



Eparchy of Jagdalpur

**Bastar
Dhwani**
April-June '26



EDITORIAL

It is with great joy that we place this latest edition of Bastar Dhwani in your hands. This bulletin serves as a heartfelt reflection of the life, faith, and mission of our diocesan family, created to connect every member and well-wisher. Within these pages, we highlight the vibrant presence of Christ among us, made manifest through the dedicated ministries, sacrifices, and shared witness of our people.

The Church is far more than a mere institution; it is a living community journeying together in faith, hope, and love. Through our diverse pastoral care, educational institutions, social outreach, youth initiatives, and apostolic endeavors, we continue to proclaim the Gospel of love, serving as instruments of God's compassion to the world. We offer our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed photos, reports, and news to this issue. Your efforts are vital to preserving the memories and achievements of our community. Such initiatives not only foster our bond as a family but also inspire us to deepen our commitment to Christ.

The unique spirit of Jagdalpur is defined by the familiar, welcoming atmosphere that permeates our diocese. We pray that this bulletin will further nurture our family spirit as we move forward with the shared objective of witnessing the Gospel of love to the people of Bastar. As we do so, let us remain firmly rooted in prayer, strengthened by the Word of God, and guided by Gospel values. It is our hope that this publication serves as a true source of inspiration, encouragement, and renewed zeal for all who read it.

With prayerful blessings and best wishes,

Fr Jomet Chakkalayil
Editor in Charge



Bishop's Message

Dear Fathers, Sisters, Brothers and Faithful of the Jagdalpur Family,
As we joyfully commemorate the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the father of faith for Christians in India, our hearts turn toward the profound apostolic heritage that defines our identity. St. Thomas, whose journey brought the light of the Gospel to the shores of our nation, beckons us today to embrace the same apostolic zeal within our own diocese of Jagdalpur. As we are reminded in Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world."

St. Thomas did not merely bring a message; he lived a transformation. His journey was one of courage, crossing vast distances to share the Good News. In the diocese of Jagdalpur, we are called to embody this same spirit, for as the Apostle Paul encourages: "But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry(2 Tim 4:5)." Our mission landscape is unique, marked by its rich cultural diversity, the simplicity of our people, and the persistent challenges of reaching those who have yet to hear the message of Christ's love.

The "responsibility" we have taken up for our service in Jagdalpur goes beyond geographical boundaries; it is an encounter with the human heart. As we honour the Apostle, we face specific challenges that require our collective prayer and dedication:

Bridging Cultural Landscapes: We are called to inculturate the Gospel, ensuring the message of Christ resonates deeply within the diverse traditions and languages of our region. As St Paul states, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some (I Cor 9:22)."

Presence in the Peripheries: Our commitment to the marginalized, the poor, and those living in remote areas remains our highest priority. We must be the hands and feet of Jesus, reaching the most isolated communities with tangible support and spiritual companionship.

Fostering Faith Formation: Amidst modern challenges, strengthening the faith of our youth and families is vital. We aim to nurture a vibrant, resilient faith that empowers every member of our diocese to be an active disciples of Jesus.

Dialogue and Harmony: In a complex social environment, we continue to strive for peaceful coexistence, witnessing to the Gospel through acts of service, compassion, and inter-religious dialogue.

The feast of St. Thomas is not just a historical remembrance; it is an invitation to renewal. The Apostle's declaration, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), remains the foundation of our various apostolates. In Jagdalpur, we are not called to work in isolation but as a unified family of God, drawing strength from the Eucharist and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Let us use this feast day to renew our commitment to the mission. Whether through our daily work, our prayers, or our support for diocesan initiatives, every act of love contributes to the growth of the Kingdom of God in this land.

Yours in Christ,

+ Joseph Kollampampil CMI
Bishop of Jagdalpur





INTRODUCING MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS BY POPE LEO XIV

Magnifica Humanitas ("Magnificent Humanity") is the first encyclical written by Pope Leo XIV, released on May 25, 2026. Subtitled "On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence," the document serves as a major contribution to the global dialogue on AI ethics, governance, and the preservation of human dignity.

Core Themes and Purpose

- **Human Dignity as the Benchmark:** The encyclical argues that human beings, created in the image of God, possess an intrinsic and inviolable dignity that cannot be replaced or optimized by machines. It warns against treating humans as objects to be "perfected" or "surpassed."
- **Technological Discernment:** Pope Leo XIV does not reject AI. Instead, he frames it as a transformative tool that must remain ordered toward the common good. He critiques "technocratic paradigms" that prioritize efficiency and power over moral judgment and human well-being.
- **Integral Human Development:** The document applies traditional Catholic social teaching—such as solidarity, subsidiarity, and the universal destination of goods—to the digital age, emphasizing that technical progress must be subservient to human flourishing.

