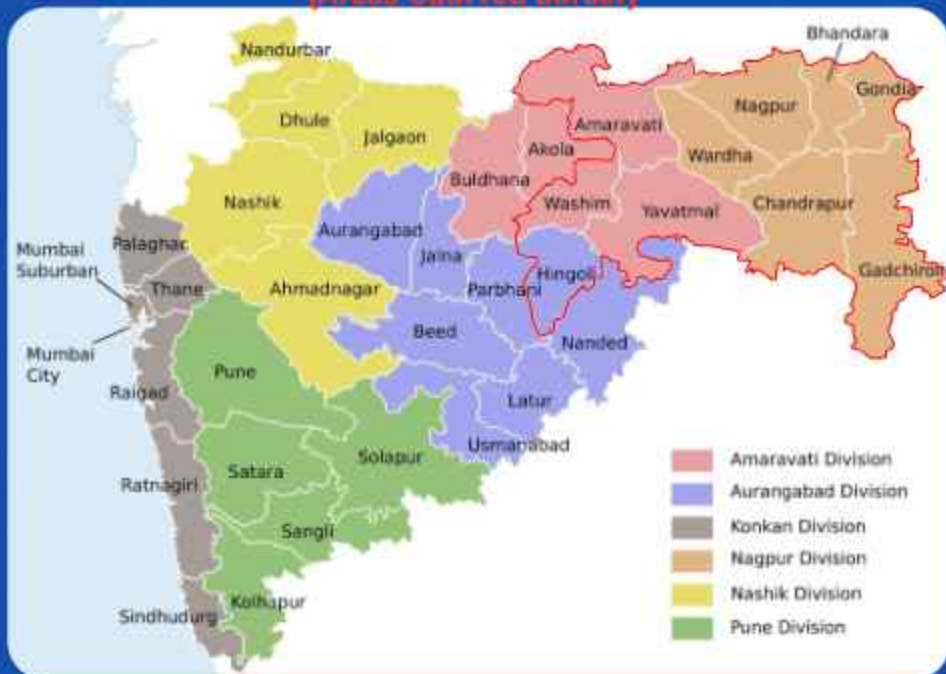


Proper Territory of Reorganised Chanda Diocese

(Areas with red border)



Erstwhile Chanda Diocese

Chandrapur, Gadchiroli
& Wardha

(ADJOINED AREAS)

From Nagpur Division

Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia

From Amaravati Division

Amaravati, Yavatmal,
Washim

From Aurangabad Division

Hingoli

Proposal is Given To adjoin
Akola and Buldana to Chanda
and leave Hingoli to Kalyan so
as to keep two civic divisions
for Chanda diocese
(Vidarbha region)



Chanda Samachar

Bulletin, Eparchy of Chanda



Vol. XLIX No. 1 & 2

Jan.-Apr. 2026

Hearty Congratulations



**ARCHBISHOP SEBASTIAN
VANIYAPURACKAL**
ARCHDIOCESE OF KALAMANGALAM



**BISHOP JOSEPH
THACHAPARAMBATH CMI**
DIOCESE OF ADILABAD

NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS



**Fr. Raju
Lakda CM**
(29-12-2025)



**Fr. Sarith
Edayadiyil CMI**
(29-12-2025)



**Fr. Louis (Abhilash)
Kurungattu**
(05-01-2026)



**Fr. Chacko (Algin)
Pallivathukkal**
(06-01-2026)

Fr. Vivek Puthenpurayil
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Editor (+919404593384)



MSMI Jubilee (30.09.2025)



CMC Jubilee (04.10.2025)



CRI Meeting (13.09.2025)



Hinganghat Church Jubilee (30.11.2025)



Nagpur Metropolitan Regional Jubilee 2025 Celebration (02.10.2025)

The

Chanda Samachar

CHANDA DIOCESAN BULLETIN



Thy Kingdom Come (Mt. 6:10)

**Bishop's Home (Balharshah), Ballarpur-442701
Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India**



Vol. XLIX

JAN.-APR. 2026

No. 1 & 2

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I. SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear People,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Happy Christmas & Blessed New Year

"Faith is assurance of things hoped for, the conviction things not seen" (Heb. 11:1). The year 2026 as the "Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes", we shall resolve to deepen our commitment to believe in the Creed and pro-actively respond to the Beatitudes, practicing them in daily life with a spirit of faith and love. Both the Creed and the Beatitudes are sign-posts to follow Christ as genuine members of the mystical Body of Christ, the Church. They guide us to be men and women of deep faith and sincere love. Incidentally, the Holy Mother Church now celebrates the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. As infants what our God-parents professed for us at our baptism and later we ourselves professed at solemn Holy Communion, Confirmation, daily Holy Qurbana and other occasions is a constant reminder to be faithful to our call as Christians and Missionaries - Priests and Religious. The Beatitudes give us practical guidelines to lead our life in Christian faith on daily basis in human and social relations. We shall avail the year to study, meditate and reflect the Creed and the Beatitudes for a better assimilation of these to our Christian and social lives. God bless you all.



Your Shepherd in the Lord

Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

II. PASTORAL LETTER

Prot. No. 302/2025

11/12/2025

ON CREED

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As per our Pastoral Plan the year 2026 is The Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes. Here I share with you some reflections on the "Creed." Whatever appropriate from these reflections may be shared with the faithful as pleases each one.

The Creed is the sum and substance of the Christian profession of faith. "Jesus is Lord", is the central theme of the Creed in the early Church. St. Paul writes about it many times in his writings (Cf. Rom. 10:9, 1Cor. 7:22, 2Cor 4:5, etc.). The Creed had to be formulated in the early Church to refute heretical teachings and to safeguard the basic tenets of Christian faith. In the history of the Church, there developed two formulas of the Creed 'the Apostles Creed' and 'the Nicene Creed'. There is a claim that the 'Apostles Creed' is written by the twelve apostles, which the Church historians and ecclesiologists conclude as not very reliable. Most probably it might have been formed in Rome during Pope Victor (189-199 AD). However, it is believed that the 'Apostles Creed' is strictly founded on the teachings of the apostles and that could be the reason why it is known in the history as "Apostles Creed."

On the other hand, the 'Nicene Creed' was formed in the Council of Nicaea (325 AD) and codified in the Council of Constantinople (381 AD). This creed is widely known as 'Nicene-Constantinople Creed' and it is being used in our Holy Qurbana. In the early Church, the bishops and the theologians studied doctrines, new trends in theology and confirmed its fidelity to the revealed truth. The various Synods in

the early Church decided about the heretical and faithful teachings. The Synods in the early Church has condemned the heretical teachings such as Arianism, Apollinarianism, Macedonism, etc. Thus the Synods confirmed the revealed truth and faithful doctrines of the Church.

In the early Church, the bishops like St. Augustine, St. Ambrose, St. Chrysostom, St. Cyprian and others wrote treatises and letters voluminously clarifying and explaining the Christian doctrines. Priests in the parishes being busy with so many activities, these bishops helped them by their reflections and guided the pastors to be faithful in their teachings. St. Augustine confirms that the bishops are support and guide to their priests in their preaching ministry.

Bishops' ministry is described as shepherding the flock. Bishops are to ensure the welfare of the priests and guide them in preaching ministry to be faithful to the Church's teachings. The Vatican II document *Presbyterorum Ordinis* describes priests as co-workers of bishops. It points to unity in the teaching magisterium of the Church. Along with the bishops the priests are co-responsible for the faithful teaching of Church's doctrines and not only to reject but also to refute any heretical teachings.

The various Church documents that deal with the ministry of bishops in the Church, lucidly articulate the duty of bishops to support priests in their theological thinking, preaching and social involvements. Such recent documents are *Christus Dominus* (Vat. II 1963), *Pastores Munus* (John Paul II, 1988), *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (John Paul II, 1992) and *Pastores Gregis* (John Paul II, 2003). St. Augustine assumed that when bishops write pastoral letters they make their spiritual presence in the parishes and when bishops do pastoral visits they make their actual presence among the people. Both are required for the smooth functioning of the Church/diocese. Bishops continually speak to the people through their pastoral letters. On the other hand, priests make bishop present among people in unity of one priesthood of Christ by their

parochial involvements in their parishes. Pastoral letters are tools for the care of the souls to teach and to provide spiritual guidance and moral instructions and to give theological clarity on current issues. Through priests it is disseminated to the people. It reflects the bishops' primary role as shepherds of the faithful, addressing matters of faith, doctrines, ethics and cultural concerns to foster a deeper relationship with Christ and guide the community towards virtuous living. The bishops' pastoral letters are considered as works of theological importance, serving as a means for bishops to teach, inspire, challenge and comfort the faithful in a direct and personal way. Thus the college of bishops as successor to the Apostles, bears the specific responsibility of safeguarding and transmitting the deposit of faith.

These reflections on the Creed is to help us to understand the ministry of bishops and priests in the Church. They serve the Church unitedly and give single witness in the world. They should respect mutually and complement each other in their ministry in the Church. The united works of bishops, priests and the religious in the diocese is a great witness in today's world (Cf. Jn. 17:21). A united teaching of doctrines, clarifying the theological concepts, moral principles etc. are dire need today. 'The Year of the Creed' is inviting us to reflect over our ministry in the diocese and give united witness of Christian faith. As members of the Holy Mother Church, we profess one faith and we believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church (Cf. Eph. 4:5). May the observance of the Year of the Creed unite us all - the bishop, priests, religious and the lay faithful, in love and communion.

God bless everyone.



Yours devotedly in Christ

† Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

PASTORAL LETTER II

Prot. No. 308/2025

12/12/2025

ON THE BEATITUDES

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!**Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!**

As we all know, 'the Beatitudes' is one of the most foundational and beautiful teachings of Jesus in the Bible. There were many great men and women, even those of other faiths who were inspired and influenced by the Beatitudes. The Father of our nation, Gandhiji, is one among many such personalities. The Beatitude has a universal dimension as it does not have any religious affinity in its teaching. Indeed, it teaches a universal principle of charity, compassion, consolation, empathy, and inclusiveness. It assures a promise of joy, satisfaction and happiness. A genuine meditation on the Beatitude gives one a great peace of mind and tranquility, irrespective of one's faith allegiance. We shall resolve to meditate on the Beatitudes again and again to assimilate into our life its spirit and the injunctions it imparts to everyone.

The term "Beatitudes" comes from the Latin word 'beatus' meaning 'blessed' or happy. They are series of teachings, usually counted 'eight', delivered by our Lord at the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount (Cf. Mt. 5:3-10. & Lk. 6:20-23). They essentially outline the character and the mindset of a true follower of Christ and promise a blessing for those who embody the spiritual qualities, often in contrast to what the world typically value. Each Beatitude follows a pattern: "Blessed are...." upon a specific group, followed by the promise of their reward (for they shall...). They present a radical vision of the Kingdom of heaven, where true happiness is found not in worldly power or wealth, but in humility and spiritual righteousness. The Beatitudes are meant to establish the Kingdom of heaven on earth, which will bring true

peace and freedom for all who dare to follow him as disciples. It is through these disciples that his kingdom will bring blessings to all people on earth. The Beatitudes serve as a sort of preamble to the sermon on the Mount, but they are as even more memorable treasury for humanity. The Beatitudes give a succinct statement of the values of the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus announced and summarized the principles of Kingdom life that will articulate in the sermon that follows: Beatitudes are the blueprint for Christian discipleship. Jesus promises that when you do suffer for his name, you will be blessed and your reward will be great in heaven. Thus the Beatitudes serve as a blueprint for Christian discipleship guiding us on a journey of faith and action. They challenge us to reflect the character of Christ to the world. They are a clarion call to action. They Challenge us to rethink our values and priorities and embrace humility, and seek justice.

The key themes of the Beatitudes may be summarized as follows:

1. Human affection and action in the Kingdom of God.
2. The humble, generous, and non-violent character of the Kingdom people.
3. The cost and reward of following Jesus.

The Beatitudes include eight sayings from Jesus about living out his Kingdom reality. Indeed, they are a set of blessings pronounced by Jesus during the Sermon on the Mount, outlining qualities and attitudes valued in the Kingdom of Heaven. These statements are not just descriptions of happiness but rather declarations of God's grace and a picture of the character of His Kingdom. The eight sayings of the Beatitudes can be grouped into two sets of four with the first four focusing on a disciples' relationship with God and the second four focusing on their relationship with others. In one sense, they point to the summary of the Ten Commandments; discipleship refers to love for God (Cf. Mk 12:30) and relationship refers to love for neighbors/others (Cf. Mk 12:31). Thus, the Beatitudes found in

Mt 5:3-12 and Lk. 6:20-23 are series of blessings spoken by Jesus describing the character and qualities of those who are considered blessed or fortunate, promising rewards both in life in this world and in the afterlife. The Beatitudes emphasize humility, compassion, and a focus on spiritual rather than material wealth. They offer a moral guide for Christians, outlining how they should live their lives in accordance with the divine teachings. Indeed, the Beatitudes are profound declarations that outline the character and destiny of those who live as citizens of God's Kingdom. Each Beatitude is a reversal of the general standard of blessedness in the world of today. They turn the world's wisdom upside down. True blessedness is not about a comfortable life, but a life aligned with God's will and purpose. As a result, they function as a manifesto or a moral compass for discipleship. Each Beatitude recognizes one's complete spiritual need, humility, and utter dependence on God, rather than self-sufficiency or pride. In essence, the Beatitudes offer a challenging yet hopeful blueprint for a life that is truly blessed, not by the fickle favour of the world, but by the eternal grace and promise of God's Kingdom. The Beatitudes in general invite us to be disciples of Christ, partaking in the life and the attitude of Christ himself. In the tongue of St. Paul, the Beatitudes call us to bear the mind of Christ (Cf. Phil. 2:5) to practice humility, compassion, concern for others, obedience, empathy, oneness with God and human kind, love of poverty, suffering, etc. We shall make deep reflections of each declaration and promise in the Beatitudes, day by day, week after week and month after month in this year of the Beatitudes. God bless you.



