



Chanda Samachar

Bulletin, Eparchy of Chanda

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR (1181-1226)



Vestition of CMC Sisters, Wardha




The Golden Jubilee of Sr. Princy CSC
and the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Maria Greety CSC
at Sanjo Convent, Gondpipri



Church blessing at Christuvan Church, Gomini



Congratulations & Prayerful Wishes 




Rev. Fr Binyo Checkonthayil CMI
Provincial




Rev. Fr Sebastian Vayalli CMI
Vicar Provincial, Councillor for Evangelization & Pastoral Ministry



Rev. Fr Jison Kuzhupilly CMI
Councillor for Education & Communication Media



Rev. Fr Prince Munjanattu CMI
Councillor for Social Apostolate & Healthcare



Rev. Fr Aisteen Vadakkumchery CMI
Councillor for Finance & Agriculture



Rev. Fr George Uthimattathil CMI
Auditor

Newly elected Provincial & Councillors of Mar Thoma Province, Chanda
CMI PRIOR GENERAL'S HOUSE, CHAVARA HILLS

Hearty Congratulations



BISHOP AGNELO JACINTO PINHEIRO
Diocese of Sindhudurg



BISHOP SIMON ALMEIDA
Diocese of Pooa



40 Hours Adoration and Eucharistic Procession

Prayerful Greetings & Congratulations



DN. SANJU Njarakandathil CMI | **DN. RONY** Nellikunnel CMI | **DN. AKHIL** Aluka CMI



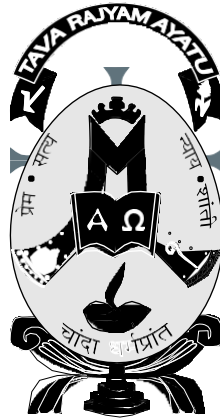
Holy Door blessing
at Shanti Nilayam Capuchin Ashram,
Karanja



The

Chanda Samachar

CHANDA DIOCESAN BULLETIN



Thy Kingdom Come (Mt. 6:10)

Bishop's Home (Balharshah), Ballarpur-442701
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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!

We are in the Franciscan Jubilee Year marking the 800th anniversary of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi. One of the famous and enduring quotes attributed to St. Francis of Assisi encapsulates his philosophy on action and integrity is: “Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” It suggests that the most powerful way to share a message or a set of values is not through lectures or arguments, but through the way one lives their life. It challenges the idea that “preaching” is something done only behind a lectern. Instead, it suggests that any interaction - how we treat a stranger, how we handle stress or how we show compassion - is a form of communication.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, emphasized the importance of life-witness when he taught us: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 13:35). St. James teaches us: “.....faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead” (2:17). 1 Jn. 4:20-21, Rm. 13:8-10, 1 Cor. 13:1-3, Mt. 7:16, 1 Jn. 3:18, Gal. 5:16 and many other verses in the Holy Bible echo the importance of life-witness and love in the preaching ministry.

May this Franciscan Jubilee Year reverberates the significance of life-witness and love in our missionary endeavours as St. Francis of Assisi made it genuinely fruit-bearing. The Year of the Creed and particularly our reflections on the Beatitudes help us to be effective evangelizers. We shall continue to pray: “Lord, make me a channel of your peace ...” to establish PEACE in the war-stricken world of today. God bless you.



Your Shepherd in the Lord

† Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

II. PASTORAL LETTER

Prot. No. 059/2026

11/04/2026

ON CREED

CHURCH IS ONE HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Nicene Creed categorically states that the Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. These describe the essential marks of the Church and they articulate the fundamental nature of the Church established by Christ. “You are Peter and on this rock I build my Church” (Mt. 16:18). “I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 16:19). No evil forces stand against the Church (Mt. 16:18). We shall be proud Christians for God has made us worthy to be the members of this Church. By the sacrament of holy baptism, we have also the right to inherit the heavenly kingdom. 'I go to prepare a place for you' (Jn. 14:3) and 'today you will be with me in paradise' (Lk. 23:43) are Jesus' explicit assurances of our inheritance of God's Kingdom. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mt. 5:3).

Church is ONE means that she is fundamentally single and united Body of Christ. This unity is rooted in the mystery of the Trinity - the unity of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit – and is fulfilled by Christ's prayer that Christians “may all be one” (Jn. 17:21). The mark of the Church being 'One' is expressed through one faith and one baptism (Eph. 4:4-6), common worship and single structure of leadership (apostolic succession), despite the existence of divisions among Christians, which are seen as wounds on this unity. This oneness of the Church is very well explained by St. Paul (1 Cor. 12:12-31): Christ is the head and we are all its members. Each body part is identical and has various functions to foster the unity of the single body. Every body-part under the command of Christ, the Head, smoothly functions for the

whole body. The command of Christ is “to love one another” (Jn. 13:34) and “by your love they will know that you are my disciples” (Jn. 13:35).

The Church is HOLY means that she is set apart for God's purposes and is the means by which God's life is transmitted to the world. The Church's holiness derives from Christ himself, who sanctified her and gave her the means of grace – the sacraments. While Church's origin and mission are holy, its individual members may be sinful and are called to pursue holiness constantly. “Be perfect therefore as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48). Thus, by participation in the holiness of God the Father, through the reception of the sacraments, prayer, almsgiving, practice of penance, acts of charity, divine Word, etc., each Christian is called to transformation, to live up to her mission to be “salt and light” (Cf. Mt. 5:13-14). The intense prayer of Jesus for the disciples is that they may be sanctified in truth as Jesus himself is holy (Jn. 17:19). Likewise, each Christian is called to be holy inherently as well as in every action. Church, as holy, is a lampstand to witness to the whole world and invite everyone to follow the suit (Mt. 5:14).

The Church as CATHOLIC, by word and in spirit, means that she is universal and all-embracing. Bearing the mark of being Catholic, Christ is fully present in the Church and she is commissioned to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world, across all races, nations, and cultures (Cf. Mt. 28:19-20, Jn. 10:16, Acts 1:8, Gal. 3:28, Eph. 2:14, Col. 3:11, Rev. 7:9). The universality allows for a multitude of liturgical expressions and traditions (diversity) united around one faith (unity). The Church is for all people without any exclusion. The universality of Christ and the Church are complementary. Christ, as the sole mediator between God and the humankind (1 Tim. 2:5), the Church becomes the sacrament of salvation. Thus, the Church is the visible sign of invisible grace of God for the redemption of the whole humankind. Through the sacramentality of the Church, the prayer of Jesus 'one shepherd and one sheepfold' (Jn. 10:16) is achieved.

The APOSTOLIC nature of the Church points to the fact that the Church is founded on the Apostles (Mt. 16:18) and continues this work even today in the world. Christ entrusted the Apostles with the mission

in the world, to be continued through the 'twelve' (Mt. 28:19-20, Mk. 16:15, Mt. 10:5-8, Lk.10:1-2, Acts 1:8). As St. Augustine reminds us, apostolic succession is one of the characteristic marks for discerning the genuine Church. Thus, the Church is Apostolic in three ways: (1) It was and remains built on the foundation of the Apostles (Eph. 2:20). (2) It preserves and hand over the teaching of the Apostles to the future generations (II Thes. 2:15). (3) It continues to be guided by the successors of the Apostles (the bishops) through the tradition of Apostolic Succession. These three marks are inseparably linked and describe the reality of the Church's identity and ongoing mission in the world established by Jesus Christ. There have been fractions and divisions in the Church, yet these characteristic traits unite the Church to continue the universal mission in the world. The chair of St. Peter, to whom Jesus gave authority in heaven and on earth (Mt. 16:18-19) is the visible foundation and sign of unity for the Christian community on earth (Cf. Mt. 16:8, 19, Jn. 21:15-17). Head of the Church, Peter and successors (the Popes) serve as the visible head and tangible point of reference for communion. Without a visible and definitive authority, the fundamental truths of the faith could be fragmented by individual interpretations.

In this year of the Creed, when we reflect the various tenets and dogmas of the Creed, we shall make great efforts to deepen our faith and commit ourselves earnestly to the recitation of the Creed and live it faithfully in our daily life. God bless everyone of us.



Yours devotedly in Christ

† Ephrem Nariculam

Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

NB: Kindly explain to our people in local languages the four characteristic traits of the Church as articulated in the Nicene Creed and their practical application in our daily life and their witness value in living our faith.

PASTORAL LETTER II

Prot. No. 060/2026

20/04/2026

FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR MARKING THE 800th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a special Franciscan Jubilee Year from 10 January 2026 through 10 January 2027 to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). This Jubilee has a deeply personal meaning for every Catholic because the spirituality of Assisi is not just part of our history; it is at the heart of the life of every Catholic today.

The prayer of peace starting with the words, “Lord, make me a channel of your peace.....” is one of harmony, reconciliation, dialogue and a real invitation to encounter Christ and his love. In the letter announcing the Jubilee, Pope Leo XIV writes: “Peace is not a formula of courtesy, but the certain proclamation of Christ's victory over death”. The theme of peace is profoundly Franciscan and greatly needed in our own moment of history. During the Jubilee Year, the faithful throughout the world are invited to rediscover the simplicity of the Gospel, to renew their commitment to mercy, and to embrace reconciliation with God.

The spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi centers on radical humility, deep love for Jesus' humanity and poverty, and profound kinship with all creation, emphasizing joyful services, peace, and living the Gospel literally by detaching from worldly goods to serve the poor and the marginalized, embodying a joyful, contemplative and action-oriented faith. His life was a call to live

simply, embrace suffering as a path to Christ, and see God's presence in every person and creature, fostering peace and justice.

In essence, St. Francis' spirituality is an invitation to return to the simplicity and radical love of the Gospel, finding God in the poor, in nature, and in deep, joyful and humble service. Indeed, he found faith not as an abstract set of rules, but lived it as a personal “love affair” with God. Radical poverty, creation as sibling, peace and reconciliation, and the Incarnational mystery were core of his spiritual vision.

His creation-centered spiritual vision is perhaps the most famous aspect of his spirituality and something very unique to himself. He believed that since all things come from the same creator, everything in the universe is of one family – Vasudhaiva Kudumbakam, the Universal Family. He viewed nature as the second book of revelation, where every animal and plants reflects God's beauty. This is why he is the patron saint of animals and the environment. Assisi's love for nature was not just a hobby; it was a radical spiritual shift that transformed how the western world viewed the environment. He considered nature not a resource to be used, but a family to be loved.

Pope Francis was very much inspired by St. Francis of Assisi in writing the encyclical 'Laudato Si'. It is considered a landmark document because it was the first time a Pope dedicated an entire teaching exclusively to ecology. In the encyclical, Pope Francis argues that environmental degradation and social injustice are two sides of the same coin. Pope continues that one cannot be an environmentalist without also being a social activist. Protecting a forest is meaningless if we ignore the people starving inside it. The Pope heavily criticizes a global economy that treats both things and people as disposable. He called the 'earth' as 'common home' for the vegetation, the animals, and the humans. The spiritual architect behind 'Laudato Si' is St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis built the entire theological framework of the encyclical on Franciscan spirituality.

Ultimately, the spirituality of Assisi is not a relic of the 13th century, but a living invitation to a radical transformation. His legacy challenges us to look beyond the “technocratic paradigm” of modern life and rediscover a world where the Sun is a brother, the Earth is a mother, and every stranger is a sacred encounter. In an age of environmental crisis and social fragmentation, his “The Canticle of Creatures” remains a necessary compass - reminding us that when we embrace a life of simplicity and kinship, we do not lose the world; we finally learn how to love it.

On this occasion of the 800th death anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi, when Pope Leo XIV has specially dedicated the Year as a Jubilee, he once again presents St. Francis as a 'man of peace' in a world marked by conflict, stating that the saint speaks to the world today not through technical solutions, but by pointing to the true source of peace: harmony with God, humanity, and creation.

In a world of conflict, fragmentation, social injustice, and wars, this man, St. Francis of Assisi, is a prophet of hope who will bring peace and harmony for the whole world. We too shall offer our share in our own way, starting from our neighborhood and extending it to the world at large.

God bless you all.



Yours devotedly in Christ

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

NB: Kindly share the context of this Pastoral Letter for homily on any Sunday in coming weeks.



III. CIRCULAR - I

Prot. No. 055/2026

06/04/2026

CIRCULAR - 01/2026

MAHARASHTRA FREEDOM OF RELIGION BILL 2026

06/04/2026

Dear Provincials, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has now passed the Freedom of Religion Bill on 16 March 2026 and it will be legally binding in the State in the course of time. The Maharashtra is the tenth State to introduce such a Bill. The crux of the Bill is that conversion of religious faith of a person through fraud, force, inducement or promise of marriage is illegal and punishable under law. Those who help in the process of conversion of religious faith also come under the purview of the law as punishable.

A keen study of the Bill elucidates that it is not only anti-constitutional but also misrepresenting the official teaching magisterium of the Church. 'Faith' and 'Religion' are one's personal choice (Art - 25). It is private and the State has nothing to do with it. The Constitution of India affirms that 'faith' or 'religion' shall not be imposed on anyone by fraud or force or inducement (Art. 19-28). The Constitution of India categorically assures every citizen of our country the freedom to choose and profess any religion whereas the Bill in the present form undermines the freedom the Constitution of India guarantees.

The Catholic Church has consistently opposed forced conversions. The Canon Law of the Catholic Church explicitly requires that an adult seeking baptism must do so freely and after proper instructions (CCEO 688 & CIC 865 §1). Number of Church documents too categorically states that forced conversion is not at all Church's policy: *Dignitatis Humanae* (1965) by Pope St. Paul VI states that, “in spreading religious faith and introducing religious practices everyone ought at all times refrain from any manner of action which might seem to carry a hint of coercion or a kind of persuasion that would be dishonorable or unworthy especially when dealing with the poor and uneducated people. Such a manner of action would have to be considered an abuse of one's right and violation of the right of others” (#4). *Mystici Corporis Christi* (1943), by Pope Pius XII declares that, “it is one of the major tenets of Catholic doctrine that man's response to God in faith must be free; no one therefore is to be forced to embrace the Christian faith against his will” (#104 & DH #10). So, Christians by virtue of their faith and principles, bound to refrain from forceful conversions. Christians in India are not scared of Freedom of Religion Law in several States, lately in Maharashtra, for, it is their policy too, but rather of its misuse and misinterpretation of the law by the people with hidden agendas and malicious intentions.

