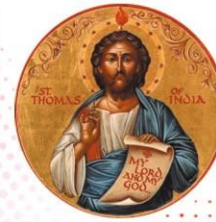
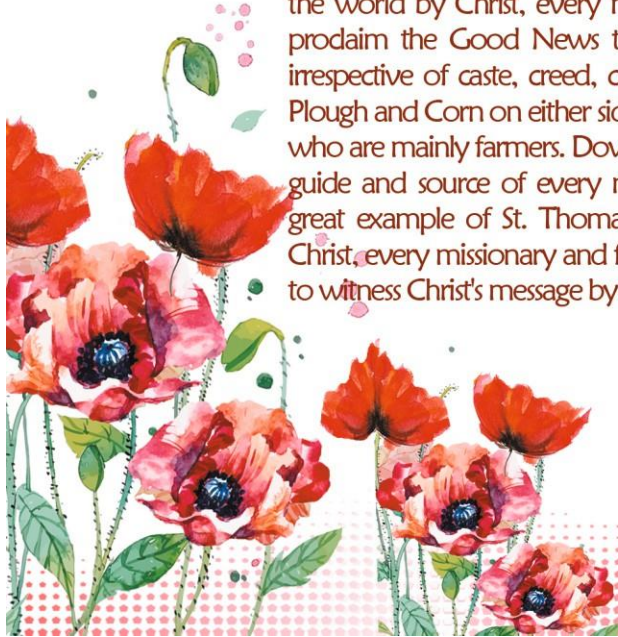


FLAG OF THE DIOCESE OF CHANDA



Flag Colours: White and Yellow represents the Universal Church. The Blue stands for intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary and the Red reminds everyone of the Martyrdom of St. Thomas, the Apostle and the patron saint of the diocese.

Coat of Arms: My Lord and my God (John 20:28) is the confession of the faith of St. Thomas the Apostle, the heavenly patron of Chanda Diocese. Rooted in the divine Word in the splendour of the Cross which is the symbol of redemption of the world by Christ, every missionary in Chanda is invited to proclaim the Good News to all people (Mathew 28:19-20) irrespective of caste, creed, colour, language and ethnic origin. Plough and Corn on either side represent the people of Chanda, who are mainly farmers. Dove represents Holy Spirit who is the guide and source of every missionary activity. Following the great example of St. Thomas the Apostle, with deep faith in Christ, every missionary and faithful in Chanda offer themselves to witness Christ's message by word and deed.



Chanda Samachar

Bulletin, Diocese of Chanda



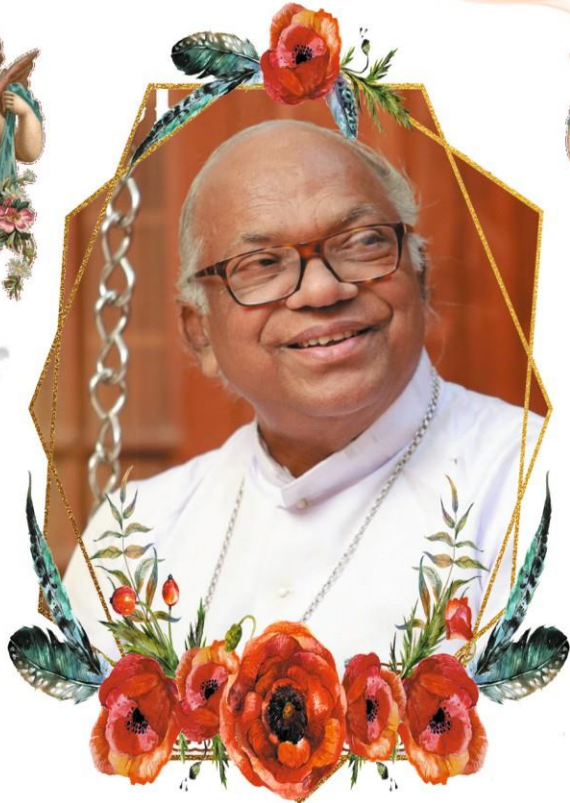
St. Chavara, Pray for us!

Vol. XLIII No. 3&4



May - August 2020

Obituary



Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil (1942-2020)

Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Idukki



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Editor
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Health Workers' Meet, Ballarpur
(07.03.2020)



Womens's Day Seminar, Ballarpur
(14.03.2020)



Vestition, St. Thomas Cathedral,
Ballarpur (11.06.2020)



Minor Orders, St. Thomas Cathedral
Ballarpur (20.06.2020)



Inauguration of Nagbir Mission
(21.06.2020)



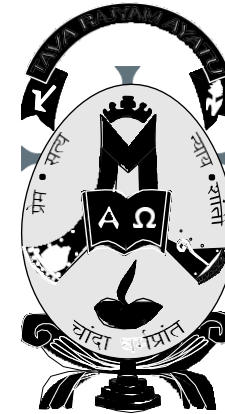
Convent Blessing, Wirur
25.06.2020



The

Chanda Samachar

CHANDA DIOCESAN BULLETIN



Thy Kingdom Come (Mt.)

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



Vol. XLIII

May-August 2020

No. 3 & 4

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I. SHEPHERD’S VOICE

SV.3/2020

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and My dear People

Thy Kingdom come!

2020 is declared as the year of Chavara in connection with the 150th death anniversary of saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara. A saint of our time who dedicated himself for the Church and for the renewal of the families. Chavara is a man who loved the Church and suffered for the Church. He gave a clear direction to the Syro-Malabar Church. He re-installed identity of our Church. As our Church is in the threshold of storm and hail, like St. Chavara let us resolve to assist our Church a clear direction and guidance. Like him let us love our Church and stand by her, what may come. It has become a dire need. Protect our Church from media attacks and hidden agendas of anyone who wants to re-stabilize the Church. Join hands together to defeat the evil plans of anyone who misguide simple faiths. Let us stand firm with the Church and for the Church. I exhort everyone no to be taken away according to the whims and fancies of the enemies of the Church. May divine truth make us free. May the celebration of Chavara year transform us to be staunch believers who will stand by the Church and support her simultaneously also purify her from stains of pitfalls. May God bless you all.



Your Shepherd in the Lord

Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

PASTORAL LETTER I**PL 4/ MAY 2020****On St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara**
(150th Death Anniversary)

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

The Syro-Malabar Church has dedicated 2020 as the *Chavara Year* commemorating the 150th death anniversary of St. Chavara Kuriakose Elias. Born on 10 February 1805 at Kainakary and ordained priest on 29 November 1829 at Arthunkal, St. Chavara was a man of zeal for the Church. He loved the Church to the core that he dedicated himself fully and completely for the renewal and revival in the Church. That is his great message for us today. Let us realize his dream by offering a genuine commitment to the Church by witnessing Christ's values in our missionary endeavors.

I wish to thank the pioneering CMI missionaries who were inspired by St. Chavara's zeal for the Church and served Chanda Mission. It was a great beginning and a firm foundation. All the present Chanda missionaries indebted to them for their committed service, planning, and the vision for the future. Let us gratefully remember them and pray for the repose of their souls of all those who have gone to eternal reward. On this auspicious occasion I graciously place on record the CMI Marthoma Province Chanda for their presence in the mission and their continued support.

The 150th death anniversary of St. Chavara is a great event in our Church as he being a great soul of our Church and the founder of the first indigenous religious Congregation. He was an enthusiastic missionary with futuristic vision for our Church. The contribution of CMI missionaries all over the world are marvelous in the

evangelization, in the social apostolate, in formation, in health sector and very particularly in Education. May St. Chavara continue to inspire them to serve the Church and humanity in the spirit he envisioned.

A few imitable characteristic traits of St. Chavara for the missionaries today are: He was a man of prayer, He was a man of service, He was a man of vision, He was a man of zeal for souls, He greatly desired to renew the Church, He developed a family spirituality, He stood firm to regain the identity of our Church and He opted and worked hard for the down-trodden:

St. Chavara lived an exemplary prayer life. To deepen communion in prayer he popularized daily family prayer. Intending to anchor people to Eucharistic devotion he popularized 40 hours adoration in parishes. He served the Church with great vision for future. He had to face challenges even from his own superiors. On such occasions he stood firm to regain the identity of our Church. To uplift the down-trodden of the society he started *Pallikkoodams* (Schools attached to the Churches). He ordered to admit every children in the schools irrespective of caste, creed and economic family status. It was indeed a great revolution on those days. He organized *Pandibhojan* (common meal) for people of all caste and creed. Equality and fraternity of humanity was his great vision. He ceaselessly worked to realize it though he had to face opposition from different corners. However he stood firm on his vision. Thus he proved himself to be a noble son of the Church to work zealously to establish Kingdom values on earth. Let us intercede him to follow his example in our mission endeavours.

My dear Chanda Missionaries, needless to say St. Chavara is

an amazing example to follow in our missionary activities even today. His family spirituality, love for the poor and zeal for the Church need renewed interest in our ministry today. Family as the domestic Church has to be fortified in harmony and spiritual orientation. In the Year of Family Prayer - 2018 we could do something for the families. Home mission in the past four years was appreciated by many. It is an ongoing service and has to be continued with zeal and enthusiasm. So I request every missionary in the diocese to focus attention in these sectors and avail every opportunity to do our best.

As Christians, love for the poor is not an option but a mandate. Option for the poor is an axiom that holds good in all missionary endeavours of the Church, always and everywhere. A life in poverty and simplicity makes us better to serve the poor effectively. Jesus became poor to serve the down-trodden and marginalized. Activities during *Karuna Varsh* (The Year of Mercy - 2016) and during Pandemic, Covid 19 were great gestures of love-sharing experiences. We have to continue such activities relentlessly and become true witness of God's concern for the lowly and abandoned. I am sure that the heart-breaking scenes from aftermath Covid-19 lock down are still vivid in our minds the sufferings of the poor, slum dwellers, rag pickers, migrant workers etc. In this context may I insist what is important is our own life-style a sense of poverty in our own living amenities, conveyances, food habits etc. May the invitation of Jesus in the Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God" (Mt. 5:3), inspire us to live poor and for the poor!

A renewed interest in ministry is another message that we can draw from the life of St. Chavara. His availability, commitment

to the mission, spirit of sacrifice and planned vision with realistic goals assisted him to achieve the targets. In these areas we need to focus continuous attention so as to make our ministry efficacious and complacent. We are missionaries because we are called to be missionaries and we are sent as missionaries to accomplish a mission. We are duty-bound to realize it. As missionaries we 'exist' to accomplish our missionary task. Let us be sincere and serious about our mission and do all what is needful.

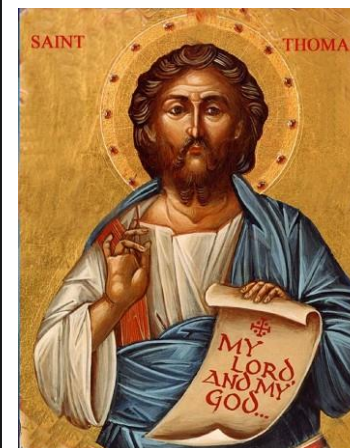
I wish to invite every missionary in Chanda to follow St. Chavara's example and re-dedicate ourselves to be genuine missionaries for our people and to the mission "entrusted" rather than to what we are "interested".

May God bless you all
Yours devotedly in Christ



Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



**Feastal Greetings of
Dukrana of St. Thomas, the
Apostle
&
Sabbadinam (Day of the Church).**

III. CIRCULARS**Circular 1/07 March 2020**

To,
The Parish Priests/Priests-in-charge
Heads of the Institutions
Diocese of Chanda

Sub: Corona Virus

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters,

Greetings from Bishop's Home, Ballarpur!

In the light of spread of Corona Virus (Covid 19), as we pray for the dead due to the virus and praying for those who are affected, may I suggest the following as a precaution to prevent further spread of it:

1. Encourage our people to receive Holy Communion in hand.
2. Keep holy water stoups at church entrances dry. Holy water should continue to be available for people to take home as required.
3. Good Friday veneration of cross may be restricted to bow, avoiding kissing.
4. Before distribution of Holy Communion the priest/minister could wash hands in a bowl of water/sanitizer.
5. Exchange the sign of peace with a bow and restrain from hand-shake, if that is the custom.
6. Take adequate care with regard to parish meetings, ward prayers, association gatherings etc.

In the context of this may I request everyone in the diocese to take adequate care in all our parishes/mission stations/institutions so as not to be infected by the virus. The civil authorities are doing their best to face the challenge. Please cooperate with it to combat this effectively. Christ who went around villages and towns doing good and healing the sick may bless and heal everyone (Mt. 14:14, 15:30, 19:2).

