 am : **"The Prodigal Son"** (*Thappipoyina Kumarudu*) Drama  
 by **Mr. P. Francis & Team** Tenali Parish, Guntur

**10-02-2020 Monday**

- 7.00 am : Concelebrated Holy Eucharist**  
**Most Rev. Udumula Bala**, Bishop of Warangal  
**Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao**, SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada  
 Liturgical Singing : Pallotti Vidhyanam Choir, Nidamanuru  
 Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. James Bhanu**, SAC
- 10.00 am : **"Kolatham"** St. Paul's Regional Seminary, Nuzvid  
 Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Gangarapu Anil**, SDB
- 11.00 am : **"Devotional Dances"** by Diocesan Youth, 'Pray'rana Youth Centre
- 11.30 am : **"Holy Eucharist"** in the Shrine Church  
 Officiated by: **Rev. Fr. Pulapaka Jacob Prasad**, Parish Priest, Velagalagudem
- 12.00 pm : **"Kolatham"** by Bhyravapatnam Parish  
 Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Darsi Jeeva Kumar**
- 1.00 pm : **"Special Programme"** by Vijaya Mary Integrated School For the Blind  
 Conducted by: **Vijaya Mary Convent, Carmel Nagar**
- 3.00 pm : **"Holy Eucharist"** in the Shrine Church  
 Officiated by: **Rev. Fr. Sale Vinay Kumar**, Parish Priest, Bodavada-Jammavaram
- 3.00 pm : **"Devotional Dances"** by Diocesan Youth, 'Pray'rana Youth Centre
- 6.00 pm : Concelebrated Holy Eucharist**  
**Most Rev. Antony Prince Panengaden**, Bishop of Adilabad  
**Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao**, SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada  
 Liturgical Singing : Pezzonipeta Parish Choir  
 Conducted by : **Rev. Fr. Thota Mariadas**, SDB  
*Distribution of Prizes to Holy Childhood Children*
- 8.30 pm : **"The Giver of the Life"** (*Nruthya Rupakam*) by Kaladarsini Vijayawada  
 Organised by: **Rev. Fr. Ravindra SJ**, Director, Kaladarsini
- 9.30 pm : **"Lucifer"** (Solo Action) by **Mr. Thantepudi David Ashok**, Gunadala Parish
- 10.30 pm : **"Ballad"** (*Samsonu-Delila*) by **Mr. Duggirala Chinnappa & Team**  
 Nandigama Parish
- 11.30 pm : **"Devotional Songs"** by **Mr. Repudi Vijaya Kumar**, Labbipeta Parish
- 12.00 pm : **"Rich Man-Poor Lazarus"** (Drama) by **Mr. Gummadi Jeevan Babu & Team**  
 St. Paul's Cathedral Parish
- 2.00 am : **"The Victory of Joseph"** (Drama) by **Mr. Polimetla Benjamin**, Rudrapaka

**11-02-2020 Tuesday**

- 7.00 am : Concelebrated Holy Eucharist**  
 Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada  
 Most Rev. Antony Prince Panengaden, Bishop of Adilabad  
 Liturgical Singing: **Diocesan Choir**, Conducted by: **Mr. Madiri Bernard**  
*Distribution of Prizes to Catechism Children*
- 10.00 am : **"Kolatom"** Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Tera Raraju**, Vellaturu Parish
- 11.00 am : **"Devotional Dances"** by Diocesan Youth, 'Pray'rana Youth Centre
- 11.30 am : **"Holy Eucharist"** in the Shrine Church  
 Officiated by: **Rev. Fr. Sankurla Santhi Raju**, Parish Priest, Nawabupeta
- 12.00 pm : **"Kolatom"** Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Chebrolu Joseph Thambi**, Vuyyuru Parish
- 1.00 pm : **"Devotional Dances"** by Diocesan Youth, 'Pray'rana Youth Centre
- 2.00 pm : **"Kolatom"** Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Karem Sekhar Babu**, Siluvagiri Parish
- 4.00 pm : **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
 Conducted by: **Rev. Fr. Mariadas Thota, SDB**, President, Local CRI  
 Liturgical Singing: **St. Aloysius Sisters, Gunadala**
- 6.00 pm : **"Devotional Hymns" (Bhakthi Geethalu)** by Mr. Neelam Venkaiah, Edara
- 7.00 pm : **"Ballad" (Karunya Murthy)** by Mr. Ravi Kumar & Team, Nuzvid
- 8.00 pm : **"Ballad" (Yesebu Vijayam)** by Mr. G. Ravi Kumar & Team, Visannapeta
- 9.00 am : **"Beheading of John the Baptist" (Aranyavasi)** Drama  
 by Mr. Nimmagadda Yesupadam, Pezzonipeta
- 11.00 am : **"The Victory of King David" (Daveedu Vijayam)** Drama  
 by Mr. K. Prem Sagar, Nehrupeta
- 1.00 am : **"Love of Jesus" (Yesu Prema)** Drama  
 by Mr. V. Datthu Babu, Satyanarayanapuram