Yours devotedly in Christ

† Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



III. CIRCULAR - I

Prot. No. 270/2025

10/10/2025

CIRCULAR - 06/2025 (On reorganization of the diocese of Chanda) 09/10/2025

Dear Provincials, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As everyone is made known by now that the territory of the diocese of Chanda is extended to seven more districts in Maharashtra. The Major Archbishop has decreed about the same couple of months ago. A committee is appointed to survey and study the scope of expansion of Ad Gentes mission and pastoral involvement in the new areas with mutual respect and collaboration with others. Professing one faith and one baptism (Cf. Eph. 4:5) we shall give a united witness of our commitment to Christ our Lord. We need more Church personnel – Priests, Brothers, Sisters and Catechists, to do any ministry whatsoever in these new areas. I see scope for Ad Gentes evangelization, migrant ministry, educational apostolate, health ministry, social apostolate, etc. I welcome everyone's suggestions and good will to co-operate in moving to these areas and starting missions as per your choice and charism, and also responding to the contextual need. We shall keep in mind that we create a conducive atmosphere before we start any new ventures. All necessary permissions, both civil and ecclesiastical are to be obtained and local support and cooperation shall be ascertained as required. As already stated, until now the diocese of Chanda was spread out in three districts in Maharashtra - Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Wardha and now seven more are added: Gondia, Bhandara, Yavatmal, Nagpur, Washim, Amravathi, and Hingoli. I invite you to take initiatives to start mission in these areas. I am in touch with few Congregations of Fathers and Sisters so as to make available

their presence in these new areas for a ministry of their charism and as required in the area. We shall always bear in mind the great command of Christ – 'Go to the end of the world and proclaim His good news' (Cf. Mt 28:19-20). With love, respect and compassion for one another, knowing the need of the context and taking into consideration the present-day scenario of various challenges, we shall resolve to do our best.

Expecting everyone's cooperation,



Yours devotedly in Christ,

[Signature of Ephrem Nariculam]

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Encl: Major Archbishop's Decree of re-organization of territories of Syro-Malabar dioceses in North India.



Pope's Intention
Jan 2026



For prayer with the Word of God.

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



CIRCULAR - II

Prot. No. 275/2025

21/10/2025

CIRCULAR- 07/2025

**(On various matters from Metropolitan Council Meeting,
Aurangabad)
21/10/2025**

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

On 11 and 12 August we had the Nagpur Metropolitan Council Meeting of Bishops from Amravati, Aurangabad, Chanda and Nagpur. The main points discussed in the meeting included the following:

- (i) SC/ST issue of losing the reservation and constitutional provisions by changing their religion
- (ii) The risk of running boardings outside school campus.
- (iii) The revision of mass stipend and matters connected to Mass intentions
- (iv) Atrocities against Christians in different parts of our country and issue of conversion
- (v) The farmers' issues in Vidarbha region
- (vi) The Nagpur metropolitan level celebration of Holy Year Jubilee 2026.
- (vii) The Liturgical celebrations.
- (viii) Arrest of two Holy Cross Sisters in Aurangabad

I wish to share with you few points for our reflection, discussion and follow up:

- (i) **SC/ST issue of losing the reservation and constitutional provisions by changing their religion**

The expert opinion is that in accordance with the Indian Constitution the people of SC has no right for reservations once they change their religion as Christian is not scheduled in the Constitution for such provisions. The two court orders of Madras High Court and that of Supreme Court support this view. Additionally, they point out that there is no caste system in Christianity.

However, it is said that such people have the right of reservation of the economically backward communities. This reservation/provision is very little and very difficult to claim, which means with regard to SC people we are in a helpless situation. Indeed, the political parties are using this loophole to support anti-conversion in the country.

As we all know the Church (CBCI) has been fighting for this right of SC people in the national level for the past 40 years or more. There is an injustice involved in it and a violation of the constitutional right of a citizen to profess and propagate any religion of his/her choice. All political parties play gimmick ever since the discussion started on this point as Christians are not at all a great vote-bank in most part of our country. So the natural conclusion from the discussion is that we have to find solution to our people within our limit. On the other hand regarding the ST people, they have a right for reservation and they can fight for their cause. The tribal people have no religion (they believe in cosmic gods) and they are free to adopt any religion, which does not occur to lose their reservation. But the political parties grade them as Hindus to serve their political hidden agendas and there is no base in considering tribal people as Hindus. In the case of tribal people what we can do is that, to give them legal assistance for their cause. Here another issue come up is the recognition of tribe in respective States. For example, Oraon is not a recognized tribe in Maharashtra. So we have additional responsibility of moving legally to get the tribe recognised in the State. It requires a State Assembly legislation, which is much beyond our purview as our

hold over the State is very minimal. Again as we are aware that some tribal organisations have been fighting for the recognition of their tribes, for sometime but until now there have been no positive outcome whatsoever. From the discussion above we are forced to conclude that in any way we have no great hope to help our people!

(ii) The risk of running the boardings outside school campuses

In the present situation in our country it is almost impossible to run a boarding. The current political scenario, the JJ Act 2015, the POCSO Act 2012 etc. are not conducive to our missionary activities. To get permission and to run a boarding as per the stipulations is a task almost impossible. The recognized boarding will be regularly monitored by Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and it will be difficult to run it in just and truthful ways. If we cannot run it in a fair way, we have to reflect whether we should continue it. In many places the boardings outside school campuses have brought unnecessary troubles and for that reason, many have closed down the boardings. Within the framework of legal formalities, what is permitted/tolerated is to run paid hostels in the school campuses. So what we can run such hostels in the school campuses. However, we have to tender an application to CWC asking permission for the same. In such case it is mandatory that the student should be doing studies in the school which is in the campus itself. The latest stipulations on boardings clearly indicate that the government agencies are forcing parents to send their children to Ashrams and discourage private/NGO boardings. We have to discuss this matter seriously and reach a final decision so as not to face unnecessary challenges or troubles. We shall prudently act lest we face with untoward incident. In this context probably the feasible solution to give faith and character formation to our children is to start daily evening or weekend tuition and summer course in our mission centres.

(iii) The revision of Mass stipend and matters connected to Mass intention

The discussion on this subject was not applicable to us strictly as we do not come under the purview of Metropolitan Council of Nagpur with regard to liturgy. However, a mutual understanding in regional level may be good to avoid unwanted discussions among our people. The Mass stipend remains the same as Rs. 100/- (one hundred only). The other three dioceses in the metropolitan council (Nagpur, Aurangabad and Amaravathy) have decided to introduce Multiple or Pluri Mass intentions and Box intention Mass. Please See the details of the same in the Circular of Archbp. Elias Gonsalves, the archbishop of Nagpur, attached herewith. This system has been in effect in Bombay archdiocese for past many years. As we don't receive too many Mass intentions from our people it may not be practical and applicable in our diocese. However, if anyone feels good you may try box intention Mass as it has the advantage for those with less money also get Mass announced and offered for their intention (See details in the archbishop's Circular). After having received feedback from the diocese I shall give official permission to start such practices in our diocese. With regard to Mass stipend we shall have recourse to the Synod of Syro-Malabar bishops before a decision is taken.

(iv) Atrocities against Christians in different parts of our country and issue of conversion

The statistics show that atrocities against Christians in India is on increase year after year. It was 127 in 2014 and it has increased to 834 in 2024, and most of these are based on false allegations. There is conscious and systematic plans to target Christians in the country. What had happened in Durg railway station in August 2025 was one of the last incidents in the row of targeting Christians in India. We should not leave in oblivion that some Christian denominations for their over-zeal add fuel to fire

and we become the victims. The teachings of the Catholic Church does not endorse forced conversion [Cf. Dignitatis Humanae # 4, Mystici Corporis Christi # 104 etc.]. But the fact remains that many are attracted towards Christians faith by our service and institutions. However, we are victimised for no fault of ours. Indeed, what Christ promised is sufferings and persecutions [Cf. Mt.10:17, Mk. 13: 9 Lk. 12: 11. 21: 12]. 'Blood of martyrs is the seed of Christianity' is a constant reminder. We are exposed to challenges so that Church may grow. Indeed, that is how the Church has grown in the past. In this scenario what is expected is do our best to evangelize with prudence and caution, and leave to God conversion/baptism as the work of the Holy Spirit. We shall focus on conversion of heart and leave the rest to God. As targeting and false allegations are the issues to be tackled, which is beyond our purview, what I suggest is not a remedial to the problem but only a means to understand the problem and adapt some strategies to go ahead in our mission. The great command of Christ perennially invites us to preach and baptise (Cf. Mt 28:19-20), and we are called to be prudent like serpents as well (Cf. Mt. 10:16).

Here I wish to add an appendix to complete the discussion and continue the reflection. In India the government and people are intolerant to some religious faiths while in West Europe USA, Canada etc. any faith is, not only tolerated but also respected. In those countries there is freedom of religion and it is respected by all. Number of Hindu sages, sanyasis and preachers propagate their faith freely in West and they do establish temples and monasteries. We never heard not even one instance of arrest of such preachers for propagation of their faith or conversion of people to their faith. There have been instances of many Christians following the faith these preachers propagate. Neither any government nor any political parties in such countries raise objections. Some foreigners come to India as well to initiate to Hindu faith. There have been few instances also in India some

leaving Christian faith and following other religions. One could find no answer whatsoever for the intolerance of our bretheren of some religions in India towards others. We shall continue to pray for them, for Jesus told us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Cf. Mt. 5:44).

(v) The farmers' issue in Vidarbha Region

As everywhere in India, in Vidharbha region too the farmers face many challenges. The weather, wild animals, finance, marketing, low price monopoly of corporates etc. are some of such challenges. The government policies and subsidies, are the solutions to the problem. We have neither control nor any voice over such matters which are strictly Government prerogatives and they are manoeuvred by political parties and corporates. However, what we could do is to organise our farmers to form associations, to increase their bargain power, to train them for more profitable farming, increase their self-confidence, channelize financial assistance within our limit, free or concessional education to their children, make available employment opportunities etc. Thank God that there are fewer farmers' suicide among our people and in our area compared to other areas in the country. We shall think together and do something better for our farmers. The Community Empowerment Year 2026 as announced in our Church may be an opportunity to help the people in general and our faithful in particular.

vi) Nagpur Metropolitan level Celebration of Holy Year Jubilee 2025

A united celebration of Holy Year Jubilee 2025 is scheduled in Nagpur SFX School on 02 October 2025. The following are the participants: The curia members, provincials and their teams, diocesan pastoral council members, seminary rectors, etc. One hundred participants each is expected from four dioceses - Amaravathy, Aurangabad, Chanda & Nagpur. For the concluding Eucharistic celebration there will be around 1000 people. Fr.

Benny Mulackal, Proto-Syncellus, will contact you and give necessary directions.

vii) The Liturgical Celebrations

The attached circular regarding liturgical celebrations in the Metropolitan dioceses of Nagpur Amaravathy, and Aurangabad is a very good reading for everyone. Though they pertain to liturgical celebrations in Latin rite many points are equally applicable in our liturgy too. They provide adequate matter for a decorum and discipline in liturgical celebrations. I exhort everyone to read it and use whatever is applicable to our liturgy. Dispositions, decorum and discipline are must for fruitful and meaningful celebration of liturgy.

viii) Arrest of two Holy Cross Sisters in Aurangabad

It was on 30 June 2025 that two Holy Cross Sisters were arrested by police in response to the allegations of some girls who ran away from their boarding. From the whole episode it is learnt that the Sisters were trapped by the girls at the instigation of some external prussures. The Holy Cross Sisters have a girls' hostel in Aurangabad and it is run strictly under CWC supervision. Some girls, recently brought to the hostel by the police have shown some criminal characters. The matter was reported to the CWC and the Sisters expressed their reluctance to keep them in the hostel, however due to insistence of CWC and out of compassion the Sisters permitted them to continue in the hostel. The whole episode started as follows: One day one of these girls manifested some uneasiness in the body and asked the Sisters to pray over her and insisted to sprinkle holy water. The Sisters generously did pray for her as the other girls requested. It was videographed by others and later they alleged against Sisters that they baptised her and forced to accept Christian faith. The two Sisters were arrested and they were behind the bar for six days. The sisters described to the bishops their ordeal under custody. They were given no proper food or facilities for bathing in the jail. Indeed, it was a terrible

experience for them for six days. Once again such incident invites us, to have a proper plan of running of hostels, the mission preaching, our charitable activities etc. We shall resolve to be prudent and cautious.

These reflections and sharing once again remind us to a deeper level discussion so as to arrive at some solutions that can help us to be on safer side. Political parties in general are anti-Christian and anti-poor. They have least concern for the poor, marginalized, down-trodden etc. They make laws to trap us and protect themselves from mischiefs and corruption that they do.

The common man has no protection and left to a situation between satan and deep sea. Whatever choice the common man makes, he is in trouble. Common man faces struggles and he has no escape from his fate. In this vicarious situation we have to support our people, we shall use our resources to help our people and to support them to have a dignified living status. May I request everyone to do whatever is required to support our people so that they may grow in faith and self-confidence. With our people we shall build up the Church and witness Christ and all values of Christianity. With good wishes and prayers,

Yours devotedly in Christ,



[Signature]

† Ephrem Nariculam

Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

- Eccl:**
- 1) Decree on the Norms Governing Mass offering and Intentions
 - 2) Some Directives for the celebration of the Liturgy in the Archdiocese of Nagpur (For your information and careful reading)



CIRCULAR - III

Prot. No. 289/2025

30/10/2025

CIRCULAR- 08/2025
(On 12A, FCRA, Charitable Societies,
forced conversion etc.)

30/10/2025

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

A strategic change in the approach of the Church to the mission has become a dire need. On the one hand there is a silent persecution on Christians and on the other, there is direct attack and targeting of Christian missionaries. Some legislations in the past few years in our country is paved the way for direct or indirect attack on Christianity aiming to obstruct our missionary activities. It is either to restrict our freedom of service to the humanity or to cut down financial resources. In either way it hinders the religious freedom enshrined in the Constitution of India (Cf. # 25-28). In this context we need to pay our attention to the following:

- 1) **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of children) Act (2015):** The Act imposes a number of restrictions on running boardings. It has become impossible to run them and as a result many have stopped hostels and boardings for children below 18 years. Government started Ashram salas and woo parents to put their children there. Indirectly the government is forcing to close down the private/NGO boardings. As we know running the boardings is an easy way to enter into a social contact with the people. The consequence is that our children lose opportunities for faith formation, character formation and proper education.

2) 12 A Registration: The requirements to renew 12 A registration is now too strict. It looks that the requisites for renewal of 12 A Registration point towards almost impossible to get it renewed. If the renewal is not done, we are forced to give 30 percent tax for every income. In such case normally no donor agency will be interested in extending financial assistance to us. Which means we will have to cut down all our activities, both ecclesial and social. Without such services our social contact will be once again reduced to minimum or nil.