With regards and prayers
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



Ephrem Nariculam
† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Circular 2/14 March 2020

CORONA VIRUS (Covid-19)
(NO to Panic YES to Precaution)

Corona virus is spreading widely all over the world. It has already spread in more than 100 countries. The experts in health sector and the government say that there is no need of panic but should take necessary precautions. Simultaneously we will offer special prayers so that Jesus, the healer may touch every affected person and protect everyone from the epidemics of Corona virus. As precaution I suggest the following:

- i). Avoid non-essential travels and attendance of large gatherings to break the chain of spread of Corona virus.
- ii). Keep safe distance from affected persons and strangers.
- iii). Any symptoms or doubts, kindly get medical assistance as early as possible.
- iv). Wash hands as often as possible after touch of public surfaces like railings, door latches etc.,
- v). Follow the diocesan instructions circulated a week ago (Ref: Circular 1/07 March 2020)
- vi). Abide by directions given by the government, civil officials and health experts.
- vii). Do not forward unnecessary messages of Facebook, Whatsapp etc. unless otherwise, they are verified as 'directive and useful' with the help of health personnel.



With Good Wishes

Ephrem Nariculam
† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

N. B:- I exhort every missionary in the diocese not only to take safe precautions but also help our people to follow the same. Kindly announce these in the churches and institutions as health tips. It is prudent to avoid big gatherings to the best possible.

Circular 3/15 March 2020**Corona Virus (COVID - 19)**

What is important in protecting one from Corona virus is to increase our immunity. The medical practitioners propose the following:

1. Take in more fruits and vegetables.
2. Keep personal hygiene by clean wash particularly of hands as required.
3. Take-in natural anti-biotics, for example - Boil 5 segments of garlic for five minutes in fresh cow milk, after adding organic turmeric powder and natural honey, stir it and take-in for five days twice a day.
4. In-take Vitamin C: The following have rich content of Vitamin C - Gooseberry, Lemon, Orange, Papaya, Broccoli, Lettuce, Spinach etc.
5. It is highly recommended to consult a medical practitioner, even before trying the above suggestions, # 3 & 4.
6. Any symptoms of Corona virus like dry-cold, throat pain, cough, fever, shortness of breath etc, kindly consult a certified doctor immediately.
7. Quarantine those who visit us from distance or affected areas at least for 14 days before they mingle with others in the community/family.
8. Experts in medical practice strongly recommend that social distancing is the great remedial measure to curtail wide spread of this virus.



With Good Wishes

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Circular 4/18 March 2020**Corona Virus (COVID - 19)**

As we all know our government is taking all precautionary measures to avert the spread of pandemic of Corona Virus - Covid-19. I exhort everyone to co-operate sincerely with government orders and instructions of health personnel. It looks that in India the matter is not that alarming as in some other countries. It has shown no sign of abating as well. So, be optimistic and abide by all precautionary measures. **Hereby, I grant everyone in the diocese dispensation from Sunday obligation for the next two weeks (CCEO 1536 & 1538).** The three important "points" to keep in our minds are:

- i) Everywhere keep safe distance from one another. As a precaution quarantine those who travel from distance particularly from virus affected areas to our homes/communities.
- ii) Never touch mouth, eyes, nose one's own or others' without washing hands with soap or cleaning with sanitizers.
- iii) Avoid shake-hands, touching commonly used public surfaces in public transport, gadgets, utensils, cutleries in common places such as offices, places of worship etc.

Please continue praying in whatever means possible to safeguard the world from wild spread of this pandemic and for the repose of the souls who have been called to eternal rest due to it.



With Good Wishes

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

NB: kindly communicate this information to our people to the best possible. See that children below 15 and people above 60 do not attend Sunday service next two weeks. If others, if they come, make sure that they keep safe distance in the church and follow the instructions given above. Please note that the government has given clear directives with regard to the content of this circular. Exhort people to be away from all gatherings to the best possible. It is prudent to cancel St. Joseph's Day celebration these days.

Circular 5/23 March 2020**Prayer Day to Fight Against Corona Virus**

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear People,

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ!

The world is going through an alarming crisis due to Corona Virus - Covid-19. We will not lose heart but rely on God's protective hands. "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand" (Is. 41:10).

Pope Francis has dedicated **Wednesday 25 March 2020**, the feast of Annunciation, as a **World Day of Prayer against Corona Virus**. Let us join with the Pope and pray for the dead and the affected people, and to protect everyone in the world from this contagion. I request all Zonal conveners to arrange **chain adoration** in respective zones from 06.00 am to 07.00 pm on 25 March 2020. Every priest-in-charge and heads of institutions are requested to do needful to keep it a prayer day for the world - campaign against Covid-19. On the prayer day as Pope has invited us, we will recite 'Our Father' all together at noon (12.00) in every Church and institution in the diocese and offer our prayers for the world.

Once again may I remind everyone to co-operate with the instructions of civil authorities and government guidelines. In a special way let us remember all those who meet with any emergency to travel and need of medical assistance for other reasons. All missionaries are advised to take necessary precautions and to communicate it to the people to do so as required. Let us continue to pray for all personnel in health sector who assist the affected people and also in particular the medical scientists who are engaged in developing medicine and vaccine to this deadly virus. I also earnestly recommend all missionaries in healing ministry (Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacist, Lab Technicians etc.) to be ready for more services where and when it is required. Your 'techknowledge' is

highly appreciated and has become a dire need today. We will continue the Lenten practices like prayers, stations of the cross etc. and offer it as penance for campaign against Corona virus. Daily Holy Hour and the 'Litany to all Saints' until Easter are highly recommended to keep our spiritual communion with the Holy mother Church (Kindly see the 'All Saints Litany' attached herewith).

As everyone knows, due to this 'Covid-19' crisis, there is a practical lock down all over and people are not able to move around for work or shopping, even for daily necessities. Let us try to do whatever help (food-kit, mask, medicine etc.) to such families in our parish territory. If anybody wants any help in this regard, Priests-in-charge are expected to contact Fr. Jobin Ovelil, director LSSS. Kindly do what is needful to the deserving ones in our vicinity with utmost preventive precaution as required. I thank everyone for your genuine co-operation.



With Good Wishes

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

- Encl: 1. All Saints Litany.
2. Life history of St. Corona.

NB:- All Zonal conveners are requested to co-ordinate chain adoration in their zones in consultation with the priests-in-charge and heads of institutions within their respective zones. Please make sure that we avoid all common gatherings. Keep 11.30 am to 12.30 pm (on the World Prayer Day 25/03/2020) as common Holy Hour in all churches and institutions in the diocese.

Circular 6/03 April 2020

To,
Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and the Faithful
Diocese of Chanda

Sub: Paschal week celebrations in the wake of Corona Virus - Covid-19

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my beloved Faithful in the Lord Jesus,

Greetings in Christ's name to everyone!

I wish everyone a fruitful Paschal Week in spiritual communion. Hereby may I inform you that Paschal Week celebrations with people's participation stands cancelled due to national lockdown in the wake of alarming spread of Corona Virus - Covid-19. I unite with you in spirit and wish you greetings of Holy Easter. I exhort the faithful to participate devotedly in Holy Week celebrations from home in what is available in social media or mass media (kindly see the web-link LIVE of Ishwani television, Ujjain for Holy Week celebrations in Hindi and also from our Cathedral, besides those of Pope Francis and our Major Archbishop). Please follow strictly the guidelines and instructions given by the health departments, police and civil officials. It is for our good and the good of others and the people at large. It is a painful experience for our people that they are unable to be physically present in the churches for Paschal Week services. I request every priest in the diocese and the religious to keep praying for our people and take them also with you spiritually in the Holy Week services and in *Yamaprarthanakal*. During Paschal Week, I request everyone to pray for the repose of the souls of all who died due to Corona virus and to pray for the affected people in different parts of our country and the world. As I mentioned above please note that all Holy Week

services with people's participation stand cancelled that includes: Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday (it is highly recommended to conduct Easter service only in the morning hours on Sunday). No feet washing service or procession whatsoever should be conducted in any form. The rite of blessing of fire is to be cancelled and that of blessing water may be postponed to another occasion. Lakkadakot Calvarigiri pilgrimage stands cancelled. Family members may do Stations of the Cross at home (with only own family members) in whatever way possible. The custom of Passover meal may be conducted at each one's home as per prevailing customs. Make sure that nothing is done as a group with ward members. Keep social distancing in the best way possible and in a strict manner. When priests do Paschal Week services, please make sure that the number is limited as per government stipulations.

Hereby I grant dispensation to everyone in the diocese from 2020 Paschal Week obligation as well as Sunday obligation up to 15 April 2020 (CCEO, 1536 & 1538). I exhort everyone to follow the directives of the Major archbishop George Cardinal Alenchery as given in his circular (ref. Prot. No. 0392/2020) with regard to the celebration of Holy Week this year (see a copy attached herewith). As directed by Most Rev. Oswald Cardinal Gracias, CBCI President, by all means kindly postpone till the end of the present Corona crisis the conferring of the following sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, solemn Holy Communion and Marriage. Please follow his guidelines also with regard to Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the sick and Funerals, which was communicated to you a week ago (27.03.2020) - (see also a copy attached here with). These directives are given to the faithful in the eparchy of Chanda until Corona crisis ends and in accordance with

provisions given in the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO, 1510-1512).

Everyone is once again exhorted to make sure to help the needy in the neighbourhood. Some of us have already started doing a great deal. I sincerely thank them for the same. As we all know the following are in a vulnerable situation: the daily coolie workers, homeless & street dwellers, the health workers, the migrant workers, the security & police personnel, the civil officials etc. We must do the best to co-operate with them and help them in the best way possible. I am told that there is great co-operation from our part and number of our parishes and institutions have extended aid to the needy in our surroundings with required permission from civil officials or police. It is highly encouraging and laudable. Please continue it and help one another to do it still better.

The Muron Holy Qurbana (07 April) is postponed to Saturday, 01 August 2020. The priestly ordination scheduled on 29th April may be postponed for a later date and it shall be announced after having evaluated the developments in the present crisis. The Major Seminarians' gathering scheduled from 27th April to 9th May stands cancelled. The Minor Orders may be conferred on a later date or next year. Please note that the following stands cancelled:

- i) *Susamachar Ghoshana Varsh* seminar (Seminar on Preaching) on 14 & 15 April 2020.
- ii) The Youth Leadership Seminar scheduled on 30 April, 1 & 2 May 2020.



Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Circular 7/08 April 2020

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to all in the name of Lord Jesus Christ!

Even in this Covid-19 stricken situation, I wish to extend to you all a fruitful Triduum of Passion Week and a Happy Easter. We are preparing for Triduum and Easter in a different way. It is a painful experience for all of us to go through these days without common celebrations and not being in the church for community Liturgy. I wish and pray that may the Passion Week celebrations of 2020 be the first and the last of such manner. There are different news and views spread in social media - some are of submission to God's plan and others are of sarcasm. This is not the time neither to criticise nor to feel pity for others. One should also abstain from raising sarcasm or fun out of it. I suggest that it is a time to wake up and act - help one another to alleviate the pain and sufferings. **Stay at home, save oneself and others** must be our axiom during this period of agony and anxiety. We are called to build up a world of mutual love, respect and compassion. As what we are doing, let us continue to co-operate with police and abide by all government instructions to come out of this painful situation and make our world still better so as to live peacefully and in joy. In this context may I suggest the following for a meaningful celebration of Triduum and Easter.

- i) As one to one auricular confession has become almost impossible in this particular context, please guide our people and communities to a perfect contrition by any means while observing restrictions imposed. For instance prepare a penitential prayer service and circulate among our people (please see a model enclosed herewith). Please instruct them that by all means one should go for auricular confession at the next earliest convenience and guide them also for spiritual communion as they participate in Passion Week Liturgy in social/mass media.
- ii) As one community with the spirit of joy of Easter we will pray together for the world on Easter Sunday 12 April at 12.00 noon. It may be good to do it in the format as given attached herewith (please feel free to adapt it).
- iii) All the secretaries of the registered Societies/Trusts in the diocese are requested to submit to the Ministry of Home Affairs

regarding Covid-19 response of the Society/Trust online in *Covid-19 Response Format*. (<https://fcraonline.nic.in>) (Please see the letter attached herewith for details). All are requested to give relevant information to their respective society secretaries so as to do needful as per government directives.

- iv) In the religious and formation houses particularly where there are more than five residing together, may I request you to keep safe distance when you come together for prayers or gathering within the house itself.
- v) If the lockdown will be extended beyond 14 April, the dispensation from Sunday Qurbana obligation also will be granted accordingly until the Covid-19 crisis ceases.
- vi) The dispensations granted by the Church these days are to cope with this critical situation. Please make our people understand it rightly and use it accordingly. Everyone is exhorted to explain these matters very clearly to the people.