Proclamation of the Good News is the great divine command (Mt. 28:19-20) and we are called to do it fearlessly. The conversion of the person is the work of the Holy Spirit. Paul corroborates his mission when he declares that, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to proclaim the gospel...” (1 Cor. 1:17). Paul wrote this to emphasize the priority of preaching the gospel and it is the duty of every Christian. Christ emphasized the importance of preaching while he chose the twelve disciples: 'Jesus appointed the twelve apostles for three main purposes: to be with him, to sent out to preach and to have authority to drive out

demons' (Mk. 3:14-15). So, as missionaries of Christ, we are called and appointed 'to be with Christ, to preach the good news and to serve everyone irrespective of caste, creed, or ethnic differences'. The zeal of St. Paul should engulf our life: “Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:16). “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel” (Rm. 10:15). The Church by her very nature is missionary – 'sent out to preach' (*Ad Gentes* #2).

In this context, I wish to invite and exhort all my co-missionaries in Chanda to continue Christ's mission fearlessly and with zeal, simultaneously also 'be prudent and innocent' (Cf. Mt. 10:16). It reminds us of a certain amount of shrewdness and integrity in our mission. A missionary of Christ is not only to be vigilant and alert to dangers but also to be gentle and not adopting corrupt tactics of enemies. It is a call to balance careful discernment with pure and ethical behaviour. The present political environment in the country is inimical towards all our activities; we are presented with new challenges one after another – whether it be anticonversion law, amendment in FCRA registration or 12A renewal process etc. These and many others pose trails, hurdles and struggles. We shall continue the good works we have commenced, for Jesus went around doing good in villages and towns (Cf. Acts 10:38, Mt. 9:35). Peter the apostle comforts us when he says: “If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God” (1 Pet. 2:20; 3:17; 4:19). “The Divine Word witnesses that the patient suffering has profound value before God by producing endurance, character, and hope rather than being meaningless” (Cf. Rm. 5:3-4, Rm. 8:18, 1 Pet. 1:6-7; 2 Cor. 4:17; Jas. 1:2-4). God always rewards innocent sufferings (Mt. 5:10-12). Nevertheless, we shall pray and do our best to overcome these hurdles in our missionary endeavours.

God bless everyone of you,



Yours devotedly in Christ,

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

NB: It may be good to bring home to the attention of our people very prudently the content of this circular so as to make them aware of the present political scenario of our country connected to the practice of faith of Christians in India



Quotes

“

**Every day may not be good,
but there is something good in every day.**

- Alice Morse Earle

**Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones,
you'll start having positive results**

- Willie Nelson

**Ask not what your country can do for you,
but what you can do for your country**

- John F. Kennedy

If you judge people, you have no time to love them

- Mother Teresa

”

CIRCULAR - II

Prot. No. 085/2026

07/04/2026

**CIRCULAR- 02/2026
SYRO-MALABAR CATHOLIC LAY MISSIONARY
MOVEMENT
07/04/2026**

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am happy to announce that the Synod of Bishops of Syro-Malabar Church has officially approved a Lay Missionary Movement in the Church to strengthen evangelization involving also more effectively the participation of the laity. The movement is named JEEVAN JYOTHY. It invites every lay faithful to be bearers of Christ's life and light. Its activities include - missionary formation, lay leadership, visit to the missions, lay participation in missionary initiatives, co-responsibility in the missions, collaboration in Missio Ad Gentes, global missionary outreach etc.

I request everyone to extend support and collaboration to this new initiative of our Church. Please see more details in the Concept Note, attached herewith. With warm regards and prayers.

Yours devotedly in Christ,



† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



CIRCULAR - III

Prot. No. 144/2026

30/04/2026

CIRCULAR- 03/2026**30/04/2026**

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

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

I wish to bring to your attention a matter of great concern for all of us. By this time you might have learned about some issues connected with our institutions in Brahmपुरi station. All what hear in the news and social media are not fully in tune with the facts. Dialogues are on to find a legal and amicable solution. I hope and pray that the issues are settled as early as possible. All the concerned are constantly in touch with the medical and other civil officials to arrive at a lasting solution. I request everyone to give prayerful support so that it is settled once and for all. We shall keep Friday 1 May 2026 as a day of prayer and fasting for this cause. Kindly keep this as a special intention at the celebration of Holy Qurbana and do holy hour at 07.00 PM to 08.00 PM on 1st May. We shall take extra caution so that such incidents do not occur at our institutions. I thank everyone of you for your sincere and committed service in building up God's Kingdom and service to the humanity. I wish you all a happy feast of St. Joseph, the patron of the working class. With warmest regards and prayers,

Yours devotedly in Christ,



† Ephrem Nariculam

Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Prot. No. 102/2026

15/04/2026

**THE NICENE CREED
A THEOLOGICAL STUDY**

The Nicene Creed primarily contains the foundational tenets of the Christian faith in the Triune God. It also intends to refute Arian heresy. It is spelled out well in the Creed. In three parts, the Nicene Creed deals with the following: i) God the Father ii) God the Son and iii) God the Holy Spirit

i) God the Father: God is Almighty and Creator of all things - visible and invisible (Jn. 1:1-3, Col. 1:16, Is 44:24, 40:28). The usage "created heaven and earth" is meant for all creations (Gen. 1:1-3). There is nothing that we know what God has not created. Indeed, nothing is there what has not been created by God. "Invisible" is meant for all angelic forces (Gen. 2:1). There is nothing that God has not created and there is nothing beyond God's knowledge (Heb. 4:13, Ps. 147:5, Ps. 33:13-14). It also implicitly acknowledges that the human mind is incomprehensible to know the whole creation (Eccl. 3:11, Rom. 11:33, Ps. 147:5). We have not fully discovered the whole of creation. Likewise, the Creed categorically affirms that God is supreme and there is nothing beyond what God has created (Dt. 10:17, 2 Sam. 7:22, Ps. 95:3). This supremacy of God is undoubtedly corroborated in the first part of the Nicene Creed (Rom. 11:36).

ii) God the Son: In the second part, the Creed deals with four aspects of God the Son - Jesus Christ (Jn. 3:16-18). They include the following: He is born from the Father (Jn. 16:27), He is eternal (Eph. 3:19, Heb. 7:3). He is not created by the Father (Jn. 1:3, Col. 1:16) and He is equal in substance with the Father - Homousios

(Col. 1:19, Phil. 2:6-7). The Son shares the same substance with the Father Almighty. Thus, the Son was declared born from the Father, sharing the same substance and eternal in existence with the Father (Col. 2:9). This was the teaching of the Church Fathers for centuries. He is born from the Father but not created by Him. He was incarnated and born from the Virgin Mary (Mt. 1:24, Lk. 1:34), fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies (Is. 7:14, Gen. 3:15, Mic. 5:2-3, Jer. 31:22). The Nicene Creed, step by step, refuted each and every teaching of Arius, the heretic teacher (256-336AD)¹.

The incarnational mystery of Jesus' birth simultaneously teaches both Son-ship of Jesus from the Father Almighty (Mk. 3:11, Lk. 4:41, Jn. 1:34, Jn. 11:27) and virgin birth from the Blessed Mary (Mt. 1:18-25, Lk. 1:26-38). It establishes Jesus as fully divine and fully human (Jn. 1:1,1:14, Phil. 2:6-7). The Creed commemorates the passion, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus (Mt. 26-27, Mk. 14-15, Lk. 22-23, Jn. 18-19). The crucifixion of Jesus under Pontius Pilate who was the ruler of Jerusalem implicitly states that it was a historical event (Mt. 27:1-2, 11-26, Mk. 15:1-15, Lk. 23:1-25, Jn.18:28-19:16). Resurrection and Ascension are also commemorated. The second coming of Christ as well is underlined in the Nicene Creed (Mt. 24:30-31, I Thes. 4:16-17, Rev. 1:7).

1. Arius (256-336 AD) a priest from Alexandria, argued that Jesus Christ was a created being and thus subordinate to the Father, while his opponent, like Athanasius of Alexandria, argued that the Father and the Son were of the same substance and co-eternal. The controversy led to major division in the Church and was addressed in the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, which ultimately condemned Arianism and affirmed the doctrine of the Trinity.

iii) God the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Triune God and the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct persons but forms One God (Mt. 28:19, Mt. 3:16-17, 2 Cor. 13:14). As the Holy Spirit is united with God the Father and God the Son they all three share the same substance. The Holy Spirit is in communion with the Triune God (Jn. 14:25-26, Acts 1:4-8, Acts 2:1-4, Rom. 8:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, Eph. 1:11-14). To refute the heretical teachings of the denial of the divinity of the Holy Spirit, the Nicene Creed affirmed the divine existence of the Holy Spirit with the Triune God. However, the existence of the Holy Spirit became a disputed issue whether Holy Spirit proceeds only 'from the Father' or 'from the Father and from the Son'. The East and the West continued this dispute for many centuries. It is noted in history as the "Filioque" controversy (and from the son). It was finally ended with the division of the Church as Eastern and Western in 1054 AD.

The Nicene Creed ends with affirming and declaring solemnly the four characteristic traits of the Church as ONE (Rom. 12:4-5, 1 Cor. 1:10, Eph. 4:4), HOLY (1 Cor. 3:16-17, Eph. 5:26-27, 1 Pet. 2:9) CATHOLIC (Mt. 28:19-20, Acts 5:11, 9:31) and APOSTOLIC (Mt.16:18-19, Eph. 2:20, Rev. 21:14, Acts 2:42, Mt. 28:18-20). These categorically affirm the unity, holiness, universality, and Church is originated as founded on the twelve apostles of Christ. By stating one faith, one baptism (Eph. 4:5) and forgiveness of sins (Mt. 6:14-15, Lk. 11:14, Eph. 1:7-8, 1 Jn. 1:9), the Creed once again affirms the unity of the Church. The forgiveness of sins affirms the heavenly authority bestowed on the Church (Jn. 20:23, Mt. 16:18-19, 18:18, Lk. 10:19, Tit. 2:15). The hope of resurrection and a life after death is once again affirmed at the end of the Creed (Mt. 10: 28, Jn. 3:16, 11:25-26, Jn. 5:24,

Heb.9:27). Likewise, Nicene Creed summarizes in one formula the proclamation of faith in the Triune God and Jesus Christ as the mediator between heaven and earth and the sole redeemer (1 Tim. 2:5). The risen Christ continues his mission on earth through the Holy Spirit by the mediation of the Church, the mystical Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12 & Eph. 5) and the sacrament of salvation (Rom. 8:26-27, Heb. 7:25, I Jn. 2:1). From the above analysis we could easily conclude that the Nicene Creed is soundly based on the revealed Word and it is the firm foundation of Christian faith. Likewise, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (198-278, 422-682, 683-1065) and besides Council of Nicea (325 AD) the following Church Councils/Documents: Lumen Gentium (1965), Constantinople (381 AD), Chalcedon (451 AD), Dominus Iesus (2000), Unitatis Ridentegratio (1964), Dei Verbum (1965) etc. laid in the Nicene Creed the foundational of Catholic faith of today.

In this Year of the Creed in the diocese, we shall study and meditate repeatedly the theological depth and the salvific role of the Creed in our Christian life and deepen our commitment to Christ, Church, and to the people around.



Bp. Ephrem Nariculam

NB: As we are in the Year of the Creed, kindly use this article to explain the Creed to our people in Sunday homilies



Mar Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 0008/2026

**CIRCULAR
POST SYNODAL CIRCULAR**

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.

May the Grace of our Lord be with you all!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The First Session of the XXXIV Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church was held from 6th to 10th January 2026 at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Jubilee Year, which granted us a profound spiritual experience of the infinite mercy and abundant blessings of our Lord, has now come to a close. Together, let us lift our hearts in gratitude to God Almighty for the spiritual renewal and grace-filled experiences bestowed upon us during this Year of Grace, celebrated under the motto „Pilgrims of Hope“. We have to continue to preserve and nurture the spiritual vitality gained during the Jubilee Year within our families and communities, and strive to live as authentic witnesses to the love of Christ.

The Christmas season, which echoes a message of peace and joy around the world, has sadly become a time of fear and unrest in parts of our motherland, India. Attacks on Christian churches and prayer groups - denying them even the rights guaranteed by our Constitution - cause deep pain and concern. The spread of a culture of hatred, which misrepresents our charitable work as forced conversions, undermines the secular fabric of our nation. The transformative power of Christ's love, who drew all people to himself through his sacrifice on the cross,

is manifested in our educational and charitable ministries. The Church warmly encourages all its members who courageously live the joy of the Gospel amid opposition and persecution. May the words of the Apostle Paul strengthen us: "Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God" (2 Tim 1:8).

Moving forward through Empowerment

The Session of the Synod commenced on 6th January with the solemn inauguration of the Year of Community Empowerment 2026. The growth and vitality of the Church are rooted in the spiritual and social upliftment of each of her members. The Year of Community Empowerment observed by the Syro-Malabar Church is not merely a celebration, but a conscious effort to awaken our faithful to their mission, to strengthen them for this task, and thereby to permeate all spheres of public life with the teachings of Christ. Only when the members of the Church, especially families and parishes, remain deeply aware of their faith and identity, they will be able to fulfil our evangelical mission in society. The words of Pope Leo XIV: "Christians have no enemies, only brothers and sisters. Even when they do not understand each other, they remain brothers", underline the reality that universal fraternity is our true goal.

The primary objective of the observance of the Community Empowerment Year is to equip families, especially young people, to face the challenges of the modern world with courage and confidence. The demographic decline that weakens our presence in public life must become a topic of serious discussion within our families. Active participation in public administration and politics is part of our civic responsibility. We shall not forget the dictum, „democracy depends on the constant vigilance of citizens“. The reality of reckless migration from our community to foreign countries has driven many families into heavy financial

burdens and a decline in faith. We need to explore the possibilities of becoming job creators and employers, rather than remaining merely job seekers. Although agriculture is often considered unprofitable, it is encouraging to note that exemplary initiatives in some eparchies have demonstrated that scientific farming can generate employment for many. I urge everyone to take up the action plans of the Community Empowerment Year to overcome the challenges of our times.

Apostolic Visitor for the Gulf Region

For a long time, we have been striving to establish pastoral structures proper to our Church for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf region. The appointment of an Apostolic Visitor by the Apostolic See for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Arabian Peninsula marks a decisive step forward in the life and growth of our Church. The primary responsibility of the Apostolic Visitor is to prepare a comprehensive study report, in dialogue with the local communities of our faithful and the existing pastoral structures, and to submit it to the Apostolic See in view of the erection of appropriate pastoral structures for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf region. I gratefully remember all Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf region who, despite limitations, make sacrifices to preserve the liturgical tradition of their mother Church. I request them to extend their wholehearted support to Rev. Fr. Jolly Vadakken, the Apostolic Visitor appointed by the Apostolic See.