**For the kind attention of the Pilgrims**

- On 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February, the Charismatic Prayers will be conducted in the Shrine Church from 10.00 am – 11.30 am and from 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm by Diocesan Charismatic Prayer Team, conducted by **Fr. Pamu Sudhakar**.
- Confessions will be heard during the Masses in the Morning & Evening on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February and at St. Joseph's Boarding chapel.
- Holy Communion will be given to practicing Catholics and it will not be given in the hands.
- Pilgrims are requested to take care of their children and belongings.
- Pilgrims are requested to keep silence in the places of worship.
- Special Counters are available to register the Mass Intentions in the Shrine Premises.
- Tonsure Counters are available on the Hill
- Child Helpline Number: 1098

**Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM**

**Bishop of Vijayawada**

**Msgr. Mesapam Gabriel**

**Vicar General**

**Msgr. Muvvala Prasad**

**Vicar General**

**Rev. Fr. William Jaya Raju Eleti**

**Rector & Parish Priest**

**Fr. R. Prakash, Fr. K. Jayapaul Roy & Fr. B. Kiran Kumar Asst. Parish Priests**

**Gunadalamatha Festival Committee, Gunadala, Vijayawada - 4**

## Blessing and Inauguration of Sacred Heart Parish Church, Nunna

Sacred heart Parish, Nunna(1958) which is situated on the outskirts of Vijayawada was bifurcated from Pezzonipeta and became an independent parish in April 1971. Rev. Fr. C. Rimondi PIME, when he was parish priest of Pezzonipeta had acquired eight acres of land on the Vijayawada-Nuzvid highway. The presbytery was built in 1973. Fr. Jose Nedumackal built the parish church in 1976 Fr. M. Masala PIME remodelled the presbytery. This mission is now entrusted to the MSFS Fathers in 1979 during the time of late Bishop Joseph Thumma. It was begun with 25 Catholic families but now it has grown into 150 families. It has



got 7 substations. Fr. Joseph Karachira MSFS was the first parish priest who belongs to MSFS congregation. Later Fr. Joseph Vichatt designed and built a beautiful entrance gate and erected the statues of Our Lady and Jesus on the Cross in 1999.

Few years ago, Frs. Ratnasamy, Dola Velangani Rao MSFS made efforts to extend the church, but in the course of time the church could not accommodate

the ever growing faithful. Previous parish priests made efforts to build a new church. Rev. Fr. Nannam Ratnasamy MSFS took great interest, under the guidance of Very Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy, the Provincial Superior, Visakhapatnam Province laid the foun-



ation stone on 26th June 2017. Under the supervision of Fr. Madanu Vijaya Raju MSFS and Fr. Jangam Ravi Kumar MSFS the church was completed. The newly constructed Sacred Heart Church was blessed and consecrated by Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao SMM, the Bishop of Vijayawada in the presence of Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy, the Provincial Superior of MSFS, who inaugurated the Parish Church on (Tuesday) 21st January 2020. The blessing and consecration of the new church was witnessed by number of priests and religious, and a vast number of faithful.

*Fr. Madanu Vijayaraju MSFS,  
Parish Priest, Nunna*

## NEWS FROM THE CENTRES / COMMISSIONS

### The Formation of New Youth Group in Vellaturu Parish

New Youth Group was formed in Kandulapadu; one of the substations of Vellaturu Parish on 15<sup>th</sup> December by Fr. John Babu, the Diocesan Youth Director and Fr. Raraju, the parish priest of Vellaturu. There were 25 youth who voluntarily came forward to render their service to the Church. On that day, Fr. John



Babu celebrated the Holy Eucharist along with the parish priest. During the homily, Fr. John Babu welcomed and appreciated the step taken by the youth and encouraged them to build and carry the faith formation in the community level in order to inspire the coming generation to take the responsibility of carrying the faith in their day to day life. All the 25 youth swore an oath to continue the spirit of being a real Catholic youth to work and serve the people in faith and charity. It was a grand celebration where all the villagers were present and the new youth group was given T-Shirts and Diocesan Youth Calendar. The celebration ended with grand meal after the

mass. Let us wish them all the best that our good Lord may guide them in their ministry.

*Fr. John Babu, the Diocesan Youth Director, Prayrana Youth Centre, Carmel Nagar, Gudadala*

### YSM/YCM Students of Atkinson celebrate Christmas with the aged at Nambur

On the 21st of Dec. 2019, the YSM/YCM students visited the 'Little Sisters of the Poor' a Home for the aged at Nambur together with Fr. John Babu the youth director and Sr. Christia the Principal of Atkinson Senior Secondary School, Tarapet, Vijayawada. As planned in advance, all the generously donated items were collected by YSM students. The items included soaps, detergents, clothes, fruits etc.

The inmates of the Home for the Aged, gathered in the hall, were totally immersed in watching the Christmas skit.



Amidst the singing of carols, with joyful hearts, the people in the home joined the

celebration with clapping of hands and broad smiles. As the fruits were distributed, the students interacted with the elderly; some of them recollected their past days and some with eyes filled with nostalgia. Undoubtedly, there was happiness around. Fr. John Babu and Sr. Christia addressed the inmates accentuating the spirit of sharing and caring for the helpless. The students felt truly involved and expressed their desire to make frequent visits, most of all to see the radiance on the faces of the elderly people.