Key Areas of Concern

- **Truth and Communication:** The encyclical highlights the risks of AI-amplified disinformation and the erosion of social trust, calling for a "shared pursuit of honest communication."
- **War and Autonomous Systems:** It calls for the "disarming of AI," specifically criticizing the automation of life-and-death decisions in military contexts, asserting that no algorithm can make war morally acceptable.
- **Social and Environmental Impact:** The document addresses the exploitation of workers in the supply chains of rare materials for hardware, the environmental toll of massive data centers, and the deepening of global inequalities between those who control AI and those who do not.
- **symbolic Framework**
- The encyclical is framed by two biblical images:
- **The Tower of Babel:** Represents a future where technology, driven by power and pride, leads to confusion and division.
- **The Rebuilding of Jerusalem (Nehemiah):** Represents the "civilization of love," a call for humanity to act as "wise architects" who rebuild society through justice, dialogue, and communal responsibility.

The document is addressed not only to the Catholic faithful but to all "men and women of goodwill," inviting them to consider how technology can support, rather than diminish, the "magnificence" of the human experience—including our inherent vulnerabilities, which the Pope argues are vital to human growth and empathy.

POPE URGES PRIESTS TO REKINDLE HOLINESS

On the occasion of the Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests, celebrated on June 12, 2026—the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus—Pope Leo XIV issued a message to priests worldwide titled "Message of the Holy Father to Priests on the Occasion of the Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests".

The message emphasized several key themes:

• **The Call to Holiness:** The Pope reminded priests that holiness is not an optional "abstract ideal," but the core identity of those who share in the life of the risen Christ. He noted that while priests are called to divine holiness, they must recognize the "paradox" of carrying this treasure in "earthen vessels" as limited and imperfect human beings.

• **Union with the Heart of Christ:** Holiness is described as a "sacramental, Eucharistic journey" rather than a result of isolated efforts. The Pope encouraged priests to renew their grace through daily Eucharist, prayer, meditation on the Word of God, and humble service.

• **Pastoral Witness:** In an era of division and fear, priests are called to be "builders of peace" and witnesses of the tenderness of the Good Shepherd. The world requires "living witnesses" of reconciled hearts rather than just words or programs.

• **Fraternity and Charity:** Emphasizing that holiness cannot be lived in isolation, the Pope urged priests to cherish their fraternity, listen to one another, and support one another. He cited Saint Augustine to warn that avoiding "darkness" is achieved by loving one's brothers and practicing charity.

• **Renewed Commitment:** The Pope invited priests to renew their "Here I am" before the pierced Heart of Christ daily. He concluded by entrusting them to the Virgin Mary, reminding them that the priesthood is fundamentally "the love of the heart of Jesus".

Ultimately, the Pope's message serves as a reminder that God seeks "humble hearts that are open to conversion," and that through the surrender of oneself, "nothing of us will be lost".

Apostolic Nuncio to India Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli- A Diplomat Who Reshaped the Catholic Church in India- is transferred to Croatia as the Apostolic Nuncio

After a pivotal five-year term as the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli begins a new diplomatic mission in Croatia. His departure marks the end of what many observers describe as one of the most consequential chapters in the recent history of the Catholic Church in India.

Throughout his mission, Archbishop Girelli travelled extensively across the region, engaging directly with local churches to oversee a period of major generational transition in leadership. Observers credit his administration with facilitating the appointment of a large number of bishops in a relatively short timeframe, a strategy aimed at ensuring the structural strengthening and continued mission of the Church.

Born in Predore, Italy, in 1953, Archbishop Girelli was ordained as a priest in 1978 and holds a doctorate in theology. Since joining the Holy See's diplomatic service in 1987, he has cultivated a leadership style characterized by a balance of administrative clarity and pastoral sensitivity—a skill set honed through previous assignments in Cameroon, New Zealand, the United States, and the Secretariat of State in Vatican City.

As he transitions to his new role in Croatia, the Archbishop leaves behind a legacy defined by his visible commitment to renewal. His tenure serves as a practical demonstration of a core principle in Church leadership: that positions are held in trust for a limited time and that institutional growth requires movement and the capacity to empower new leadership



Know our Priest: Fr Martin Kuriyalapuzha

Rev. Fr. Martin Devasia was born on 26 May 1997 in Chittarikkal, Kasaragod, into the devoted family of late Mr. Devasia K.D. (Baby) and Mrs. Rosa V.J. (Molly). At Baptism, he was given the name Joseph Kuriyalapuzh. Rooted in strong Christian values and nurtured in faith from childhood, he gradually discerned God's call to the priesthood.

Fr. Martin pursued his philosophical studies at Viswa Jyoti Gurukul sminary Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, where he laid a strong intellectual and spiritual foundation for his priestly formation. He later continued his theological studies Ruhalya institute of theology in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, deepening his understanding of the Church's mission and preparing himself for pastoral ministry.