3) FCRA: Foreign money transfer to our country has become too difficult these days. The government intends to reduce it to the minimum or stop completely. In the past few years FCRA renewal of many NGO's were canceled. All our activities will be brought down when foreign money flow is reduced or stopped. These days we face great financial constraints after the discontinuation of CNEWA subsidies to our boardings. The net result is very clear. The poor, the marginalized and the down-trodden get less assistance and we know the government aid is only for name sake and that too is not easily available to minorities for various reasons. Naturally this will reduce our social influence.

4) Dispensaries: Due to new stipulations in the functioning of dispensaries there have occurred great crisis in running them even where they are genuinely required. To run a dispensary with qualified doctor, nurse and pharmacist is almost impossible. As a result, many had to close down their dispensaries. Health centres in villages render great service to the people where there are no easy public transportation facilities. A restriction on running of dispensaries is another technique to reduce our service to the people. Needless, to say it brings down our contact with the people and our social influence is cut short to the minimum is its natural consequence. However, some do run the dispensaries at their own risk and I do appreciate it. May God reward them.

5) School permissions: The new stipulations on school permissions is once again blocking many to come to the field of education ministry. Though, there are few good aspects in the New Education Policy (NEP) there are also many other provisions not that favorable to our education ministry. The government interventions and that of some fanatic religious groups make it too difficult to run schools in a normal way. The unwarranted government stipulations consume lots of time and energy and some get disgusted at such instances. It dissuades few from taking up education ministry.

6) Charity commissioner & Charitable Societies/Trusts: The change reports of the Societies and Trusts, random inspection of charity commissioner, quinquennial renewal process of Societies/Trusts/FCRA/12 A registration etc. have become herculean tasks. A bulk of our valuable time have to be spent for these works. Many of us are not fully aware of the meticulous requisites of Charity Commission. It is a very complicated task and any lapse or snags can end up in the cancellation of permission. As president of 17 Societies in the diocese I know how many times I had to sign papers, documents, cheques etc. A recent government order requires that 5% of gross income of all Charitable Societies/Trusts is to be remitted to Charity Commission. If we are not meticulously careful on functioning of Societies/Trusts, it will adversely affect our mission as well.

7) Forced Conversion & Atrocities against Christians: Forced conversion has been a perennial allegation against Christian missionaries in India. We know for certain that there are no forced conversions. Indeed, Church teaches against it. But somehow we are targeted. Some may be paving the way for such allegations. The Christians are targeted quite often and the present administration in the country in various levels is either closing their eyes towards it or silently supporting it. Being a minority group and not a vote-bank in our area we are in a helpless situation. No political parties are going to support us. Each party

has their own hidden agendas for their political gains. Walking in the path of Christ we have our reservations to support any political party. Somehow we are victimized for no fault of ours.

Conclusion:

In the midst of these vicarious situations we find no permanent and amicable solution to these issues enumerated above. We cannot expect support of any political party. The beurocrats are biased and people are misled. What new approach we shall adapt is not very clear. One thing is sure that we have to do something to meet with these challenges. As citizens of India we have constitutional rights and as believers in Christ we have a responsible task to witness Christian values. We have to think together and discuss to make a strategy for our mission ahead. We shall resolve to do our best to meet these eventualities and challenges ahead. May God assist us.



Yours devotedly in Christ

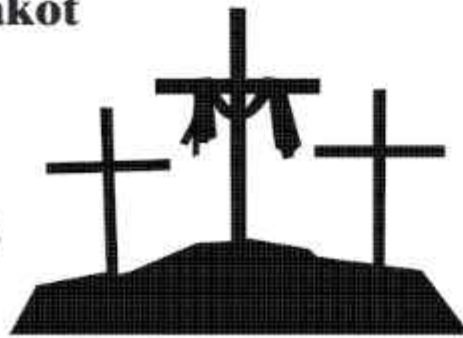
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† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



Calvarigiri Pilgrimage Lakkadakot

Good Friday
03 April 2026



Mar Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 0711/2025

CIRCULAR

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT YEAR – 2026

Raphael Thattil,

the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated Men
and Women and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Second Vatican Council, in its document "The Church in the Modern World," presents the relationship between the Church and the world as follows: the Church and the world are not two realities standing on opposite poles. Although the Church does not adhere to the world's value system, it exists within the world. The mission of the Church is to prepare the world for the Kingdom of God. This mission is not fulfilled merely by carrying out spiritual ministries. All activities centred on human well-being are part of the fulfilment of the Church's mission. Included in this is the duty to strengthen human society in truth, justice, and love according to the divine plan. The Church must attend to the material needs of God's people, as well as the challenges they face in their daily lives. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, based on a realistic analysis of the social, cultural, and economic conditions of the members of the Syro-Malabar Church, the Synod of Bishops, held in January 2025, decided to declare 2026 as the Year of Community Empowerment.

After years of extensive studies and discussions, observance of such a year has been proclaimed in the Syro-Malabar Church. The Public Affairs Commission of the Church studied in detail the surveys conducted and the research reports in recent years at both governmental and ecclesial levels. The study

reports on various areas where Christians need to pay attention in contemporary society, and the challenges they face as a community, were presented during the Synodal Sessions and at the Fifth Major Archiepiscopal Assembly held at Palai in August 2024. The decision to observe the Year of Community Empowerment was made in light of the suggestions that emerged from the deliberations on the growth of our population, challenges in the agricultural sector, our representation in economic, commercial, employment, and governmental sectors, our presence in the educational, political, social, and media fields, and our rightful share in governmental schemes and benefits.

Some may ask why the term „community“ is used; would it not be enough to say „Church? However, to highlight the social dimensions of the Christian community and to clearly present the challenges faced by Christians in temporal matters, the term 'community' is more effective. It is only when we understand ourselves not only as a Church but also as a community that the internal cohesion and unity of this collective body within the society become stronger, enabling us to identify shortcomings and correct them and to start new initiatives. In short, the deliberate use of the word „community“ draws our attention to the social realities that may not naturally arise in our minds when we use only the word „Church“. Reflecting on the early Christian community that "were of one heart and one soul" (Acts 4:32) and on St. Paul's exhortation to "let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith" (Gal. 6:10), we come to the realization that we must become a community that grows in noble Christian brotherhood - loving one another, supporting one another, and helping one another both spiritually and materially.

The Synod has entrusted the Public Affairs Commission of the Syro-Malabar Church with the responsibility of effectively organizing the celebration of the Community Empowerment Year. The Catholica Congress, our community organization, is the principal collaborator of the Commission in this task. We desire to celebrate this year with the wholehearted cooperation

and participation of our bishops, priests, consecrated persons, seminarians, pastoral, forane and parish councils, Mathruvedi, SMYM, Mission League, DCMS, and other lay organizations; as well as eparchial-level associations, catechists, family unit leaders, teachers in schools and colleges, officials, lawyers, healthcare workers, farmers, traders, entrepreneurs, and retired personnel - indeed, with the involvement of everyone. Indeed, the laity, the consecrated persons, the priests, and the bishops are all part of this community.

The action plan for the Community Empowerment Year is envisioned in three phases: preparatory phase, implementation phase, and follow-up phase. The preparatory phase begins today with the reading of this circular and will continue until the end of December 2025. During this period, awareness on community-related themes must be created at every level - among priests, consecrated persons, seminarians, and laity. Each eparchy, parish, seminary, religious institute, corporate management, unaided school, college, and other educational institution should organize awareness programmes at their respective levels. In academic institutions, these can be implemented with the help of organizations such as KCSL and CSM.

To support this awareness initiative, the Public Affairs Commission has prepared a comprehensive handbook containing details of the action plan for community empowerment. Each Eparchy should form a resource team and carry out awareness programmes based on the indications given in this handbook. I request the major Church-related media - Deepika, Shekinah, Shalom, and Goodness - as well as online media platforms, to take an active role in this awareness process. The assistance of the media is inevitable, as our aim in the observance of this year is to identify the challenges faced by the community and to find solutions for them.

The second phase, the implementation phase, will be inaugurated on January 6, 2026, the Feast of Denaha. During this

phase, the programmes proposed in the handbook should be implemented at all possible levels. Some initiatives will yield results within the year 2026 itself, while others will gradually reach fruition. Community empowerment is not a task to be concluded within a single year but one that should continue consistently. Therefore, the subsequent years are considered as the third phase, the follow-up phase. In that sense, the celebration of the year 2026 is only the beginning - the initial step and practical training for community empowerment.

For the effective realization of this year of celebration, proper arrangements should be made in every eparchy. Protosyncellus or one Syncellus is to be specially entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating the observation of this year. Under him, one priest should function as director and one layperson as convener. An Eparchial Community Empowerment Committee, chaired by the said Protosyncellus / Syncellus, must be constituted. This committee should include representatives from all levels of the eparchy including priests, consecrated persons, organizations, and catechism teachers. Subcommittees should be formed under this body at the forane and parish levels. This principal committee will guide all the activities of the year of in each eparchy. It shall also organize the resource team and ensure that the awareness programme is organized effectively.

I earnestly request everyone in our Church to take special interest and actively participate at their respective levels in the various activities of the Community Empowerment Year. Let us remember the exhortation of Nehemiah to the Israelites who returned from exile: "Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem" (Neh. 2:17). Each person in Israel built his part, and thus the reconstruction of the city wall was completed. Likewise, when each member and each section of our community fully utilizes their abilities, and design and implement plans to strengthen the community through family units, parishes, foranes, and eparchies, our whole community will be strengthened, and the

celebration of the Community Empowerment Year will produce enduring results.

May the blessing and mercy of our Lord be with all our endeavours! May Holy Mary, our Mother, St. Thomas the Apostle, the Saints and Blesseds of our Church, especially St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the great leader of Kerala's renaissance, and St. Devasahayam, proclaimed by Pope Leo XIV as the special intercessor for the laity of India, intercede for us all!

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on the 25th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2025.



✠ Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



This circular shall be read in all the parish churches, institutions, religious houses, formation centres and the major seminaries of the Syro-Malabar Church during the Holy Qurbana on Sunday, 12 October 2025.

Syro-Malabar
Major Archiepiscopal Curia

Mount St. Thomas, P.B. No. 3110, Kakkanad P.O.,
Kochi - 682030, Kerala, India | Tel: 0484-2428271

Email: majorarchbishop@gmail.com
Website: www.syromalabarchurch.in



Grotto Pilgrimage

Tera Prem Church, Warur

DATE : 11 February 2026

Holy Qurbana : 03.30 pm

(Detailed Schedule will be given later)





Mar Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 0787/2025

CIRCULAR
GUIDELINES FOR MARIAN DEVOTION

Raphael Thattil,

the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated Men
and Women and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

With the approval of Pope Leo XIV, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith has published a Doctrinal Note entitled Mother of the Faithful People (*Mater Populi fidelis*), declaring that it is not theologically appropriate to address Blessed Virgin Mary as „co-redemptrix“, and titles such as "Mother of Graces" and "Mediatrice" must be used prudently. You would have noticed some misleading discussions and interpretations happening on social media, suggesting that this represents a step back from the honour previously given by the Catholic Church to Mary or as an acceptance of Protestant ideas.

We should keep in mind that the Church's fundamental teachings about the Blessed Virgin Mary remain unchanged. The Church officially proclaimed four dogmas about Mary: she is the Mother of God, ever-virgin, immaculate, and her assumption into heaven. The Church continues to proclaim these four doctrinal truths without alteration. At the same time, the Doctrinal Note aims to correct theological misunderstandings that have arisen from certain terms used to describe Mother Mary. By giving birth to the incarnated Son of God, she becomes our mother too. The heart of this document is a call to remain with her spiritual motherhood.

Together with this, the Note directs us to avoid certain titles that can cause confusion. The most important instruction is to refrain from

using the term „co-redemptrix“. It is not right to interpret this as a new direction. The Church has never declared and taught officially that Mary is co-redemptrix. It is true that some Marian devotees have used the title out of their love for the Holy Mother. The Note points out that the term can lead to certain theological errors. Saying "Mary is a co-redemptrix" might suggest that Christ's salvific work is incomplete without her assistance. Or, it may lead to the misunderstanding that salvation is possible only through a joint effort of Jesus and Mary. Such ideas would diminish the unique and supreme role of Christ in humanity's salvation; therefore, the document recommends avoiding this expression. The new document does not deny Mary's essential role in God's plan of salvation. She freely gave herself to the divine will and willingly prepared to become the mother of Jesus. The document makes a clear distinction between Mary's cooperation in the work of salvation and what is implied in the title „co-redemptrix“. The dignity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is that she collaborated freely in the plan of salvation through her faith and obedience.

Likewise, the Note points out that when Mary is called „Mother of Graces“, this can give the impression that all graces originate from her. The source of all graces is God alone. It is through the sacraments in the Church that the Son of God bestows every grace. To preserve the integrity of this mystery, the document advises avoiding the phrase „Mother of Graces“.

The usage of the title mediatrice also requires careful consideration. There is no doubt that Mary intercedes for us before God. It is quite different to say that „Mary can intercede for us“ and that she is mediatrice, and this theological difference is clarified by this Note. Christ is the sole mediator between God and humanity. The Church teaches that Mary's intercession should not be presented as equal to Christ's unique mediatorship. The document underlined the fact that Christ alone is the „One and the only mediator“ between God and humanity, because he is both fully divine and fully human. The phrase „Jesus, the unique mediator“ means that no one else can stand in the middle between God and humanity, but Jesus alone. Without this

clarification, referring to Mary simply as mediatrix, leads to misunderstandings. In short, the document's purpose is to emphasize the unparalleled uniqueness of Christ's mediatorship, while preserving the Church's traditional devotion to Mary and giving it the correct direction.

The Blessed Virgin Mary is worthy of the highest honour in the Church (hyperdulia). She had the faith and courage to follow Christ even to the foot of the Cross. Before his death, Jesus gave her to all believers as their mother (John 19:27). As the Mother and symbol of the Church, Mary's life is a model and inspiration for all the faithful. If she were received into heaven with her body, then the whole Church that imitates her is likewise entitled to enter heaven. Devotion to the Blessed Mother expressed through the rosary, novenas, scapular devotion, and other prayers remains in the Catholic Church without any change. I invite everybody to be vigilant against the vested interests and the false teachings of those who misinterpret this document, which defines with clarity the role of Jesus and the Blessed Mother Mary in the plan of salvation.

May God bless you abundantly through the intercession of Mother Mary!

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkannad, on the 8th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2025.



✠ Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



This circular shall be read in all the parish churches, institutions, religious houses, formation centres and the major seminaries of the Syro-Malabar Church during the Holy Qurbana on Sunday, 09 November 2025 or on the following Sunday.