This small gesture proved that YSM/ YCM could bring value to the lives of people. A special thanks to Sr. Christia, the Principal of Atkinson Senior Secondary School, YSM students and staff.

*Fr. John Babu, the Diocesan Youth Director, Prayrana Youth Centre, Carmel Nagar, Gunadala*

## Bible Exam for Catechists- 2020

Bible Exam for Catechists was held on 22 January 2020 at Pastoral Centre, Carmel Nagar. 57 catechists wrote the



exam. Prize money, Certificate and Memento will be awarded to the winners on the last day of Gunadalamatha Festival after the Holy Eucharist by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM, the bishop of Vijayawada.

### Bible Exam for Catechists 2020 - Results

#### Teacher Catechists

Name	Parish	Marks	Prize
V. Jeeva Ratnam	Pamaru	21/25	First
G. Joseph	Nuzvid Town	20/25	Second
P. Anandaiah	Kondapavuluru	18/25	Third
L. Poorna Kumar	Gannavaram	16/25	Consolation

#### Trained Catechists

Name	Parish	Marks	Prize
Y. Joji Babu	Konkepudi	22/25	First
Y. Bernard	Nuzvid Town	19/25	Second
K. Madan Mohan	Kaikaluru	18/25	Third
K. Santhaiah	Gunadala	16.5/25	Consolation
R. Marianna	Eadara	16.5/25	Consolation

#### Professional Catechists

Name	Parish	Marks	Prize
K. Prem Kiran	Saradanagar	22/25	First
K. David Raju	Arugolanu	19/25	Second
N. Elisha	Ramanakkapeta	18.5/25	Third
M. John Bosco	Nuzvid Town	18/25	Consolation

## Diocesan Catechism Examination -2020

I am happy to bring to your kind notice that 250 best Catholic students of 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> classes from our Catholic Schools



of our diocese have appeared for **The Diocesan Catechism Examination**

which was conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 at Bishop Grassi High School. The prize money, Mementos and the Certificates will be distributed to those who secured **First, Second** and **Third** in each class on 11<sup>th</sup> February, after the Mass by our bishop, His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao SMM. Sincere thanks to Fr. Inti Antony, the correspondent of Bishop Grassi High School for the timely support and to all who supported and encouraged this programme.

*Fr. Damala Vijaya Kumar, Director,  
St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre,  
Carmel Nagar*

### School Catechism 2020 - Prize Winners

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Class

Name	School	Marks	Prize
Goguntla Nissi	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	24.5/30	First
Rayapudi Akhil	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	23/30	Second
Malapati Jahnavi	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	22.5/30	Third

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Class

Name	School	Marks	Prize
Sanampudi Pooja	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	28/30	First
Ganapathi Jhansi	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	26.5/30	Second
P. Vaishnavi	Assisi EM HS / Pamarru	24.5/30	Third

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Name	School	Marks	Prize
V. Sanjana	Fr. Bianchi HS / Gudivada	22/30	First
Danthala Bharath	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	19/30	Second
Kurapati Jyothi	Assisi EM HS / Pamarru	11/30	Third

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Class

Name	School	Marks	Prize
Ericherla Amulya	Assisi EM HS / Pamarru	26/30	First
Kummari Jaya Sri	RCM UP S. / Kondapalli	24/30	Second
Paladugu Srilakshmi	RCM UP S. / Jaggaiahpet	21/30	Third

**8<sup>th</sup> Class**

Name	School	Marks	Prize
Boddu Harsha	Assisi EM HS / Pamarru	25/30	First
Geddada Mary	Assisi EM HS / Pamarru	22/30	Second
Badde Jhansi Rani	RCM HS / Machilipatnam	18/30	Third

**9<sup>th</sup> Class**

Name	School	Marks	Prize
Ganta Usha Rani	Fr. Bianchi / Gudivada	25/30	First
Netru Sumathi	RCM HS / Machilipatnam	23/30	Second
M. Thejaswini	St. Antony's HS / VJA 1	22/30	Third

**10<sup>th</sup> Class**

Name	School	Marks	Prize
Thumeti Keerthi	St. Antony's HS / VJA 1	23/25	First
Peddapalli Deevana	St. Ann's HS / Avanigadda	21/25	Second
K. Hema Subhi	Assisi EM HS / Pamarru	20.5/25	Third

## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOLS

### Annual Day Celebration of Holy Cross English Medium High School, Kaikalur

The School Annual day celebration of Holy Cross English Medium High



School, Kaikalur was celebrated on 9th January, 2020. It was a hilarious and enraptured celebration and the Holy Cross family was in great elation and

gusto. The spectacular evening was eventful with the distinguished assem-



bly of guests headed by His Lordship Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada, Rev. Fr. Guzzula Michael, DGM of the RCM Schools, Sri. Dulam Nageswar Rao MLA, Kaikalur constituency, Rev. Sr. Veena Panamkatt UMI, the Provincial Superior of the Ursuline Sisters of Mary Immaculate and other invited dignitar-

ies. The Bishop lauded and appreciated the management and staff for the unwavering personal commitment and conviction to the cause of education and for being an instrumental for social transformation.

The theme of the annual day outlined the vision of the school that aims at imbuing a strong value system in the young aspiring students. The annual exhibition of talents that showcased the enchanting performance of the students was appreciated by one and all.