Towards Unity through Reconciliation

The Synod resolved to implement the uniform mode of celebration in our Church, being convinced that a united community has the power to shape the course of history and that unity in the celebration of liturgy is an expression of deep-rooted fraternity among the faithful. However, it is painful that the unity envisioned has not yet been fully realized. The Synod views with empathy the efforts being made to implement step by step the

decision of the Synod on the uniform mode of celebration of the Holy Qurbana in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The decision of the Synod on the uniform mode of celebration of the Holy Qurbana, approved by the Apostolic See, remains unchanged. The Church remembers with special gratitude those eparchies and individuals who willingly embraced, supported, and implemented the uniform mode of celebration. In the particular situation of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, all are earnestly requested to cooperate with the Synod's decision to implement the uniform mode of celebration step by step. I exhort all concerned to renounce the methods of protest that are unbecoming of Christians and to choose the path of reconciliation.

Timely Renewal of Seminary Formation

The Synod of Bishops discerned that, in changing circumstances, it is imperative to renew priestly formation in a timely manner in order to make the Church's mission more effective. Priestly formation that ignites zeal for evangelization is a necessity of the times. Along with spiritual depth and theological competence, candidates for the priesthood must develop mental maturity, social responsibility, and proficiency in modern technologies. Scientific research and in-depth studies on priestly formation have been conducted for several years under the guidance of the Synod. In the light of these studies, and following extensive discussion and consultation, the Synod has finalized a renewed formation programme. As the first phase of its implementation, the Synod has approved certain fundamental reforms in the minor seminary formation and entrusted the Commission for Clergy with the responsibility of implementing them with the participation and collaboration of all concerned.

Marching Forward in Pastoral Care and Evangelization

As the Syro-Malabar Church continues to expand its pastoral structures by erecting new Archeparchies outside the

State of Kerala, our responsibility to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world continues to grow. While remaining firmly rooted in the heritage and spirituality of our Church, we are called to engage in meaningful dialogue with diverse cultures and to proclaim the love of Christ universally. To foster more lay missionaries capable of undertaking this mission and to form Church members in such a way that they are proud of their faith and their Church, a lay missionary initiative titled „Jeevan Jyothi Syro-Malabar Lay Missionary Movement“ is being launched. As evangelization is our primary mission, families must show a special interest in promoting vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

Although the Jubilee Year of Incarnation is concluded, let us continue to nurture the seeds of hope and mercy sown in our hearts during this grace-filled time. May the words of Pope Leo XIV inspire us: "The pilgrimage of hope continues even as the Jubilee Year ends".

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on the 10th day of January 2026.




✠ 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, 18 January 2026.



Mar Raphael Thattil
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Prot. No. 0133/2026

02-03-2026

CIRCULAR

LET US PRAY FOR PEACE IN WEST ASIA

Friday, March 6, Day of Prayer in the Syro-Malabar Church

Dearly beloved,

As the war that has begun in West Asia continues in an extremely grave manner, causing extensive destruction in various countries and resulting in the loss of many lives, the whole world is passing through a time of deep anxiety. In this context, I extend the prayerful solidarity of the Syro-Malabar Church to all those who have become victims of war.

As Holy Father Pope Leo XIV rightly said referring to the war, 'weapons bring only total destruction, death, and suffering. Only through open dialogue can lasting peace and peaceful coexistence be achieved. Before irreparable and profound devastation occurs, every nation must seriously reflect upon its moral responsibility.' Let us fervently pray that the appeal of the Holy Father may be received with an open heart by the leaders of the nations concerned.

For our brothers and sisters in the Gulf countries who are passing through painful and distressing circumstances, March 6, Friday, shall be observed in the Syro-Malabar Church as a special Day of Prayer. I lovingly exhort everyone to pray that the nations engaged in war may choose the path of dialogue and coexistence, and thereby tranquility and peace be restored in West Asia!

With prayerful regards,

✠ Raphael Thattil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

CBCI Centre, 1 Ashok Place, Near Gole Dakhana, New Delhi - 110 001 India
Tel : +91 11 2334 4470 Mob.: 987 114 7838

Ref: CBCI/PR/26-15

CBCI EXPRESSES GRAVE CONCERN OVER FCRA AMENDMENT BILL

New Delhi, March 26, 2026: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) expresses grave concern over the Foreign Contribution Regulation Amendment Bill (FCRA Amendment) introduced in the Lok Sabha, terming it dangerous and alarming in its implications.

Under the pretext of license renewal, the proposed amendment risks enabling executive overreach into the constitutionally guaranteed freedoms of minorities. It raises serious concerns about undue interference in the functioning of minority institutions and civil society organizations.

The CBCI strongly objects to provisions that empower the Central Government—being the licensing authority—to deny renewal or cancel licenses and subsequently, through a newly proposed authority, assume control over the institutions, funds, properties, and assets of minority organizations and NGOs. Such measures are unacceptable and raise serious concerns regarding fairness, transparency, and accountability.

The Conference also questions the intent behind the unilateral introduction of the bill in Parliament, despite protests from opposition Members of Parliament, and calls for wider

consultation and deliberation on matters affecting fundamental rights.

The attempt to bring minority institutions under an excessively stringent regulatory framework is viewed with deep concern, as it undermines democratic principles. Provisions enabling the Centre to take control of the foreign funds and assets of NGOs upon the expiry of their FCRA registration are undemocratic, unconstitutional, and contrary to the principles of natural justice.

In light of these concerns, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) urges the Government of India to reconsider the proposed amendments and to remove all contentious provisions from the bill, ensuring that the constitutional rights and freedoms of all citizens, especially minorities, are fully protected.

Fr. Robinson Rodrigues
PRO, CBCI
Phone: +91-8130905028
Email: procpci1@gmail.com



Quotes

“ One of the greatest regrets in life is being what others would want you to be, rather than being yourself. ”

- Shannon Alder



March 8, 2026

Dear Rev. Provincial Superiors,

Subject: Meeting of Provincial Superiors with the Metropolitan Regional Bishops Council – 8 July 2026 at 4.00 pm.

Greetings of peace.

This is to request you to kindly block the date for the meeting of the **Metropolitan Regional Bishops' Council**, which will be held at the **Archbishop's House, Nagpur**, in the month of July 2026. During this gathering, a special meeting has been scheduled between the Bishops of the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions and the Provincial Superiors.

The meeting with the Provincial Superiors will take place on **8 July 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Archbishop's House, Nagpur.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Education – establishment of resource Centre
2. Anti-Conversion Law
3. Present Socio-Political Scenario
4. Priorities of the WRBC for the Implementation of synod Document

This communication is being sent well in advance so that you may kindly block the date and make yourselves available for this important conference. The detailed agenda will be forwarded to you in due course.

Your presence and valuable participation will be greatly appreciated.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

+ Elias Gonsalves

✠ Elias Gonsalves
Archbishop of Nagpur and
Chairman, WRBC

+ Ephrem Nariculam

✠ Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop of Chanda

A FEW THINGS FOR EVERYONE'S ATTENTION

Dear all,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I wish to inform you the following as a general information to everyone. Few of the points here below were communicated to you earlier also. I place them before you for your kind perusal.

1. The year 2017 in the diocese was *Harith Varsh* and we launched Green Campus Campaign with the axiom 'Serve Nature - Save Future'. We could achieve to create some awareness among us. We shall continue the campaign and do our best to preserve and protect nature and avoid any sort of exploitation of nature. Now I present before you a practical suggestion of building up a Plastic-Free Society. May I request everyone to avoid plastic in bouquets of flowers, decorations and gilt papers in presentations etc. Just one practical suggestion. We shall continue to develop Green Campus awareness in our parishes and intitutions. Pope Leo XIV in this Franciscan Jubilee Year of 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi has exhorted to develop an ecosophy culture.
2. The same menu for meals in the same place for all' on the occasions of celebrations has been a custom in the diocese. Many follow it and for people it will be very much appealing. But I have observed in some places it is not strictly followed. Unlike earlier days now the people are more aware about discriminations at various levels. As one community gathered together - laity, religious, priests and bishops, together around the agape table, it is highly recommended and that bears a greater witness value.

3. Addressing 'Bishopji' in diocesan gatherings and in correspondences is more appealing in our context rather than the title 'Excellency', 'Grace', 'Lordship' etc. Hope everyone will take note of it.
4. Memento plaques on some special occasions like Jubilee may be good, but such souvenirs for birthdays, feast days, School anniversaries and such other celebrations may be avoided. It is highly recommended to present something useful like shawl, books, saplings etc. They may be more welcoming than sheer memento plaques.
5. Celebrations are always good and enhance our community and social life. It gives a sense of complacency and an impetus for better prospects of enthusiasm in our personal, social and professional life. All the same in our context of 'call and response' (vocation) I propose some moderation in our celebrations. As priests and religious, we are called to be inspirational and exemplary. We shall avoid unnecessary extravaganza in all our celebrations. I mean that make our celebrations simple and reasonable.
6. In the Holy Qurbana and in *Yamaprathanakal* when we pray for Major Archbishop, Archbishop and bishop, it is enough that we use only baptism/official name. I mean to say we shall avoid surnames/family names.
7. We should consciously avoid wastage of money, time, electricity, water, food items etc. for we live in a world where there are so many poor people and under privileged who have not even basic necessities. Practice of discipline and charity at home builds the habits and capacity to be generous to others in the society.

8. Avoiding unnecessary travels is always welcome to save money, energy, time and avail the time usefully for our mission. 'Car-pooling' is a welcome idea. 'Many travel together to cater various needs of the mission/ parish/ institution at a time' is a welcome gesture. A mutual understanding in this regard by missionary personnel in the mission is very much encouraging in the mission context. Car-pooling or travel together are highly recommended when we have common gatherings and on occasions of diocesan celebrations. Of course urgency will have to be done on merit basis.
9. In today's world as digital social communication is very common and useful please avail it discerningly for our normal interactions, invitations, intimations etc. I do not expect any one venturing long travels to Bishop's Home just to hand over to me personally an invitation for any function in the diocese. Ofcourse, for any official communication, a personal meeting may be required as the case may be.
10. When there is customs of gift exchanges on the occasion of Christmas, please make sure that it is not burdensome for others.

Date: 03/03/2026



Yours devotedly in Christ,

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



IV. BISHOP'S DIARY

JANUARY

- 1 - Bishop officiated a funeral service at Holy Family Church, Thabore.
- 2 - Bishop officiated another funeral service at Holy Family Church, Thabore.
- 3 - Bishop blessed a marriage at St. Sebastian's Church, Muringoor.
- 5 - Bishop ordained to holy Priesthood Dn. Louis (Abhilash) Kurungattu at Our Lady of Dolours Church, Kainady in the archdiocese of Changanacherry.
- 6 - Bishop ordained to holy Priesthood Dn. Chacko (Algin) Pallivathukkal at Christ the King Church, Valiathovala in the diocese of Kanjirappally.
- 7-10 - Bishop attended Syro-Malabar Synod of Bishops at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad.
- 11 - Bishop attended and delivered message for the first Holy Qurbana of Fr. Paul Meledan at St. Mary's Forane Church, Koratty. At noon bishop delivered message at Immaculate Conception Church, Alamattam in connection with parish feast. Bishop offered Office of the Dead at cemetery of the parish Church, Malavana. Bishop attended and presided over felicitation meeting for the new priest Fr. Manu Akkanath at St. Augustine Church, Nedungad.
- 12 - Bishop officiated a betrothal at St. Mary's Forane Church, Kanjoor. Bishop met with Fr. Poly Kannampuzha CSsR., the provincial superior at CSsR Provincial House, Mattoor.
- 13 - Bishop attended School classmates gathering at of BVH School at Nayarambalam.

- 14 - Bishop animated Eucharistic procession and delivered message at St. Thomas' Church, Mangalassery.
 - Bishop presided over felicitation meeting in honour of the new priest Fr. Jophy Madassery at Holy Family Church, Thabore.
- 15 - Bishop blessed a marriage at St. Joseph's Church, Naduvattom. In the evening bishop presided over reception of the new priest Fr. Antony Pallippart at St. George's Forane Church, Angamaly.
- 17 - Bishop attended the episcopal ordination of Msgr. Simon Almeida, the bishop of Pune at Cathedral campus in Pune. Bishop visited DM Sisters' convent in Pune.
- 18 - Bishop visited Papal seminary, Holy Spirit Sisters Provincial House and CMI house in Pune.
- 22 - Bishop attended recollection for Priests and religious in BPQ.
- 25 - Bishop concelebrated Holy Mass at Nagpur for the golden jubilee of the arrival of Pallottines in India.
- 26 - Bishop hoisted national flag and delivered Republic day message at St. Francis Assisi School, Karanja. Bishop officiated funeral service of Sr. Fulgentia SD at Provincial House in Wardha. Bishop presided over SVG Day celebrations at New Daheli.
- 27-31 - Bishop visited Kurnool and Bellari dioceses.

FEBRUARY

- 2 - Bishop attended Final Profession and Vestition of Sisters of Sacred Sciences at their Generalate in Mysore and gave homily for the Holy Mass.
- 3 - Bishop visited Camillian Provincial House in Bangalore. Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Carmalaram Forane Church for the reposed soul of

- Mrs. Jessy Sebastian, W/o Mr. Sebastian K. Thomas who is a benefactor for our diocese. Later Bishop visited Dharmaram College and met with Bro. Jobin Reguntawar of our diocese.
- 4 - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at KESCH at Dharmaram, Bangalore
- 4-10 - Bishop attended CBCI General Body meeting at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore.
- 6 - Bishop offered Holy Mass at CSsR parish, Bangalore.
- 7 - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana for Parish Day at Koramangala parish, Bangalore.
- 11 - Bishop blessed a marriage at Baranangyanam Church in Pala Diocese.
- 12 - Bishop delivered homily and presided over felicitation meeting of silver jubilee of Fr. Jerry Pannasery CMI at St. Augustine's Church, Thuravoor. Bishop attended a golden jubilee celebration of marriage at Munnorppilly.
- 14 - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana for jubilee celebration of Charity Sisters at Gondipiri Convent.
- 15 - Bishop blessed the newly constructed Church at Gomini.
- 16-18 - Bishop participated in 40 hours adoration in Cathedral, BPQ.
- 16 - DM Provincial Sr. Krupa Maria DM visited Bishop in Bishop's Home, BPQ. Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana for Ash Day in Cathedral BPQ.
- 17 - Bishop attended monthly recollection for priests and religious in Bishop's Home, BPQ. Bishop participated in reception accorded to the new bishop of Adilabad Bishop Joseph Thachabarambath CMI at Bishop's Home, BPQ.
- 18 - Bishop animated Eucharistic procession at the conclusion of 40 hours Adoration at Cathedral, BPQ.

- 19 - Sisters of St. Anne's, Bangalore Superior General Sr. Celeena Palaty SAB came to meet bishop in Bishop's Home, BPQ.
- 25 - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana at the end of the second Jeevotsav Bible Convention at Divine Vachan Ashram, Bamani.