I am happy to inform you that Fr. Ajish Kumpukkal who had some symptoms of Corona Virus - Covid-19, is recovering and showing great improvement in his health. We will continue to pray for him. All other missionaries connected to Chanda are keeping fine. May I request everyone to continue to pray for the world and avail the time of lockdown usefully and fruitfully. Happy Easter to everyone.

Yours devotedly in Jesus Christ



Ephrem Nariculam

Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

- Encl: i). Model penitential prayer service
ii). Prayer for the World
iii). FCRA letter regarding online submission for Covid-19 Response.
iv). Circular of CBCI President Most. Rev. Oswald Cardinal Gracias.

Circular 8/12 May 2020

To

All Missionaries in Chanda Diocese

Sub: Special Prayer Days (May 14 & May 31) and a practical COVID-19 VACCINE, regarding

Dear Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters,

Greetings from Bishop's Home, Balharshah!

I hope everyone is in good cheer though in lockdown for quite sometime. Let us raise our hearts in gratitude to God, for we are not affected much within the territory of the diocese as the number of Covid-19 contracted persons or affected persons are very few. Once again I thank you all for amazing service you are rendering to the people who are suffering in different ways from this pandemic. I have the list of activities in the office with regard to our involvement in charitable acts in this crisis situation. It is marvellous and indeed a great Christian witness. The creative online programmes and spiritual empowerment programmes are also greatly appreciated. All these show that we are fruitfully utilizing our time. Please accept my token of personal appreciation to you all. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I wish to bring to everyone's attention to two important prayer days in common as directed by Pope Francis and United Christian Prayer for India (UCPI).

- (i) Pope Francis invites us to **observe Thursday 14th May as a day of prayer**, fasting and works of Charity to implore God to help humanity to overcome the Corona Virus Pandemic. An interfaith/ecumenical/special adoration is to be conducted keeping the Government restrictions in mind with regard to gatherings of people. Live-streaming of the same may be done wherever possible. Please do it at convenient time during the day.
- (ii) On the feast of Pentacost **May 31st**, the **United Christian Prayer for India** (UCPI) has given a call for all Christians to prayer unitedly **at 12.00** noon for this intention. Once again I request everyone to keep strictly

the lockdown restrictions.

Due to lockdown we had stopped/restricted the administration of the sacraments to our people. We will have to start an exit-plan gradually. As I receive guidance from our Major archbishop or CBCI I shall let you know the details. As lockdown is expected to be eased in a week or two, I hope things will change accordingly. Let us hope for good. Meantime we shall be united in prayer and support one another to be strengthened to come out of this crisis as early as possible. Please continue to pray for the dead due to this pandemic and help the needy in the best way possible.

Please take this '**COVID-19 VACCINE**' for our good and the good of all in the world. Many nations in the world are moving towards 'to learn to live with Covid-19' seems to be the trend after many days of lockdown. The Government of India also is gradually preparing for the same. So let us learn how to live with it to prevent it with precaution. The following are the suggestions/proposals of the experts in the medical field and research:

- 1) Avoid unnecessary travels (by flight, train and other vehicles) including leisure-walk - stay at home and be safe.
- 2) Take precautions when you spit, sneeze, cough etc. use towels, napkins, tissues, - make sure that no drop-lets splash/spread in the air - take care and make care.
- 3) Make hand wash and use sanitizers more often than before - 'be clean and touch clean'.
- 4) Steam inhalation and saline water gargling many times a day at least three times each, a day.
- 5) Increase body immunity by:
 - Vitamin C intakes (Lemon, more vegetables, leaves, fruits etc.)
 - Drink warm ginger-pepper water only.
 - Intake natural turmeric with milk/water.
- 6) Avoid cold food intake cold water, ice-cream, frozen food items etc.
- 7) Keep away from junk food, soft drinks and hot drinks (liquor) habits.

- 8) Say no to toxic drinks like coffee, tea etc. or minimize it.
- 9) To the best possible take away from our food the meat items particularly red-meat and if at all taking it, intake limited quantity and properly cooked. Veg food is highly recommended.
- 10) Avoid/minimize fried food items.
- 11) Keep away from crowd and celebrations unless it is absolutely necessary and keep safe distance from others anywhere and everywhere particularly from those who have cough and cold.
- 12) Sanitize our residence, office, vehicles etc. When and where required and take more caution regarding the use of slippers, shoes, watch, ring, bracelets, belt, neck chain etc.

BOOST IMMUNITY BY NATURAL FOOD HABITS

FIGHT/PREVENT COVID-19

&

BE HEALTHY AND HAPPY

God bless everyone



Ephrem Nariculum
 † **Ephrem Nariculum**
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

AUGUST 15

**Happy Feast of
Assumption of our Blessed
Mother Mary**

**Happy
Independence Day
&
Chanda Establishment Day**



Circular 9/(15 June 2020)

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from Bishop's Home, Ballarpur!

Lockdown due to pandemic Covid-19 still continues though there is some concession and life is gradually moving to normal at least in some parts of our country. Let us be aware that we are not yet out of danger. So, please continue the Government restrictions imposed on our life in the society and social relationships. Now it is almost certain that we have to live with Covid-19 even if a vaccine is invented. In this context four important points that we have to keep in mind are: a) Safe social distancing, b) Personal hygiene, c) Gear up our immunity power, d) Additional care and safety for the aged, sick and children. Now, that we have adequate materials available with regard to the above points that I have mentioned. Please strictly follow them and be safe and healthy!

Few concerns that we are facing these days are:

- i). The first of which is the people who are suffering in different ways due to this pandemic. From the report I received from different centres of our diocese is that we have done our best to help the affected people. By May 13 we have spent almost 75 lakhs in helping out people in our diocese. It is great. Still we continue helping the people. I thank you for the same. we have helped people in the villages, the slum dwellers, the beggars and the homeless, the migrant workers, the bed-ridden and the sick people, the auto drivers, the job-less coolie workers, the transgenders, our institution employees etc. etc. We have done it irrespective of caste, creed and ethnic differences. Hearty congratulations to everyone. God may reward your good deeds.
- ii). Our schools are stand-still for the past two and half months. We have slowly started some activities. Regular running of the schools will take another few months. Our Board of Education under the auspices of CBCI, Synod of Bishops, Western Region Bishops' Education Forum along with governmental instructions are coordinating school activities and online classes. Kindly follow the instructions of the Government, Department of Education and Board of Education and do all what is needful to do our best for the students and employees.

- iii). With regard to our social apostolate and ministry to the sick, we are continuing it with sincere efforts. Our regular social apostolate has been pending due to lockdown and Covid-19 relief activities. We hope to resume it once the social life become regular. The hospital ministry is continued without fail, but with more precautions and care. I gratefully appreciate the courage and commitment of the missionaries in the health sector.
- iv). Opening our churches for worship and prayer is another challenge we are facing today. It may take another few weeks in Maharashtra to open churches for worship and prayer. I suggest that let us wait patiently. Meantime, I wish if you could slowly start pastoral care while keeping Government restrictions strictly and sincerely. I propose to start the following prudently and diligently: visiting families and villages, counselling where required, catechizing, sacrament of confession where it is urgently needed etc. I repeat, these should be done with all respect to the prevailing Government restrictions. What is important is to keep contact with our people and provide them pastoral care and spiritual support through whatever means available and permitted. For further clarification, please contact me or Fr. Varghese Puthuparampil CMI.
- v). The latest news connected to pandemic Covid-19 is that it is going to be more severe in the coming months - during monsoon. I request everyone to take double care about it for one's own safety and of all others particularly who are entrusted to our care. Avoid all travels unless it is very urgent and unavoidable. Adequate care should also be taken when you go out in the vicinity for shopping or for any purpose. In this context I also wish to warn everyone of a possible 'famine' in the months ahead. Please be prudently generous to help others in need and be sparingly cautious meeting with our daily needs. We are going to be in a situation for the next few months to manage with meagre income. Consequently we need to restrain in our expenditures so as to meet with the probable crisis ahead. Let us be hopeful that the things will turn good in the course of time. For, God who takes care of the birds in the air and clothes the lilies and grass of the fields (cf. Mt. 6:26-29) is our firm hope and rocky foundation

of our faith!

I hope these few lines give you some guidance - how to go about in this situation when lockdown is somewhat eased. Please be careful to be safe and healthy of oneself and others!

Some of the rescheduled programmes in the wake of pandemic Covid-19 and ensuing lockdown are the following:

1. The Vestition of the diocesan seminarians were held in private on 11 June and the Minor Order is scheduled on 20 June. No invitees expected.
2. The priestly ordinations are re-scheduled for Saturday 26 September. It is going to be held at Allapalli as scheduled. If, by then Covid-19 situation continues to prevail, by all means it will be held on the scheduled day but in the Cathedral, Ballarpur, in private with limited number of invitees as per Government directions.
3. All Bishop's Pastoral Visits scheduled for 2020 are hereby stand cancelled.
4. Muron Holy Qurbana/Chrism Mass is scheduled for Saturday 1 August at Cathedral. By then situation does not improve it will be done in private.
5. The Missionary Conference scheduled on Saturday 12 September will be done as scheduled depending up on the prevailing situation.
6. Chanda Family Day scheduled on Saturday 10 October will be restricted only to priests and religious if the situation does not improve.
7. The Annual Retreat for priests (Oct 26-31) may be done as scheduled.

These are few updates in the wake of lockdown concessions. There can be changes depending up on the prevailing situation. In such case it shall be communicated to you well in advance. Wishing you all very pleasant days ahead,

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



† Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Prot. No. 110/2020

Date: 18 April 2020

To
All Missionaries
Diocese of Chanda

Dear Missionaries,

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus Christ!

To some extent the lockdown has 'shut down' our contacts. Social media still enriches our contacts, information and entertainments. Thank God for the contribution of the social media that helps us to be not 'bored' and keeping abreast of news as well as giving us some 'relaxation' indoor.

Corona Virus - Covid-19 is going ahead in its destructive march and let us empathise with all affected people in the world - pray for the dead, their family members and others who are facing mental strains and frustrations. The news from some parts of the world are frightening and some parts of Maharashtra are also not very encouraging! Let us continue to pray for God's mercy on the world. It is happy news for all of us that our diocese is in green zone - until now no Corona case is reported within the territory of our diocese. Let us thank God for the same. However we are expected to observe strictly restrictions laid on us by lockdown for the benefit of all. We resolve to follow seriously, sincerely and strictly the directives given by the Government, health workers and local administration and please do exhort our people to abide by it as well. May I inform you that Fr. Ajish Kumpukkal who was hit by Covid-19 is now out of it and resumed his daily schedule. To the best of the information reaches me, all Chanda missionaries are safe from Corona Virus is again a glad news for all of us. Praise be to God!

I am happy to inform that number of us personally as well as in the name of institutions are helping out affected people in different ways. It includes distribution of prepared food, family food kits, medicine, masks, sanitizers, medical assistance etc. It is greatly appreciated. We will continue doing it but with adequate precaution, strictly observing the guidelines tendered by the local administrative bodies. Many of us are also doing daily special

prayers, chain adoration even full day adoration to pray for the world. It is a great gesture of our own faith and our sympathy for the people. It certainly gives our people beautiful example of love and compassion for them when they need it badly. I wholeheartedly thank you for all these good gestures. They are great Christian witness in this special context of human sufferings. May God reward you for the same.

Lockdown is a great time for retreating and refreshing! I am inclined to recall some of the action plans and resolutions of *Susamachar Ghoshana Varsh 2020* - Reading a book on homelitics, listening to a talk of world renowned speakers or spiritual writers etc. (cfr. *Chanda Samachar*, XLII, No. 6, Nov-Dec. 2019, pp 10, 23-24). It is good to turn those pages once again to avail the time usefully and fruitfully. There was a news from Kerala that a family dug a well during these days of lockdown. All members of the family contributed to it and it was a success story - they have now water in the campus. Number of families turned to cultivation in the campus. People's imagination started working still better these days - lots of innovative ideas are springing up and they help one another for information, empowerment and entertainment. They are being shared in Whatsapp, Facebook, TikTok etc. In tune with the same a few missionaries from Chanda also have aired their views in different forms. I wish to thank them for their video recorded messages, engaging children by games and riddles, enriching online quiz for school students and making parishioners creative and reflective by different activities. Needless to say they are very helpful and relaxing for them as they are in lockdown. There is no doubt a lot more can be done. I exhort the school principals to give guidance to the parents and chalk out plans and share among yourselves how to go about once the lockdown is done with. Board of Education and CSA can coordinate it. It is said, due to lockdown the family/community relationships are fortified and made more cordial these days. These will certainly make our life better for future.