*Sr. Litty Mathew UMI, Headmistress,  
Holy Cross Eng Med High School,  
Atapaka, Kaikalur*

### **A New Feather in the Cap of St Francis E.M. High School, Machilipatnam**

Our heart overwhelmed in gratitude to Almighty; the campus of St. Francis school echoed the noise of festivity. On



10<sup>th</sup> January 2020, a formal ceremony was held to lay the foundation stone for the new block of ISC Class XI & XII, in St. Francis School, Machilipatnam. Prior to the actual laying of the foundation stone, a warm welcome was given to

the Bishop, His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, SMM, and to the invited priests by Fr. Michael DGM, Sr. Shiby Antony FMSC, the Principal, the staff & students of St. Francis School. Little children dressed in pure white stood like little angels in long queues with flowers to welcome our beloved Bishop and the



construction committee members. Laying of the foundation Stone was done in a solemn manner starting with prayers, invoking God's blessings on the proposed venture. The ceremony was presided over by His Excellency. The esteemed presence of diocesan construction committee members, Fr. Eleti William Jay Raju, Rector and Parish Priest of Gunathalamatha shrine, Fr. P.K. Joseph, Parish Priest of Kesarapalli, Fr. Marianna, the Director of Education Desk and other priests added grandeur to the occasion.

His Excellency, Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao SMM, during the ceremony, mentioned that the School Management has successfully offered quality education to everyone especially to the poor for the last 40 years. The school has a long list of eminent persons who are its alumni; the two engineers, who have undertaken

the construction, cherished their memories of their school days in the same campus.

The Bishop lauded the services rendered by the management and staff under stressful conditions to develop the people of the region. By upgrading, the School can give better service to the society; it is definitely a milestone in the history of the school as well as in the growth and development of the society.

The correspondent Fr. Michael ably steered the upgradation of the academic level from ICSE to ISC (XI and XII classes). It was the significant event and a great venture in the history of the school. The institute is now poised for its growth and today's occasion is a landmark in this direction.

*Sr. Shiby Antony FMSC, Principal, St. Francis School E.M.High School, Machilipatnam*

### **Silver Jubilee Celebration of Sahayamatha English Medium High School, Mudinepalli**

Sahayamatha English Medium High School celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the school on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020. It is an occasion to raise our hearts in gratitude to the Almighty God for all his blessings, loving protection and providence all through the past Twenty Five years. It was really a Joyous celebration and a great event for the children of the school to put up a talented and wondrous show.

The day was filled with the grateful presence of our Chief Guest, His Lordship Most Rev.Dr.Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, Bishop of Vijayawada, Sri Dulam Nageswara Rao, MLA of Kaikaluru constituency, Rev. Mother Jane Mary, Provincial Superior, Vijayawada, Former Principals, MEO, MRO, and MDO of Mudinepalli, other Priests and religious of the neighbourhood, Parents and well wishers added grandeur to the occasion.

The Bishop appreciated the management and the staff for their efficient management of the school and services. He



congratulated the students and urged the parents to strive for the goal of the institution. As a Silver Jubilee memorial our Alumni contributed money for the construction of a new entrance gate for the school. In connection with the Silver Jubilee we conducted various competitions for the parents and distributed prizes on that day. The celebrations have a great success due to the great effort of the management and staff.

*Sr. Elvin, Headmistress, Sahayamatha E.M. High school, Mudinepalli*

## NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Indian Church to use new English lectionary from April

January 13, 2020 Matters India

Bengaluru, Jan 13, 2020: The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) will release the new English lectionary for the Church in India on February 16 and it will come into effect from Palm Sunday, April 5.

The conference claims the new lectionary's publication is a landmark in the Indian Church history and that it is a contribution of the Church in India to the Universal Church. "It shows our biblical scholarship and liturgical competence," says a CCBI press note from its deputy secretary general Father Stephen Alathara.

The CCBI, the national body of the Latin rite bishops in the country, had in 2015 directed its Bible and Liturgy Commissions to prepare the lectionary and they took "almost five years to complete this significant and important project."

The lectionary presents has been prepared by experienced and prominent biblical scholars ensuring compatibility with Catholic teaching and textual accuracy from the original texts of the scriptures. The English Standard Version Catholic Edition has been used throughout in the new lectionary. The Psalms have been adopted from the Abbey Psalms approved by the Episcopal Conference of the United States and

subsequently recognised by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in 2018.

Father Alathara says for many years there has been a general unease and frequent dissatisfaction with the present scriptural texts used in the celebration of Mass. "When biblical books are put into modern languages several problems arise regarding the integrity of the



text. Biblical scholars worry that some versions in English do not respect its actual meaning. They are more paraphrase than translation, meaning the original texts are interpreted rather than rendered accurately," he explains.

"In recent years the importance of accuracy in translation has been stressed. It was felt by the members of the CCBI that the English versions in use did not do this sufficiently and scripture scholars were engaged to help us with an accurate English translation." The CCBI's 29th plenary assembly, held on February 7, 2017, in Bhopal, unanimously approved the English Standard Version Bible Catholic Edition, granted

the Imprimatur for this translation and approved it for liturgical use.