MARCH

- 4 - Bishop attended Nagpur Metropolitan Council meeting at Wardha.
- 9 - Bishop underwent surgery for Hernia at Lisie hospital, Ernakulam.
- 15 - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana for the perpetual profession of SD Sisters at SD Generalate Koottumugham, Aluva.
- 31 - Bishop presided over Muron Holy Qurbana at Cathedral, BPQ. The Pallotine Provincial Fr. Antony Roswan SAC visited bishop at Bishop's Home, BPQ.

APRIL

- 7 - Bishop offered office of the dead for reposed souls of FCC Sisters Sr. Vandana and others at Hoshiapur cemetery and visited St. Joseph's Hospital of FCC Sisters as well.
- 8-9 - Bishop attended Mission Conference of Syro-Malabar Eparchies in North India at Ruhalya, Ujjain.
- 13 - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana for the inauguration of Provincial Chapter of CMI Marthoma Province, at Provincial House, Bamani.
- 15 - Bishop blessed foundation stone and launched the Aranya Niwas Eco-Farming (AN-Eco) project, Lakkadakot.
- 16 - Bishop presided over Holy Qurbana at CMC Provincial House, Wardha for vestition of two Novices.

- 16 - Rev Fr. Benny Nalkara CMI Vicar General of CMI Congregation met with Bishop at Bishop's Home, BPQ. He was accorded welcome by Bishop's Home community as it was his first visit to the diocese after his election as Vicar General. The newly elected provincial team of CMI Marthomo Province Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil CMI, Provincial Superior and team visited Bishop in the Bishop's Home, BPQ.
- 17 - Sr. Liza SHsp, Provincial Superior of Holy Spirit Congregation visited Bishop at Bishop's Home, BPQ.
- 18 - Bishop participated Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebration of Fr. Jose Neendukunnel MST at Rosary parish, Seminary Hills, Nagpur. Sr. Liza SHSp the Provincial Superior, Holy Spirit congregation visited bishop in Bishop's Home, BPQ.
- 20 - Bishop attended episcopal ordination of the new bishop of Uduppi Msgr. Leslie D'Souza at Uduppi, Mangalore.
- 26 - Bishop met with the children attending faith formation at Cathedral, BPQ and delivered concluding message.
- 27 - Bishop blessed the Holy Door of Indulgence at Shanthi Nilayam, Capuchin Ashram, Karanja in connection with the 800th death anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi.
- 28 - Bishops offered Holy Qurbana for montfortian communities in the diocese at Daughters of Wisdom Convent in connection with the feast of St. Louis De Montfort.
- 29 - Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Asha Bhavan (SD Convent), Kalamana.

V. BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

MAY

- 4-15 - Major Seminarians Diocesan Formation Program, SVG, New Daheli
- 11 - Marriage at Pushpagiri, Kerala
- 16. - Diaconate and Vestition, Cathedral, BPQ
- 18 - House blessing, Cherthala
- 20 - Baptism and Solemn Holy Communion, Thabore
- 23 - Solemn Holy Communion, Uzhuva, Cherthala
- 25-June 30 - Abroad

JULY

- 5 - Kalamana Church blessing
- 7-8 - WRBC, Nagpur
- 13 - Monthly Recollection, BPQ
- 14-15 - Quinquennial meeting
- 18 - Provincials and Managers meet, BPQ
- 22-26 - Pastoral visit, Cathedral, BPQ

August

- 3 - Monthly Recollection, BPQ
- 4 - Vianney Day, SVG, New Daheli
- 8 - CSA meeting
- 16 - Marriage, Kodakara
- 17-28 - Synod of Syro-Malabar Bishops, Kakkanad
- 23 - SD centenary celebrations at SD Generalate, Koottumugham
- 30 - Golden jubilee of class X of BVHS, Nayarambalam
- 31 - Golden Jubilee and House blessing, Thalayolaparambu

September

- 12 - MSMI jubilee, Wardha
- 14-18 - Priests' Annual Retreat, BPQ
- 23-27 - Pastoral visit, Wardha

October

- 8-11 - Pastoral visit, Wasa
- 11 - Jeevotsav conclusion, Kalamana
- 17-18 - Pastoral visit, Wadsa

SPIRITUAL ORIENTATION FOR MISSIONARIES
Monthly Recollection Schedule – 2026 – The Year of the Creed and the Beatitudes
(Diocese of Chanda)

Month	Date	Time	Occasion	Participants	Venue	Special Event	Organizer
January	Jan. 22	05.45 PM	Recollection	Priests and Men Religious	BPQ	General Synod	Proto-Synellus
February	Feb. 17	05.45 PM	40 Hours of Adoration (Feb.16 - 18)	Priests and Men & Women Religious	BPQ	Preparation for Great Lent	Cathedral Vicar
March	Mar. 14	06.00 PM	Recollection	Priests and Men & Women Religious	Zonal Centre	Zonal Missionary Conference	Zonal Vicar
April	Mar. 31	10.00 AM	Holy Miron Qurbana	Priests and Men & Women Religious	BPQ	Preparation for Holy Week	Cathedral Vicar
May	May 19	Prayer Day for Priests, Men & Women Religious and People (Parish Level) (If this day is inconvenient, please fix the date according to the convenience in the parish)				Parish Day/Gathering	Respective Priest-in-Charge
June	Jun. 15	06.45 PM	Recollection	Priests and Men Religious	Online		Bishop's Secretary
July	Jul. 13	05.45 PM	Recollection	Diocesan Priests	BPQ	Spiritual Orientation	CLC Director
August	Aug. 03	05.45 PM	Recollection	Diocesan Priests	BPQ	Vianney Day & Diocesan Presbyterium	CLC Director & SVG Rector
September	Sep 13-18	09.00 PM (13 th) to By noon (18 th)	Priests' Annual Retreat	Priests and Men Religious Preacher: Fr. Jilto George CMI	BPQ	Priests Renewal + Spiritual Orientation	Bishop
October	Oct. 24	10.00AM	Chanda Family Day	All Missionaries and Lay Delegates from Parishes	BPQ	A Gathering in Diocesan Level	Proto-Synellus
November	Nov. 29	10.00 AM	Missionary Conference	Priests and Men & Women Religious	BPQ	Diocesan level gathering for missionaries	Cathedral Vicar
December	Dec.19	09.30 AM	Recollection	Priests and Men & Women Religious	BPQ	Christmas Gathering	Bishop's Home Administrator

† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

VI. CURIA MATTERS

TRANSFERS / APPOINTMENTS Eparchy of Chanda (April-May 2026)

Sl. No.	Name	From/Relieved	To/ Appointed	W.e.f.
1.	Fr. Binu Thomas	Priest-In-Charge, Mul	Principal, Chritanand School, Brahmmapuri Parish Priest, Brahmmapuri	06/04/2026 25/04/2026
2.	Fr. Shibu Monipally	Priest-In-Charge, Gatta	Administrator, Christianand Hospital & Manager, Christianand School, Brahmmapuri Priest-In-Charge, Nagbhir	25/04/2026
3.	Fr. Kurian Panayalil	Parish Priest, Brahmmapuri, Administrator, Christianand Hospital & Manager, Christianand School, Brahmmapuri, Priest-In-Charge, Nagbhir	Priest-In-Charge, Gatta	25/04/2026
4.	Fr. Algin Pallivathukkall	Asst. Parish Priest, Wardha	Asst. Director, LSSS & Kalabhavan	25/04/2026
5.	Fr. Tiji Karakunnel	Asst. Director, LSSS & Kalabhavan	Priest-In-Charge, Mul & Asst. Administrator, Santwadi	25/04/2026
6.	Fr. Somy Varghese	_____	Principal, Gadchiroli School (Continues Administrator Santwadi) (Residence, Gadchiroli)	25/04/2026
7.	Fr. Tomy Chovelikudy	Principal & Manager, Gadchiroli School	Leave	25/04/2026
8.	Fr. Joshy Vazhappilly CMI	Priest-In-Charge, Rajjura	_____	26/04/2026
9.	Fr. Aisteen Wadakumchery CMI	_____	Priest-In-Charge, Rajjura	26/04/2026
10.	Fr. Sarith Edayaditil CMI	Asst. Priest-In-Charge, Jarawandi	Asst. Priest-In-Charge, Rajjura	26/04/2026
11.	Fr. Mathew Nirappel	Parish Priest, Wirur	Parish Priest, Chandrapur	02/05/2026

12.	Fr. Bibin Vincent	Parish Priest, Chandrapur	(Continues Administrator, Christ Hospital)	02/05/2026
13.	Fr. Vishal Janagam	Asst. Parish Priest, Chandrapur	Studies, Bangalore	02/05/2026
14.	Fr. Benson Cheriyan	Priest-In-Charge, Wani	Priest-In-Charge, Kopleli	02/05/2026
15.	Fr. Saju Chamakalayi	Priest-In-Charge, Kopleli	Parish Priest, Wirur	02/05/2026
16.	Fr. Peter Kisan	Priest-In-Charge, Sunthana & Warora	Parish Priest, Allapalli	02/05/2026
17.	Fr. Pius Mathew	Priest-In-Charge, Aksapur	Priest-In-Charge, Sunthana & Warora	02/05/2026
18.	Fr. Roby Antony	Parish Priest, Shengao	Priest-In-Charge, Aksapur & Gojoli (Residence, Aksapur)	02/05/2026
19.	Fr. Bernard Kujur	Priest-In-Charge, Gojoli	Priest-In-Charge, Wani	02/05/2026
20.	Fr. Christo Kavil	Asst. Parish Priest, Brahmmapuri	Asst. Parish Priest, Warur	02/05/2026
21.	Fr. Clement Madamana	_____	Priest-In-Charge, Awarpur, Director, AVD & Youth and Staff in SVG (Residence, SVG, Daheli)	02/05/2026
22.	Fr. Jinson Thakarappillil	Asst. Parish Priest, Eittapalli	Asst. Priest-In-Charge, Aksapur & Gojoli (Residence, Aksapur)	02/05/2026
23.	Fr. Nikhil Varghese	Priest-In-Charge, Awarpur	_____	02/05/2026
24.	Fr. Shimon Cheenikkal	Asst. Parish Priest, Allapalli	Asst. Priest-In-Charge, Higanghat, Assistance in Wardha parish & School Principal, Vianney School, BPO (Additional)	02/05/2026
25.	Fr. Jibin Perumakkunnel	_____	Project Co-ordinator (Continues DFO & Co-ordinator of FCRA, Society Registration Renewal etc.)	02/05/2026
26.	Fr. Joseph Kalathil	Principal, Vianney School, BPO	_____	02/05/2026
27.	Fr. Benny Mulackal	Manager, Vianney School, BPO	_____	02/05/2026
28.	Fr. Jacob Eraty	_____	Manager, Vianney School, BPO & Vianney Vidya Niketan, Gadchiroli (Additional)	02/05/2026

29.	Fr. Ajay Puthukkattuchira	Asst. Parish Priest, Warur	Studies, Baroda	02/05/2026
30.	Fr. Joshy Madathiparambil	Parish Priest, Allapalli	_____	02/05/2026
31.	Fr. Pricju Puthenpuraackal	Vice-Rector & Administrator, SVG	Priest-In-Charge, Jiwathi & Manager, St. Thomas School, Jiwathi (Staff, SVG & Jeevotsav continues)	02/05/2026
32.	Fr. Vivek Puthenpurayil	Director, AVD & Youth	(Continues CLC)	02/05/2026
33.	Fr. Shaiju Madapallikkunnel	Priest-In-Charge, Jiwathi & Manager, St. Thomas School, Jiwathi	Parish Priest, Shengnaon	02/05/2026
34.	Fr. Josekutty Thathampally	Priest-In-Charge, Gomini	Priest-In-Charge, Jarawandi	02/05/2026
35.	Fr. George CC CMI	_____	Priest-In-Charge, Gomini	02/05/2026
36.	Fr. Louis Kurungattu	Asst. Priest-In-Charge, Gomini	Asst. Parish Priest, Cathedral, BPQ, Office Assistant, Chancery & AVD	02/05/2026
37.	Fr. Deepak Tirkey	Pastoral Assistance, Cathedral, BPQ	_____	02/05/2026
38.	Fr. Anoop Aerimattam	_____	Director, Vianney Bhavan, Kodakara,	02/05/2026
39.	Fr. Joby Illimoottil	Director, Vianney Bhavan, Kodakara	Asst. Parish Priest, Wardha (Continues Vocation Promotion in Kerala)	02/05/2026
40.	Fr. Shimon Cheenikkal	Asst. Parish Priest, Allapalli	Priest-In-Charge, Hinganghat, Assistance in Wardha Parish & School	02/05/2026
41.	Fr. Joseph Mathew OFM Cap	Priest-In-Charge, Hinganghat	_____	02/05/2026
42.	Fr. Vibinto Chirayath CMI	Asst. Priest-In-Charge, Hinganghat	_____	02/05/2026
43.	Fr. Tomy Chovelikudy	Manager, St. Joseph National School, Marakbody	_____	02/05/2026
44.	Fr. Shibu Monipally	_____	Manager, St. Joseph National School, Marakbody	02/05/2026
45.	Fr. Tony Villiadiath	Co-ordinator of Projects	_____	02/05/2026
46.	Fr. Linesh Mooleparambil CMI	_____	Parish Priest, Durgapur	02/05/2026

47.	Fr. Jaison Kallukaran CMI	Parish Priest, Durgapur		02/05/2026
48.	Monitoring Committee for the Diocesan Hospitals	Fr. Benny Mulaekal (Convener) Fr. Mathew Nirappel (Member) Fr. Shibu Monipally (Member) Fr. Bibin Vincent (Member)		02/05/2026
49.	Vocation Promotion Council	Fr. Joby Illimoottil (Director) Fr. Rajat Valiyamangalam Fr. Anoop Aerimattam Fr. Clement Madamana Fr. Christo Kavil		05/05/2026
Diaconate Ministry				
1.	Tony Vadakkeveettilan	Wirur		17/06/2026
2.	Dn. Romano Edasseriparambil	Ettapalli		17/06/2026
Regents				
1.	Bro. Donny Ezhakkadan	Lakkadakkot		17/05/2026
2.	Bro. Ajo Thazhathuveetil	SVG		17/06/2026
3.	Bro. Prince Chittiapilly	Marakbody		17/06/2026
4.	Bro. Jeffin Joseph	Bhamragarh		17/06/2026
5.	Bro. Shanu Joshi	Bishop's Home & Kiranoday		17/06/2026

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



Fr. Vigil Parassery
Chancellor
Diocese of Chanda

AKSHARA PROJECT

(Children's tuition in village)

10 Years of Journey from the Year of Mercy to the Year of Hope
(A succinct report Akshara project by DM Sisters in Pahad region –
Shengaoon, Wani and Pattaguda of Chanda diocese)

Introduction

Akshara is a noble initiative by the Sisters of the Daughters of Mary of Amala Province, Wardha which is being operated in Chanda Mission and Jharkhand. Every mission centre in the Chanda diocese has a free boarding facility run by the diocese. Due to various reasons, some of these boardings have to be closed down or are currently being run with a limited number of students. However, to continue educational apostolate in these remote villages, Amala Province of DM Sisters have launched free tuition programme to the students in the villages.