The harsh reality of the pain of doing away with community liturgy celebrations hurt us greatly. In particular the cancellation of Pesaha Week celebrations was a hard experience for all of us. The social

media found a substitute of live streaming and it was needless to say a great consolation. We need to be watchful that they are Church's response to an inevitable situation and not sliding to ordinariness of life. Let us hope and pray that everything will be on track again in the course of time.

Ten 'take away' from "Covid-19 Lockdown Experience" seems to be the following:

1. Learn to live in tune with nature - **'a love nature culture'**.
2. Learn a life in **'family harmony'**.
3. Learn to keep our **surroundings clean**.
4. Learn to develop **personal hygiene** - washing hands, sneezing with caution, restraining from reckless spitting etc.
5. Learn a better **personal and family/house budgeting**.
6. Learn to help one another in need - **neighbourhood harmony**.
7. Learn to make and enjoy **clean air**.
8. Learn to **use leisure** (lockdown) **creatively, fruitfully and usefully**.
9. Learn to **thank more, the creator** for the blessings.
10. Learn to **develop imagination** - power of thinking and creativity.

As lockdown is extended until May 3 our Sunday Qurbana obligation is also dispensed with for the next three weeks. Wherever possible, it is highly recommended to do live-streaming of Sunday Qurbana on social media. We shall be united with our people in liturgical celebrations and pray for them to remain 'ignited' in their faith even in this situation of agony. Let us continue to awaken our spirit to be genuine missionaries tuning to Christ, to think with Church and for the Church, to serve the humanity. I wish you all for the rest - fruitful lockdown days. God bless you.

Yours devotedly in the risen Lord



Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

IV. BISHOP'S DIARY**MARCH**

- 01 - Offered office of the dead for Mrs. Agnes Peter, Former SVG Hindi teacher at Cathedral cemetery, Ballarpur.
- 02 - Offered Holy Qurbana at Cathedral parish. CMC candidates came to Bishop's Home to meet with the bishop.
- 3-4 - Animated quinquennial meet of Diocesan priests at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur.
- 07 - Gave message at Health workers meet at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur. Bishop met with Mr. Bosco, the auditor along with the Diocesan Finance Department to discuss different matters in the wake of enactment of new stipulations with regards to FCRA, 12 A Registration etc.
- 09 - Went to Ujjain seminary.
- 10 - Visited Bp. Sebastian Vadakkal at Ujjain Bishop's House and offered Holy Qurbana at DST Provincial House, Ujjain.
- 11 - Offered Holy Qurbana at Ruhalya seminary, Ujjain and met with our brothers Naveen and Algin. Later bishop visited Bp. Chacko Thottumarickal SVD of Indore diocese and visited SVD institutions in Indore.
- 12 - Met with Sr. Princy FCC, Provincial Superior of FCC Amala Province at Provincial House, Bhopal. Bishop met with Archbishop Leo Cornelio of Bhopal and visited Krith Premalaya Regional Philosophate, Bhopal.
- 13 - Returned after Ujjain - Indore - Bhopal visit.
- 14 - Inaugurated Zonal Women's Seminar in connection with Women's Day organized by Diocesan Women's Desk at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur.
- 16 - Sr. Lilly Joseph DW, the Provincial Superior of Daughters of Wisdom met with bishop at Bishop's Home, Ballarpur.
- 17 - Fr. Jose Parayil CFIC, the Provincial Superior of CFIC Congregation met with bishop at Bishop's Home, Ballarpur.

APRIL

- 09-12 - Officiated Passion Week services at Cathedral parish, live-streaming online.
- 15 - Inaugurated Hindi Language Course at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur.

MAY

- 09 - Inaugurated Oraon Language Course at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur.
- 21 - Participated web conference of Syro-Malabar Bishops.
- 23 - Inaugurated English Language Course for seminarians at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur.
- 25 - Attended webinar of Syro-Malabar Youth commission with global and national leaders.
- 29 - Attended webinar of Youth Commission with global and national-diocesan youth directors.

JUNE

- 01-09 - Visited all our mission stations and institutions in Chandrapur district.
- 08 - Participated google-meet of Western Region Bishops' Council Education Forum.
- 09 - Offered Holy Qurbana with Major Seminarians at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur in connection with his Patron's Day.
- 11 - Blessed the Clerical habit (Vestition) of the Diocesan Seminarians.
- 20 - Conferred Minor Orders to the Diocesan Seminarians at Cathedral, Ballarpur.
- 21 - Inaugurated Nagbir Mission. Celebrated Holy Qurbana in SABS Convent Chapel. St. Paul is declared the patron saint of the mission.
- 24 - DM Provincial Sr. Flower Maria DM visited bishop in the Bishop's Home.
- 25 - The newly constructed convent of SD Sisters attached to Ashadham Hospital was blessed by the Bishop.

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 54th WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY**

**“That you may tell your children and
Grandchildren” (Ex 10:2). Life becomes history**

I would like to devote this year's Message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.

1. Weaving stories

Human beings are storytellers. From childhood we hunger for stories just as we hunger for food. Stories influence our lives, whether in the form of fairy tales, novels, films, songs, news, even if we do not always realize it. Often we decide what is right or wrong based on characters and stories we have made our own. Stories leave their mark on us; they shape our convictions and our behaviour. They can help us understand and communicate who we are.

We are not just the only beings who need clothing to cover our vulnerability (cf. *Gen* 3: 21); we are also the only ones who need to be “clothed” with stories to protect our lives. We weave not only clothing, but also stories: indeed, the human capacity to “weave” (Latin *texere*) gives us not only the word *textile* but also *text*. The stories of different ages all have a common “loom”: the thread of their narrative involves “heroes”, including everyday heroes, who in following a dream confront difficult situations and combat evil, driven by a force that makes them courageous, the force of love. By immersing ourselves in stories, we can find reasons to heroically face the challenges of life.

Human beings are storytellers because we are engaged in a process of constant growth, discovering ourselves and becoming enriched in the tapestry of the days of our life. Yet since the very beginning, our

story has been threatened: evil snakes its way through history.

2. Not all stories are good stories

“When you eat of it ... you will be like God” (cf. *Gen* 3:4): the temptation of the serpent introduces into the fabric of history a knot difficult to undo. “If you possess, you will become, you will achieve...” This is the message whispered by those who even today use storytelling for purposes of exploitation. How many stories serve to lull us, convincing us that to be happy we continually need to gain, possess and consume. We may not even realize how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming. Often on communication platforms, instead of constructive stories which serve to strengthen social ties and the cultural fabric, we find destructive and provocative stories that wear down and break the fragile threads binding us together as a society. By patching together bits of unverified information, repeating banal and deceptively persuasive arguments, sending strident and hateful messages, we do not help to weave human history, but instead strip others of their dignity.

But whereas the stories employed for exploitation and power have a short lifespan, a good story can transcend the confines of space and time. Centuries later, it remains timely, for it nourishes life.

In an age when falsification is increasingly sophisticated, reaching exponential levels (as in *deepfake*), we need wisdom to be able to welcome and create beautiful, true and good stories. We need courage to reject false and evil stories. We need patience and discernment to rediscover stories that help us not to lose the thread amid today's many troubles. We need stories that reveal who we truly are, also in the untold heroism of everyday life.

3. The Story of stories

Sacred Scripture is a *Story of stories*. How many events, peoples and individuals it sets before us! It shows us from the very beginning a God who is both creator and narrator. Indeed, God speaks his word and things come into existence (cf. *Gen* 1). As narrator, God calls things into life, culminating in the creation of man and woman as his free dialogue partners, who make history alongside him. In one of the Psalms, the creature tells the creator: “For you formed my inward parts; you *knitted me together* in my mother's womb. I praise you, for

I am fearfully and *wonderfully* made ... My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth” (139:13-15). We are not born complete, but need to be constantly “woven”, “knitted together”. Life is given to us as an invitation to continue to weave the “wonderful” mystery that we are.

The Bible is thus the great love story between God and humanity. At its centre stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God. Henceforth, in every generation, men and women are called to *recount and commit to memory* the most significant episodes of this *Story of stories*, those that best communicate its meaning.

The title of this year's Message is drawn from the Book of Exodus, a primordial biblical story in which God intervenes in the history of his people. When the enslaved children of Israel cry out to Him, God listens and remembers: “God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel and God knew” (*Ex* 2: 24-25). God's memory brings liberation from oppression through a series of signs and wonders. The Lord then reveals to Moses the meaning of all these signs: “that you may tell in the hearing of your children and grandchildren... what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord” (*Ex* 10:2). The Exodus experience teaches us that knowledge of the Lord is handed down from generation to generation mainly by telling the story of how he continues to make himself present. The God of life communicates with us through the story of life.

Jesus spoke of God not with abstract concepts, but with parables, brief stories taken from everyday life. At this point life becomes story and then, for the listener, story becomes life: the story becomes part of the life of those who listen to it, and it changes them.

The Gospels are also stories, and not by chance. While they tell us about Jesus, they are “performative”^[1]; they conform us to Jesus. The Gospel asks the reader to share in the same faith in order to share in the same life. The Gospel of John tells us that the quintessential storyteller the Word himself becomes the story: “God's only Son, who is at the Father's side, has *made him known*” (*Jn* 1: 18). The original verb, *exegésato*, can be translated both as “revealed” and “recounted”. God has become personally woven into our humanity, and so has given us a new way of weaving our stories.

4. An ever renewed story

The history of Christ is not a legacy from the past; it is our story, and always timely. It shows us that God was so deeply concerned for mankind, for our flesh and our history, to the point that he became man, flesh and history. It also tells us that no human stories are insignificant or paltry. Since God became story, every human story is, in a certain sense, a divine story. In the history of every person, the Father sees again the story of his Son who came down to earth. Every human story has an irrepressible dignity. Consequently, humanity deserves stories that are worthy of it, worthy of that dizzying and fascinating height to which Jesus elevated it.

“You” Saint Paul wrote “are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 *Cor* 3:3). The Holy Spirit, the love of God, writes within us. And as he writes within us, he establishes goodness in us and constantly reminds us of it. Indeed, to “re-mind” means to bring to mind, to “write” on the heart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, every story, even the most forgotten one, even the one that seems to be written with the most crooked lines, can become inspired, can be reborn as a masterpiece, and become an appendix to the Gospel. Like the *Confessions* of Augustine. Like *A Pilgrim's Journey* of Ignatius. Like *The Story of a Soul* of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Like *The Betrothed*, like *The Brothers Karamazov*. Like countless other stories, which have admirably scripted the encounter between God's freedom and that of man. Each of us knows different stories that have the fragrance of the Gospel, that have borne witness to the Love that transforms life. These stories cry out to be shared, recounted and brought to life in every age, in every language, in every medium.

5. A story that renews us

Our own story becomes part of every great story. As we read the Scriptures, the stories of the saints, and also those texts that have shed light on the human heart and its beauty, the Holy Spirit is free to write in our hearts, reviving our memory of what we are in God's eyes. When we remember the love that created and saved us, when we make love a part of our daily stories, when we weave the tapestry of our days with mercy, we are turning another page. We no longer remain tied to regrets and sadness, bound to an unhealthy memory

that burdens our hearts; rather, by opening ourselves to others, we open ourselves to the same vision of the great storyteller. Telling God our story is never useless: even if the record of events remains the same, the meaning and perspective are always changing. To tell our story to the Lord is to enter into his gaze of compassionate love for us and for others. We can recount to him the stories we live, bringing to him the people and the situations that fill our lives. With him we can re-weave the fabric of life, darning its rips and tears. How much we, all of us, need to do exactly this!

With the gaze of the great storyteller the only one who has the ultimate point of view we can then approach the other characters, our brothers and sisters, who are with us as actors in today's story. For no one is an extra on the world stage, and everyone's story is open to possible change. Even when we tell of evil, we can learn to leave room for redemption; in the midst of evil, we can also recognize the working of goodness and give it space.

So it is not a matter of simply telling stories as such, or of advertising ourselves, but rather of remembering who and what we are in God's eyes, bearing witness to what the Spirit writes in our hearts and revealing to everyone that his or her story contains marvellous things. In order to do this, let us entrust ourselves to a woman who knit together in her womb the humanity of God and, the Gospel tells us, wove together the events of her life. For the Virgin Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (Lk 2: 19). Let us ask for help from her, who knew how to untie the knots of life with the gentle strength of love:

O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

Franciscus



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

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Cardinal Oswald Gracias
President

March 27, 2020

To
All the Bishops of India

Sub: Coronavirus

Your Eminence, Your Beatitude, Your Grace, Your Lordship, Exactly a week ago I had sent you an advisory about the Coronavirus pandemic. There have been many developments since then, with everyday bringing more alarming news about the spread of the pandemic: in India and in the world. As of today there are 724 cases in India with 17 deaths. The Prime Minister has called for a pan-Indian lockdown. Studying the Situation in other parts of the world, it is evident that this was necessary and our Government has acted with promptness.