The Lectionary is prepared in accordance with the Indian liturgical calendar. Special readings for solemnities, feasts and memorials of the Indian saints and votive Masses for our country is the unique specialty of the lectionary. The revised liturgical calendar for the Church in India was approved by the Vatican on March 2, 2015.

The new lectionary was presented to the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments on October 16, 2019, and it was scrutinized by a scholars' team led by Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the Archbishop of Bombay. The confirmation came on December 9, 2019. The three volumes of the lectionary have been prepared over two years by the CCBI Commission for Liturgy in collaboration with the Commission for Bible. "Great care has been taken to present the readings in a way especially suitable for reading in the required manner. The long journey to provide accuracy and integrity to the sacred scriptures has now been realized," Father Alathara says.

### **Six women who shaped India as republic**

New Delhi, Jan 25, 2020: Virginia Woolf had once said, "For most of history, anonymous was a woman." But when it came to the Indian Independence Movement, women walked shoulder-to-shoulder with men to help India receive its Independence.

Here are six women who played a pivotal role in shaping India as a republic:

#### **1. Rani Lakshmbai**

She was one of the key figures behind the First War of Independence of 1857 against the East India Company. Here was a woman who wouldn't take no for an answer. When the British wanted to take over the Jhansi Fort in the absence of a legitimate male heir, she fought against them for two straight weeks, making herself heard loud and clear.

#### **2. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit**

A diplomat and a politician, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was the first woman to become the president of the UN General Assembly. Prior to that, she was the first woman to hold a cabinet position in British India. She had also served as an ambassador to the Soviet Union, United States and was the Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom.

#### **3. Sarojini Naidu**

A freedom fighter and a poet, Sarojini Naidu was the first women governor of an Indian State and the first Indian woman president of the Indian National Congress. Having joined the independence movement soon after the partition of Bengal in 1905, she helped form of the Women's Indian Association. She even joined Annie Besant to present the case for the women's right to vote in London.

#### **4. Aruna Asaf Ali**

An Indian Independence activist, Aruna

Asaf Ali became Delhi's first mayor in 1958. She is also remembered for her role in the Quit India Movement of 1942, during which she hoisted the Indian National Congress flag at the Gowalia



Tank maidan in Bombay. She was imprisoned in Tihar jail, from where she launched a hunger strike to protest against unfair and indifferent treatment of prisoners. In 1997, she was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

## 5. Annie Beasant

A women's right activist, socialist and orator, Annie Beasant was part of the Indian National Congress. She was elected as its president after World War I broke out in 1914. To campaign for democracy in India and dominion status within the British Empire, Beasant helped launch the Home Rule League. Annie Beasant continued to campaign for the Indian Independence movement until her death in 1933.

## 6. Begum Aizaz Rasul

Begum Aizaz Rasul was the only Muslim woman to be part of the be a member of the Constituent Assembly of India. She remained a member until 1952, and was one of very few women who was elected to be a part of the UP legislative assembly after contesting from a non-reserved seat. She also served as

the Minister for Social Welfare and Minorities. Begum Rasul was awarded a Padma Bhushan in 2000 for her contribution to social work.

## Pope asks Cardinal Gracias to continue as Bombay archbishop

January 29, 2020 Matters India

Mumbai, Jan 28, 2020: Church leaders in India have welcomed Pope Francis asking Cardinal Oswald Gracias to continue as the Bombay archdiocese. "It is good news. We welcome the cardinal's extension as the Archbishop of Bombay," Bishop Allwyn D'Silva told Matters India on January 28, respond-



ing to the Pope's decision.

Cardinal Gracias had on November 30, 2019, submitted to the Pope in person his resignation from the archbishop's post as he was to complete 75 years on December 24 the same year. A letter from the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples to Cardinal Gracias says the "Holy Father has asked you to continue 'donec aliter provideatur (until other provision is made).'"

The congregation's December 6 letter expresses its gratitude to the cardinal

for what he is doing for the service of the Church in Mumbai, in India and the Universal Church. "Permit me to add my own personal esteem and affection," said Cardinal Filoni Fernando, prefect of the Vatican congregation.

Bishop D'Silva, one of the auxiliaries of Bombay archdiocese, says people in Mumbai had expected the extension because of the cardinal's caliber, knowledge, and experience of Church affairs both in India and the Universal Church.

The environmentalist-turned prelate hailed the cardinal as "an effective spiritual leader, who is respected across the political spectrum in India and abroad. Gracias has guided the church in India with courage and prudence."

Cardinal Gracias is one of the six advisers of Pope Francis. He is the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, which is scheduled to hold its biennial plenary meeting in Bengaluru mid-February. The cardinal is eligible for another term as the head of the Indian Catholic Church as he continues as the Bombay archbishop. Until a year ago, he was the president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences.

Gracias Gracias was born in Mumbai to Jervis and Aduzinda Gracias of Goan origins. He completed his school studies at St. Michael's School in Mahim and joined Jesuit-managed St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. After a year, he entered the Seminary of St. Pius X in Bombay, for his philosophy and theology studies. He was ordained a priest for Bombay

archdiocese by Cardinal Valerian Gracias (no relation) on December 20, 1970. From 1971 to 1976, he served as chancellor and secretary to Jesuit Bishop Joseph Rodericks of Jamshedpur.