Responding generously to the Lord's invitation, he was ordained to the sacred priesthood on 15 April 2026. His ordination marked a joyful and grace-filled moment for his family, friends, teachers, and the faithful who accompanied him throughout his vocation journey.

Fr. Martin belongs to a loving family. His sister, Jesan Dennis, and brother-in-law, Dennis Joseph, along with his brother, Jestin Devasia, and sister-in-law, Jisna Jestin, continue to support him with their prayers and encouragement.

As a newly ordained priest, Fr. Martin Devasia begins his ministry with zeal, humility, and dedication to the service of God and His people. May the Lord bless his priestly life abundantly and make his ministry fruitful.



THROUGH OUR PARISHES AND STATIONS

BANDE

The foundation stone for the new academic block at bpm school, bande, was laid by the Proto-Syncellus, Rev. Fr. Josey thamarassery cmi, on 12 may, in the gracious presence of Rev. Fr. Sebastian the principal, other priests, and sisters from the nearby communities. the occasion marked a significant milestone in the growth and development of the institution.



KIRANDUL

On 19 april, parish day was joyfully celebrated at st. joseph's church. the celebration was made even more special as one child received the first holy communion, while five children received the sacrament of confirmation.



DANTEWADA

on 12 april 2026, st. mary's parish, dantewada joyfully celebrated parish day with faith and thanksgiving. the celebration began with a solemn holy eucharist led by mar joseph kollamparampil along with the parish priest and neighboring clergy. during the mass, eleven children received their first holy communion, while another eleven received the sacrament of confirmation, marking important milestones in their spiritual journey. the presence of priests, religious, parents, and parishioners made the celebration spiritually enriching and united the community in prayer and joy.



BACHELI

On 24 May, St. Joseph's Parish Bacheli celebrated its Parish Day with great joy and devotion. On this blessed occasion, His Excellency Mar Joseph Kollamparampil conferred the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on five children and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to sixteen faithfals. The celebration was marked by prayer, faith, and active participation of the parish community.



THROUGH OUR PARISHES AND STATIONS

AMAR JYOTI PARISH, CHOTTEBETTIYA

Amar Jyoti Parish, Chottebettiya, celebrated its Parish Day on 21 June 2026 with faith and joy. The celebration began with the Holy Mass, with Fr. Santhosh Kalledayil as the main celebrant.

It was followed by cultural programme featuring participants from 17 villages showcased the unity and talents of the parish community and concluded with a fellowship meal. The coming together of fathers and sisters of Bande Zone and the parishioners and guests was a witness of unity and love.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL

On 30 April, St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish celebrated its Parish Day with great faith and joy. His Excellency, Mar Joseph Kollampampil, was the principal celebrant of the Holy Eucharist. During the solemn celebration, he conferred the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on eleven children and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to twelve children.

The occasion was marked by prayer, thanksgiving, and active participation of the parish community, making it a memorable celebration for the children, their families, and the faithful gathered for the Parish Day festivities



FROM RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

CMC

On 22 April 2026, the CMC Jagat Mata Province joyfully celebrated the Vestition and First Profession of Sr. Basanti Minj and Sr. Madhusmitha Mallick. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Mar Joseph Kollampampil in the presence of priests, religious, family members, and the faithful.

By embracing religious life, the sisters dedicated themselves fully to Christ through prayer, consecration, humility, and service. The occasion was a grace-filled witness to God's call and a reminder of the importance of vocations in the Church. The Diocese extended heartfelt congratulations and prayers for their faithful and joyful journey in religious life.



DBS

The diocese of Jagdalpur rejoices with the Deen Bandhu Samaj as the congregation celebrated the First Religious Profession of Sr. Liss Maria Singh, Sr. Sohagi Soren, and Sr. Mary Teresa Ekka Samaj on 11 May 2026. The solemn ceremony, led by Mar Joseph Kollampampil, marked the sisters' dedication to God through religious vows. The Diocese extended prayers and blessings, wishing them strength and faithfulness in their vocation and service to the Church.



FROM RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

SABS

The SABS Pavitratma Province celebrated its Province Day on 28 May with great joy and fervour. His Excellency Mar Joseph Kollampampil graced the occasion with his esteemed presence and offered the Holy Eucharist along with reverend priests, religious, and sisters of the province. The celebration was a moment of thanksgiving, unity, and renewed commitment to their religious mission and service.



CMI

The CMI Nirmal Province marked a day of immense joy and gratitude as two of its members, Bro. Amal Thadathil and Bro. Ajay Ekka, made their Final Profession on 23 May.

The solemn ceremony began with the Holy Qurbana celebrated by His Excellency Mar Joseph Kollampambil, in the presence of the Rev. Fr. Provincial, priests, religious, and the family members of the brothers.