Mar Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 0627/2025

DECREE MODIFYING THE TERRITORY OF THE EPARCHY OF CHANDA

Whereas His Holiness Pope John XXIII established the first Syro-Malabar Ordinariate of Chanda on 31 March 1962, appointing Msgr. Januarius Palathuruthy CMI as its first Ecclesiastical Superior with the faculties of an Apostolic Exarch; and whereas it was raised to the status of an Apostolic Exarchate on 29 July 1968, with Msgr. Januarius appointed as its Apostolic Exarch; and on 26 February 1977, Pope Paul VI elevated it to the status of an Eparchy, appointing His Excellency Mar Januarius as its first Bishop;

Whereas His Holiness Pope John Paul II, by the Apostolic Constitution Quae Maiori on 16 December 1992, raised the Syro-Malabar Church to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Church sui iuris, appointing Archbishop Mar Antony Padiyara as its first Major Archbishop, with its territory limited to the then Archeparchies of Ernakulam and Changanacherry in the State of Kerala;

Whereas by the letter of His Holiness Pope Francis dated 9 October 2017, addressed to all the Bishops of India, the jurisdiction of the Syro-Malabar Church was extended to the entire territory of India, and in concretization of the said provision, the Eparchies of Shamshabad in the State of Telangana and Hosur in the State of Tamil Nadu were erected by the Apostolic See. Simultaneously, the boundaries of the Eparchies of Ramanathapuram (Prot. N. 38/2010) and Thuckalay (Prot. N. 283/96) were extended on 09 October 2017. Thus, the new circumscriptions, as with those already in existence, were entrusted, by decree of the Holy Father, to the pastoral care of the

Major Archbishop and the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, according to the norms of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO);

Whereas in the Eparchy of Shamshabad, spread over the vast territory of twenty three States and four Union Territories, including two islands, the sheer extent of the territory has remained an impediment to effective pastoral care of the faithful and to evangelization, despite the commendable efforts made to minister to the Syro-Malabar faithful dispersed throughout the Eparchy and to engage in missionary activities;

Whereas the preliminary concept of reorganizing the territory of the Eparchy of Shamshabad, by transferring portions of its vast territory to neighbouring Syro-Malabar Eparchies, was discussed in the First Session of the XXVII Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church held from 7 to 18 January and from 19 to 30 August 2019, and later received a positive response from the Apostolic See when it was presented and discussed with the authorities of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches during the ad limina visit from 3 to 14 October 2019;

Whereas concrete plans for the reorganization were further examined in a meeting convened by His Beatitude Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, the then Major Archbishop on 6 January 2020 at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad with the Bishops of the Eparchies concerned, including His Excellency Bishop Mar Ephrem Nariculam, the Bishop of Chanda;

Whereas the First Session of the XXVIII Synod, held from 10 to 15 January 2020, resolved to approve the proposal for the reorganization of the territories of certain mission Eparchies adjacent to the territory assigned to the Eparchy of Shamshabad, and requested the Major Archbishop to take the required measures to obtain the approval of the Apostolic See; and whereas the said request, together with the relevant documentation (Prot. No. 0900/2020, dated 27 July 2020), was duly presented to the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches;

Whereas in response to the request, the Apostolic Nuncio to India, His Excellency Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, by his letter (Prot. N. 0488/21/IN, dated 9 August 2021), conveyed the response of the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, stating that the competence for reorganization of the Eparchy of Shamshabad belonged to the Major Archbishop and the Synod of bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, and given that the necessary consultation of the Apostolic See (cf. c. 85 §1 CCEO) had already taken place, the implementation of the said act be deferred till the crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic ended;

Whereas the Second Session of the XXX Synod, held from 16 to 25 August 2022, approved the concrete plan for the reorganization of the territories of the Eparchies of Adilabad, Bhadravathi, Bijnor, Chanda, Gorakhpur, Jagdalpur, Kalyan, Rajkot, Sagar, Satna, Shamshabad, and Ujjain, and requested the Major Archbishop to seek the assent of the Apostolic See to that effect before the same was promulgated;

Whereas the undersigned, upon assuming the Office of the Major Archbishop, raised the matter of the pending process of reorganization of the twelve eparchies during his meetings with His Eminence Claudio Cardinal Gugerotti, the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches on 15 May 2024 and 19 May 2025, and thereafter submitted a formal written request to the same Prefect (Prot. No. 0582/2025, dated 30 July 2025); and whereas, by his communication (Prot. No. 200/2020, dated 13 August 2025), granted the nihil obstat for the promulgation of the reorganization of the territories of the twelve Eparchies concerned;

Whereas the Second Session of the XXXIII Synod, held from 18 to 29 August 2025, on the first day of the Session, definitively resolved upon the said reorganization of the territories of the eleven Eparchies, including the Eparchy of Chanda, assigning to it certain territories of the Eparchy of Shamshabad;

Therefore, having duly complied with all canonical requirements, I, Raphael Thattil, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, by virtue of the authority vested in me under c. 85 §1 of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, and in order to ensure the more effective pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful in the said region and to engage actively in the works of evangelization, do hereby decree and determine as follows:

The territory of the Eparchy of Chanda is hereby modified with immediate effect to include, along with the three civil districts of Maharashtra already under its jurisdiction - Wardha, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli - the following seven civil districts of the same State: Nagpur, Gondia, Bhandara, Amravati, Hingoli, Washim, and Yavatmal.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church, at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, in the first year of the Pontificate of Pope Leo XIV and in the second year of my ministry of the Major Archbishop, on the twenty-eighth day of August, the Feast of Saint Augustine, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and twenty five, the Jubilee of Incarnation, under my signature and seal. Major



✠ Raphael Thattil
Major Archbishop of
the Syro-Malabar Church



Fr. Abraham Kavilpurayidathil
Major Archiepiscopal
Chancellor

□ □ □



Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants
Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church

Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan (Chairman)
Fr. Francis Eluvathingal (Secretary)

Bishop Joseph Kallamparampil CMI (Member)
Bishop John Nellikunnel (Member)

Prot. No. 09/2025

20 September 2025

Sub: Mission Month Celebration from October 2026

To,

Dear Loving Archbishops/ Bishops/ Rev. Directors and Members
of the Eparchial Commission for Evangelization,

Greetings and prayers from Commission for Evangelization,
Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad!

We wish to bring to your attention an important change regarding the celebration of Mission Week in our Church. As previously communicated, the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church has resolved to shift the observance of Mission Week from January to October, expanding it into a more comprehensive Mission Month. As we already celebrated the Mission Week in 2025, the new practice will commence from October 2026, and the Major Archbishop will issue a formal communication outlining the structure and spirit of this celebration in due course.

In preparation for this transition, we will convene a meeting of all Eparchial Members of the Commission for Evangelization to discern and decide on the appropriate mode of celebration for Mission Month. We kindly request each Arch/Eparchy to begin reflections on how best to observe this month in your local context, drawing inspiration from the missionary heritage of our Church.

Meanwhile, during October 2025, we encourage all faithful to engage in intercessory prayers for the evangelizing mission of the Universal Church, the missionary efforts of the Syro-Malabar Church, the Missionary outreach of each

Arch/Eparchy and the Missionary zeal of every parish community. Let this time of prayerful anticipation be a seedbed for the fruitful celebration of Mission Month in the years to come.

Thanking you in advance for your whole hearted cooperation and for your prayers,

Yours fraternally in Christ,

+ *Panjan*



*Bp. Prince Antony Panengadan

Chairman,

Fr. Francis Eluvathingal

Secretary

Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants

Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad -682030, KOCHI, KERALA, INDIA
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Quotes

“ God never tires of forgiving us;
we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.

- Pope Francis

Give God your worries and he will
give you His peace

- Awesome Quote



IV. BISHOP'S DIARY

SEPTEMBER-2025

- 5 - Bishop offered Holy Mass at St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore.
- 8 - Bishop offered Holy Mass at Milagris Church in Mangalore diocese in connection with the feast of Our Lady of Milagris (Miracle worker).
- 13 - Bishop attended General Body meeting of CRI, Chanda at Montfort School, Bamni.
- 14-19 - Bishop attended annual retreat for priests at Marthoma Provincial House, Bamni.
- 20 - Bishop presided over SABs vestition Holy Qurbana at Cathedral BPQ. In the evening, Bishop attended reception accorded to Msgr. Joseph Thachaprambath, Bishop-elect of Adilabad at Datala Carmel Academy Auditorium.
- 21 - Bishop blessed the newly constructed girls' boarding and Social Service office of SABs Sisters at New Daheli and met with mother Amala SABs, the Provincial Superior.
- 23-25 - Bishop had a visit to Allahabad and met with CSN Sisters Provincial Superior and her team.
- 26 - Bishop presided over Requiem Holy Qurbana at funeral service of Fr. Panththenus Pookatt CMI at CMI Monastery, Vazhakalam
- 27 - Bishop attended the Golden Jubilee celebration of Fr. K.A. Paul at his home parish, Mannumpetta in the Archdiocese of Trichur.
- 30 - Bishop presided over Golden and Silver Jubilee celebrations of MSMI Sisters at Provincial House, Sawangi, Wardha.

OCTOBER - 2025

1. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Kalabhavan in connection with the feast of patron St. Theresa of Lisieux.
2. - Bishop, along with Rev. Fathers, Sisters, and People, (around 100) participated Metropolitan level Holy Year 2025 Jubilee celebrations at Nagpur along with other the Dioceses of Nagpur, Aurangabad, and Amravathy.
3. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Euphrasia Bhavan, Sawangi Wardha for CMC Postulants.
4. - Bishop presided Holy Qurbana for Provincial Day of Carmelodaya (CMC) Provincial House and the celebration of Golden and Silver Jubilee of their Sisters at Provincial House, Sawangi, Wardha.
6. - Bishop met with Sr. Annie Kurian CHF, the Superior General of Holy Family Congregation at Bishop's Home, BPQ.
7. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at CMI Aspirants House, Banni.
11. - Bishop attended Chanda Family Day. Holy Qurbana was offered by him and it was followed by felicitation meeting.
12. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Rajura parish for the patron's feast.
14. - Bishop attended Chandrapur Christ Hospital Consultation Meeting. Bishop offered Holy Qurbana in Balapur parish.
15. - Bishop met with Sr. Mareena SJ, Superior General of the Sisters of Jesus at Bishop's Home, BPQ.
16. - Bishop attended Finance Council and Consultors' meeting online. Bishop blessed the new convent building of DM Sisters, Rajura.

17. - Bishop addressed the students attending Chanda Live-in Program at Carmel School, Samudrapur.
19. - Bishop attended installation ceremony of the new Metropolitan Archbishop Mar Sebastian as the Archbishop of Kalyan at Cathedral, Kalyan.
20. - Bishop presided over Silver Jubilee Celebration Holy Qurbana of SABS Sisters at Sanjo Bhavan, New Daheli.
25. - Bishop attended Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Joseph Thachabarambath at Ephatha Retreat Centre, Rappaliwada.
26. - Bishop attended installation of Mar Prince Antony Panengadanas the new Metropolitan Archbishop of Shamshabad in Hyderabad.
27. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Mariarani Home (SD convent), Hyderabad).
 - Bishop met with Sr. Valsa Therese CHF, Provincial Superior at Holy Family convent, Gadchandur.
- 27-31. - Bishop animated the Deacons' Orientation program, in Bishop's Home, BPQ.
28. - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana at Kalamana for a wedding Silver Jubilee

NOVEMBER - 2025

2. - Bishop attended installation ceremony of Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Faridabad in Delhi.
3. - Along with other bishops, participated in installation ceremony in Delhi bishop visited Archbishop of Agra and Tajmahal
5. - Bishop attended Episcopal Ordination ceremony of Msgr. James Petteril CMF as the Bishop of Benthangady at Cathedral, Benthangady.

8. - Bishop attended a memorial service at Sanjopuram parish in Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Bishop attended Beatification ceremony of mother Eliswa at Vallarpadam Church in Verapoly archdiocese.
- 11-12.- Bishop attended Metropolitan Council meeting at Nagpur Archbishop's House.
13. - Bishop visited Gondia to discuss matters connected with reorganization of the diocese. Bishop visited St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur.
15. - Bishop presided over public meeting at Gughus School in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the School.
16. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Shegaon parish and visited station in pahad region.
17. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at SVG and later visited station in Allapalli region.
18. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Bhunkam Tola village in Jarawandi parish.
23. - Bishop Visited Sakara village in Yavatmal district, and offered Holy Qurbana and discussed matters connected with reorganization of the diocese.
25. - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana for the Jubilee of ASMI Sisters at Allapalli parish.
27. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana for Kalabhavan day and presided over cultural evening.
29. - Bishop attended missionary conference at Cathedral, BPQ.
- Bishop chaired vocation promotion council.
30. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Hinganghat Church in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the mission.

DECEMBER - 2025

6. - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana for the conclusion of Jeevotsav Bible convention at Divine Vachan Asharam, Bamini.

12. - Bishop attended Western Region Bishops' Council at Sarvodaya, Bombay.
- 13-14 - Bishop took part WRBC and Catholic Council meeting at Sarvodaya, Bombay.
- 15 - Bishop received Rev. Mother Gracelet SD Provincial Superior at Bishop's Home, BPQ.
- 16 - Bishop delivered message for ecumenical Christmas rally finale at Sant Vianney Jubilee School stage, BPQ.
- 17 - Bishop delivered Christmas message and handed over prize for the winners of the 'Gloria' Carol singing competition at Pastoral Centre ground, BPQ.
18. - Bishop presided over School Day celebration of Agragamy School, Pipri, Wardha.
20. - Bishop attended Advent Recollection and Christmas Gathering at Cathedral, BPQ.
21. - Bishop presided over school day of St. Mary's school, Kautha.
23. - Newly elected chairperson of Ballarpur municipality visited Bishop's Home to Greet Bishop for Christmas.
25. - Bishop offered Christmas Holy Qurbana at Cathedral and delivered Christmas Message.
27. - Bishop participated Priestly Ordination ceremony of Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese.
28. - Bishop blessed a marriage at little Flower Church, Elamkulam, in Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese.
- Bishop released a book by Fr. Francis Arackal OP at Family Trust Anniversary in Wadel Church in the archdiocese of Verapoly.
30. - Bishop participated Priests and Religious gathering in Sanjopuram parish in Ernakulam-Angamaly archdiocese.



V. BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

JANUARY 2026

- 3 - Marriage, Muringoor.
- 5 - Ordination Kainady
- 6 - Ordination, Valiathovala
- 6-10 - Synod of Bishops, Kakkanad
- 11 - Koratty, Nedumgod (First Holy Qurbana)
- 13 - Nayarambalam
- 14 - Thabore, Mangalassery
- 15 - Marriage, Naduvattan, First Holy Qurbana, Etaganaly
- 17 - Episcopal Ordination, Pune
- 22 - Monthly Recollection, BPQ
- 22-24 - PPT meeting
- 28-31 - Kurnool and Bellari

FEBRUARY

- 1-12 - CBCI, Bangalore
- 14 - CSA, Charity Sisters Jubilee, Gondpipri
- 15 - Church blessing, Gomini
- 16-18 - Forty Hours Adoration, BPQ
- 16 - Ash Day
- 17 - Lentan Recollection, BPQ
- 19-21 - PPT meeting

MARCH

- 4 - Metropolitan Council meeting, Wardha
- 5-8 - Pastoral visit, Marakbody
- 10-23 - Gorakpur & Ujjain
- 15 - Perpetual profession of SD Sisters, Thottumuglarm
- 22 - Finance Council
- 24-28 - PPT meeting
- 29 - Palm Sunday, Sakara village (Yawatmal district)

- 31 - Muron Holy Qurbana

APRIL

- 2 - Maundy Thursday
- 3 - Good Friday
- 5 - Easter
- 7-10 - Mission Conference, Ujjain
- 13-15 - PPT meeting
- 18 - Diocesan Pastoral Council
- 22-26 - Pastoral visit, Warur

MAY

- 3-15 - Major Seminarians Diocesan Formation Program, SVG, New Daheli
- 16 - Minor Orders



MURON QURBANA



Let us be united in the Holy priesthood of Christ. Let the celebration of Holy Muron Qurbana fortify our priestly *Koinonia* and deepen our commitment to Christ, Church, Diocese, Congregation and to the people.

Date : Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Venue : St. Thomas Cathedral, BPQ

Schedule

09.00 AM	Adoration & Confession
10.00 AM	Talk
11.15 AM	Holy Qurbana
01.00 PM	Lunch, Departure.

THE YEAR OF CREED AND THE BEATITUDES

The following matters will be circulated in Eparchy of Chanda WhatsApp group on these days in preparation to enter into the observance of the Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes. It is primarily meant for a recatechising and deepen our faith in Christ. We shall avail the opportunity to commit ourselves more earnestly to Christian faith and the mission of Evangelization.

- 1) Pastoral Letter I on 'The Creed' – 11/12/2025
- 2) Pastoral Letter I on 'The Beatitudes' – 12/12/2025
- 3) The Year of The Creed and The Beatitudes: Practical Suggestions: 14/12/2025
- 4) The Inauguration of the Year of the Creed and The Beatitudes - 14/12/2025
- 5) The Year of The Creed & The Beatitudes (Homily Themes for the whole year) – 16/12/2025
- 6) The Posters for the Year of The Creed and The Beatitudes in three languages – Marathi, Hindi and English - 16/12/2025

More materials (Pastoral Letters, reflections etc.) will be given later.

Bp. Ephrem Nariculam



Quotes

“The Beatitudes show us the path that leads to the Kingdom of God and to happiness: the path of humanity, compassion meekness, justice and peace. To be a saint to walk on this road.”

- Pope Francis

THE YEAR OF CREED & THE BEATITUDES

1. Read them again and again and make meditations and continuous reflections.
2. Use them for discussions in various forums in the parish – mathruvedi, pithruvedi, catechism classes, youth seminar, ward prayers, etc.
3. Make people to recite them everyday in their family prayer and on Sundays before or after Holy Qurbana in common. (They are printed in the diocesan calendar).
4. Make people especially children and youth to study by heart the Beatitudes.
5. Conduct some competitions connected to the Creed and the Beatitudes.
6. At least two Sundays a month use the various declarations, promises or statements of the Creed and the Beatitudes for homily (Themes for the same are also prepared for the same and attached herewith).
7. Raise billboards/posters of these in the campuses of Churches and Institutions as a constant reminder of the Year of Observance (Posters in three languages – Marathi, Hindi and English are available and published in the WhatsApp group, 'Eparchy of Chanda').

Bp. Ephrem Nariculam



Quotes

“What must one do to be a Christian? The answer is simple: We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus says in the Beatitudes”

- Pope Francis

23. The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.
24. Jesus as human and divine.
25. Last Judgement (Mt. 25: 31-46).
26. The Creed: Historical sketch and the theological significance.
27. The scriptural foundation of the Creed.
28. Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
29. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
30. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
31. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
32. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
33. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
34. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
35. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes posters in three languages : English, Marathi & Hindi



WESTERN REGION BISHOPS' COUNCIL

Host : Diocese of Chanda

Venue : CMI Provincial House, Bamini

Dates : 8-9 July 2025

The Western Region Bishops' Council (WRBC) and Social Service Directors' Meeting of Western Region (WRSSF) were held in Chanda on 8 and 9 July 2025. Sixteen bishops, including two cardinals (Card. Oswald Gracias of Bombay and Card. Filipe Neri Ferrão of Goa) and 16 Social Service Directors participated in the respective meetings. WRBC meeting was held in Marthoma Provincial House, Bamini and WRSSF was held in Pastoral Centre, BPQ. On 7th July by noon the bishops arrived Wardha and they were accorded formal reception at Wardha parish. Later, they set out for Wardha Darshan. They visited the following places in Wardha : Paunar Ashram, Bapu Kutli, Darsana, Claritian Ashram etc. On their way to BPQ the bishops visited also Chavara Ashram, Jam and Christ Hospital Chandrapur. The accommodation for bishops were arranged in Mar Thoma Provincial House and Pastoral Centre. On 8th evening all bishops and Social Service directors joined for the celebration of Holy Qurbana in Syro-Malabar rite at Cathedral, BPQ. All were accorded reception before Holy Qurbana and the cardinals planted saplings in the courtyard of the Cathedral Church. After Holy Qurbana, all bishops and Social Service directors were felicitated by Bp. Ephrem, honoring them with a shawl and memento. Agape followed for all gathered. The Church was full for the celebration of Holy Qurbana. The bishops visited Kiranoday Enterprises before they left the campus. It was a great experience for the diocese. The meeting came to an end by lunch on 8th July. It was for the first time WRBC meeting was held in the diocese.

Reporter, Chanda Samachar

2026 DIOCESAN YEAR PLAN
The Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes
Diocese of Chanda

JANUARY

- 01 - New Year
- 02 - First Friday
- 03 - St. Chavara Kuriakose
- 04 - Inauguration of the Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes, Syro Malabar Mission Fund Sunday Collection
- 05 - 06 - Ordinations in Kerala
- 06 - Feast of Denha
- 07-10 - Pray for Syro-Malabar Synod of Bishops
- 11 - Holy Childhood Day Celebration in the Parish
- 14 - St. Devasahayam Pillai, Logo Quiz, Diocesan Level, BPQ, Pongal, Makarsankranti
- 18-25 - Church Unity Octave
- 20 - St. Sebastian
- 22 - 24 PPT Meeting
- 22 - Monthly Recollection of Priests and Men Religious, General Presbyterium
- 26 - Republic Day, Sts. Timothy & Titus
- 27 - Feast of Evangelists
- 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas
- 29 - Major Archiepiscopal Status to Syro-Malabar Church
- 30 - World Day of Peace
- 31 - St. John Bosco

FEBRUARY

- 02 - Presentation of our Lord
- 04-10 - CBCI, Bangalore
- 06 - First Friday
- 11 - Grotto Pilgrimage, Warur (World Day of the Sick)
- 14 - CSA Meeting

- 15 - MahaShivarathri Holiday
- 16 - Ash Day
- 16 - 18 - 40 Hours of Adoration
- 17 - Monthly Recollection for Priests, Men & women Religious (Cathedral, BPQ)
- 18 - Ash Wednesday
- 19 - 28 - PPT Meeting
- 19 - Shivaji Jayanti Holiday
- 22-25 - 2nd Ballarshah Jeevotsav Bible Convention
- 25 - Blessed Rani Maria

MARCH

- 04 - Holi Holiday
- 05 - 08 - Pastoral Visit, Marakbody
- 06 - First Friday
- 08 - International Womens' Day
- 14 - Zonal Monthly Recollection for Priests and Men and Women Religious
- 19 - Feast of St. Joseph
- 20 - 22 - Marriage Preparation Course (BPQ)
- 21 - Ramzan Id Holiday
- 23 - Patron's Day of BpVijayanandNedumpuram CMI, Finance Council Meeting
- 25 - Feast of Annunciation
- 28 - Bp. Januarius' (30th) Death Anniversary
- 29 - Palm Sunday
- 31 - Muron Qurbana (Common Recollection for Priests, Men & Women Religious, BPQ)

APRIL

- Vocation Camp
- Music Course (April-May)
- Career Guidance
- Retreat for Catechism Students
- English Language Course

- 02 - Maundy Thursday
- 03 - Good Friday, Calvarigiri Pilgrimage (Lakkadakot)
- 04 - Holy Saturday
- 05 - Easter
- 08-09 - Mission Conference, Ujjain
- 12 - Catechism Parish Level Exam
- 13-15 - PPT Meeting
- 14 - Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti Holiday
- 18 - Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC)
- 19 - Catechism Diocesan Level Exam
- 22-26 - Pastoral Visit, Wani
- 25 - St. Mark
- 26 - Divine Mercy Sunday, Vocation Sunday

MAY

- Pratibha Sangam
- Enchricto Youth Convention
- 01 - International Labour Day, St. Joseph, the Patron of workers, First Friday
- 03-15 - Major Seminarians' Diocesan Formation Programme (MSDFP)
- 06 - St. Dominic Savio
- 10 - International Mothers' day
- 14 - St. Mathias, Fifth death Anniversary of Fr. Lawrence Burle, Feast of Ascension
- 16 - Vestition and Minor Orders
- 19 - Parish Level Prayer Day for Priests, Men & Women Religious and People
(One day Common Recollection in the Parishes)
- 27 - Bakrid Holiday
- 31 - Visitation of Bl. Virgin Mary

JUNE

- Hindi & Marathi Language Courses
- 05 - First Friday

- 08 - St. Mariam Thresia
- 09 - St. Ephrem, Patron's Day of Bp. Ephrem Nariculam
- 10 - St. Bernard
- 13 - Feast of St. Antony
- 15 - Holy Trinity, Monthly Recollection for Priests and Men Religious - Online
- 21 - International Fathers' Day
- 22 - Feast of Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
- 24 - Birth of St. John the Baptist, Feast of Pentacost
- 26 - Catechism Teachers' Seminar
- 27 - Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 28 - Feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary
- 29 - Sts. Peter and Paul

JULY

- 03 - St. Thomas, the Apostle of India and the Patron of our Diocese,
Inauguration of Catechism Classes, First Friday
- 07-08 - Western Region Bishops' Council, Nagpur
- 13 - Monthly Recollection for Diocesan Priests
- 14 - Feast of Seventy Disciples
- 16 - Feast of Mount Carmel
- 22-26 - Pastoral Visit, Cathedral Ballarpur
- 25 - St. James the Apostle
- 26 - Sts. Joachim and Anne
- 27 - Day of Elders and Grand Parents
- 28 - St. Alphonsa
- 29 - St. Martha
- 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola

AUGUST

- 01 - St. Alphonse Ligouri Fifteen Days Fast in Preparation for the Feast of Assumption of Our Lady Begins
- 03 - Monthly Recollection for Diocesan priests (BPQ) – Diocesan Presbyterium

- 04 - Vianney Day (SVG)
- 07 - First Friday
- 08 - CSA Meeting
- 09 - Priests' Sunday
- 11 - St. Clare
- 14 - Fifth Death Anniversary of Fr. Kozhikothickal Joseph (KS)
- 15 - Feast of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, Independence Day & Chanda Establishment Day (1962)
- 16 - Chanda Establishment Day Sunday Collection
- 17-28 - Pray for the Synod of Syro-Malabar Bishops
- 21 - St. Pius X, World Senior Citizens' Day
- 24 - St. Bartholomew
- 26 - Zonal Level Competition for Catechism Students, Milad un-nabi
- 27 - St. Monica, Couples' Meet (BPQ), Raksha Bandan Holiday
- 28 - St. Augustine
- 29 - St. Euphrasia

SEPTEMBER

- 01 - Eight Days Fast in Preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary begins,
- 04 - First Friday, Janmashtami Holiday
- 05 - Feast of St. Theresa of Calcutta
- 08 - Feast of Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary
- 13 - CRI General Body Meeting
- 13-18 - Priests' Annual Retreat
- 14 - Exaltation of the Cross, Birthday of Pope Leo IV, Ganesh Chaturthi Holiday
- 21 - St. Mathew the Apostle
- 23-27 - Pastoral Visit, Wardha
- 24 - Birthday of Bp. Vijayanand Nedumpuram CMI
- 27 - St. Vincent de Paul

- 29 - Feast of Archangels - Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Patron's Day of Major Archbishop Mar Raphael Thattil
- 30 - St. Jerome, Year Plan Committee (Zonal conveners + Department heads)

OCTOBER

- Month for Rosary Devotion
- Syro-Malabar Mission Month
- 01 - St. Theresa of Child Jesus
- 02 - First Friday, Gandhi Jayanthi Holiday, Feast of Guardian Angels, Final Round Bible Quiz for Catechism Students
- 04 - St. Francis of Assisi
- 06-11 - Jeevotsav Retreat, Kalmana
- 07 - Feast of Holy Rosary
- 08-11 - Pastoral Visit, Wasa
- 10 - St. Carlo Acutis
- 15 - St. Theresa of Avila
- 16 - Blessed Kunjachan
- 17 - Fasting in preparation for Chanda Day
- 17-18 - Pastoral Visit, Wadsa
- 18 - Mission Sunday
- 22 - St. John Paul II
- 23 - Holy Hour in Preparation for Chanda Family Day
- 24 - Chanda Family Day, 12th Episcopal Ordination Anniversary of Bp. Ephrem
- 28 - Sts. Simon & Jude

NOVEMBER

- CRI Zonal Level Gathering
- Youth Convention
- 01 - All Saints Day
- 02 - All Souls' Day
- 03-8 - Jeevotsav Retreat, Bhamragarh

- 03 - St. Zacharias & Elizabeth,
- 06 - First Friday
- 07-14 - Hindi Course (session I)
- 08 - Diwali
- 10 - Feast of St. Leo the Great (Feast of Pope Leo XIV)
- 14 - Presbyteral Council (10 AM), Consultators' Meeting (3.00 PM)
- 16 - World Communication Day
- 17-22 - Jeevotsav Retreat, Brahmapuri
- 19-22 - Pastoral Visit, Chandrapur
- 22 - Christ the King
- 24 - Guru Nanak Jayanti, Missionary Conference, BPQ (For Priests and Men and Women Religious)
- 24-29 - Jeevotsav Retreat, Chandrapur
- 30 - St. Andrew, the Apostle, Season of Annunciation (Advent) begins