Akshara : A Motivation

The Daughters of Mary Sisters of Amala Province started their service in Manikgarh villages in the diocese of Chanda in the year 1986, with a CMI Missionary Rev. Fr. George Canicious Kachiramattom. Thus D M pioneer missionary sisters could reach out to number of remote villages and people to spread love and compassion through health services and education. In Pattaguda the diocese provided the land to build Marathi Medium School and started also a boarding for the accommodation of children from far away villages. Later the school was handed over to the village administration and our Sisters focussed on character formation and education of village children. It catered over all development of the children. Akshara assured them social security, spiritual empowerment and reasonable health care.

Akshara Stars and Super Stars

Akshara Stars are school-going children of the village who attend our daily tuition classes in in the mission centres. Akshara Superstars always keep our feeling of satisfaction and success of our noble work. The students selected after plus two studies are send

for higher studies as per their calibre and interest. They are financially supported by sponsors and the province. It is a pride moment for Akshara that in the past 10 years from 2015 to 2025 we have now more than 40 plus professionals of Akshara Super Stars who have done courses such as BSc Nursing, General Nursing, MBA, MSW, BCA, Sign Language etc. And at present 4 students are doing nursing. It is a proud moment to state that one such super star has acquired a job placement in IB (Intelligence Bureau). The others got placement in their respective fields. We are trying to find more good hearted people to support this genuine cause so as to ascertain the continuance of this programme.

Objectives of Akshara Tuition Classes:

- Ø Character formation of children in the villages.
- Ø Upgradation of intellectual standard and study methods of children in the village schools.
- Ø To make sure a proper functioning of the schools in the villages by strengthening Parents – Teachers Association.
- Ø Easy way to enter into rapport with families to create a welfare society.
- Ø Establish children's parliament in the school level.

How Akshara Functions

Akshara does not restrict with tuition classes only but it is a group formed to support and motivate children for education, patriotism and harmony in the society. We promote flower and kitchen gardens in their homes and schools and winners are awarded. Thus a love for the nature, clean home courtyard, healthy food habits are developed among children. An Akshara group is formed with of 15 to 25 students with a teacher. Teachers are paid a minimum monthly remuneration. They give an hour of tuition every day. The Sister in charge will be monitoring the daily functioning of the classes and plan and execute the events and she is also responsible to send activity report every two months to the concerned provincial councillor. Attendance register is maintained for students and teachers. The coordinator does periodical visits to the tuition centres.

Tuition Centres in the diocese of Chanda:

Sl. No.	Convent / Place	Groups	Number of Students
1	Matha Vihar Shengaon	3	20 x 3= 60
2	Shanti Bhavan , Pattaguda	2	20 x 2=40
3	Jyothi Niwas , Wani	3	20 x 3 =60

Conclusion

“India's soul lives in its villages,” stated MK Gandhi, the father of the nation, who believed that the rural area represented the true essence of India. He emphasised self-reliance, simplicity and village republics (Gram Swaraj) as the foundation for a strong and independent nation. Yes, we truly experience the same in our daily lives as we live among the poor and underprivileged people of the Manikgarh Hills. Even the little success of the children of Akshara is great and joyful experience for all those who involve in it. The DM Sisters show in that joy among the children, parents and the well-wishers. We hope and pray that the Akshara will make the children's dreams realise one day.

“You have to dream before
your dream can come true one day”

- APJ Abdul Kalam.

Sr. Krupa Maria DM
Provincial Superior
Amala Sadan, Wardha

Quotes

“ Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are ”

- Marilyn Monroe

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND FRANCISCAN FAMILY

(A brief note prepared by Fr. Sharon OFM Cap. for the information of all in the context of the 800th death anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi)

Saint Francis of Assisi (1181/82–1226) was an Italian friar, known for his love of nature, animals, and the poor. Born Giovanni Francesco di Bernardone, he renounced wealth to live a simple life of prayer and service. Founded the Franciscan Order, emphasizing humility and care for creation. He died on October 3, 1226 in Assisi; canonized on July 16, 1228 by Pope Gregory IX.

The Franciscans are a group of related organizations in the Catholic Church, founded by the Italian saint Francis of Assisi. They include three independent religious orders for men (the Order of Friars Minor being the largest contemporary male order), an order for nuns known as the Order of Saint Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis, a religious and secular group open to male and female members.

Franciscans adhere to the teachings and spiritual disciplines of the founder and of his main associates and followers, such as St. Clare of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

There are nearly 100 Friars Minor have been officially recognized as saints. Some estimates of the total, including all orders, reach well into the hundreds. Blessed and Servants of God: The family includes more than 100 Blessed, with estimates of the combined total of saints and blessed from the Three Orders reaching hundreds. Recognition: The feast of all Franciscan saints is celebrated on November 29, the anniversary of the confirmation of the Rule of St. Francis by Pope Honorius III in 1223.

Francis began preaching around 1207 and travelled to Rome to seek approval from Pope Innocent III in 1209 to form a religious order. The original Rule of Saint Francis approved by the pope did not allow ownership of property, requiring members of the order to beg for food while preaching. The austerity was meant to emulate the life and

ministry of Jesus Christ. Franciscans travelled and preached in the streets, while staying in church properties. Clare, under Francis's guidance, founded the Poor Clares (Order of Saint Clare) of the Franciscans.

The extreme poverty required of members was relaxed in the final revision of the rule in 1223. The degree of observance required of members remained a major source of conflict within the order, resulting in numerous secessions. The Order of Friars Minor, previously known as the "Observant" branch, is one of the three Franciscan First Orders within the Catholic Church, the others being the "Conventuals", formed in 1209, and the "Capuchins", founded in 1520.

The Order of Friars Minor in its current form is the result of an amalgamation of several smaller orders completed in 1897 by Pope Leo XIII. The Capuchins and Conventuals remain distinct religious institutes within the Catholic Church, observing the Rule of Saint Francis with different emphases. Conventual Franciscans are sometimes referred to as minorities or grey friars because of their habit. In Poland and Lithuania they are known as Bernardines, after Bernardino of Siena, although the term elsewhere refers to Cistercians instead.

First Order

The First Order or the Order of Friars Minor, or Seraphic Order are commonly called simply the Franciscans. This order is a mendicant religious order of men, some of whom trace their origin to Francis of Assisi. Their official Latin name is the Ordo Fratrum Minorum. Francis thus referred to his followers as "Fratricelli", meaning "Little Brothers". Franciscan brothers are informally called friars or the Minorites.

The modern organization of the Friars Minor comprises three separate families or groups, each considered a religious order in its own right under its own minister general and particular type of governance. They all live according to a body of regulations known as

the Rule of Saint Francis.

Second Order

The Second Order, most commonly called Poor Clares in English-speaking countries, consists of one branch of religious sisters. The order is called the Order of St. Clare (OSC). Prior to 1263 they were called "The Poor Ladies", "The Poor Enclosed Nuns", and "The Order of San Damiano".

Third Order

The Franciscan third order, known as the Third Order of Saint Francis, has many men and women members, separated into two main branches: The Secular Franciscan Order, OFS, originally known as the Brothers and Sisters of Penance or Third Order of Penance, try to live the ideals of the movement in their daily lives outside of religious institutes. Members of the Third Order Regular (TOR) live in religious communities under the traditional religious vows. They grew out of what became the Secular Franciscan Order.

Membership

The 2013 Anuario Pontificio gave the following figures for the membership of the principal male Franciscan orders:

OFM: 1,915 communities. 12,476 members, including 8,512 priests.

OFM Conv.: 572 communities. 3,981 members, including 2,777 priests.

OFM Cap.: 1,542 communities. 10,355 members, including 6,796 priests.

The coat of arms that is a universal symbol of Franciscan contains the Tau cross, with two crossed arms: Christ's right hand with the nail wound and Francis' left hand with the stigmata wound.

History of the Franciscans

The Franciscans are groups in the Catholic Church started by Saint Francis of Assisi from Italy. They include three separate religious

orders for men (the Order of Friars Minor is the largest today), an order for nuns called the Order of Saint Clare, and the Third Order of Saint Francis, which is open to both men and women. Franciscans follow the teachings and spiritual ways of Francis and his close followers like Clare of Assisi, Anthony of Padua, and Elizabeth of Hungary.

In or about 1209, St. Francis had many followers, some known as penitents. They did not become friars or sisters but they continued to live in their homes. St. Francis provided them, the first 3rd Order members a short and simple rule of life. In 1221 a legal rule was written by Cardinal Ugolino and approved by Pope Honorius III. The first Franciscan Pope, Nicholas IV, slightly revised the rule and formally approved by means of a Papal Bull in 1289. In 1883 the rule was again revised by Pope Leo XIII for modern times. The Holy See, in 1957, issued general constitutions that interpreted and explained the letter and the spirit of this rule. Notable people have followed this rule and embraced this life, Popes, Cardinals, Kings, and Queens. Holy Fathers Gregory IX, Blessed Gregory X, Innocent XII, Pius IX, St. Pius X, Popes Martin V, Clement XII, and Pope John XXIII were also 3rd Order members and all the Popes succeeding Pius IX to Pope John XXIII. Cardinals St. Charles Borromeo, Manning, Vaughan, Kings St. Louis IX of France, St. Ferdinand of Spain, and Queens St. Elizabeth of Portugal, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary were a few out of many tertiaries of nobility and stature. Other prominent people in the 3rd Order include Christopher Columbus, Dante, Michelangelo, and Raphael. There were also notable business men and workers in the 3rd Order. Blessed Peter of Sienna, a comb manufacturer, Blessed Luchesio, a merchant, and dock worker Matt Talbot. Third Order parents of St. Theresa the Little flower, and the mother of St. Marie Goretti will conclude this limited list. The Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC), along with many other Congregations of priests and religious sisters, comes under the Franciscan Third Order Regular.

VII. NEWS FROM THE MISSION STATIONS

St. Thomas Cathedral, Ballarpur

2. Ash Monday was solemnized by His Excellency Bp. Ephrem Nariculam on 16 February 2026 at 06 pm.
3. 40 Hours of adoration was conducted at Cathedral in view of lent from 16 – 18, February 2026. Many Priests, religious and faithful from various parishes attended it with devotion. The adoration ended with a Eucharistic procession led by His Excellency Bp. Ephrem Nariculam.
4. The result of Logos Quiz was heartwarming. Ku. Alphonsa Durge bagged third prize for Category A, Mr. Augustine Jambbulkar received first prize for Category B & Mrs. Silveniya Jambhulkar got first prize for Category D. Our parish is proud of them.
5. A two-day retreat for the parishioners was conducted on 25th and 26th March 2026. Rev. Fr. Binu was the preacher. Many parishioners attended the retreat. It was a time of spiritual renewal and nourishment in preparation for the Passion Week.
6. Our parish celebrated Women's Day on 8 March 2026. After the Holy Eucharist, our elderly women were wished with a flower by the Parish Priest. A seminar was conducted for our women folk by Deputy Tahsildar, Ballarpur. All enjoyed the talk and snacks was served to all women.
7. 31st death anniversary of Late Bp. Januarius was solemnized at the Cathedral by Fr. Benny Mulackal, VG and Fr. Vigil, the Chancellor & Fr. Paul CMI, the Provincial, were the concelebrants. A few priests from Bishop's house participated and office of the dead was said after the Mass. A floral tribute was paid on the tomb.

8. Palm Sunday was celebrated solemnly.
9. Hoy Muron was solemnized at the Cathedral and many Priests, religious men & women along with a few parishioners of Cathedral attended it.
10. Annual one day Youth convention was held at Divine Vachan Ashram and 10 youth from the Cathedral attended. Miss. Diana Vijay was elected as the Vice-President of Youth in the diocese. Congratulations to her.
11. Good Friday was celebrated with piety & devotion. The way of the cross was dramatized by our catechism children under the leadership of Fr. Deepka Tirkey. Mrs. Rani Jose, Mrs. Silveniya, Mr. Robert Paskal and Mr. Bhaskar Takur guided and made this event more sorrowful and reflective way. Heartiest congratulations to our beloved catechism children. They did a marvelous job.
12. A group of faithful from the Cathedral made a pilgrimage to Calvirigiri, Lakkakadakot on Good Friday. It was really an experience of passion of Jesus.
13. Easter Vigil was celebrated with great devotion. In the Cathedral was packed with devotees. Fr. Benny Mulackal, the parish priest was the main celebrant and Fr. Deepak and Fr. Tiji concelebrated the Holy Qurbana. The Tomb was made by our Youth David, Thomas & Robert. Special thanks to them.

BRAHMAPURI

1. New Year Celebration – 2026

The New Year celebration at the parish began with a Holy Hour on 31st December 2025 at 11:00 p.m., marked by heartfelt thanksgiving for the blessings received during the

past year and a prayerful invocation of God's grace for the New Year 2026. The prayer service was led by Rev. Fr. Kurian Panayalil, the Parish Priest.

At 12:00 midnight, a solemn Eucharistic Celebration was held, co-celebrated by Rev. Fr. Kurian Panayalil, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel, and Rev. Fr. Christo. During the Holy Mass, special prayers were offered for Rev. Fr. Emmanuel on the occasion of his feast day.

Following the Holy Mass, the celebration continued with a cake-cutting ceremony and a felicitation program in honour of Fr. Emmanuel on his feast day, bringing the parish community together in joy and fellowship.

2. Seminar cum Workshop – 2026

The 2nd and 3rd of January 2026 were truly enriching days for the entire Christianand School family, marked by the inspiring and motivational presence of Shri Shirish Sebastian.

He conducted separate sessions for the staff, senior students, and parents of all classes, addressing each group with clarity and purpose. The sessions were centred on powerful themes such as “Be the Change,” “Activate Your GPS,” and “Roots to Skies,” encouraging personal growth, direction in life, and a strong value-based foundation.

The seminar-cum-workshop proved to be a refreshing and rejuvenating experience, setting a positive and energetic tone for the beginning of the New Year.

3. Devulgaon Mission

After two and a half years of dedicated service and mobile mission work in Devulgaon and its surrounding areas, Rev. Sr. Divya SJ along with her team of SJ Sisters have now moved on to a new mission field at Pomburna Mission.