I have fully supported the Prime Ministers appeal both in messages to my priests and in the national media. I would encourage you to do the same and educate our people of the very serious danger for all of us if we do not observe a self-imposed quarantine.

The poor are always those who suffer the most, both the rural poor and the urban poor, We must see how we can help them with the assistance if possible, of our lay associations. Meetings are not possible, but through telephonic contacts this can be organised. If you are carrying out such emergency assistance, please make sure that the Police know about it,

The purpose of this letter is to connect with you especially as each of us is in our own Bishop's House feeling a bit isolated. How do we give pastoral care to our people? Some directives have come from Rome regarding the Holy Week Services and Plenary Indulgences. I will get back to you if there are further clarifications.

Every Bishop may give instructions adapted to local needs. I thought that it might be helpful for you to know what I have directed for the Archdiocese of Bombay.

Baptisms, Confirmations, First Communions and Marriages are all postponed til! the end of this crisis. But there are some urgent situations and emergencies:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation: In the present Situation it is not advisable to hear individual confessions. I think the conditions given in Canon 961 #2 for General Absolution are fulfilled for those suffering from the Coronavirus infection. However, it will not be possible to get them together for an Absolution without individual confession. Hence catechize the people about the necessity and adequacy of perfect contrition for the forgiveness of sins. (see below) This is Catholic Doctrine.
- Anointing of the Sick: If you get a sick-call in case of danger of death, please avoid any physical contact with the patient. Physical contact is extremely dangerous in cases of Coronavirus infection. So no anointing with the Oil of the Sick. Lead the patient to have perfect contrition. If he/she is able to, encourage him/her to recall offences against God. Speak of God's goodness, love and mercy and motivate the patient to feel sorrow for sins. Then you may verbalise a prayer asking for God's forgiveness. The patient could join you interiorly or repeat it after you if he/she is strong enough to do so.

- Funerals: There is to be no public Requiem Mass. The body may be taken directly to the burial ground, where all the Funeral Prayers can be said before the burial. Keep the number of mourners to the minimum. Please keep the Police informed of the Funeral. In case of death due to a suspected Corona virus infection, avoid any physical contact with the body. Assure the family that once the crisis is over, we will have a proper Requiem Mass in the Church.

The Holy Father had a common recitation of the Our Father on Wednesday. This evening the Holy Father will be conducting a Prayer Service at 10:30 p.m. (IST) after which he will impart a Plenary Indulgence and give a message Urbi et Orbi. We can participate in this. The Apostolic Nuncio has sent a Circular yesterday about this. I am proposing that the coming Fridays in Lent, we observe as special days of Fasting and Prayer for the control of the Corona virus pandemic. Our priests, religious and lay faithful could join us in this intense campaign of prayer and penance.

The season of Lent is an invitation to us to come back to the Lord. The present crisis is also a compelling message from the Lord to turn to him. All of us are united in prayer. We are confident that with the blessings of God and the united efforts of all, we will overcome all difficulties. We turn to Mary our Mother to especially intercede for us in this moment of pain and anxiety.

With kind regards and wishing you a grace-filled continuation of the Lenten season,

Yours fraternally in Christ,

Oswald Cardinal Gracias

Archbishop of Bombay & President, Catholic Bishops Conference of India



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Cardinal Oswald Gracias

President

April 7, 2020

Your Eminence, Your Beatitude, Your Grace, Your Lordship,

We have entered into the most sacred week of the liturgical year. Because of the Corona virus pandemic there is a different type of solemnity in the Holy Week 2020 celebrations: more private and more personal but due to the compelling circumstances also a more intimate and a deeper insertion into the Pascal Mystery.

The spread of the Corona virus in India seems limited presently, but there is a real fear that the Situation may become very much worse. The Government is making preparations for such an eventuality. I am confident that all of us are encouraging our people to follow strictly the Government directives: a careful observance of the lockdown and a frequent washing of hands with soap and water. The experts of the World Health Organisation (WHO) insist that this is the only way to control the spread.

1. As I mentioned before, we have been in contact with the Government (Prime Ministers Office) with regard to the Church's cooperation in combatting the crisis. Once the immediate concern about migrant workers is attended to, we need to prepare ourselves for a medical emergency. The District Administration will coordinate these efforts; we are advised to keep in touch with these officials already now. Caritas India and CHAI have been proactive and are doing exceptional work. Yesterday I sent some suggestions/recommendations to the Government to improve the efficacy of our collaboration.

2. At this moment of crisis all of us must assist our Government

to face this unprecedented threat. Please get your Diocesan Social Service Office to stay in touch with Caritas India so that our efforts are coordinated. The Home Ministry has sent a form to inquire how much we are contributing to this effort. This has been sent to all FCRA connected Trusts. Compute the amount you may have to spend on this Coronavirus assistance and put this figure in the column meant for it. Do consult your auditor on how to fill the form. Please do this urgently.

3. Some Bishops have asked about the desire of people for Confession. We must distinguish between three types of cases: devotional confession, confession in great need, and confession in danger of death. As Rome has reminded us, Catholic Doctrine teaches that the forgiveness of sins is obtained through a perfect contrition. You might want to prepare a one-page handout (sort of prayer Service) which would guide our people to make a perfect contrition at home itself.
4. At this critical moment our most powerful weapon is prayer. We are called to turn to God at this moment of danger and also lead our people to do so. In consultation with Cardinal Alencherry, Cardinal Cleemis and Archbishop Felipe Neri, I am inviting all our Bishops to pray unitedly to God for this need as we conclude the Pascal Triduum on Easter Sunday. I suggest we all do this at the same time, at 12 Noon on Sunday April 12, 2020. Please encourage your people also to do so at the same time or later in the day. To assist us, I am enclosing a suggested prayer Service which you could use. Please feel free to modify it.

Wishing you a grace-filled Pascal Triduum and a hope-filled Easter Feast,

Yours fraternally in Christ,

Oswald Cardinal Gracias

Archbishop of Bombay President, Catholic Bishops Conference of India



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

C.B.C.I. Centre, 1 Ashok Place, Near Gole Dakkhana, New Delhi-110 001. India, Tel: +91 11 2334 4470

Cardinal Oswald Gracias

President

April 18, 2020

Your Eminence, Your Beatitude, Your Grace, Your Lordship,

I wish you a happy and grace-filled Easter Season. We have had a different type of liturgical celebrations for Easter this year, an experience none of us will ever forget. However, I know that it has been a deeply spiritual experience for each one of us. I thank you for getting your people to join in as we the Bishops of India prayed unitedly on Easter Sunday for our country entrusting it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the intercession of Our Lady. We trust in God to deliver us from the ravages of a national disaster, which we could find difficult to handle.

Many Bishops have been live Streaming the liturgical services of the Sacred Triduum. This has received very positive response. I thought we could expand our digital apostolate through some online faith formation, bible study talks, etc. This might be the start of a new apostolate.

The Church's relief efforts are going on unabatedly. Caritas India is coordinating the relief work specially for the migrant workers and daily labourers. We have set up 130 community kitchens and have reached out to over 5 crore people, jointly with the religious. The Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) is coordinating the medical response. They are preparing personnel and institutions. Some of our institutions have been chosen for treatment and some for quarantining

contacts of patients. We have over 3500 institutions small and big available, Fr. Matthew Abraham CSsR, the Director General of CHAI is coordinating this.

I urge you to coordinate all local efforts with the district administration and keep Caritas India informed. This is a national emergency and all of us need to help to the extent possible. I his year's collection for Caritas will go for this. Caritas is already spending much of its resources. so donations are needed. Fr. Paul Moonjely, the Director of Caritas India will send us a Circular early next week asking for donations. Please be generous and include this amount also as your contribution to Covid-19 relief efforts when filling reports with the Government.

The Holy Father has directed the Dicastery of Integral Human Development to set up a fund to help the poorer countries in Asia and Africa for Covid-19 relief work, but their resources are very limited, In these difficult moments we are deeply united in prayer. Our Easter peace is not diminished!

With affectionate regards and best wishes, I remain

Yours fraternally in Christ.

Oswald Cardinal Gracias

Archbishop of Bombay President,

Catholic Bishops Conference of India

FASTING

Two Fasting in preparation for two important feasts are round the corner. Fifteen days fasting for the feast of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (August 1-15) and Eight days fast for the feast of Nativity of Blessed Mother (September 1-8). Let the intercession of Mother Mary be with us always.

George Cardinal Alenchery
Major Archbishop
Syro-Malabar Church



Prot. No. 0714/2020

PASTORAL LETTER ON *SABHADINAM*-2020

George Cardinal Alenchery, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church. May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Feast of *Dukrana* of St. Thomas on July 3rd is fast approaching. We celebrate the feast of *Dukrana* as the *Sabhadinam* (Day of the Church) too. This is also the feast of the proclamation of faith by the Apostle. It was through his preaching that we received the faith and he became, thus, the father of our faith. The words of St. Thomas after seeing the wounds on the body of the risen Jesus, "My Lord and My God", is the boldest proclamation of faith in the Gospels. Both addresses, 'my Lord' and 'my God', indicate the divinity of Jesus. What he did was to proclaim Jesus who was born, died and risen as a human being is also a divine being. An equivalent proclamation to this was given by St. Peter when he said that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Peter's proclamation took place in the middle of the public ministry of Jesus while that of the Apostle Thomas was later after the resurrection. What St. Peter did after the resurrection was the proclamation of his love. In that proclamation of Peter, there was the declaration of his total faith in Jesus. Love is the fulfillment of faith. St. Paul says that we are saved by the faith that is active in love. Our community witnessing to the faith that we received from St. Thomas gets reflected in different facets of love, expressed through various activities. May God give us more opportunities to make them more alive during this time of Covid pandemic.

Renewal of Life

This lock down owing to the Corona virus has opened several possibilities for the renewal of our lives. We are forced to adopt a life of simplicity which was pointed out at different levels and were thought of for a long time. This year and in the coming years, we should adopt a style that is simple and frugal, avoiding all extravaganzas. Pompous shows and prodigality should be avoided from our life style. Please do not embark upon new constructions. Institutions and parishes have to practice a spirit of self-discipline that helps them to slow down constructions they have already started. We shall take a decision not to take up collections on a compulsory basis. We shall manage the functions of our community and meet our expenses from the voluntary contributions of our people, however small they may be. We shall stop issuing advertisements through bill boards and showy celebrations that give the impression that the goal of retreats and feast celebrations is the amassing of wealth. It is not proper to hold celebrations and engage in constructions for individual glory and prestige. The needs of the churches are to be met from a spiritual attitude generated through the fraternity of the sons and daughters of the church.

Individuals and institutions should abandon the policy of amassing wealth far above the needs of the community. Let the face of the church be poor and simple as Pope Francis has repeatedly urged us. The church should belong to the poor. The wealth of the Church is the people of God. The members of the Church have the practical wisdom to help the Church in times of need. Let there arise in the Church a way of life that recognizes that the Church belongs to the people and it is theirs and that they have the obligation to meet the needs of the people engaged in different ministries of the Church.

The very face of the Church should be the charitable activities which were done, prompted by a deep love of God. All the activities of the Church in the fields of education, healthcare and

social ministries should be pervaded by a spirit of mercy and thus may become a strong witness to the Christian faith. I offer my gratitude and congratulations to all the parishes, dioceses and their social welfare departments for the marvelous services they are rendering to the society during this Covid time.

Liturgical celebrations in the Covid period

It appears that 2020 will be known as a Covid year in the history of the world. The world would have to live with the experience of the viral infection until the end of the year. Hence, it is absolutely necessary to stop the social spread of this viral fever for the existence of the human race. We have to struggle hard to keep this sense of responsibility in every person. All the countries of the world have now, in this second phase of the infection, adopted a policy of the containment of this viral fever by not halting ordinary activities of life. Our country has also adopted a similar policy. Hence, exemptions are being given in an orderly way during this lock down period. Commercial establishments, factories and government offices have begun to function in full strength. Private transportation is functioning without any interruption. There is no limitation in the field of construction projects. The Govt. has given permission to open the places of worship from June 9th onwards. Along with all these exemptions, the Govt. is also giving stringent guidelines for the prevention of the social spread of the infection. The sons and daughters of the Church have to follow these guidelines for the common good.

Just because liturgical services are allowed to be held in the places of worship does not mean that all have to rush to the church at the same time to attend the services. Those churches that are open at this time can continue their services following the same regulations. Those who have not opened their churches for worship should follow all the same regulations when they start functioning. There should be no negligence in this matter. If there takes place any incident of infection, the churches and other place of worship should

close down, showing thus the serious responsibility of the clergy and the laity for the abatement of the infection. Our aim is that the pace of our sacramental celebration should move in conjunction with the pace of the normalcy in the secular society.