DECEMBER

- Advent Collection for Seminary Fund
- Marriage Preparation Course
- 01 - Advent Abstinence Begins
- 01-06 - Jeevotsav Retreat, Warur
- 03 - St. Francis Xavier, The World day for the Physically Challenged
- 04 - First Friday
- 07 - St. Ambrose
- 08 - Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary
- 08-13 - Jeevotsav Retreat, Aksapur
- 10 - Birthday of Bp. Ephrem Nariculam
- 11-13 - Western Regional Bishops Council and Catholic Council Meeting, Bombay
- 13 - The Third Death Anniversary of Fr. Antony Munjanat
- 14 - St. John of the Cross
- 16 - Seventh Death Anniversary of Fr. Jomy Chakkalatharayil

- 19 - Advent Recollection for Priests and Men & Women religious (BPQ) & Christmas Gathering
- 20 - Seminary Fund Collection
- 25 - Christmas
- 26 - St. Stephen,
- 26-31 - Hindi Course (Session II)
- 27 - St. John the Apostle
- 28 - Feast of Holy Innocents
- 29 - Divine Motherhood of Mary
- 31 - Feast of Holy Family, Year ending

N.B

PPT Meeting

January - 22 (AM) Only, 23, 24, 27 (AM)

February - 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

March - 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

April - 13, 14, 15

CRI Meeting

September - 13

Jeevotsav Retreat

Ballarshah Jeevotsav Bible Convention Feb. 22-25

St. Alphonsa Church, Kalmana - Oct. 6 - 11

Sacred Heart Church, Bhamragarh - Nov. 3- 8

Christ the King Church, Brahmapuri - Nov. 17- 22

St. Thomas Church, Chandrapur - Nov. 24 - 29

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Warur - Dec. 1 - 6

NavJyothi Church, Aksapur - Dec. 8 - 13

Pastoral Visit

March 5- 8 Marakboday

April 22 - 26 Wani

July 22 - 26 Ballarpur

September - 22-27 Wardha

BLESSED MOTHER ELISWA VAKAYIL

Eliswa was born as the first of eight children of Thomman and Thanda, in the noble family of Vyppissery Capithan in the Cruz Milagres parish of Ochanthuruth in the Vicariate of Verapoly, Kerala, India on 15 October 1831. From her childhood itself, Eliswa showed a keen interest in prayer and sacrifices. Her devotion to Jesus in

the Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin Mary was astounding. Little Eliswa was exceptionally compassionate to the poor and the underprivileged.

According to her parents' wishes, Eliswa married Vatharu Vakayil in 1847. A girl child was born to them on April 21, 1850, and she was named Anna. After one and a half years since Anna's birth, Vatharu suddenly fell ill and died. Even though Eliswa was suggested for a second marriage, she opted for a life of silent prayer and services. Her frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament at her parish church in Koonammavu nourished her soul and she surrendered herself wholly to the works of the Holy Spirit.

One forenoon in 1862, Eliswa entered her parish church, St. Philomina's, Koonammavu when it was virtually deserted. She knelt before the Blessed Sacrament and in silence poured out all her grievances to Our Lord in the Eucharist. Afterwards, with courage of conviction, Eliswa conveyed her desire to consecrate her life to God to Rev. Fr. Leopold Beccaro O.C.D. Advising the aspirant, Rev. Fr. Leopold sent her back but remained observant, waiting patiently for confirmation of her inspiration. The period of trial and tests for study lasted four years and in the mean time her sister Thresia and daughter Anna, influenced so much by her God-centered life-style, also joined Eliswa.

Fr. Leopold raised the matter of the three penitents eagerly longing to embrace religious life in a discussion he had with the Vicar Apostolic of Verapoly, Archbishop Bernardine Baccinelli, O.C.D. The bishop, quite pleased with the information and quite happy to accept them, asked the Rev. Father to construct a small bamboo-mat hut with three rooms – prayer room, kitchen and refectory on Eliswa's property.

Early February in 1866, the three women were officially received into the Carmelite Order by the Bishop, and on Tuesday, February 13, 1866, Fr. Leopold was delegated to vest them with the Carmelite Scapular of the Religious. These three Latin-Rite women moved from their home to the newly built bamboo convent on their property. This was the foundation of the present Community of Teresian Carmelites (C.T.C.) laid on the day under the Congregational name the Third Order of the Carmelite Discalced (T.O.C.D.). It was the first convent in Kerala and the history of the TOCD is unique in the history of the Catholic Church. Later, members of the Syro-Malabar Rite were also admitted to this Congregation by Mother Eliswa.

On 27 March 1867, the sisters moved from the bamboo convent to St Teresa's Convent at Koonammavu which had just been built on the property owned by Mother Eliswa and her daughter Anna and started the canonical novitiate.

Following the division of rites in Malabar in 1887, an order from the Holy See on 17 September 1890 required the Latin sisters, including Eliswa Vakayil, to leave the convent and its property to the Syrian sisters (who later formed the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel, CMC). The Latin branch re-established itself at St. Joseph's Convent in Varapuzha (Verapoly) on 11 November 1890, and became the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites (CTC). Vakayil served as the first novice mistress of the canonical novitiate erected there in 1892.

The original congregation thus evolved into two independent ones: the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites (CTC) of the Latin Rite, and the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (CMC) of the Syro-Malabar Rite. Eliswa Vakayil's foundational work endures in these two independent congregations, which continue to uphold her spiritual and social legacy. Her personal motto, "God alone suffices" mirrored that of St. Teresa of Ávila.

Eliswa Vakayil died on 18 July 1913, at the age of 81. Her remains were initially interred in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Saint Joseph in Varapuzha (Verapoly). They were later transferred to a tomb chapel, the Smruthi Mandhiram, at St. Joseph's Convent in Varapuzha. The tomb has since become a site of pilgrimage for the faithful.

Eliswa's beatification process was opened in 2008, and she was declared a Servant of God by Archbishop Daniel Acharuparambil. The diocesan inquiry concluded on 7 April 2017. On 8 November 2023, Pope Francis declared her to be venerable. On 14 April 2025, Francis recognized a miracle attributed to Vakayil's intercession. Eliswa Vakayil was beatified at the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Ransom in Vallarpadam on 8 November 2025.

- Fr. Vivek Puthanpurayil



31st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Bp. Januarius' 31st death anniversary falls on Saturday 28 March 2026. Please observe the day in every parish and institutions in the diocese. There will be Holy Qurbana and Office of the Dead at Cathedral, Ballarpur at 6.00 PM.



VIII. NEWS FROM THE MISSION STATIONS

ST. THOMAS CATHEDRAL, BALLARPUR

1. The feast of St. Thomas Cathedral, Nativity of Blessed Mary, was celebrated on September 8, with pomp and gaiety. Rev. Fr. Vigil Parassery, the Rector and Chancellor of the diocese was the main celebrant of the feast. A beautiful and inspiring sermon of the day was delivered by Rev. Fr. Wilson Vettumanickal CMI, Principal of Sant Chavara School, Wardha. Priests and religious from various parishes participated the celebration. Hundreds of faithful from near and far joined the celebration with devotion. The procession of Mother Mary was another mesmerizing scene through the Balharshah town, accompanied by prayers, hymn, and often an atmosphere of celebration and reverence. It was really a blessing to the people around. Hundreds of faithful showed their solidarity to show their love and devotion to the Mother of Jesus. The final Eucharist adoration and blessing was conducted by Rev. Fr. Vishal Jangam, Asst. Vicar, Chandrapur. The feast was concluded with Prasad and dinner. Thanks to all our parishioners for their selfless contribution for the success of the Arogya Matha Feast.
2. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary and Mother Mary by the Catholic Church, honoring her as Our Lady of the Rosary. We began our daily rosary in each ward and last Ten days of rosary was conducted in the Church, concluded on 31 October, with a procession and Agape.
3. We had 'Byriani Fest' on 5th of October and many people supported it.
4. Mission Sunday was celebrated on 19th October. Many faithful participated in the auction and collected funds for mission purpose.
5. The Diocesan Youth convention was held on 20th October and many of our Youth participated it with great enthusiasm.

6. All souls' day was celebrated on 2nd November. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated at the cemetery by Rev. Fr. Vivek, Director CLC. Priests from the Bishop's home and CMI provincial house joined the liturgy. Office of the dead was said by Rev. Fr. Joseph K.S. Thanks to all who cleansed and decorated the tombs.

BRAHMAPURI

Honouring Our Educators – Teachers' Day 2025

Christanand School celebrated Teachers' Day with great enthusiasm and gratitude. The programme began with a warm welcome to all teachers, acknowledging their dedication and invaluable contribution to the growth of the students. The children expressed their appreciation through a variety of cultural performances, including songs, dances, and skits prepared specially for the occasion. Heartfelt messages and tokens of love from the students added to the joy of the celebration, making it a memorable day for the entire school community.

Nativity of Mary: A Day of Devotion and Joy

The Christ Bhavan family joyfully celebrated the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8 with deep devotion and gratitude. The celebration began with a solemn Holy Mass, during which the faithful reflected on the life and virtues of Mother Mary. The atmosphere was filled with reverence as parishioners participated prayerfully, expressing their love and honor for the Mother of Jesus. It was a spiritually enriching day cherished by the entire community.

Young Artists Shine at CLC Drawing Competition

The Catechism children of Christ Bhavan Parish enthusiastically participated in the drawing competition organized by the CLC Department on September 14. The event provided a wonderful platform for our young learners to showcase their creativity, imagination, and artistic skills.

Celebrating the Feast Day of Rev. Fr. Christo

The parish community joyfully celebrated the feast day of our Assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Christo, on September 29. The celebration began with a special Holy Mass offered in thanksgiving for his life and dedicated ministry. Following the Eucharistic celebration, parishioners extended their warm wishes and expressed their appreciation for his humble service, inspiring presence, and pastoral commitment. The occasion strengthened the bond of faith and affection shared between Fr. Christo and the parish family.

Faith and Devotion: Celebrating Rosary Month

Throughout the month dedicated to Our Lady, the Christanand family faithfully prayed the Holy Rosary in every home of the parish. These prayer gatherings strengthened family bonds, brought blessings to households, and reminded everyone of Mary's loving protection.

A Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi – October 2

Students observed Gandhi Jayanti with peace-themed programmes, inspiring speeches, and clean-campus activities, honouring the values of truth and non-violence.

Ayudha Pooja and Vehicle Blessing Ceremony

A special ceremony was held on October 2 for the blessing of all vehicles and work instruments. Families brought their two-wheelers, cars, ambulances, hospital vehicles, and various tools, seeking God's protection and safe travels for the year ahead. The celebration reflected both devotion and gratitude for God's continued care.

Feast Day Celebration: St. Francis of Assisi

The parish joyfully commemorated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the saint of peace and simplicity. Special prayers and wishes were offered for the Clare Bhavan Community Sisters,

whose Franciscan spirituality and dedicated service continue to inspire the parish community.

Parish Comes Together for 12 Hours of Rosary

The parish experienced a grace-filled day during the 12 Hours Chain Rosary held at Christ Bhavan Church. From morning till evening, the church remained immersed in prayer, silence, and devotion before the Eucharistic Lord. The faithful participated wholeheartedly, offering intentions, thanksgiving, and prayers for the parish, their families, and the world.

Chanda Family Day: Awards and Recognitions

Sr. Magi FCC, a member of Christ Bhavan Church, won a prize in the Logos Quiz Competition. Christ Bhavan Church also secured the 2nd prize in the Poster Making Competition, showcasing the dedication and creativity of the participants.

Near to Mary with Jesus: 12 Hours of Holy Rosary

Christanand Hospital experienced a serene spiritual atmosphere as 12 hours of Holy Rosary were conducted, bringing healing grace to patients and comfort to their families. The day was marked by prayer, peace, and a deep sense of God's presence within the hospital community.

Celebrating the Festival of Lights – Diwali 2025

The school celebrated Diwali with vibrant cultural performances and meaningful messages of unity, joy, and light. The programme beautifully reflected the spirit of the festival.

Pride and Achievement: CSA Student Awards

Children from Christanand School and Junior College were recognised for their outstanding academic achievements during the Chanda Live In programme.

Palak Nikhare of Class XII was awarded State Board Topper of CSA, while Sofiya Sam Joseph and Alphonsa Manohar

Ramgirkar secured 1st and 2nd positions respectively among Class X Catholic students from the State Board. Their accomplishments brought pride and joy to the entire Christanand family.

Blessings and Wishes for Fr. Emmanuel Kandathil

The parish joyfully celebrated the birthday and ordination anniversary of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kandathil. The faithful offered special prayers and warm wishes, expressing gratitude for his dedicated pastoral service and guidance.

Celebrating Talent: Sports & Cultural Week

A vibrant Sports and Cultural Week was organised from October 27, offering students ample opportunities to showcase their talents in athletics, dance, music, art, and a variety of competitions. The week brought out the enthusiasm, creativity, and team spirit of the students, making it a memorable highlight of the school calendar.

Grace-Filled Conclusion of Rosary Month

The Rosary Month came to a solemn close on October 31 with a Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Jose CMF, who delivered an inspiring message on Marian devotion. Various parish groups prepared beautifully decorated grottos, reflecting their unity, creativity, and deep devotion to Our Lady. The celebration marked a fitting and grace-filled conclusion to the month of prayer.

Remembering Loved Ones: All Souls Day Prayers

The parish gathered at the cemetery on November 2 to observe All Souls Day with special prayers for the departed. The atmosphere was prayerful and reverent as families lit candles, offered flowers, and remembered their loved ones with affection and faith. It was a meaningful moment of remembrance and hope for the entire community.

A Day Dedicated to Our Young Stars

Children's Day was celebrated with great joy as students enjoyed games, dance, songs, and special gifts. The day was filled with excitement, laughter, and vibrant activities that made it memorable for every child.

First Friday Devotion: Adoration and Prayer

As in every month, the First Friday Adoration was conducted with deep devotion. The faithful spent time in prayer before the Sacred Heart of Jesus, seeking grace, strength, and spiritual renewal.

Faith and Festivity: Parish Feast Celebrations

The Christ Bhavan family celebrated the Feast of Christ the King with solemn devotion. The celebration began with the inauguration and flag hoisting led by Rev. Fr. Manu CMF, followed by a three-day annual retreat preached by Rev. Fr. Jose Chakkalakal, offering the parish spiritual nourishment and reflection.