He then went to Rome to study at the Pontifical Urbaniana University from where he obtained a doctorate in canon law, and a diploma in jurisprudence. On his return to Mumbai, he was named chancellor, judge of the metropolitan tribunal, and judicial vicar. He served as the chancellor of the archdiocese during 1982-1988. He also served as a visiting professor to the seminaries of Bombay, Poona, and Bangalore, as well as serving as president of the Canon Law Society of India.

Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay on June 28, 1997. He was named the Archbishop of Agra on September 7, 2000, and Archbishop of Bombay on October 14, 2006. He served as secretary general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, and its president of the Conference of Catholic Bishops in India (Latin rite). Pope Benedict XVI made him a cardinal on October 17, 2007.

### **Christians faced 1,774 hate crimes in four years**

Bhopal, Jan 28, 2020: From 2016 to 2019, Indian Christians have faced 1,774 cases of hate crimes across 25 states and 3 Union Territories, says Persecution Relief report. In other words, India witnessed 59.6 percent rise in hate crimes against Christians during the

same period, says Persecution Relief’s much-awaited “Annual Report-2019.

Persecution Relief is an ecumenical forum that records Christian persecution in India. In 2019 alone, the forum documented 527 cases compared to 447 cases in 2018, 440 in 2017 and 330 in 2016. It was a drastic leap of 179.4 per cent.



U t t a r Pradesh, India’s most populous state, emerged as the most hostile place for Christians for three consecutive

years. Tamil Nadu continues at the second spot with 75 cases, followed by Karnataka, 32 cases, Maharashtra 4 with 31 cases and Bihar with 30 cases at number 5. What stands out among the hate crimes in India is that four Christians were murdered in 2019.

In the same year, the forum recorded 199 incidents related to threats, intimidation and harassment against Christians, 104 attacks on churches, 85 incidents of physical violence, 100s of house churches forcefully closed by religious fanatics and the local administration in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The anti-conversion law was introduced in two states ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — Jharkhand and

Himachal Pradesh making a total of 8 out of 28 states to have passed the same law.

The Persecution Relief started in 2017 a toll-free number 1800-1234- 461 to provide comprehensive support to the persecuted. Between 2017 to 2019, it received 2,718 calls from Christians desperately seeking help and relief. As many as 739 such calls were recorded in 2019 alone.

The ecumenical forum says Christian persecution is no more confined to a particular state. The authorities have made trivial efforts to dissuade the BJP-controlled states and mobs from contradicting religious liberty and breaching the constitutional rights of religious minorities.

The police often misuse and abuse their authority and operate as extended hands of the religious fanatics, the report said. In many instances, hate speeches by influential leaders sometimes involving the lethal narrative around national identity based on religion, have played a massive role in bringing division among the once amicable masses. These conditions among many others have attributed to the unusual spurt of violence in India.

“We at Persecution Relief are an organization that creates a global awareness about Christian Persecution in India by reporting authentic information and advocating on behalf of the persecuted Christians by providing them with comprehensive support,” said Shibu Thomas, founder, Persecution Relief. “Our

Annual Reports are trusted and utilized by various governments and organizations across the globe. Our reports are logical and all-inclusive about the atrocities faced by the Christians in India,” he added.

Thomas has recently written an open letter to the Prime Minister of India, highlighting the plight of the persecuted Christians in India. Indian Christians amount to 2.3 percent of India’s total

population of 1.3 billion. However, they have never faced a situation as hostile as the current one since independence in 1947. Information on the plight of the persecuted people will empower the weakening religious minorities in India and free the masses of their ignorance about hate crimes against Christians, Thomas said.



## VATICAN NEWS

### What does Benedict XVI actually say in new book on priestly celibacy?

Vatican City, Jan 14, 2020 / 12:37 pm (CNA).- In his chapter in a new book on priestly celibacy, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says a historical understanding of the priesthood in the Old and New Testaments makes it clear that celibacy is an ontological, rather than optional, part of the Catholic priesthood.

“From the Depths of Our Hearts” is set to be released in French this week and in English next month. The book consists of chapters written individually by Benedict and Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, as well as a joint introduction and conclusion. Controversy has shrouded the book since its publication was announced Jan. 12, largely over disagreement about how much Benedict

contributed to the book’s introduction and conclusion, and whether he gave permission for publishers to identify him as a coauthor of the text.

While that controversy is ongoing, less discussed is what Benedict XVI actually said in the chapter of the book that the pope emeritus did write. What did Benedict XVI say in his chapter of the



book? At the core of his writing is an argument that the sexual abstinence that was merely “functional” for the priests of the Old Testament has been trans-

formed into something “ontological” in the priesthood of the New Covenant, according to a draft text of the book seen by CNA.

Benedict’s chapter examines the history of the priesthood in the Old and New Testaments, saying that a proper understanding of the nature of the priesthood is crucial in answering contemporary questions about priestly celibacy. “At the foundation of the serious situation in which the priesthood finds itself today, we find a methodological flaw in the reception of Scripture as Word of God,” Benedict says.