During their stay, the sisters rendered commendable service through their pastoral outreach and missionary activities, touching the lives of many in the region.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for their selfless service and pray that God may continue to bless and guide them in their new mission.

4. Republic Day Celebration – 2026

Republic Day was meaningfully celebrated at both Christanand Hospital and Christanand School with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit.

The celebrations began with a flag hoisting ceremony, fostering a sense of unity and national pride among all present. This was followed by a variety of cultural programs, where students and staff actively participated, showcasing the rich values of unity in diversity, patriotism, and respect for the nation.

The event served as a reminder of our responsibilities as citizens and inspired everyone to contribute positively towards the progress and harmony of the country.

5. Manager's Day & Farewell Celebration – 2026

On 27th January 2026, the Christanand family witnessed a dual celebration at Christanand School and Junior College—Manager's Day and the Farewell of Class XII students. A variety of cultural programmes were presented by students of different classes to express their gratitude and to honour Rev. Fr. Kurian Panayalil, the Manager of Christanand, for his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to the growth and development of the school community.

On the same occasion, the Class XI students organized a meaningful and heartfelt farewell program for the outgoing Class XII students. The event included speeches, performances, and messages filled with appreciation, joy, and emotion, making it a memorable experience for all. The celebration beautifully blended gratitude and farewell, leaving lasting memories and inspiring the students as they

move forward into a new chapter of their lives.

6. Last Friday Adoration and Eucharistic Procession – 2026

On 30th January 2026, a whole-day Eucharistic Adoration was held at Christanand Hospital, creating a deep atmosphere of prayer and spiritual reflection. At the conclusion of the day, an inspiring spiritual talk was delivered, encouraging all present to grow in faith and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

This was followed by a Eucharistic Procession within the hospital premises, in which staff, patients, and visitors participated with great reverence and devotion. The entire event was a grace-filled experience, strengthening the faith and unity of all who took part.

7. Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes – 2026

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated with great solemnity and devotion at the parish. The day began with a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration, during which special prayers were offered for the sick and suffering, invoking the loving intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes for healing and comfort.

The celebration was marked by a deep spirit of faith and prayer, reminding all of God's healing presence and the compassionate care of the Blessed Mother towards those in need.

8. Lenten Season – The Great Lent

The Lenten observance began with the Ash Monday (Vibhuti) liturgical celebration, marking the start of a season of prayer, penance, and renewal. Through his homily, Rev. Fr. Kurian Panayalil, the Parish Priest, encouraged the faithful to embrace sincere repentance and a deeper return to the Lord, inviting all to draw closer to Him during this sacred time. Throughout the Lenten season, the Way of the Cross is devoutly conducted as follows:

- Every Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at the Parish Church
- Every Wednesday and Sunday at the Hospital Church

These devotions serve as a powerful reminder of the Passion and Sacrifice of Christ, helping the faithful to grow spiritually and prepare their hearts worthily for the celebration of Easter.

9. Feast of Blessed Martyr Rani Maria – 2026

The Feast of Blessed Martyr Rani Maria was devoutly commemorated on 25th February. The celebration began with a Solemn Holy Mass, during which an introduction was given highlighting the life, mission, and martyrdom of Blessed Rani Maria. Her inspiring witness of faith, courage, and selfless service was presented to the faithful, encouraging all to follow her example in their daily lives.

The commemoration served as a moment of reflection and inspiration, deepening the faith and missionary zeal of the parish community.

10. Monthly Adoration and Eucharistic Procession – February 2026

In the month of February, the Last Friday devotion was observed with a whole-day Eucharistic Adoration at Christanand Hospital. The day included a spiritual talk, guiding the faithful towards a deeper understanding of the Eucharistic Lord, followed by a Eucharistic Procession within the hospital premises, in which all participated with great devotion.

It was truly a grace-filled day, bringing blessings, spiritual renewal, and healing to all who took part with faith and reverence.

11. Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony – 2026

The Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony was joyfully celebrated on 14th March, marking the convocation of the KG II students. A highlight of the program was the thematic presentation by the KG II students, beautifully showcasing the role of family and school in the growth and development of a child. It was a unique and meaningful way of expressing

gratitude to parents and teachers.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Vidhya Shelkey, spoke appreciatively about the school and its valuable contribution to education and holistic development. The confidence, discipline, and smartness displayed by the children—from Nursery to KG II—on stage were highly commendable and warmly appreciated by all present. The ceremony was a memorable occasion, celebrating the young learners as they take their first step towards formal education.

12. Akhand Bible Parayan – 2026

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105) With a deep yearning for spiritual growth, renewal, and sanctification, the faithful enthusiastically undertook the Akhand Bible Parayan at various centers.

A. Christanand Church, Brahmapuri

The Akhand Bible Parayan began on 15th March 2026 after the Holy Mass. The Holy Bible was solemnly enthroned by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Kurian Panayalil, followed by garlanding and aarti. The uninterrupted reading of the Bible was inaugurated by Fr. Kurian Panayalil, who began with Genesis Chapter 1.

- The first two days and nights were prayerfully carried out by the Mathrusangh.
- The next two days and nights were led by the Pithrusangh.
- The remaining hours were completed by the youth and catechism children.

The entire reading was devotionally completed on Friday night with the Book of Revelation, marking a spiritually enriching journey for all participants.

B. Christanand Hospital Chapel

The spirit of devotion continued at the Christanand Hospital Chapel, where the Akhand Bible Parayan commenced on

22nd March 2026 after the Holy Mass. The reading was initiated by Rev. Fr. Kurian Panayalil and was carried forward with great enthusiasm and reverence by the faithful. The continuous reading concluded on 27th March 2026, bringing grace and spiritual nourishment to all involved.

C. St. Paul's Church, Nagbheer

At St. Paul's Church, Nagbhir, the Akhand Bible Parayan began on 26th March 2026 and was completed on 1st April 2026. The faithful participated wholeheartedly, dedicating their time to the Word of God and experiencing its transformative power in their lives.

These days of continuous proclamation of the Word of God became moments of great blessing, renewal, and enlightenment. The devotion has greatly increased the love and interest for Sacred Scripture among the faithful, strengthening their faith and unity as a community.

13. Zonal Level Monthly Recollection – 2026

On 21st March 2026, the Lenten recollection and gathering of Priests and Religious of the Brahmapuri Zone was held at Carmel Ashram, Wadsa. The session was graced by Rev. Fr. Manu CMF, who served as the resource person and delivered an enriching and inspiring talk, guiding the participants towards deeper spiritual reflection during the Lenten season.

This was followed by the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Sacrament of Confession, offering the participants an opportunity for inner renewal and reconciliation. The recollection proved to be a grace-filled experience, fostering spiritual growth, unity, and renewed commitment among the Priests and Religious.

14. Pilgrimage to Chennai and Velankanni – 2026

On 22nd March 2026, a group of 54 faithful from Christ Bhavan Church, Brahmapuri, and Nagbhir set out on a pilgrimage to Chennai and Velankanni.

After a period of spiritual preparation, the pilgrims began their journey on the afternoon of 22nd March. The group first visited Chennai, where they had the grace of offering Holy Mass at the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle of India, a deeply meaningful and spiritually enriching experience. The pilgrimage then continued to Velankanni, where the group offered Holy Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Health. Celebrating the Eucharist together at these holy places brought great joy and spiritual fulfillment to all the participants.

Through this pilgrimage, the faithful were spiritually nourished, strengthened in faith, and enriched in fellowship and interpersonal relationships. The group safely returned on the night of 26th March 2026, carrying with them cherished memories and renewed spiritual fervor.

15. Penitential Pilgrimage to Dongargarh – 2026

In a spirit of prayer, repentance, and penance, a group of 70 faithful from Brahmapuri and Devulgaon undertook a Penitential Pilgrimage to Dongargarh.

During the pilgrimage, the participants prayerfully made the Way of the Cross, spending time in reflection and devotion. The experience provided an opportunity for all to renew themselves spiritually and to prepare their hearts worthily for the Holy Week. The pilgrimage was a meaningful journey of faith, fostering deeper conversion, unity, and a closer relationship with the Lord.

16. Good Friday Penitential Pilgrimage – 2026

On Good Friday, after the liturgical service, a short skit on the Passion of Christ and the Way of the Cross were prayerfully conducted in the church, helping the faithful to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Lord's suffering.

Following this, a Penitential Pilgrimage was undertaken by the faithful to different locations. Around 40 people proceeded

to Cross Mount Patharithana, while another 30 faithful journeyed to Kalavari Mountain, Lakkadakot

The pilgrims prayerfully meditated on the Way of the Cross, offering sacrifices and prayers in a spirit of repentance and devotion. The experience helped all participants to deepen their faith and unite themselves more closely with the Passion of Christ. It was a meaningful and grace-filled observance of Good Friday, marked by prayer, sacrifice, and spiritual renewal.

17. Parish Day & Women's Day Celebration – 2026

On the joyful occasion of Easter, the Parish Day and Women's Day were celebrated with great enthusiasm in the parish community.

The program began at 1:00 PM with cooking and preparations, bringing together members of the parish in a spirit of unity and cooperation. From 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, a variety of games and competitions were organized, witnessing active and joyful participation from people of all age groups. This was followed by special cultural programs from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, presented by the women, adding color, creativity, and vibrancy to the celebration.

The event concluded with a fellowship meal, where all gathered together in joy and fraternity. The organizers warmly welcomed everyone and emphasized the importance of unity, participation, and joyful celebration within the parish community. The day ended with prayers seeking the blessings, love, and peace of the Risen Lord upon all, making it a truly memorable and grace-filled celebration.

18. Kaveri Tupat Selected for Chandrapur Police

Kaveri Tupat has been selected for the Chandrapur Police, bringing great pride and joy to the entire community. Her achievement is the result of hard work, determination, and perseverance, and stands as a true inspiration to many young aspirants.

Members of the community expressed their heartfelt congratulations and appreciation for her success. They conveyed their pride in her accomplishment and wished her strength, wisdom, and courage as she begins her service. We extend our best wishes for her bright and successful future, praying that she may serve with dedication and integrity.

ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHANDRAPUR

St. Thomas Catholic Church, Chandrapur, joyfully celebrated its annual parish feast on January 18, 2026. The occasion was graciously blessed by the presence of Bishop Joseph Thachaparambath CMI of the Adilabad Diocese, along with the newly ordained priests. The entire celebration was beautifully organized, reflecting the unity, devotion, and vibrant spirit of the parish community.

On March 8, 2026, the parish enthusiastically celebrated Women's Day. Following the Holy Mass, an inspiring and motivational talk was delivered, encouraging and uplifting all the women present. The celebration continued with a variety of engaging games and activities, making it a joyful and memorable event for everyone.

The Holy Week was observed with deep faith and great enthusiasm. On Good Friday, April 3, 2026, the youth of the parish presented a moving tableau on the Passion of Christ. Their heartfelt performance deeply touched the congregation and brought alive the profound message of sacrifice and love.

CARMEL MATHA CHURCH, CHAMORSHI

Carmel Matha Church, Chamorshi, was spiritually enriched through a one-day retreat conducted by Rev. Fr. Vishal on 8th March. The retreat brought together parishioners for a day of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Through inspiring talks, meaningful reflections, and moments of silent prayer, the faithful

were encouraged to deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their faith life. The retreat was a grace-filled experience for all who participated.

The parish also joyfully celebrated the First Holy Communion of three children—Nisha Akshay Atram, Blessy Ajay Atram, and Ishan Johan Lakda—during the Easter Mass. It was a moment of great joy and blessing for the parish community as these young members received Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time. The celebration was marked with devotion, reverence, and thanksgiving, making it a memorable occasion for the families and the entire parish.

ASHIRVAN CHURCH CHINCHOLI

Ash day was celebrated in the parish on 15th February 2026, which marks the beginning of Lent, a season of Prayer, Fasting and Repentance. In the liturgy of Vibhuti a cross of ashes was placed on the forehead as a sign of humility and repentance and during the homily Fr. James explained the true essence of lent and encouraged the faithful to embrace Prayer, Penance and acts of charity beyond mere abstinence.

On 16th of February some of the parishioners along with Fr. James and Sisters attended forty hours of Adoration at BPQ. It was very enriching and inspiring.

On 22nd February the whole parish community solemnly welcomed Rev. Fr. Benny Mulackal the newly appointed Priest Incharge of Ashirvan Church Chincholi. On the same day Holy Mass was offered by Fr. Benny mulackal.

Two candidates namely Ranjita Khakha and Marina came to Chincholi Parish for their two months regency on 4th March 2026.

On 22nd of March soon after the Holy Mass there was a Parish Council meeting. During the meeting we discussed the celebration of the Holy Week and Easter.

The Diocesan Youth Day was celebrated on 26th March 2026 at Divine Vachan Ashram which was organized by the diocese. Six youths from Chincholi parish actively participated in the youth day celebration and Mrs. Yogita Ailwar a youth from Chincholi was elected as secretary of Chanda youth department.

One day Retreat for the parishioners was conducted on 29th March 2026. Rev. Fr. Priju the Vice Rector of Sant Vianney Gurukul was the preacher of the day. Around 120 parishioners attended the retreat. It was a period of withdrawal from normal activities for rest, reflection and spiritual renewal.

Holy Week is the most sacred period in christianity, remembering the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Easter Sunday. On Palm Sunday Holy Mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Priju. During the holy mass Palm Leaves were blessed and distributed to the people and made a procession commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. On Maundy Thursday holy mass was celebrated in the evening, during which the washing of the feet was done which is the symbol of humility and service. After the mass all spent a few hours before the blessed sacrament in remembrance of Jesus' agony. Good Friday was observed as a day of fasting and abstinence. Way of the cross was devoutly conducted through the chincholi village in the morning and some of them took part at Lakkadkot in the afternoon. All these devotions serve as a powerful reminder of the passion and sacrifice of Christ, drawing the faithful closer to the lord in preparation for Easter.

Joyful celebration of Jesus' Resurrection (Easter) began at 10 pm by Adoration, Bhajan and Confession followed by Easter vigil

at 11:15pm. After the Easter mass the Egg and tea was given to all and on Sunday in the afternoon sharing of festival meal was served.

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, DURGAPUR

we celebrated Mission Sunday and the feast of St. Chavara on 25/01/2026. All participated actively in a spirit of fun and competition in the auction and ate the community meal together. The Catechism annual exam for the grade ten students was held on the 01st of February.

A few candidates of the DM congregation who were on a short visit to the parish were welcomed at the church during the Holy Mass.

The newly ordained priest, Fr Sarith Edayadiyil CMI was felicitated during his first Holy Mass at the Church on 15/02/2026. Women's Day was celebrated at the Church with the women presented with rose flowers by their husbands or close relatives and distribution at the church on the 08th of March.