November 22 (Saturday): A grand procession began from Christanand Hospital, drawing a large gathering of the faithful. Rev. Fr. Vishal Jangam delivered an enriching message on Christ the king, and Rev. Fr. C.C. George CMI led the healing prayers and imparted a solemn Eucharistic blessing. The evening concluded with an agape meal and vibrant cultural programmes by parishioners.

November 23(Sunday): Newly ordained priests celebrated the solemn feast-day Holy Mass. Their presence brought renewed joy and inspiration to the parish community.

Faith in Action: Mission Sunday at Christ Bhavan

Christ Bhavan Parish celebrated Mission Sunday with enthusiasm, unity, and missionary zeal. The day began with a solemn Holy Mass, during which prayers were offered for

missionaries around the world. Catechism children and youth organised various creative games to raise funds for the Mission Sunday collection. An auction was also held, with parishioners actively and generously participating in support of the mission.

Welcoming Young Aspirants from Wardha

A group of Fathers, Sisters, and aspirants from Wardha visited Christanand Church, offering an enriching moment of fellowship and sharing for the parish community.

Parting with Love: Farewell to SJ Sisters

The parish bid a heartfelt farewell to Sr. Anitha SJ, Sr. Jeevanlatha SJ, and Sr. Sumoni SJ. Sr. Anitha, who served as the Matron of Christanand Hospital for the past one and a half years, along with her companions, was appreciated for her compassionate care and dedicated service to the mission of Brahmapuri. The community also joyfully welcomed Sr. Shanti CSS, Sr. Biji SJ, Sr. Anna Mary SJ, and Sr. Sophia SJ, praying for their fruitful ministry and joyful companionship.

A Prayerful Day at Christanand Hospital

Christanand Hospital witnessed a deeply prayerful evening as the faithful gathered for Eucharistic Adoration, followed by a solemn Eucharistic procession inside the hospital. The serene atmosphere reminded all of God's healing and consoling presence among the sick and suffering. Patients, staff, and parishioners came together in faith and devotion, making it a blessed experience.

ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHANDRAPUR

1. Onam Celebration (14 September 2025):

On 14 September 2025, we joyfully celebrated Onam. All the Malayalis of the Chandrapur parish, along with the parishioners, came together to celebrate the festival with great happiness and unity.

2. Seminar for Mathrusang (21 September 2025):

On 21 September 2025, a seminar on healthy living, hygiene, and proper diet was conducted for the Mathrusang members of the parish. It was an informative and enriching session that benefited all who attended.

3. October Month – Holy Rosary:

We began the month of October by reciting the Holy Rosary in different houses every day. The Ten Days Rosary Celebration in the church was held from 22 to 31 October. It was a blissful and spiritually uplifting time of prayer.

4. Conclusion of Rosary Celebration (31 October 2025):

The final day of the Rosary celebration on 31 October was marked with great devotion. We had a solemn Holy Qurbana, followed by a procession through the city and a felicitation program. The Guest of Honour was Shri Kishore Jorgewar (MLA, Chandrapur).

5. All Souls' Day (1 November 2025):

On 1 November 2025, we commemorated All Souls' Day and offered prayers for the departed faithful.

6. Mission Sunday (16 November 2025):

Mission Sunday was celebrated on 16 November 2025 with great enthusiasm. Many parishioners actively participated and generously contributed various items for the occasion.

7. Catechism Half-Yearly Exams (23 November 2025):

The half-yearly catechism examinations for the parish students were conducted on 23 November 2025.

8. Catechism Day Celebration (7 December 2025):

Catechism Day was celebrated on 7 December 2025 with joy and excitement. Students were welcomed with great honour.

A Holy Qurbana was offered for them, followed by an engaging session by Sr. Alisha CMC. Various games were conducted, and gifts were distributed to the students.

9. Proud Achievements

We are happy to share that Dr. Bibin Nazhianpara has successfully completed his Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (B.O.Th.) from the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, Nashik.

He received his Passing Certificate for the Final Year B.O.Th. (Winter-2024) and was officially graduated on 6th December 2025 from Government Medical College & Hospital, Nagpur.

The entire parish congratulates him and his family—Mr. Varghese Nazhianpara & Mrs. Beena—on this proud moment. May God bless him in his future service.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, DURGAPUR

A medical camp was organised in St. Mary's Church by our honourable MLA Shri. Sudhir Mungintawar.

The festival of Saint Alphonsa was celebrated in Durgapur Church on 3rd September 2025. On the occasion, a fancy dress competition and a solo devotional song competition were held that gave the audience a chance to see a long array of little saints and hear their heavenly voices sing the praises of the Lord. All the parishioners enjoyed the occasion with great enthusiasm.

Deacon Sarit was welcomed in the church and he worked with the church in various capacities and roles and he left for Kerala for further studies. The church people thanked him for his contribution with bouquet of flowers and prayers.

Many of our parishioners participated in the episcopal ordination of Joseph Thachaparambath CMI, Bishop of Adilabad.

Children of the church participated in the diocesan level competition held at Babupeth and won first and third prizes. They bagged first place in Rangoli and second place in group dance.

On 5/10/25, the people of Saint Teresa Ward organized the patron's feast on the last day of the Novena.

The Rosary month was celebrated in a worthy manner with the rosary prayer gatherings in the evenings at the homes of the faithful. It concluded with a grand celebration on the last day of the month. A procession of was taken out in campus in the church on which the well decorated statue of Mother Mary was carried on a palanquin in the front.

St. Mary's Church feast was celebrated in a solemn manner. Rev Fr Robinson officiated the Holy Mass as the chief celebrant with Fr Christo and Fr Bibinto as the concelebrants. Participants from different parishes vied with one another for prizes at the solo song and bhajan competition held on the church campus in preparation for the church feast. Bishop Ephrem Narikulam graced the occasion with his magnanimous presence.

CHRISTUVAN CHURCH, GOMINI

Gomini parish joyfully welcomed Dn. Louis Kurungattu for the diaconate ministry. The former General and Provincial Superior also graced the community with their visit. The feast of Blessed Kunjachan was solemnly celebrated at Appalli, with Fr. Vivek as the main celebrant for the Holy Mass. Bishop Ephrem Nariculam's pastoral visit further blessed the parish. The construction of the new church is advancing with steady and promising progress.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, MARAKBODY

St. Joseph Church, Marakbody underwent a beautiful renovation with , electric wiring, complete interior and exterior

painting which has given the church a renewed and prayerful atmosphere.

We joyfully concluded the Month of the Holy Rosary with great devotion. Throughout October month we had rosary prayer at houses of the faithful at different villages. The concluding ceremony was celebrated with a special Rosary procession, liturgy at the Parish Church.

In preparation for the holy season of Advent, Fr. Manu, Parish Priest of Little Flower Church, Wasa, graciously led the Advent Confession at our Parish His guidance and spiritual reflections helped our hostel students and faithful prepare their hearts for the coming of our Savior.

St Joseph National school Dongargaon

We successfully conducted our Half-Yearly Examinations. The exams were held in a peaceful and disciplined manner, ensuring a fair evaluation of students' academic progress. Soon after the completion of the exams, the school joyfully celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights. Students presented cultural programs, skits, and dance performances highlighting the message of light over darkness and goodness over evil.

Our school conducted its annual Sports and Arts Competitions with great enthusiasm. Students actively participated in various athletic events, cultural programs, creativity-based competitions, and team activities.

The Class 10 students along with the staff enjoyed an educational and recreational picnic to Hyderabad. The group visited important places such as historical monuments, museums, parks, and science centers. The trip offered students a memorable learning experience, team bonding, and exposure beyond the classroom.

KRUPASROTH CATHOLIC CHURCH, MUL

1. Ten-Day Rosary Conclusion & Family Day Celebration

The parish of Krupasroth Catholic Church, Mul joyfully concluded the 10-day Special Rosary on 19th October. Throughout the month, the Rosary was prayed in every family across all wards and villages, creating a spirit of unity and devotion.

The concluding day was celebrated with great solemnity, combining the Rosary Finale with the Parish Family Day. After the Solemn Holy Qurbana and Rosary, various cultural and sports competitions were conducted for the faithful.

A delicious community meal was served to all, generously supported by the parishioners who contributed groceries and other essentials. The celebration beautifully reflected the harmony and togetherness of the parish community.

2. Feast of St. Martin de Porres

The Feast of St. Martin de Porres, the heavenly patron of Krupasroth Catholic Church, Mul, was celebrated with devotion and solemnity on 3rd November. After the Holy Qurbana, all parishioners shared in the Preethi Bhoj, expressing fellowship and gratitude to God through joyful communion.

3. Mission Sunday

Mission Sunday was observed on 9th November, with wholehearted participation from all parish members. The faithful actively joined in prayer and contributed generously to support the missionary activities of the Universal Church.

4. Catechism Day Celebration

Catechism Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 7th December. The students presented a variety of cultural programmes, showcasing their talents and learning. The teachers were honoured for their dedicated service in nurturing the faith of

the children. Several competitions were also organized, and students participated with much interest and energy.

ST. ANTONY CHURCH, WARDHA

1. Preparation to ArogyaMatha Parve: The Flag was hosted by Fr. Sijo CMF the rector of Claretian Ashram. Nine days Novena and Holy Mass arranged. On 8th sept we celebrated the feast solemnly. CLC Director Fr. Vivek was the main celebrant on this occasion.

2. Rosary Month.

On the occasion of Rosary month, we have conducted the Rosary in three places ten days each. Begging ten days was in Darsana second ten days was in Sevagram Church and concluding ten days was in the Parish Church. Fr. Bernard from Gijoli was the main celebrant of the day.

3. Nov 2nd All soul's day was celebrated Morning Holy Mass and evening cemetery blessing

4. 30th Nov we have celebrated catechism day all the students, teachers and participated in it and encouraged the student Fr. Sebees h CMI from Bijnor was the main Chief guest.

5. 7th Dece in preparation to Christmas we have conducted one-day retreat for the parishnors. Bro. Thomas Paul was the main resources person more the 225 people actively participated in it.

TERA PREM CHURCH, WARUR

- Rev Fr. Ajay Varkey celebrated his feast of St. Matthew the Apostle on 21st September.

- Sr. Regis celebrate her 80th Birthday.

- In connection with the feast of Our Lady of rosary, solemn Rosary was conducted in all the villages in the month of October. The feast of Our Lady of rosary celebrated in the

parish on 30th October. Rev. Fr Raphael celebrated the Holy Eucharist

- Mission Sunday was conducted in Tera Prem Church, Warur on 1st November. All the parishners participated in the mission Sunday auction.
- All soul's day conducted in the parish on November 2nd.
- Rev. Fr. Dinesh celebrated his birthday on 15th November.
- Rev. Sr. Delphy celebrated his birthday on 1st December. Birthday celebration was conducted in the school.

LITTLE FLOWER CHURCH, WASA

Parish Feast: Asha Niketan Church, Wasa celebrated the Feast of St. Theresa of Liseux on 1st of October, 2025. In preperation for the parish feast there was 10 days of Rosary and Nine days of Novena to St. Theresa of Liseux prior to the feast. Fr. Benny Mulackal, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Chanda and the Former Priest-in-charge of Wasa, was the main celebrant. After the Feast Qurbana, Fr. Philip Pathemary CMI, the former Priest-in-charge of Wasa lead the procession. Fr. Binu Muthalakkuzhiyil, the Priest-in-charge of Mul, delivered a heart-touching homily in the village during procession. After the procession, there was adoration and prayer service in the church led by Fr. Nirmal Tirki OMI, and the celebration came to end with Fraternal meal. The feast was made memorable with the presence of many priests, religious, and faithful from nearby parishes and mission stations.

Mission Sunday Celebration: On 9th of November, Mission Sunday was celebrated in Wasa. The faithful actively participated in the Mission Sunday Programmes and made it a successful one.



IX. NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS HOUSES

CMC- CARMALODAYA PROVINCE, WARDHA

- To bring about renewal and revival in both our personal and communitarian aspects, our Superior General, Mother Grace Therese did the canonical visitation in our Provincial House from 1st to 8th September 2025. During her visit, she convened a meeting with all the local Superiors of our Province.
- The annual retreats were arranged in two batches for all the sisters of our Province from 26th to 30th September and 18th to 23rd October by Rev. Fr. Joy Chencheril MCBS and Rev. Fr. Sebastian OCD respectively.
- 31st Province day, Golden Jubilee of Sr. Lisieux Rose and Silver Jubilee of Sr. Deepthy were solemnly celebrated on 4th October 2025. His Excellency Mar Ephrem- the Bishop of Chanda was the main celebrant of the day. Hearty Congratulations to the Jubilarains who crossed a milestone in their Religious commitment.
- SYMPONIA 2025'- A special programme, was arranged on 9th December 2025 for the HIV infected and affected children of Wardha district at our Provincial House. Nutritious kits were provided to all.
- In pursuit of the eradication of TB, Carmelodaya joins hands together with Nikshay Mitra Project of Wardha Dt., to distribute nutritious kits to the TB patients of different localities aiming at their complete cure and wellness.
- Season of Christmas always impels us to the gift of sharing. Food kits were distributed to the neediest persons of our locality on this gorgeous occasion.

Report of Chanda CRI General Body Meeting 2025-26

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Chanda CRI Unit was held on 13th September 2025 at Montfort School, Bamni, Balharshah, with the theme "Alone we walk fast, but together we walk long."

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with a hymn to the Holy Spirit, the reading of the Word of God, and the lighting of the lamp. Bro. Premkumar SG, President of the Chanda CRI Unit, warmly welcomed all the participants.

The honorable guests

His Excellency Mar Ephrem Nariculam

Mar Vijayanand CMI, Bishop Emeritus

Resource persons Bro. Varghese Theckanaath SG, Director, Montfort Social Institute, Hyderabad and Sr. Julie George SSPS, Director, Streevani, Pune, Fr. Paul Valiaparambil CMI, Provincial and Episcopal Vicar for Religious, Silver jubilarians Fr. Jijo Joseph Machukuzhy CMF, Sr. Anupa MSMI and Sr. Anuroopa SD were felicitated.