Abandoning a Christological interpretation of the Old Testament has led to a “deficient theology of worship” among many modern scholars, who fail to recognize that Jesus fulfilled the worship owed to God, rather than abolishing it, he continues. Looking at the history of the priesthood in the Old Testament, Benedict says that “the relation between sexual abstinence and divine worship was absolutely clear in the common awareness of Israel.”

He notes that the priests of Israel were required to observe sexual abstinence during their time that they spend leading worship, when they were “in contact with the divine mystery.” “Given that the priests of the Old Testament had to dedicate themselves to worship only during set times, marriage and the priesthood were compatible,” he says. “But because of the regular and often even daily celebration of the Eucharist, the situation of the priests of the Church of Jesus Christ has changed radically.”

Since the entire life of the priest in the New Covenant is “in contact with the divine mystery,” he says, it demands “exclusivity with regard to God” and becomes incompatible with marriage, which also requires one’s whole life. “From the daily celebration of the Eucharist, which implies a permanent state of service to God, was born spontaneously the impossibility of a matrimonial bond. We can say that the sexual abstinence that was functional was transformed automatically into an ontological abstinence. Thus its motivation and its significance were changed from within and profoundly.”

Benedict’s text seems focused on the Latin Catholic Church; many Eastern Catholic priests do not celebrate Mass daily, and the former pope does not address specifically theology of Eastern Catholic married priests. The pope emeritus rejects the idea that priestly celibacy is based on a contempt for human sexuality within the Church. He notes that this claim was also dismissed by the Church Fathers, and that the Church has always viewed marriage as a gift from God.

“However, the married state involves a man in his totality, and since serving the Lord likewise requires the total gift of a man, it does not seem possible to carry on the two vocations simultaneously,” he says. “Thus, the ability to renounce marriage so as to place oneself totally at the Lord’s disposition became a criterion for priestly ministry.”

Just as the priests from the Tribe of Levi renounced ownership of land, priests in

the New Covenant renounce marriage and family, as a sign of their radical commitment to God, he says. This is seen in the Psalm prayed when a man entered the clergy before the Second Vatican Council, he says: “The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yes, I have a goodly heritage.”

Benedict concludes with a reflection on the words of John 17:17-18: “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” He says these words struck him deeply on the day before he was ordained a priest, and led him to reflect on the lifelong calling of a priest to continually unite himself to Christ and renounce “what belongs only to us.”

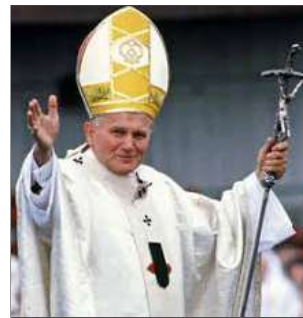
“Thus, on that eve of my ordination, a deep impression was left on my soul of what it means to be ordained a priest, beyond all the ceremonial aspects: it means that we must continually be purified and overcome by Christ so that He is the one who speaks and acts in us, and less and less we ourselves,” the pope emeritus says.

### **Pope Francis to publish a book with reflections on St. John Paul II**

Vatican City, Jan 28, 2020 / 08:00 am (CNA).- Pope Francis has co-authored a book of reflections on the life of St. John Paul II to be published in Italian. The book, entitled “St. John Paul the Great,” is the product of a series of conversations between Pope Francis and

Fr. Luigi Maria Epicoco which took place from June 2019 to January 2020, according to its preface.

The book is expected to be published sometime ahead of the 100 year anniversary of the birth of Karol Wojtyla on May 18. When Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978, a 41-year-old Fr. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was serving as the provincial superior of the Jesuits in Argentina. Pope John Paul II appointed Bergoglio to be an auxiliary bishop in 1992, elevating him to become Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998, and creating him a cardinal in 2001. Pope



Francis canonized St. John Paul II in 2014.

The book’s co-author, Fr. Epicoco, 39, has written two dozen books on spirituality since his ordination in 2005, including “John Paul II: Memories of a Holy Pope” which he wrote with Archbishop Piero Marini in 2014. Epicoco is a professor of philosophy at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, and offers numerous lectures and spiritual retreats throughout Italy. The pope is known to admire Fr. Epicoco’s writing. Before Christmas, Francis gave each member of the Roman curia a copy of the Italian priest’s book, “Someone to look up to: A spirituality of witness”.

## OBITUARY



**Sr. Elsy Ann SAL**  
(1953 - 2020)

“My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation. He is my fortress, I will never be shaken”. (Psalm: 62: 1-2).

God came down to the garden of St. Ann, gently plucked the beautiful flowers, Sr. Elsy Ann and Sr. Stephany, to adorn His seat of glory. And we their Sisters are left sad as we have lost them. The Lord visited Sr. Elsy Ann on 24th January 2020, Friday morning and Sr. Stephany on the wee hours of 25th Saturday at 1.30 am. He wanted them to be with him in His heavenly garden, to keep them close to His bosom forever...

Srs Stephany and Elsy hail from the same village Velichiyani in Kanjirapally diocese, Kerala. Both of them are the youngest of the four siblings. They belong to very devout families and there are many priests and religious in both of their families and some of them belong to our Congregation.