New phases of Spirituality

This Covid period should enable us to give up attitudes and activities that are contrary to Christian spirituality and to bear witness to an authentic spirituality. Those of the clergy, the religious and the laity who are in responsible positions should give real witness to a Christian way of life. During the lock down period, since all the members of the family are confined to their homes, it should be possible for them to participate in family prayers more regularly and closely.

They could also participate in online masses more devoutly. At the same time, we have to see that the children also learn more about their faith through online catechism classes. This opportunity can also be used to increase the faith- awareness of the elders too.

We should avoid all tendencies that are contrary to our faith. We have to be constantly watchful of sinful acts like alcoholism, drug-addiction, attacks against all forms of life, encroachment on the privacy of individuals and tarnishing their reputations through the social media, scandalous gossiping and sexual aberrations. It is through our growth in goodness that we have to defeat the power of evil. We shall strive to foster pure love and mercy in our thoughts and actions and also try to help the poor. We shall also cooperate with the governments in helping the expatriates to return to their homeland and get settled. The educational institutions of the Church have a responsibility to accommodate the children of the expatriates in their institutions.

Race discrimination is creating divisions in our society. The nations of the world have succeeded in some measure to control such discriminations. But in recent times these problems are arising in different places. It is important for the good of the human society

to annihilate this evil. Race discrimination is diametrically opposed to our Christian faith. Jesus saw the Jews, Greeks and Samaritans as the children of God the Father and He lived, taught and preached with that brotherly attitude.

As St. Paul says, “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal 3: 28). We shall see to it that such discriminatory thoughts or words should not have a place in our speeches or actions. We have to develop a culture of love in our Church where we see all human beings as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We have to reflect on the social dimension of Christian spirituality. During this Covid period and later in the post-Covid time too, we have to become producers and entrepreneurs in order to protect the economic structure of our country as individuals, families and societies. Agriculture is an area that should deserve our special attention.

All the lands in the possession of individuals, institutions and parishes should be made available for farming. Not even a square inch of land should be left uncultivable. The people of God including the clergy should set apart some time daily for agricultural activities. As per the warning issued by the UN, there is a possibility for the world to experience a great famine that it has not experienced in the last fifty years. It is the opinion of experts that Kerala can produce all the food that it needs in Kerala itself. Those who are living in flats and apartments can also join in this venture on their terraces through grow-bags. Under the leadership of parishes and neighborhood associations, commercial marketing outlets can be opened which can sell the produce at affordable rates, helping the farmers in that way very much. With regard to cash crops, we have to direct our agricultural efforts towards producing exportable agricultural products. The *Catholica Congress* and INFAM should

offer leadership in this matter by organizing schemes that would help the farmers. The owners of small scale industries and factories should increase their production.

These efforts are needed to overcome the economic slowdown that is happening in the Covid period. We shall also sincerely cooperate with the Govt. in making a success of their post-Covid economic schemes. We shall also be watchful of the exploitation and corruption that can take place in a democratic set-up. We shall never allow such exploitation and if we come to know of them, we should try to annihilate them by bringing them into attention of the public.

These thoughts will help to promote a new form and character to our Christian life in the present situation. We shall make our spiritual lives and individual, family and social lives to be in conformity with the spirit of the Gospel message during the Covid period and later in the post-Covid phase. We shall reflect the face of Jesus Christ through our life in the Church. We shall also participate in the restoration of the Church and of the society by committing ourselves totally to the humanity and divinity of Jesus Christ as St. Thomas the Apostle did.

I wish all of you the blessings of the *Dukrana* feast and of the *Sabhadinam* and bless all of you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad, on 17 June 2020

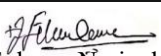


Cardinal George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

V. CURIA MATTERS**Transfers/Appointments
Eparchy of Chanda
(14 June 2020)**

Sl. No	Name	From/Relieved	To/Appointed	W.E.F
1.	Sr. Daly SAB		Youth Animator	01 April 2020
2.	Fr. Siju Kolthambrayil MST	Asst. Priest-in-charge, Nandgaon		14 April 2020
3.	Fr. Prince Munjanattu CMI	Asst. Parish Priest, Warur		14 April 2020
4.	Fr. Paulson Kunnath CMF	Asst. Parish Priest, Wardha		30 April 2020
5.	Fr. Sebastian Orapuzhickal CMI	Priest-in-substitute, Kopreli		05 May 2020
6.	Fr. Shyju Madapallikunnel	Internal Auditor		05 May 2020
7.	Fr. Mathew Kandassamkunnel	Spiritual Director, SVG & Service from the diocese		14 June 2020
8.	Dn. Jose Zade	Diaconate Ministry, Kurkheda	Diaconate Ministry, Warur	20 June 2020
9.	Dn. Francis Minj	Diaconate Ministry, Gomini	Diaconate Ministry, Shengaon	20 June 2020
10.	Fr. Kurian Panayalil	Priest-in-charge, Babupeth		11 July 2020
11.	Fr. Binu Muthalakuzhiyil	Rector, SVG	Priest-in-charge, Babupeth	11 July 2020

12.	Fr. Vivek Puthenpurayil		SVG Acting Rector (Additional)	11 July 2020
13.	Fr. Shyju Madapallikunnel	Priest-in-charge, Lakkadakot		11 July 2020
14.	Fr. Albin Vadakkemulanjanal		Priest-in-charge, Lakkadakot	11 July 2020
15.	Fr. Mathew Nirappel	Parish Priest, Shengaon		11 July 2020
16.	Fr. Somy Thannickapara		Parish Priest, Shengaon	11 July 2020
17.	Fr. Sunil Gandhare CMF	Asst. Priest-in-charge, Jiwathi & Korpana	Asst. Priest-in-Charge Kurkheda (Temporary)	11 July 2020
18.	Fr. Ousepachan Mathalikunnel		Asst. Priest-in-Charge, Jiwathi & Korpana	11 July 2020
19.	Fr. Thomson Pullashery		Asst. Director, LSSS (Additional)	11 July 2020
20.	Fr. Joshy Chettianchira	Co-ordinator, Manos Projects		11 July 2020
21.	Fr. Jobin Ovelil		Co-ordinator, Manos Projects (Additional)	11 July 2020
22.	Fr. Bosco George OP		Spiritual Director, SVG	11 July 2020
23.	Fr. Shibu Monipally		SVG Rector	01 November 2020


† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



25th Death Anniversary of Bp. Januarius

The commemoration of Bp. Januarius' 25th Death Anniversary scheduled on 4th April 2020 had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 crisis. The newly scheduled date is Saturday 20th March 2021. More details will be announced later.

NEW PARISH

By the order of Bishop of Chanda Prabhu Sadan Church, Tarsa/Ashti is raised to the status of parish w.e.f 3rd July 2020 (ref. Prot. No. 136/2020, Dated: 04 June 2020).

Now the total number of stations raised to the status of parishes are: 1). Seva Sadan Church, Allapalli, 2). Prabhu Sadan Church, Tarsa/Ashti, 3). St. Thomas Cathedral, Ballarpur, 4). Christ the King Church, Brahmapuri, 5). Jyoti Niwas Church, Chandrapur, 6). St. Mary's Church, Durgapur, 7). Chavara Bhavan Church, Ettapalli, 8). St. Thomas Church, Shengaon, 9). St. Antony's Church, Wardha, 10). Tera Prem Church, Warur, 11). Shanti Niwas Church, Wirur.

MURON HOLY QURBANA

Muron Holy Qurbana/Chrism Mass is scheduled for Saturday 1 August at Cathedral. By then the Covid-19 situation does not improve it will be done in private.

KURKHEDA MISSION STATION

Patron Saint: **St. Francis Assisi**

The campus is named **Shanti Kunj**. The building will be blessed in couple of months. S.H Sisters will start residence there in 2021.

NAGBIR MISSION

Patron saint : **St. Paul**

Priest-in-charge : **Fr. Lawrence Burle**

Bp. Ephrem inaugurated the mission with Holy Qurbana on 21/06/2020

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

The Missionary Conference scheduled on Saturday 12 September 2020 will be done as scheduled depending up on the prevailing situation.

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

The priestly ordinations of Dn. Jose Zade and Francis Minj are re-scheduled for Saturday 26 September. It is going to be held at Allapalli as scheduled. If, by then Covid-19 situation continues to prevail, by all means it will be held on the scheduled day but in the Cathedral, Ballarpur, in private with limited number of invitees as per Government directions.

CHANDA FAMILY DAY

Chanda Family Day scheduled on Saturday 10 October will be restricted only to priests and religious if the situation does not improve.

GOODNESS TV DOCUMENTARY

Goodness TV Documentary wing - Fr. John Poovathanickal CMF and Mr. Anson PJ visited our diocese for a tour to different stations and institutions from 28 February to 15 March 2020 to prepare a documentary on mission activities in the diocese. They plan to prepare at least fifteen episodes about our diocese. Fr. Vincent Pangola, director of AVD accompanied them and assisted them in the tour and documentary shooting. It is broadcasted in Goodness TV on Mondays at 07.30 pm and on Wednesdays 12.00 pm. Thanks to everyone who co-operated with the event. The Chanda Family thank Goodness TV for this generous enterprise of evangelization.

Fr. Vigil Parassery

PASTORAL VISITS

All Pastoral Visits of Bp. Ephrem scheduled for 2020 are cancelled due to pandemic Covid-19.

Fr. Vigil Parassery

Corona Virus Covid 19 and Christian Witness of Fr. Giuseppe Beradelli



A striking news that had fallen on the deaf ears of our media is about Fr. Giuseppe Beradelli, aged 72 years, a catholic priest of the diocese of the Bergama in Italy who gave up his ventilator for another young man who was also affected by Corona Virus, and embraced death on 15 March 2020 at one of the hospitals in Milan, Italy. In the highest of priestly callings, Fr. Beradelli chose to put others' lives before his own

by giving up his ventilator to save the life of a younger person. Fr. Beradelli, a priest for 47 years, was serving as Archpriest of Casnigo in the diocese of Bergamo in Northern Italy, one of the areas hardest hit by the Corona Virus Pandemic. Beradelli had been suffering from a respiratory condition for sometime, so his parish had previously purchased the breathing apparatus to help him cope. He offered it to another to serve his life even at the risk of his own.

The following are the words of the Mayor of his town, Mrs. Clara Poli: "A great person...he was always cheerful and full of enthusiasm, he gave peace and joy to our communities." A health worker commented his sacrifice in the following words: "I am deeply moved by the fact the archpriest of Casnigo, Don Giuseppe Beradelli to whom the parish community had bought a respirator renounced his will to assign it to someone younger than him." James Martin, an American priest and editor - at - large for America Magazine, a Jesuit review of faith and culture, called Beradelli a "Martyr of Charity." And he cited a bible verse, John 15:13, which says, "greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

As per reports from Italy, not less than 70 Catholic priests died of Corona Virus in different dioceses in the country the youngest is of 44 years of age and the oldest is of 104. All of them were in service of the people affected by Corona Virus. Irrespective of risk of life in pastoral service to the affected persons, they went around in their pastoral mission duty first, then comfort. The mission of saving the souls and comforting them in the most needed moments of their lives was primary concern for these priests. They found solace in the pastoral mission while serving people in their needy hours of life at risk!

Another report from Italy says, the service of these priests to the Corona Virus patients have brought genuine concern in the people of stubborn mind and people with no faith. An atheist doctor got converted into theism while watching an elderly priest's service in the hospital. A 38 year old medical doctor while watching the service of an elderly Italian priest to the Corona Virus patients in prayer, counselling and consideration came to faith in God. He was amazed at the priestly service of these priests and praised God for such God's angels on earth and faith in God. He has professed faith in God and greatly acknowledged the activities of the Church rendered to the community through the deeds of priests and religious. It is ineffable and laudable.

Dear missionaries in Chanda, it is a great news for all of us indeed it is just not a news but a mission-witness. You and I are called to the mission-witness in the same degree as this. We are called to the service to the humanity, doesn't matter what it may cost? It is the invitation that we received CALLED, and it is the appointment we have given with SENT. We are called and sent (Mt. 3:13-18). May Christ Jesus, the protagonist in Mission, inspire and guide us. God bless you all.

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

A TEENAGER SAINT WITH A DIFFERENCE



Carlo Acutis is a modern saint with a difference. He died at 17 years age on 12 October 2006 and was declared a servant of God in 2013 barely after 7 years after his death. Five years later, in 2018 Pope Francis declared him Venerable. You will be surprised to know that a modern teenager is well on his way being declared a saint.