The Palm Sunday was also a day of retreat in preparation for the Holy Week. Fr Jivan KD was the preacher. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday passed off in religious fervour and piety with the Faithful actively participating in all related observances. The Stations of the Cross was prayed at the homes of the Faithful during the Lent. The Easter Holy Mass was celebrated at 11 pm. There was a morning Holy Mass the next day for the elderly and the sick who could not make it to the Church for the Easter Holy Mass.

The divine Mercy Sunday was special for us because on this day seven of our children made their First Holy Confession, Communion and Holy Confirmation. It was also our Parish Day which included cultural programme, competitions and community meal.

JEEVAN JYOTI CHURCH, HINGANGHAT

The Feast of St. Chavara was celebrated on 4th January. Fr. Prince Munjanattu celebrated the Holy Qurbana, and we also celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with piety and devotion at 6:30 PM on 6th January 2026.

The Lenten season began on 15th February. Fr. Subin celebrated the Holy Qurbana for us. The Ash Monday Holy Qurbana was celebrated in the evening.

Fr. Jeevan conducted a one-day retreat for the parishioners on Wednesday, 11th March, as a preparation for Holy Week. The retreat began with the Holy Rosary at 5:30 PM, followed by preaching, adoration, confessions, and the Holy Qurbana. It was a fruitful retreat for all the parishioners.

On Friday, 19th March, the Feast of St. Joseph was celebrated. On this occasion, the Wardha Zonal Monthly Recollection was held in our church at 5:30 PM. It began with a talk by Fr. James CMF, followed by adoration and confessions. About 60 priests and religious participated. It was a heart-touching recollection for everyone.

On 29th March, Hosanna Sunday was observed. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated at 7:00 AM, beginning in front of the old church. Fr. Prince Munjanattu was the main celebrant. The decoration and liturgy were led by SJB Formation House.

On 2nd April, Peshha Thursday was observed with the Holy Qurbana at 6:00 PM, with Fr. Prince Munjanattu as the main celebrant. The decoration and liturgy were arranged by the CMC communities of Jam and Samudrapur. Adoration and the blessing and sharing of Peshha Ideri Appam followed the Holy Qurbana.

Good Friday was observed on 3rd April. The Way of the Cross was conducted at 7:00 AM, followed by the liturgical services. The arrangements and liturgy were organized by the SJB Allipur Community.

Holy Saturday was observed on 4th April. The renewal of

baptismal promises and the blessing of water took place during the Holy Qurbana at 6:15 AM. The Easter Vigil Holy Qurbana was celebrated at 9:30 PM on the same day. Fr. Prince Munjanattu was the main celebrant. The decoration and liturgy were led by the SJB Convent, Hinganghat. A procession was held after the Gospel reading. After the Holy Qurbana, parishioners exchanged Easter greetings and Easter eggs were distributed.

ST. ALPHONSA CHURCH, JARAWANDI

As we reflect on God's abundant blessings in the early months of 2026, our community at St. Alphonsa Church has been alive with faith, fellowship, and fervent prayer. From joyful celebrations to profound Lenten observances, the Lord has drawn us closer together. Here are the key highlights:

We joyfully began 2026 with a special Thanksgiving Adoration followed by Holy Mass on New Year's Day. Nearly 50 parishioners gathered in prayer, giving thanks to God for the blessings of the past year and seeking His grace for the year ahead.

Our annual Church Feast on February 8 was a highlight, preceded by three days of retreat led by the SH Sisters. Before the retreat, I personally accompanied ten sisters on a comprehensive home mission, visiting every village in our parish over a ten-day period. The efforts bore rich fruit, culminating in a grand celebration on the final day. Many priests and sisters from the Allapalli zone joined us for Holy Mass and festivities, drawing over 800 faithful—a true testament to our vibrant community spirit.

Soon after, we entered the sacred Lenten season with renewed fervor. We organized three days of Way of the Cross devotions at the church. Assist Parish Incharge Fr. Sarith also joined St. Alphonsa Church during this time, serving for two months and

supporting our Lenten initiatives.

To deepen our Lenten observance, we arranged a pilgrimage to Dongargarh Hill in Chhattisgarh on the 40th Friday of Lent. A good number of devotees participated, returning spiritually refreshed. In preparation for Passion Week, we held a one-day retreat for the faithful. I also led a night vigil specifically for the youth, with over 50 young people joining in prayer and reflection. Under the able leadership of our youth leader, the youth group participated in cricket matches at Ballarshah and Ettapalli, securing a proud second prize at Ettapalli.

The diocese further enriched our youth by organizing a three-day camp for 10th and 12th standard students. I sent 19 students from our parish, and they returned sharing how inspiring and beneficial the experience was.

Holy Week services were truly uplifting, with a strong turnout of faithful on Palm Sunday (Hosana Sunday), Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Let us continue to build on these graces, growing in faith as one family in Christ. May the Risen Lord strengthen us for the months ahead. All glory and praise to God.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH MARAKBODI AND ST JOSEPH NATIONAL SCHOOL DONGARGAON

- St. Joseph Church and St. Joseph National School, Marakbodi, have been actively involved in various spiritual and academic activities in recent months.
- The parish celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph, the patron of Marakbodi Parish, on 19th March with great devotion and joy. Newly ordained priest Fr Algin and Fr Louis celebrated feast day Holy mass.

- A good number of priests and faithful attended the feast celebration, making it a spiritually enriching gathering.
- The parish also witnessed a grand celebration of First Holy Communion and Confirmation, with many children receiving these sacraments.
- A special felicitation program was organized to honour newly ordained priests of the diocese, adding to the joy of the occasion.
- The Holy Week celebrations at Marakbodi Parish Church were conducted in a solemn and prayerful manner. Fr Somy rendered his service on these days.
- Holy Week services were also organized in various villages under the parish, allowing more faithful to participate actively.
- On 26th January, St. Joseph National School celebrated its Annual Day with great enthusiasm. Students participated in cultural programs and showcased their talents.
- The Class 10 students successfully appeared for their Board Examinations, marking an important academic milestone.
- The school commenced its Annual Examinations from 6th April, with students participating sincerely and diligently.
- St Joseph kids academy had its annual day celebration on 11th of April. The nursery and KG section students exhibited their talents. On the same day they were honoured with certificates of excellence.

KRUPASROTH CATHOLIC CHURCH, MUL

8th February 2026

Parish Day was celebrated solemnly with great joy and participation. The celebrations began with the Solemn Holy Qurbana, followed by a community breakfast. Various competitions were organized for all age groups, and prizes were

distributed to the winners. The day concluded with a fellowship lunch.

13th February 2026

The birthday of Rev. Fr. Somy Varghese was joyfully celebrated. Parishioners gathered in the evening and extended their heartfelt wishes to him after the Holy Qurbana.

15th February 2026

Members of St. Ann's Congregation, including the General and Councillors, visited Mul Parish. The parish community warmly welcomed them and appreciated their visit.

22nd February 2026

Thirty-one faithful from the parish participated in the 2nd Ballarpur Jeevothsav Bible Convention held at Bamini. It was a grace-filled and spiritually enriching experience for all.

29th March 2026

A heartfelt farewell was organized for Kevalram Ambone Guruji, who served the school for 31 years and faithfully supported the parish community throughout his tenure. The parish expressed deep gratitude and honored him before he moved to his hometown, Brahmapuri.

3rd April 2026

Ninety-two faithful from Mul Parish participated in the Way of the Cross at Lakkadakott, making it a prayerful and spiritually meaningful gathering.

ST. ANTONY'S CHURCH WARDHA

1. ISITS

- Metropolitan conference: bishops from four diocese visited St. Antony's church Wardha on 4th march for the metropolitan conference, Archbishop Elias Gonsalves Archbishop of Nagpur, Bp. Ephrem Nariculam diocese of Chanda, Bp. Malcolm Sequeira bishop of Amravati and Bp. Bernard Lancy,

bishop of Aurangabad were present for the conference.

- On 15th march fathers and parishioners from chamorshi visited the parish and shared the joy together.

2. ACHIVEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

- On 19th February Parish youth went to Ballarpur for the CPL 2k26 season 3 and won the first match with Jarawandi parish and the next day we had match with the team Danora and we reached directly to the final and played the last game with team Reppenpalli and team Wardha brought the ever rolling trophy for the second time to the parish thus our youth were motivated and encouraged by the parish priest and by the parishioners on the next Sunday.
- On 8th march we celebrated International Women's Day and the parish priest honored them with a small gift and all the parishioners wished them.
- On 18th march 'Apna Gar' family and all other religious and priests wished Fr. Subin on the occasion of his feast day.

3. SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENTS

- On 19th march zonal level monthly recollection had arranged in Jeevan Jyothi Church Hingangatt, Rev. Fr. James CMF preached the day and Rev. Fr. Vipito CMI hosted the programe.
- On 22nd march One day retreat had conducted in the parish in relation with the preparation for the holy week and Rev. Fr. Johny Narikattu preached the retreat with his spiritual reflections.

4. HOLY WEEK

- On 29th march solemnly we celebrated palm Sunday. Rev. fr. Sijo CMF the rector of Claretian Ashram Wardha offered the holy Qurbana and enriched us with his spiritual insights.

- On 2nd April we the parish pariwar solemnly participated in the services of maundy Thursday Rev. fr. Robinson the parish priest offered the Holy Qurbana and washed the feets of twelve disciples and horned them with a small gift.
- On 3rd April the parish youth narrated the passion of Christ in the form of a drama, the good Friday services started from the Darsana institute of philosophy Savangi and ended in the parish. Rev. Fr. Algin Pallivathukkal led the services of the day and added his spiritual insights.
- On 5th April on the day of Easter eve we began the services at 10.30 pm and blessed the water and fire thereafter we renewed our baptism. Rev Fr. Harish CMI the Administrator of Darsana institute of Philosophy offered the Holy Qurbana and enriched with his spiritual insights. The youth of the parish arranged the resurrection of our Lord in a dramatic way and added joy to the day.

5. GATHERINGS AND CHARITY

- "EINHEIT" Youth gathering was organized on 11th April, we shared the joy togetherness with small entertainment programs and agape almost 36 members participated in the gathering.
- "LET'S FEED" during the time of great lent the parish youth organized and arranged every Friday the food collection and distribution of the food among the poor in the wardha city and we collected few grocery items and shared the joy of Easter with the members of Alphonasa sadan and Chavara Ashram Jam.



VIII. NEWS FROM FORMATION HOUSES

CLARETIAN ASHRAM, COLLEGE OF PHILOSOPHY, WARDHA

01. Community Picnic (January 23-25)

From 23 to 25 January 2026, the Claretian Ashram community undertook a three-day picnic to Hyderabad, marked by joy, fraternity, and shared experiences. The group stayed at the St. Claret School community in Medchal, where they received warm hospitality. The itinerary included visits to Golconda Fort, the Salar Jung Museum, and Ramoji Film City, along with meaningful interactions with Claretian communities in Medchal and Basarangadi. This outing promoted relaxation, unity, and a renewed sense of Claretian identity.

02. CRI Meeting 2026 (Feb.8)

On 8 February 2026, the CRI Wardha Zone organized a half-day seminar at Claretian Ashram focusing on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The seminar approached the topic from both secular and ecclesial perspectives. Ms. Manisha Deshmukh, a distinguished educator, presented the legal and social dimensions of POCSO, while Rev. Fr. James Kannanthanam CMF addressed its pastoral and ecclesial implications. Each session was followed by interactive discussions, and the programme concluded with an agape meal, making the event both informative and enriching.

03. Inter-Provincial Meeting (February 10-12)

A three-day Inter-Provincial Meeting on the revision of the ASCLA West Protocol on Safeguarding Minors was held at Claretian Ashram from February 10 to 12. The meeting brought together key participants, including Rev. Fr. James Kannanthanam, CMF; Rev. Fr. Augustine Mundiath, CMF; and Rev. Fr. S. Stanislaus, CMF. The sessions focused on reviewing, updating, and strengthening the existing protocol to ensure greater accountability and protection of minors within the

apostolate. The deliberations were marked by active participation, constructive dialogue, and a shared commitment to safeguarding standards.

04. Social Exposure Program (16 February)

On 16th February 2026, a Social Exposure Program was organized as part of the institution's initiative to foster social responsibility and compassionate engagement among students. A group of 12 students, accompanied by 2 staff members, visited Alphonsa Sadan, a home dedicated to the care of 30 destitute individuals, to spend a meaningful afternoon with its inmates. The primary objective of the visit was to provide the students with an opportunity for direct social involvement and to sensitize them to the realities faced by the marginalized sections of society.

05. Valedictory 25-26 (Feb. 21)

The enriching series of activities organized under the Claretian Ashram Literary Association (CALA) and the Claretian Ashram Social Apostolate (CASA) came to a graceful culmination with the valedictory programme held on 21st February 2026 at Claretian Ashram. The occasion was honored by the esteemed presence of Rev. Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, CMF, Provincial Superior of St. Thomas Province of the Claretians. The programme unfolded as a vibrant expression of talent, creativity, and community spirit, highlighted by a variety of captivating performances presented by the students. The evening also served as a meaningful occasion to recognize excellence, as achievers were honored and winners of the various competitions conducted throughout the year were felicitated.

06. Animation Visit (February 21-23)

On February 21, Rev. Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel, CMF, Provincial Superior of St. Thomas Province, arrived at 4:30 p.m. for his Animation Visit. On February 22, the Provincial met the students of St. Thomas Province and conducted a common conference for all in the auditorium. The session was marked by

meaningful interaction, guidance, and encouragement to the students in their formation journey. On February 23, the Animation Visit concluded with a common staff meeting held at 3:00 p.m. During this session, the Provincial evaluated the activities of the house and offered constructive suggestions for its ongoing growth and development. The community expressed its heartfelt gratitude for his enriching presence and inspiring guidance.

07. Send-off Program (March 16)

On March 16, a formal send-off program was organized at 4:00 p.m. at Claretian Ashram for the Second D.Ph students of Darsana Institute of Philosophy. The gathering was marked by a spirit of gratitude, joy, and fraternal communion as the community came together to bid farewell to the outgoing students. The program included moments of sharing, recollection of cherished memories, and words of appreciation acknowledging the students' presence, contributions, and growth during their time at the institute. The community extended its heartfelt wishes for their future endeavors, praying that they may continue to grow in wisdom, commitment, and service in their respective missions. The program concluded on a warm and hopeful note, entrusting them to God's guidance in the next stage of their journey.

SANT VIANNEY GURUKUL (SVG)

The year 2026 commenced with the celebration of the Holy Qurbana, after which the symbolic “burning of the old man” was observed, signifying the call to renewal and the abandonment of the old self.