Sr. Elsy Ann was born to late Mr. Jacob and Mrs. Rosamma Kunnumpuram on 27-10-1953. From her child hood she



**Sr. Stephany SAL**  
(1940 - 2020)

loved the master of her life so deeply, that she left her parents and dear ones to belong to Him forever and joined the Society of the Sisters of St. Ann in the year 1970. She made her First Profession in 1974 and her Perpetual Profession in 1979. She was a nurse by profession and rendered her services in Ghodegaon in Maharashtra, Chirala and Vijayawada hospitals. She was Superior in Chirala and St. Ann's Home, Gunadala for a period of time. She was taking rest for the past 7 years in our Community at Tiruvuru.

As a young sister she developed rheumatic fever and she was on prophylactic penicillin therapy. For the past couple of years, she was suffering from poor health and was on regular treatment. During the year 2019 she took very ill and was admitted in our ICU. The treatment continued. She was physically weak and was taking rest. On 24th morning she had a fall and became unconscious and was treated locally. Thereafter she was brought to St. Ann's hospital and was declared dead at 10 am.

She is known for her love and affection, care and concern, courage and outgo-

ing nature. For her, every one whom she met was dear to her and she did her maximum to bring a smile on their faces. She was a committed religious, serious and responsible to the task assigned to her. She maintained very good relationship with the poor people and reached out to them in their time of need.

The end came so silently and she is gone leaving us all in deep sorrow. But we have the hope that the Lord who loved her so dearly in her earthly life will give her the crown of victory and allow her to see His eternal Bliss...

Our beloved Sr. Stephany was born to late Mr. Mathew and Mrs. Aleyamma on 15.01.1940. She joined the Society of the Sisters of St. Ann in the year 1959. She made her First Profession in 1964 and her Perpetual Profession in 1969. She was a nurse by profession and worked in St. Ann's hospital, Vijayawada for 4 years. Afterwards she was sent to our Mother house, Luzern, Switzerland. She worked there for 40 years with commitment and dedication, and with love and concern. The Sisters, doctors, co-workers and patients loved her immensely. She was very cheerful, kind, humble and ready to help anyone in need.

She used to spend hours on end in front of the Blessed Sacrament and recite rosary, praying for the entire world. After coming back from Switzerland in the year 2011 she was doing pastoral care in St. Ann's hospital, VJA. Subsequently she developed motor neurone disease which progressed and almost crippled her. In spite of her crippling disease she was always joyful and was grateful to God and to the congregation for whatever is done to her. Never a word of complaint es-

caped from her lips. She believed that God has given her this disease for her sanctification. For us it was clear that her health was deteriorating but she was still filled with cheerful enthusiasm. During the past one month she was on ventilator care. She finished her race and the Lord called her to Himself...

Deep sentiments of gratitude and indebtedness to Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao S.M.M., the Bishop of Vijayawada diocese, for being the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist on 26-01-2020 and for praying for the souls of our Sisters. Our thanks to Rev. Fr. Joji Babu, Chancellor and procurator of the



diocese for enriching us with his thought provoking and meaningful homily and to Rev. Fr. Eleti William Jayaraj, the rector and parish priest of GundalaMatha Shrine and the Assistant Priests for helping us with the arrangements of the Funeral of our dear Sisters. We extend our sincere thanks to all the Concelebrants, Sisters and all others who shared our grief and prayed for our Sr. Stephany and Sr. Elsy Ann. May their souls rest in Peace.

*Sr. Ancilin SAL, Secretary to Provincial, Prasanth Bhavan, Carmel Nagar*

## DAYS TO REMEMBER IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

### ORDINATION DAY : HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fr. Vadakel George
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Fr. Basani Pranay OFM (Cap)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Fr. Devupalli Jaya Prakash MSFS
- 16<sup>th</sup> Fr. James M. OSB
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Fr. Lakra Anil OSB
- 24<sup>th</sup> Fr. Udumula Balashowry Reddy

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY : MANY RETURNS OF THE DAY



- 1<sup>st</sup> Fr. Darsi Don Bosco
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fr. Itta John Pratap
- 5<sup>th</sup> Frs. Eleti William Jaya Raju, Pamiti John Stephen
- 7<sup>th</sup> Fr. Saliketi Emmanuel
- 8<sup>th</sup> Frs. Gonthupulugu Kiran Babu, Kondru Velankanni Raju
- 10<sup>th</sup> Frs. Akurathi Lourdu Bernard Kumar, Golla Suvarna Raju
- 11<sup>th</sup> Frs. Bontha Lourdu Francis, M. Philomin Raju
- 13<sup>th</sup> Fr. K. Abraham Thomas
- 15<sup>th</sup> Fr. Daram Satish
- 14<sup>th</sup> Fr. Mangilate Mathew
- 16<sup>th</sup> Fr. Godavarthi Maria Raju,
- 26<sup>th</sup> Fr. Lingathoti Ratna Kishore
- 28<sup>th</sup> Fr. Jyothi Ruben (Ramesh)

### OBITUARY : MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



- 8<sup>th</sup> Fr. Duggempudi Rakesh Reddy (2019)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Fr. Romulo Campus PIME (1985)
- 19<sup>th</sup> Fr. Purathechirayil Francis Sales (2005)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Fr. P. F. Andrade (1953)