Carlo Acutis was an Italian catholic born on 3 May 1991 in London, as his parents

were working there at that time. A few months after his birth they move moved back to Italy and lived in Milan. That is where Carlo grew up. He did his high school studies in the Jesuit-run Istituto Leone XIII. A cheerful student, he was daily communicant. When asked why, he is reported to have said, “The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of Heaven.”

Carlo had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and so loved praying the rosary. He regularly spent time in prayer before the tabernacle either before or after Mass. “To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan,” he remarked, once every week he made his confession.

His friends say that he would defend the physically challenged students in the school when bullies harassed them. He empathized with schoolmates whose parents were divorcing and, understanding their struggle, he would invite them. He loved to travel and visit places, but was fond of going to Assisi, the place of St. Francis whom he deeply admired. Carlo made use of his computer skills and developed a website, cataloguing what are called 'Eucharist Miracles'. It was this website that he designed that paved the way to the international travelling exhibition on “The Eucharistic Miracles of the World' that was organized in several countries.

At the age of fifteen, Carlo was diagnosed with leukaemia. He

offered his pain and suffering for the Pope and for the Church. He asked his parents to take him to the sites of all the known Eucharistic miracles in the world, but they could not do so, because of his worsening health condition. The doctor who treated him asked him if he had a lot of pain. This is how he responded, “There are people who suffer much more than me.” He had no regret over dying at the tender age of fifteen. “I am happy to die because I've lived my life without wasting even a minute of it doing things that wouldn't have pleased God”, he said. Our aim has to be the infinite is our homeland. We are always expected in Heaven.” What about the Eucharist that seemed to be the centre of his life? “That is my highway to heaven”, he said.

A devotion to this holy teenager emerged in Spain and the healing of a gravely ill boy in Spain whom prayed to him has recently been confirmed 'miraculous' by the Medical council of the congregation for Saints' Causes. So, the next step is for Carlo Acutis to be beatified. Then another miracle thanks to his intercession would clear the way for his canonization.

I was privileged to pray at his tomb during my last visit to Italy on my way back from Assisi. I visited the shrine of Renunciation in Assisi where his body is interned. I was in the group of all Syro-Malabar bishops in Ad Limina visit to Rome. We met with Archbishop of Assisi Rt. Rev. Dr. Domenico Sorrentino and he said to our bishops: “We continue to pray that the Lord will soon glorify his servant, to encourage the journey of holiness of the whole Church, especially the young”, said Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino of Assisi, where his beatification likely to take place. When that happens, we will have a saint who was a computer wizard capable of creating a website at the age of twelve.

I wish to present him as captain of our boarding's. Let us intercede him so as to make our faiths strong witnessing, increase our devotion to Holy Eucharist and special love for Mary our mother. O venerable Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

COVID-19 RESPONSE**DIOCESE OF CHANDA****(As per report reached Bishop's Office until 13 May 2020):**

Ever since the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown the diocese of Chanda has entered into service to help the affected people in different ways. At least 47 centres (parishes and institutions) are involved in the charitable activities. The social service wings of the diocese and different Congregations are also engaged in helping the affected people. There have been only three Corona cases reported within the territory of the diocese until the reporting date. One of them died. However as per request a few beds of the diocesan hospitals are handed over to the Government to quarantine people suspected of Corona Virus. The facilities are not availed yet by the Government health department. Please see below the Covid-19 Response charitable activities in details:

A. Activities included the Following:

Sl. No	Particulars	Total
1	Masks distribution	26023
2	Hand Sanitizers	3925
3	Hand washing facility	
4	Cooked food packets distribution	25303
5	Family food kits	9073
6	Medical service from four hospitals and five dispensaries continued service as required (medicine, home delivery was done wherever required and hospitalization wherever necessary).	₹ 174145
7	Special care was given to the mentally and physically challenged people in our institutions and in the streets.	
8	Special assistance was rendered to the families of students of our schools and the employees of our institutions.	
9	In response to the invitation from local administration cooked food was prepared and distributed in their office vicinity in Ballarpur and Brahmapuri.	

10	Free food was supplied to the in-patients in our hospitals.	2830 packets
11	Transport conveyance.	₹16000

B. Parishes and Institutions

Sl. No	Name of the institution/Centre	Total amount ₹
1.	Mar Thoma Province, Chanda	320,000
2.	Sant Vianney Gurukul	3500
3.	Holy Family Convent, Gadchandur	65,000
4.	Anand Bhavan Church Society, Kaotha	50,250
5.	Seva Sadan Church, Allapalli	12,500
6.	Tera Prem Church, Warur	70,000
7.	Aranya Niwas Church, Lakkadakot	30,000
8.	SJB Sisters	502,567
9.	Sanjoe Convent, Gondpipri	25,000
10.	Shanti Niwas Church, Wirur	35,000
11.	St. Jude Church, Gojoli	9,000
12.	Charity Sisters, Sasthi	25,000
13.	Christuvan, Gomini	90,000
14.	DW Sisters, Bamini	11,508
15.	Dilasagram Convent, Ballarpur	189,500
16.	DM Convent, Amala Province, Wardha	155,500
17.	Asha Dham Hospital, Wirur	104,525
18.	Vianney Vidya Mandir, Ghugus	27,524
19.	CMC Carmelodaya Province, Wardha	1,509,475
20.	St. Mary's School, Durgapur	25,000
21.	DM Convent, Durgapur	10,000
22.	MSMI, Wardha	179,440
23.	St. Thomas Cathedral, Ballarpur	49,360
24.	Vianney Jubilee School, Ballarpur	41,370
25.	Bishop's Home, Ballarpur	157,280
26.	Asha Niketan Church, Wasa	33,400
27.	Nav Jyoti Church, Aksapur	11,520
28.	Pattaguda	10,000

29.	Shengaon	227,450
30.	Balapur	55,000
31.	Sanjoe Convent, Bamini	8,500
32.	Montfort Brothers	56,400
33.	SAB St. Joseph's Region, Sumthana	375,000
34.	ASMI, Assisi Seva Sadan, Allapalli	102,090
35.	Christ Hospital	877,483
36.	Kripasroth Church, Mul	266,000
37.	Christianand Hospital, Brahmapuri	398,929
38.	Kopreli	3,000
39.	Ettapalli	20,000
40.	LSSS, Ballarpur	696,636
41.	SHSp Sisters, Ghot	28,000
42.	Bhamragarh	15,040
43.	Babupet	100,000
44.	Mary Matha Church, Rajura	12,000
45.	DM Convent, Rajura	115,000
46.	Stella Maris school, Korpana	22,000
47.	SH Sisters, Thalodhi	60,000
TOTAL		7,191,747

C. Beneficiaries include

- 1) Old, sick and bed-ridden
- 2) Daily coolie workers
- 3) Auto drivers
- 4) Migrant labourers
- 5) Families of our institution employees, students and boarders
- 6) Inpatients in our hospitals
- 7) Deserving neighbours and friends
- 8) Stranded migrants
- 9) Homeless, rag pickers etc.
- 10) Inmates of the direct act of mercy institutions in the diocese
- 11) Migrant workers passing along high ways
- 12) Slum dwellers

D. Areas covered

- i) The following Tehasils in Chandrapur District
 - 1. Chandrapur, 2. Bhadravati, 3. Warora, 4. Chimur, 5. Nagbhid, 6. Bramhapuri, 7. Sindewahi, 8. Mul, 9. Saoli, 10. Gondpipri, 11. Rajura, 12. Ballarpur, 13. Jivati, 14. Korpana, ~~15. Pomburna~~
- ii) The following Tehasils in Wardha district
 - 1. Wardha, 2. Hinganghat, 3. Arvi, 4. Samudrapur, 5. ~~Deoli~~, 6. ~~Selo~~, 7. ~~Karanja~~, 8. ~~Ashti~~
- iii) The following Tehasils in Gadchiroli district
 - 1. Gadchiroli, 2. Chamorshi, 3. Desiganj, 4. Kurkheda, 5. Aheri, 6. Ettapalli

The diocese of Chanda is widely comprised of agrarian sector and in the rural areas of the diocese there have been not much problems of scarcity of food items like rice, *daal*, etc. In the villages but of course there is need of cooking oil, coffee powder, tea leaves, *masala* items etc. and we have served the needy as what they required. Migrant workers are not big in number in the diocese. We do catered their need wherever it was required. Help was rendered to migrant workers passing along high ways within the territory of the diocese. Auto drivers, daily coolie workers, slum dwellers, homeless, stranded people in the cities are being helped wherever necessary. Our health workers are also in the best way engaged in serving the needy. In all activities we tried our best to cooperate with the Government health officials, police and local administration. Many parishes and institutions are doing continuous/chain adoration, special prayers, rosary, litany to all saints, divine mercy chaplet etc. as spiritual empowerment service.

A number of online creative ideas were done by parishes, schools and other institutions to avoid the boredom of lockdown and avail their leisure usefully and fruitfully such as:

1. News reporting competition
2. Adults' and children's quiz
3. Bible mala sharing

4. Riddles for youth and children
5. Drawing and painting competition
6. Presentation of creative cultural items online
7. Online talks to parents, children, and students etc.
8. Spiritual talks and devotional hymns online
9. More involvement in house cleaning, horticulture etc.
10. Awareness programmes to fight against pandemics like Covid-19 and immunity drive.

Bp. Ephrem Nariculam

Diocese of Chanda 13th May 2020 Fr. Vigil Parassery
Secretary

Report of Quinquennial Meeting 2-4 March 2020

Quinquennial Priests meet of the diocese of Chanda was organized at Bishop's Home, Ballarpur from 02-04 March 2020. The meeting commenced on 2nd March at 9.30 pm with the inaugural talk by Bp. Ephrem. On 3rd March, Bp. Ephrem in his homily exhorted us to practice the golden principle of the bible "Do for others what you want them to do for you" (Mt. 7:12) by practicing Sincerity, Simplicity, Sensitivity and Seriousness. On the same day We had a seminar on '*Marriage and Family: Pastoral and Canonical Norms*' by Fr. Jose Ammaikunnel CMF. Decennial priests too joined for the seminar. It was really useful for us as we deal with number of marriage rectification cases in our ministry. On 4th March during homily Fr. Varghese Puthuparampil CMI, Proto-syncellus, Diocese of Chanda advised us to be enthusiastic and zealous in our priestly life. Through his experience sharing he enlightened us. We were delighted to have the sharing on health activities by Sr. Seena DM, Health co-ordinator of the diocese. Sr. Yajna CMC, the Women's desk co-ordinator shared on Women empowerment activities in the diocese. Thereafter Fr. Jobin Ovelil, director of Social Apostolate in the diocese, threw light on the various projects in the diocese. We had general sharing and discussions on Statutes of the Eparchy, Education policy and

Diocesan policy for the children and vulnerable adults. It was a memorable time for all of us as we had sharing, input sessions, discussions etc.

Fr. Vigil Parassery

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Meeting of the Missionaries of Health Sector, Diocese of Chanda, 07 March 2020 **(Report)**

A meeting of the missionaries of Health sector of the diocese of Chanda was held on 7th March 2020 at Pastoral Centre, Bishops home Ballarshah. The meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Mar Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda. 18 missionary priests and Sisters were participants.

After the opening prayer by Rev. Sr. Nirmala SCCG, the Diocesan health co-ordinator Sr. Seena DM welcomed the gathering and invited Bishopji for inaugural speech. Bishop in his address appreciated the works done by the health units in different parts of the diocese especially in the rural areas. He also warned health workers regarding the existing and future challenges in the healing ministry sector. He advised the group to move ahead with more unity and understanding as we participate in the ministry of Jesus the Divine Healer. Citing the example of the Sisters who work in this field Bishop enlightened the group regarding the evangelization being done in healing ministry. 'Your service and presence silently communicate the message of Jesus' love' He said.

After the inaugural address the group members shared their experiences in health ministry in different areas in the diocese. All were confident and happy in their ministry and appreciated each other for their works. After their sharing, there was discussion on certain points:

1. Registration of the Dispensaries: It is safe to initiate the

process of registration of dispensaries with District Health Department. It should be done as early as possible. Fr. Joshy Chettianchira offered required help to individual dispensaries in this regard. The respective Fathers and Sisters in-charge of dispensaries in the diocese are requested to do needful for the same in consultation with Fr. Joshy and Sr. Seena DM. Membership registration in CHAI will be taken care of by Sr. Seena DM. All individual dispensaries in-charges are requested to contact them as early as possible.

2. Doctors' service in the dispensaries: It was decided to discuss this matter with the Sisters and Fathers in-charge of different dispensaries in the diocese. Sr. Seena will co-ordinate it in consultation with the director of Christ Hospital, Chandrapur.

3. Medical Camps and Projects: Other related common health programmes should be conducted with the participation of all member institutions.