In his inaugural address, Bishop Ephrem Nariculam highlighted the need to remain adaptable to changing situations, quoting Matthew 25:13. He invited the participants to reflect on two key questions:

1. Is God truly my everything?
2. How do I practice 'Synodality'?

At 10:00 a.m., Bro. Varghese Theckanaath SG led the first input session on the theme "Journeying Together." He explained Synodality as the Church's way of journeying together through listening, dialogue, and shared responsibility—embracing communion, participation, and mission. He referred to the three-year Synod on Synodality, which concluded in October 2024 with a 'Final Document' calling for reforms, transparency,

accountability, and the inclusion of women in leadership roles. He emphasized the importance of solidarity among bishops, religious, and laity, especially in the rapidly changing socio-political context of our country.

Sr. Julie George SSPS led the next session at 12:00 noon on "Synodal Implementation." She urged participants to actively stand up for justice and their rights, reminding them that genuine synodality requires courage and commitment.

Following the lunch break, the participants divided into seven groups to discuss the questions provided. Each group presented its report in the plenary session, moderated by Bro. Varghese Theckanaath and Sr. Julie George. Fr. Sijo CMF extended heartfelt thanks to both resource persons for their valuable insights.

Bishop Mar Ephrem Nariculam felicitated Msgr. Joseph Thachaparambath CMI, Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Adilabad.

The General Body Report was presented by Sr. Anuroopa, Secretary of the Chanda CRI Unit, followed by the presentation of accounts by Fr. Manu Parayanickal CMF the treasurer.

During the common discussion, moderated by Bro. Varghese Theckanaath, participants raised questions based on the sessions. Bishop Ephrem Nariculam and Bro. Varghese responded to their concerns with clarity and encouragement.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Sr. Phoney FCC, Vice President of the Chanda CRI Unit. The meeting concluded at 4:15 p.m., with the prayer and blessings of Mar Vijayanand.

Sr. Anuroopa SD

Secretary.

AGRAGAMI PROVINCIAL HOUSE MHASALA

Seminars

- Under the Ministry of Education of the Congregation, a seminar on Mental Health and Wellness was held at Agragami Convent School, Mhasala. The program brought together around 350 teachers from St. John's institutions across the Wardha and Nagpur zones. Rev. Sr. Tessy and Dr. Sr. Sally served as the resource persons, offering valuable insights into mental well-being and holistic health.
- Socio -pastoral ministry of the congregation organised an online seminar for all the sisters on the theme 'Evangelisation's urgent call: Reaching the unreached' on Tuesday 14th October 2025. Bishop Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar was the resource person.

Social Outreach Initiatives

- As part of the Christmas festivities, the students of Atragami School, Mhasala, along with the staff and sisters organized a program and distributed Christmas gifts to the inmates of Chavara Ashram Kshitij, Jam, and Dattapur Leprosy Centre.
- Similarly, St. John's School, Hinganghat observed Charity Week to promote kindness and generosity among students. Provisions collected during the week were donated to Chavara Ashram Kshitij, Jam, and nearby old-age homes.
- Students from St. Johns School Allipur conducted a short cultural programme for the inmates of Leprosy Centre, Dattapur on the occasion of Christmas.
- Health department of the congregation conducted medical camp at Gomni Centre, reaching out to those in need.

Celebrations:

- **Province Day:** Province Day was celebrated on October 1, 2025, with Most Rev. Bp. Macom Sequeira, Bishop of Amravati, as the main celebrant. The event highlighted unity and gratitude within the province.
- **Mental Health Day:** Health ministry celebrated Mental Health Day on October 5th at Atragami Convent School, Mhasala, bringing together inmates from Alphonsa Sadan, Chavara Ashram, and

Sanjeevani Ashram, along with their caretakers. The event was enriched by the presence and participation of doctors from Sewagram Hospital. The program featured interactive sessions, competitions, games, and cultural performances; all aimed at promoting mental well-being. A delicious meal was also served to all attendees.

World Disability Day :

- The Jeevan Vikas Society celebrated World Disability Day with great enthusiasm. The event was presided over by Sunil Chandana, and the chief guest was District Health Officer Dr. Swapnil Bele. Other dignitaries present included Sister Tessa, Monali Moharale, and Ashish Modak, along with many distinguished guests. The chief guest offered words of encouragement, guidance, and shared information about various government schemes. To support mobility, free wheelchairs were distributed to beneficiaries. Participants showcased their talents through a vibrant cultural programme, and several competitions were organized. Prizes were awarded to the winners.
- World Disability Day was celebrated at St. John's School, Allipur. Differently-abled people from the nearby villages of Allipur were present for the programme. The chief guest was Sr. Sima Jose, SJB, along with the staff of Jeevan Vikas. The students conducted cultural programmes and organized games for the participants, making the event joyful and meaningful.

Visits

- On September 28, 2025, Bishop Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar, visited various communities of the province, offering spiritual encouragement and support.
- On October 3rd 2025, Bishop Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda paid a visit to the provincial house.

Awards

- Dr. Sr. Sally received the prestigious V.N. Bhagadia Endowment Award on October 10th 2025 from IPS West Zone in recognition of her exceptional contributions to community psychiatry services.

REV. FR. PANTHENUS POOKATT CMI



Birth	-	02-02-1939
First Profession	-	16-05-1959
Final Profession	-	16-05-1961
Ordination	-	17-05-1967
Death	-	24-09-2025

Rev. Fr. Panthenus Pookatt CMI, a devoted and exemplary member of the CMI Mar Thoma Province, was called to his eternal reward on the 24th of September 2025 at Samaritan Hospital, Pazhangand.

Born on the 2 February 1939 at Vazhakulam, in the Diocese of Kothamangalam, he was the eldest son of the late Elikkutty and Kuriakose of the Pookatt-Nambiaparampil family. After completing his schooling at Vazhakulam, he discerned his vocation to religious life and joined the CMI Congregation.

He began his aspirancy at St. Antony's Monastery, Aluva, and completed his second year at St. Joseph's Monastery, Koonammavu. He then proceeded to Christ the King Monastery, Karukutty, where he undertook his novitiate and made his First Profession on 16 May 1959. He pursued his philosophical and theological studies at Dharmaram College, Bengaluru, and completed his regency at the Sacred Heart Provincial House, Kalamassery. During his first year of theology in 1965, he volunteered for missionary service in the newly established Chanda Region. He was ordained a priest on 17 May 1967.

Following the post ordination course, he began his ministry in Chanda in 1968. His first assignment was at Prabhu Sadan, Tarsa, where he worked closely with its founder, Fr. Hermenegild. After a six-month tenure, he proceeded to Sangamner (Jesuit Mission), Ahmednagar District, to pursue studies in the Marathi language. In 1970, he was appointed Assistant Priest at St. Anthony's Church, Wardha, with a special mandate to minister to

the Catholic community at the Central Ammunition Depot (Military Camp), Pulgaon. While catering to the needs of the existing community attached to the Garrison Church, he looked for a suitable plot of land and identified one at Kaotha (Zhopdi). The present St Mary's ISCE School and the Marian Shrine are on the sprawling plots of land which he had purchased half a century ago. From 1980 to 1984, he served in the Brahmapuri Mission, where he nurtured local Christian communities and provided dedicated care to the school and boarding house. From 1984 to 1986, he pursued his Master of Theology at JDV, Pune, while also serving as Spiritual Director at Carmel Vidya Bhavan, the study house of the Congregation.

Upon completing his studies, he returned to Wardha and became Spiritual Father at the Darsana Institute of Philosophy in its inaugural year. From 1987 to 1990, he served as Rector of Aspirants at Tukum, Chandrapur. He was then elected Councillor for Finance and Agriculture of the Mar Thoma Province, a responsibility he held for two consecutive terms (1990–1996). From 1996 to 1999, Fr. Panthenus served as Superior of Tarsa Ashram and parish priest, organizing housing projects in nearby villages and establishing a girls' boarding at Tarsa. He later returned to Tarsa as Prior of the community (2005–2008). Fr. Panthenus served as Provincial from 1999 to 2002, launching new initiatives in Nagpur, and later as Novice Master at Anudhavana, Mancheria (2002–2005). In his later years, he was Spiritual Father at Samanvaya, Bhopal (2008–2011) and at Darsana (2011–2017).

Known for his ardent and disciplined prayer life along with love of manual work, he found joy and solace in gardening and farming. His love for gardening, his hands-on missionary work, and his spiritual leadership all reflects this harmonious blend of contemplation and action. His love for mother earth contributed to his good health. After his service at Darsana in 2017, he was assigned to Carmel Ashram, Gadchiroli. From 2017 to 2025,

while residing in Gadchiroli, he took a deep and active interest in the spiritual well-being of priests and religious sisters in the region. He regularly organized monthly gatherings, recollections, and Eucharistic adorations, serving as their spiritual mentor and confessor with dedication and pastoral care.

After a long and fruitful religious, priestly, and missionary life, the Lord called him to eternal rest on 24 September 2025 at Samaritan Hospital, Pazhangand. On the 26 September 2025, his mortal remains were brought to Tera Nur, Aluva. Rev. Fr. Thomas Chathamparampil, Prior General of the CMI Congregation paid homage and led the Office for the Dead.

The first part of the funeral ceremony began at 11:30 a.m., led by Rev. Fr. Paul Valiamparampil CMI, Provincial of the Mar Thoma Province, Chanda. The mortal remains were carried to Carmel Monastery Chapel, Vazhakulam, his native place. The second part of the funeral ceremony and Requiem Mass was led by Bishop Ephrem Nariculam of Chanda. A befitting homily, highlighting the noble qualities of Fr. Panthenus Pookatt, was delivered by Rev. Fr. Varghese Putheparampil CMI. The final part of the funeral rites was conducted by Monsignor Joseph Thachaparampath CMI, Bishop-elect of Adilabad Diocese. The funeral was attended by, among others, a large number of priests from Chanda, religious sisters and brothers, parishioners, and relatives of Fr. Panthenus from Vazhakulam.

Let us thank the Lord for the countless blessings bestowed upon the CMI Congregation, the Chanda Province, the Mission Diocese, and the People of God through the simple, noble, and exemplary life of Rev. Fr. Panthenus Pookatt CMI. May the Risen Lord grant him everlasting joy and peace.



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Prot. No. 341/2025

16/12/2025

BALLARSHAH JEEVOTSAV BIBLE CONVENTION

The Jeevotsav Bible Convention was held this year on 3-6 December 2025, and it went on well. Around 240 people participated in the convention. Br. Thomas Paul animated the convention on all days. Fr. Binu, Fr. Raphael VC, Fr. Priju and the Fathers, Sisters and Seminarians monitored and gave all assistance for the conduct of the retreat. Thanks to everyone. There is a suggestion that such a convention could be conducted every year at a convenient season of the year. The proposal was endorsed by the Presbyteral Council held on 08 December 2025. It is decided to be conducted every year as follows: Starting (arrival) on the second Sunday of Lent and keep the retreat for three days Monday, Tuesday and conclude by 4:00 pm on Wednesday. Accordingly, in the year, 2026 the Bible Convention will be held on 22-25 February. It is included in the year plan. It will be the 2nd Ballarshah Jeevotsav Bible Convention. The next convention will be in Marathi (we can conduct it in Marathi and Hindi in alternative years).

Thanking you all and expecting everyone's co-operation.

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



Quotes

“ Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven. ”
- Pope Francis

Prot. No. 355/2025

16/12/2025

BIBLE AND THE YEAR OF SANCTITY OF LIFE EXHIBITION BILLBOARDS

We had some billboards prepared in connection with Jubilee Year 2025 and the Year of Sanctify Life. They were exhibited in the Cathedral campus for a year. A Jubilee Door also was prepared in the monodulum of the Cathedral. They conveyed some message to the people visited Cathedral for the past one year. These billboards contained Bible story and message for Sanctity of Life. The billboards will be dismantled by 6 January 2026. As the billboards are still in good condition, it may be good to exhibit them in your parishes on any important occasion, such as parish feast, retreats, Christmas, Easter, or other celebrations. It will be a great assistance for catechizing. May I request you to avail the billboards for exhibition in parishes. Please contact CLC department for the same (Fr. Vivek Puthenpurackal).

Email: vivek4chanda@gmail.com

Phone: 9423742125

Thanking everyone and soliciting your cooperation,

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



Quotes

“It is better to cry than to be angry, because anger hurts others, while tears flow silently through the soul and cleans the heart.”

- St. Pope John Paul II

XL CHANDA HEAVENLY BRETHREN

SEPTEMBER

1. Sr. Hilaria Kochuparambil SD	01-09-2014	
2. Sr. Deepthi SJB	09-09-2009	Vettukad
3. Bro. Jose Vetticattil SG	18-09-2005	Hyderabad
4. Fr. Dan Thottakara CMI	20-09-1997	Kalamassery
5. Fr. Eugene Thopmas CMI	22-09-2002	Bellampally
6. Sr. Mercy SSS	23-09-2006	Mallusery
7. Sr. Justina Francis ASMI	26-09-2000	Cherthala
8. Sr. Stephy Maria DM	30-09-1994	Ballarpur
9. Fr. Suresh V.C.	30-09-2012	Janampet

OCTOBER

1. Fr. Thomas Manickam CMI	24-10-2010	Kurianad
2. Sr. Catherine Francis ASMI	11-10-1988	Cherthala

NOVEMBER

1. Fr. Felician Vadakumcherry CMI	09-11-1998	Bellampally
2. Sr. Borgia ASMI	11-11-1989	Allapally
3. Sr. Scrine CHF	11-11-2014	Palakkad
4. Sr. Emil Mary Valummel SD	12-11-2018	Wardha
5. Sr. Rosy Puthuparampil FDSHJ	19-11-2021	Punnavelly
6. Fr. Jose Parayaruthottam CMI	20-11-1988	Ballarpur
7. Fr. Mathew Poovakulam CMI	23-11-1978	Ballarpur
8. Sr. (Dr.) Gabriel ASMI	26-11-2013	Rampur
9. Br. Chacko Urumbil CMI	28-11-2013	Koodathai

DECEMBER

1. Fr. George Joseph Vettukallapuram CMI	01-12-2008	Bellampally
2. Sr. Bonitus CMC	02-12-2000	Wardha
3. Sr. Neena Varghese CHF	04-12-2005	Palakkad
4. Fr. Chrisostom Thomas	06-12-2015	Pala
5. Sr. Pulcheria Eluvathingal CMC	06-12-2021	Choondal
6. Sr. Rose Mary ASMI	10-12-1989	Cherthala
7. Fr. Jomy Chakkalatharayil	16-12-2018	Chembalam
8. Sr. Lysa Rose FCC	17-12-2003	Kadukutty
9. Bro. Thomas Chakkunumpuram CMI	25-12-1973	Ballarpur
10. Bro. Chacko Pinakkatt CMI	29-12-1977	Ballarpur