The Eparchy of Jagdalpur extends its heartfelt congratulations to **Rev. Fr. Tom Arackal, CMI** on being elected as the General Councillor for Social Apostolate and Health Care in the CMI Congregation.

We also express our sincere gratitude for his dedicated and selfless service as the Director of MPM Hospital for the past six years.



FROM RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

SH CONVENT Dantewada

On 24 may His Excellency celebrated the Holy Eucharist at SH Convent, Dantewada, on the death anniversary of Venerable Fr. Mathew Kadhalikattil. The solemn occasion was marked by prayerful remembrance and gratitude for the life and mission of his love for God and his people



SMS

With great joy and gratitude, the SMS Snehatma Region welcomed four novices into their religious koinonia as Sr. Shanti Minj, Sr. Priti Kullu, Sr. Sumita Dungkung, and Sr. Maria Nag made their First Religious Profession on 27 may. The solemn and grace-filled ceremony was blessed by the presence of His Excellency Mar Joseph Kollamparampil, who celebrated the Holy Eucharist



FROM INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

MPM

On the occasion of Nurses Day, MPM Hospital held a meaningful celebration honoring the dedicated service of nurses and healthcare staff. Rev. Fr. Josey Thamarasserry the Prto-Syncellus delivered a motivational talk on the theme "Empowered Nurses Save Our Lives." Ms. Hembati received the Best Nurse Award and Ms. Pinky received the Best Nursing Assistant Award. The Programme was attended by the hospital authorities, staff, and nurses, and concluded with vibrant cultural performances



MARIA SANGH

The Maria Sangh Silver Jubilee and Mahasammelan were celebrated from 1–3 May 2026 at Good Shepherd Church, Aganpur, bringing together members from across the diocese for prayer, fellowship, and renewal. The diocesan Maria Sangh team coordinated and animated the celebrations, making the event a memorable expression of faith and unity.



TEACHERS' TRAINING PROGRAMMES

A total of 16 Teachers' Training Programmes were conducted across the region to strengthen educators' professional skills and prepare them for the evolving needs of modern education. The sessions focused on understanding 21st-century learners, shifting the emphasis from syllabus completion to holistic student transformation, and adopting child-centred approaches in Kindergarten education. The enthusiastic participation of teachers, along with the support of managers and principals, made the programmes a great success, inspiring educators to foster more engaging, value-based, and student-centred classrooms.



Heartfelt Congratulations and Prayerful Best Wishes

We extend our heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes to the newly elected Major Superiors as they assume their new responsibilities in the service of the Church.



Rev. Fr. Provincial and the Provincial Team
CMI Nirmal Province, Jagdalpur



Rev. Mother General and the General Councillors
DBS Congregation, Jagdalpur



Rev. Sr. Regional Superior and team
Snehatma Region, Jagdalpur



Mar Sebastian Vadakel MSTI
Archbishop of Ujjain



Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangal
Archbishop of Faridabad



Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal
Archbishop of Kalyan



Mar Prince Antony Panengadan
Archbishop of Shamshabad

The Eparchy of Jagdalpur extends its heartfelt congratulations and prayerful greetings to the newly elected Archbishops of the Syro-Malabar Church. May the Lord bless them abundantly with wisdom, courage, and grace as they undertake their sacred ministry in the service of the Church.

EPARCHY OF JAGDALPUR

We are a family in Christ

EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST
CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS

FOR



FR. BABY MANGATTUTHAZATH CMI

*“Well done, good and faithful servant;
you were faithful over a few things,
I will make you ruler over many things.”*

– Matthew 25:23

Eparchy of Jagdalpur unites in sorrow with the bereaved family,
relatives, CMI Nirmal Province and all who mourn this great loss.

We commend the soul of
FR. BABY MANGATTUTHAZATH CMI
to the loving mercy of God.
May his soul rest in eternal peace.

BISHOP'S PROGRAMME

JULY 2026

- 03: FEAST OF ST THOMAS AT JAGDALPUR CATHEDRAL
05: PARISH DAY, BIJAPUR
11: NIRMAL VIDYALAYA JAGDALPUR
13: INTER-DIOCESAN CURIA MEETING, UJJAIN
15: PARISH PRIESTS' MEETING AND RECEPTION TO FR MARTIN, NEW PRIEST
16: BHANPURI NOVITIATE
22-27: SAMANVAYA, KOLCHHOOR

AUGUST 2026

- 06: DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF BP PAULINUS
COMMON MEETING AT JAGDALPUR
15: TO KERALA FOR SYRO-MALABAR SYNOD
16: DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF FR JOHN KACHIRAMATTOM AT RAMAPURAM
17-28: SYNOD AT KAKKANAD