Seminary Day was solemnly celebrated on 26 January, marking the Silver Jubilee of the transfer of the minor seminary to its present campus under the name Sant Vianney Gurukul. On this auspicious occasion, former rectors were felicitated in

recognition of their dedicated service. Priests and Religious from the zone, along with members of the diocesan clergy, were present. His Excellency Bishop Ephrem presided over the cultural programme. The brothers presented a variety of cultural items, the highlight being the drama “Agony of the Two Hearts,” directed and taught by Rev. Fr. Tiji. Celebrations ended with Agape.

The annual retreat for the minor seminarians and regents was conducted from 2nd to 6th March, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Anto Parekadan OFM Cap, who served as the retreat preacher. The retreat proved to be a time of profound spiritual renewal and enrichment for all the participants.

The annual examinations for seminarians commenced on 19th March. The Plus Two students had appeared for their board examinations earlier, in the month of February.

A farewell programme was organized in honour of Bro. Jeffin, the regent, and Bro. Ishwardas. The programme was marked by meaningful cultural performances and expressions of gratitude for their service and presence in the seminary community.

The annual holidays for the brothers began on 31st March. During this period, the brothers were deputed to various mission stations to assist in the Holy Week services: four brothers were assigned to Lakkadkot, and two each to Gatta and Ghugus. A few brothers have been retained in the seminary to attend to house responsibilities.

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The C.P.L. (Chanda Premier League) was successfully conducted on 19th February 2026 at Montfort School Ground. Ten teams from different parishes actively participated in the tournament.

Night Vigil for Youth was organized on 7th March at

Jarawandi Parish for the youth of Jarawandi, and on 19th March at Allapalli for the youth of Allapalli, Gomini, and Kopreli.

Youth Day was celebrated on 26th March 2026 at Divine Vachan Ashram, with the participation of 160 youth. During the event, new diocesan youth leaders were elected.

The Enchrsto Youth Convention was held from 23rd to 25th April 2026 at St. Chavara Church, Ettapalli. Youth from the Allapalli Zone took part enthusiastically. The convention was animated by the Don Bosco Fathers from Bombay.

Pahad Fest, a one-day faith animation programme for youth, was conducted by the Don Bosco Fathers from Bombay. Youth from Pattaguda, Jiwati, Wani, and Shengaon participated in the programme.

The Diocese-level Logos Quiz was held on 14th January 2026 at the Bishop's House Campus. A total of 86 participants from various parishes of the diocese took part in the competition.

Women's Day was celebrated on 8th March 2026 at Jarawandi. The session was animated by Sr. Aneeja CMC. The Alpha Marriage Preparation Course was conducted from 27th to 29th March 2026 at the Bishop's House Campus.

The CLC Department organized a Retreat, Career Guidance, and Vocation Promotion Camp from 8th to 10th April 2026 at Divine Vachan Ashram, Bamni. A total of 73 participants attended the camp.

The Diocese-level Catechism Examination was conducted on 19th April 2026 in the respective parishes. Students who secured first, second, and third ranks in classes 5 to 9 at the parish level participated. A one-day seminar for catechism students was held on 26th April 2026 at St. Thomas Cathedral, Ballarpur. Salesian Fathers from the Bombay Province conducted the seminar.

IX. NEWS FROM RELIGIOUS HOUSES

CARMELODAYA PROVINCE, WARDHA

The Joint Celebration of CMI and CMC (Darsana and Carmelodaya) of the feast of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara commenced on 12th January 2026. This time it was an exclusive celebration of CMI and CMCs combining all the CMC Sisters of Wardha District.

To build our love and togetherness, the zonal gathering of CMC Wardha zone was arranged at Mount Carmel Convent, Katol on 14th January 2026. It was a day of relaxation, overwhelmed with joy and happiness.

A General Level Superiors' retreat Was arranged at Carmelodaya Provincial House, Wardha from 6-12 Feb. 2026. Rev. Fr. Cyriac Kochalunkal CST was the retreat preacher. Superiors from the Provinces of Karnataka, Mancherial, Wardha and Kurnool Region attended the retreat.

CMC Mission Meet of South Zone II on the theme, 'Hearts on Fire' was solemnly held from 21st to 25th March 2026 at Carmelodaya Provincial House, Wardha. The official inauguration was done by Mother Roselin - the General Councillor for Mission. Rev. Fr. Augustine Kalleli was the resource person. 38 Sisters from Wardha, Mancheriyal, Jagdalpur Provinces, Kurnool Region, Kalyan and Ahmednagar Mission attended the programme.

Hearty Congratulations to dear Sisters, Sr. Irina and Sr. Ravina who made their first Profession on 16th April 2026. May they grow like the evergreen trees and bloom like fragrant flowers in the fertile soil of Carmel. We wish that their lives be channels of God's love and grace to everyone.

AMALA PROVINCE, WARDHA

Silver Jubilee Celebrations

On January 17th, the Amala Sadan Provincial House joyfully

celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Anurupa, Sr. Aiswarya, and Sr. Rony Maria.

· Main Celebrant: Rev. Fr. Benny Mullakkal (Vicar General of Chanda).

A large gathering of priests and sisters from various congregations joined in the celebration to honor the sisters' 25 years of dedicated service.

Episcopal Visits

The province was further blessed by the visits of two esteemed bishops:

· The Bishop of Faridabad paid a friendly visit to offer his prayers and blessings.

· On January 26th, Bishop Joseph Thachaparambil, CMI (Bishop of Adilabad), visited the community.

Retreats and Renewal of Vows

The month of March was a time of deep spiritual reflection and renewal for our members:

· Aspirants' Retreat: Starting March 26th, 24 aspirants participated in a retreat led by Rev. Fr. George Alukka, CST, from Kerala.

· Junior Sisters' Retreat: Beginning on the 6th, our junior sisters gathered for their retreat in preparation for the renewal of their vows. The retreat preacher was Rev. Fr. Bibin, CMF.

· Vow Renewal: Following the retreat, eight sisters solemnly renewed their vows, recommitting themselves to their divine calling.

Maria Sadan Durgapur

1st Holy Communion - On 12th April 2026 Six of our Catechism Children Received their 1st Communion and Confirmation.

X. HEAVENLY BRETHREN

MAY

1. Fr. Mathew Kaniyamparampil CMI	05-05-2011	Pala
2. Sr. Darsana SJB	07.05. 2012	Kuriachera
3. Sr. Lia CMC	08-05-2001	Thommana
4. Sr. Rose Margaret CMC	08-05-2012	Thommana
5. Fr. George Chakkalackal CMI	10.05.2012	Trichur
6. Fr. Lawrence Burle	14.05.2021	Ballarpur
7. Sr. Shaify FCC	25-05-2002	Kadukutty
8. Bro. Jomon Mattapillil CMI	30-05-1997	Bellampalli

JUNE

1. Sr. Jesslima SD	02-06-1995	Chethipuzha
2. Sr. Clementia SHSp	04-06-2018	Germany
3. Fr. Davis Kannampuzha CMI	07-06-2006	Bellampalli
4. Fr. Alex Ukken CMI	11-06-2006	Irinjalakuda
5. Sr. Justina SD	16-06-2002	Wardha
6. Fr. Antony Cyriac Chirayil CMI	28-06-2002	Bellampalli
7. Sr. Lutgardis SJB	24-06-2018	Germany

JULY

1. Fr. Diego Kodankandath CMI	01-07-2004	Pavarty
2. Fr. Mathew Manikompel CMI	09-07-2009	Mutholy
3. Fr. Christian Plakatt CMI	12-07-2005	Mutholy
4. Fr. Callistus Chavarananickal CMI	14-07-2011	Ballarpur
5. Sr. Infant Mary FCC	16-07-1998	Bhopal
6. Fr. Mathew Kalarickal CMI	17-07-2003	Bellampalli
7. Bro. Michael Nellikunnel CMI(Aspirant)	23-07-1988	Ballarpur
8. Sr. (Dr.) Jose Maria FCC	25-07-2004	Aluva
9. Fr. Remiji Nadackal CMI	30-07-1991	Yellareddy
10. Sr. Auxillia ASMI	10-07-2015	Allapally

AUGUST

1. Sr. Vijaya FCC	11-08-1991	Muvattupuzha
2. Sr. Amala SD	11-08-2000	Chethipuzha
3. Sr. Priya SJB	13-08-1998	Hinganghat
4. Fr. Joseph Koikara CMI	14-08-2017	Kochi
5. Fr. Joseph Kozhikothickal	14-08.2021	Vilakumadam
6. Fr. Thomas Pandipally CMI	16-08-2008	Bellampally
7. Sr. Sangeetha SJB	17-08-2022	Wardha
8. (Candidate) Tessy SD	21-08-1997	Athirampuzha
9. Sr. Rose Ambo0ken SJB	21-08-2022	Wardha
10. Sr. Silas FCC	21-08-2022	Wardha
11. Fr. James Thottapally CMI	25-08-1986	Neeleswaram
12. Fr. Dharmanand Muttathotttil CMI	25-08-1990	Ballarpur



05th DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



Fifth Death Anniversary of Fr. Lawrence Burle falls on Thursday 14 May 2026. Please remember him in our prayers.



Fifth Death Anniversary of Fr. Joseph Kozhikothickal falls on Friday 14 August 2026. Please pray for the repose of his soul and offer prayers on the day.



A Tribute to Sr. Fulgencia Kuttuvelil SD

Born: 24.08.1944
Profession: 06.01.1965
Born to Eternity: 21.01.2026

“I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in me, even though they die, will live.” (John 11:25)

Sr. Fulgencia was born on 24 August 1944 into the Kuttuvelil family as the sixth child of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Mariamma, in Thamakunnu Parish of the Diocese of Kanjirapally, at Chirakkadavu. Sr. Roselet SD is her sister. From an early age, God’s gentle call echoed in her heart, leading her to choose a life totally dedicated to Him. Responding generously to this call, she joined the SD Congregation in 1962. With deep faith and commitment, she made her First Profession on 6 January 1965 and later sealed her total consecration to God through her Final Profession on 31 May 1969. She was sent to Germany in 1973, where she completed her nursing studies in Düsseldorf and continued her service there until 1983.

Sr. Fulgencia’s life bore witness to the Gospel values she cherished. She served in hospitals such as Cheranalloor, Karukutty, Amboory, and Coonoor as a true follower of Jesus, the Divine Healer. Her compassionate heart, loving nature, consoling words and caring presence brought comfort to countless people. Out of her 61 years of consecrated life, she spent 41 long years serving in destitute homes: in Düsseldorf (1973–1983), Rome and Munich (1992–1997), and later in Panchagani, Satara, Chandrapur, Lakkavaram, and Koregaon (1998–

2023), sharing compassionate love and committing herself totally to the abandoned brethren. She was simple, faithful, prayerful, and

deeply committed to her religious vocation. Through joys and trials alike, she remained steadfast in her service, offering her life silently and selflessly for the glory of God and the good of others.

Through her gentle touch and patient endurance, many experienced the healing and consoling love of Christ. Amid her busy schedule, she always found time to be with the Eucharistic Lord, who was the source of her strength and enabled her to see the face of Christ in the poor.

As her health was deteriorating due to age related sickness and dementia, she was taken to the Provincial House, Wardha, then to SD Mission House, Choottuveli, Kerala, for treatment, and later to Wirur on 17 January 2025. As her condition became critical, she was administered the Anointing of the Sick on 16 January 2026 by Rev. Fr. Mathew Nirappel, Vicar of Shanthi Nivas Church, Wirur.

On 21 January 2026, around 10:00 a.m., the soul of Sr. Fulgencia flew from this earth to meet her Beloved in Heaven. Rev. Fr. Mathew Nirappel, Vicar of Shanthi Nivas Church, Wirur, led the Office for the Dead before the mortal remains were taken to the Sewagram Hospital mortuary. Later, Most Rev. Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of the Diocese of Chanda, offered the Office of the Dead and placed a wreath on behalf of the Diocese.

The mortal remains were brought to the Provincial House on 25 January at 5:00 p.m., followed by the first part of the funeral rite officiated by Rev. Fr. Robinson, Syncellus of the Diocese of Chanda and Forane Vicar of St. Antony's Parish, Wardha. The second part of the funeral rite was led by Rev. Fr. Francis Ayikaraparampil CMI, Rector of Darshana Institute of Philosophy, followed by the solemn Eucharistic Celebration officiated by Most Rev. Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda, Most Rev. Joseph Thachaparampath, Bishop of Adilabad; Rev.

Fr. Robinson; Rev. Fr. Thomas Thadathil MCBS, Director of Ashagram, Koregaon; and Rev. Fr. Francis Ayikaraparampil were the concelebrants. Fr. Tomy

Kariyilakulam, Director of Bel-Air Hospital, Panchagani, delivered a beautiful farewell address, recalling how Sr. Fulgencia treated the residents by restoring their human dignity and inspiring the co-staff to serve them with love and compassion during the initial years of Panchagani and Ashagram MCBS mission stations. The fourth part of the funeral rite was officiated by Most Rev. Joseph Thachaparampath, Bishop of Adilabad, and the final prayer at the tomb was led by His Grace Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Archbishop of Faridabad.

Dear Sr. Fulgencia, you have left us a legacy to follow—a legacy of compassion, concern, and care. We cherish the fond memories of your commitment to the Lord, your love and service to the destitute brethren, and your unassuming, compassionate presence in the community. Though your physical absence causes us pain, you continue to live in our hearts. Intercede for us until we meet again in Heaven.



Quotes

“One of the differences between some successful and unsuccessful people is that one group is full of doers, while the other is full of wishers”

- Edmond Mbiaka

Proverbs and Their Meanings

1. **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.** – It's better to have something than risk losing it to get more.
2. **A friend in need is a friend indeed.** – A real friend helps you when you need it.
3. **A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.** – Big goals are achieved by starting with small actions.
4. **An apple a day keeps the doctor away.** – Eating healthy keeps you from getting sick.
5. **A penny saved is a penny earned.** – Saving money is as good as earning it.
6. **All that glitters is not gold.** – Not everything that looks good is valuable.
7. **Birds of a feather flock together.** – People with similar interests are often friends.
8. **Better safe than sorry.** – It's better to be careful than take a risk.
9. **Every cloud has a silver lining.** – There is something good in every bad situation.
10. **Haste makes waste.** – Rushing can lead to mistakes.
11. **Honesty is the best policy.** – Telling the truth is always the best choice.
12. **If at first, you don't succeed, try, try again.** – Keep trying until you succeed.
13. **Look before you leap.** – Think before you act.
14. **Laughter is the best medicine.** – Being happy and laughing helps you feel better.

POPE INTENTIONS

MAY

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

JUNE

For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

JULY

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

AUGUST

For evangelization in the city

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.



Quotes

“ Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.

- Vince Lombardi ”