- Programmes can be conducted in district Jail, old age homes, orphanages etc.
- Need of common projects in healing ministry with the financial help of different agencies through CHAI or otherwise.

4. Alternative Medicines: It is good to conduct a programme for the practice of alternative medicines. An initial training programme on alternative medicine will be held on 3rd of April under the guidance of Rev. Sr. Josline FDM at Christ hospital.

5. Registration of Nurses' Certification: Explore the possibility of getting certified for all who attend the alternative medicine trainings/workshops regularly.

The meeting was concluded with the angelus at 1.30 pm

Sr. Seena Jose DM
Health Co-ordinator

REPORT OF WOMEN'S DESK

“The wise woman builds her house.” Proverb 14:1

In connection with the international women's day, a programme was arranged for the women of Balharsha Zone on 14th March 2020 at Pastoral Centre Bishop's Home Ballarpur. There were 49 ladies from different parishes and mission stations of Balharsha zone to attend this programme. Bishop Mar Ephrem Nariculam inaugurated the programme and motivated the ladies the need to empower themselves. Dr. Vaishali Patil a social activist from Mumbai was the resource person of the day. She pointed out the rights of women, the strength, the caliber that the women have, and to equip them to come forward to enjoy equality with men. She was challenging the women to make use of all their potentials for the development and the welfare of the society. Before concluding the programme two games were conducted and the winners were awarded by Rev. Fr. Mathew Nirapel, Forane Vicar Balharsha. After the sumptuous lunch every one departed to their respective places thanking the Almighty.

Sr. Yajna CMC

Women's Desk, Coordinator

LANGUAGE COURSE - HINDI, ORAON & ENGLISH

Under the auspices of Language Lab of the diocese of Chanda Hindi, Oraon and English courses were held at Pastoral Centre, Ballarpur. Twelve Major seminarians besides others attended the course. Fr. Antony Munjanattu, Bro. Bernard Kujur and Bro. Jibin Perumakunnel animated the course. Thanks to the animators and participants.

Fr. Vigil Parassery

SERVANT OF GOD

Msgr. Joseph Kandathil (1904-1991)

Msgr. Joseph Kandathil was a priest of Ernakulam Angamaly Archdiocese of Kerala, India. He was born on 27th October 1904 at Vechoor, Kerala. He was the third child of seven children of Mr. Varkey Thomas and Mrs. Clamma Thomas. After his schooling he joined the seminary in Mangalore and had his training. During this period he regularly visited Fr. Muller's Hospital at Mangalore as he had lot of sympathy for the sick and suffering.

He used to serve leprosy patients by cutting their hair, giving them a bath, dressing them, etc. Because of his initiative and interest he learned the elementary principles of nursing and medicine.

He was ordained a priest on 17th December 1933, and was appointed as Assistant Parish Priest at Muttam, Cherthala, Kerala. Unlike the usual customs, Fr. Joseph used to visit the poor families of all caste and creed, sit on the mats the *Pulayas* offered on the floor, talked with them, and shared in their sorrows and helped them. He became the friend of the poor. He taught them catechism and baptized hundreds of *pulayas*. During his pastoral visits, he realised that there were many lepers in and around the parish, without any medical aid, food, clothes or other help. His compassionate heart was deeply moved by the terrible sight of the unfortunate lepers with their visibly oozing and foul smelling ulcers, deformed limbs and inexpressible miseries. In those days leprosy was considered a curse from God and lepers were considered as outcasts. Fr. Joseph understood their physical, emotional and psychological suffering. He was determined to do something to alleviate their misery. He visited them often, dressed their wounds, clothed them and cared for them. He decided to start a hospital for these unfortunate ones whose disease was very repulsive and nauseating. Mr. Luke Antony donated a plot of land for the leprosy asylum and other institutions. He built a wall and planted many trees in there and he named it

“Greengardens.” Fr. Joseph constructed here the first leprosy hospital cum asylum. The first ward for 50 leprosy patients, was completed and blessed on 2nd February 1942. He went begging even to the remotest parts of Kerala for help for the lepers' treatment, stay and clothing. More helping hands were needed as the number of patients increased. In the beginning Fr. Joseph sought the help of the sisters from MSJ and SD religious congregations. Later on he realized that the work would not go on successfully unless a group of dedicated sisters took up the work of running the leprosy hospital. He prayed to know the will of God and stormed heaven with his prayers, fasting and penance. The Congregation of Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate came into existence on 2nd April 1949.

Fr. Joseph had a heart filled with compassion and mercy towards the poor. He never sought honour or recognition from others, instead he shunned popularity. Even though the Church gave him the title of Monsignor, he never added the title to his name or used its symbols. He was a man of silence and prayer. He had to undergo great crisis and meet opposition and had to suffer due to lack of finance, lack of co-operation, etc. His one and only resort was prayer. He used to be on his knees for several hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament. He was a unique personality raised by God, endowed with a charism to live and radiate the compassionate love of Jesus towards the poor and the outcaste. Msgr. Joseph Kandathil, the venerable founder and director of Assisi Sisters, a man of prayer, vision and practical charity, was called to eternal rest on the 12th December 1991.

His life was so inspiring to all. He has handed on to the ASMI Congregation the charism of following the humble crucified Jesus by radiating that compassionate love of Jesus to the poor and marginalized. With his vision now the congregation has their presence in Kenya, Tanzania, Italy, Germany, Madagascar, PapuaNewGuinea and in several states of India.

As a recognition of his heroic and virtuous life Pope Francis has declared him as the *Servant of God*

- Sr. Leo Francis ASMI
Provincial, SH Province

RESOLUTIONS FOR SUSAMACHAR GHOSHANA VARSH

The following are the **10** resolutions that we can focus on the year *Susamachar Ghoshana Varsh* which will help every missionary a step further in preaching ministry:

1. I shall never offer a Holy Qurbana without a homily/reflection.
2. I shall read the readings of the day at least once before Holy Qurbana especially Gospel passage.
3. I shall take seriously and sincerely the 'daily bible reading' a chapter a day.
4. I shall reflect and prepare (Monday to Saturday) a contextual homily for every Sunday.
5. I shall avail every opportunity to improve my preaching ministry.
6. I shall visit every village in my parish and communicate the message of Christ in different ways as often as possible.
7. I shall read at least one book on homiletics or ministry of preaching.
8. I shall genuinely co-operate with all *Susamachar Goshana Varsh* activities in the diocese.
9. I shall listen to as many as possible (at least one per week) homilies/spiritual reflections or talks of retreat preachers or speakers from social media (eg. Youtube).
10. I shall be a better preacher than today from next year, 2021.

“Anger and hatred are signs of weakness,
while compassion is a sure sign of strength”

H.H. Dalai Lama

Susamachar Ghoshana Varsh 2020**Daily Bible Reading****JULY**

1 Deut. 30	JOSHUA	11 Josh. 6	16 Josh. 11	21 Josh. 16	27 Josh. 22
2 Deut. 31	6 Josh. 1	12 Josh. 7	17 Josh. 12	22 Josh. 17	28 Josh. 23
3 Deut. 32	7 Josh. 2	13 Josh. 8	18 Josh. 13	23 Josh. 18	29 Josh. 24
4 Deut. 33	8 Josh. 3	14 Josh. 9	19 Josh. 14	24 Josh. 19	JUDGES
5 Deut. 34	9 Josh. 4	15 Josh. 10	20 Josh. 15	25 Josh. 20	30 Judg. 1
	10 Josh. 5			26 Josh. 21	31 Judg. 2

AUGUST

1 Judg. 3	6 Judg. 8	11 Judg. 13	16 Judg. 18	21 Ruth 2	26 1 Sam. 3
2 Judg. 4	7 Judg. 9	12 Judg. 14	17 Judg. 19	22 Ruth 3	27 1 Sam. 4
3 Judg. 5	8 Judg. 10	13 Judg. 15	18 Judg. 20	23 Ruth 4	28 1 Sam. 5
4 Judg. 6	9 Judg. 11	14 Judg. 16	19 Judg. 21	1 SAMUEL	29 1 Sam. 6
5 Judg. 7	10 Judg. 12	15 Judg. 17	RUTH	24 1 Sam. 1	30 1 Sam. 7
			20 Ruth 1	25 1 Sam. 2	31 1 Sam. 8

SEPTEMBER

1 1 Sam. 9	6 1 Sam. 14	11 1 Sam. 19	16 1 Sam. 24	21 1 Sam. 29	26 2 Sam. 3
2 1 Sam. 10	7 1 Sam. 15	12 1 Sam. 20	17 1 Sam. 25	22 1 Sam. 30	27 2 Sam. 4
3 1 Sam. 11	8 1 Sam. 16	13 1 Sam. 21	18 1 Sam. 26	23 1 Sam. 31	28 2 Sam. 5
4 1 Sam. 12	9 1 Sam. 17	14 1 Sam. 22	19 1 Sam. 27	2 SAMUEL	29 2 Sam. 6
5 1 Sam. 13	10 1 Sam. 18	15 1 Sam. 23	20 1 Sam. 28	24 2 Sam. 1	30 2 Sam. 7
				25 2 Sam. 2	

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES

2 August: - The first Sunday of August is observed in the diocese as the day of Chanda Heavenly Brethren day in parish level.

9 August: The Sunday after 4th August is celebrated in the diocese as **Priest Sunday**. Remember every priest in your prayers

15 August:- Establishment day of Chanda Mission. The Sunday after 15 August (i.e. 16 August 2020) is celebrated in the diocese as Chanda Establishment Day. Let us pray for our diocese in a special way.

IMPORTANT FEASTS

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| July 16 | - Our Lady of Mount Carmel |
| July 28 | - St. Alphonsa |
| August 4 | - St. John Maria Vianney |
| August 15 | - Assumption of Mother Mary |
| August 24 | - St. Bartholomew, the Apostle |
| August 28 | - St. Augustine |

VI. DEPARTMENTAL NEWS**LSSS**

1. Under the auspices of LSSS cooked food was distributed in the municipality centre for a month and family food kits were distributed to the needy people in and around Balharsha and other parts of the diocese as well.
2. Sr. Annes SABS and Sr. Mariat SABS got transferred from Kalabhavn. Kalabhavan Family gratefully remember their service. Sr. Anila SABS is the new superior of SABS community at Kalabhavan and Sr. Litty SABS joined the SABS community at Kalabhavan.

YOUTH DEPARTMENT

The department had to cancel all arranged programmes due to Covid-19 lockdown. The following programmes are scheduled in the forthcoming months:

- Syro-Malabar Youth Movement Junior group meet at Ballarpur parish on 4th October 2020.
- Diocesan level Leaders' seminar on 11th October 2020
- Manikgarh pahad Youth meet 18th October 2020
- Parish level Youth seminar at Durgapur on 30th October 2020
- Diocesan level Youth and Children Convention 14 to 20 November 2020.
- Multimedia Bible Quiz 13th December 2020.

The following programmes were held in the month of June.

- Singing Competition (lockdown special) going on - online.
- Lyrics writing competition (lockdown special) online.
- Speech competition (lockdown special) online - commencing on 15th June 2020.

The response was very encouraging. Thanks to all participants and co-operators.

VII. NEWS FROM THE MISSION STATIONS**BALLARPUR ZONE****- Cathedral, Ballarpur**

1. Due to Covid-19 lockdown since 22 March 2020 Saturdays and Sundays Qurbana were done on live-streaming. All holy week services also were done in live streaming. St. Antony's feast day Qurbana and the First Friday adoration were also done live-streaming.
2. Four Brothers received clergy dress (Vestition) on 11 June 2020 and Five brothers were conferred the minor order of Karoyusa and Heupudiknusa on 20th June in the Cathedral at the hands Bp. Ephrem Nariculam.

- Bishop's Home

Seminarians of Papal seminary, Pune and St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha are attending their online classes staying at Bishop's Home. Online classes for seminarians of Ujjain and Satna will start in the month of July.

- Chandrapur

1. In the wake of lockdown we have given half the space of Christ Hospital to the government for Covid patients' treatment. Testing facilities were provided by the district administration. With the collaboration of NGOs the parish community distributed family food kits to the needy in and around Chandrapur.
2. Sr. Hita CMC who was matron of the Christ Hospital for the past five years is transferred and Sr. Josy CMC is the new matron of the hospital. Thanks to Sr. Hita CMC and hearty welcome to Sr. Josy CMC.

- Dilasagram Convent, Ballarpur

We are 11 sisters in Dilasagram Convent, involved in different activities: Social Service, Day care for the differently able children, Tailoring and Formal School. All of us and the staff were involved in giving awareness about 'Corona', through WhatsApp, Video, Poems, and Posters: about the usage of masks, social distancing, personal hygiene, and about strictly following the

govt. rules etc as preventive and curative measure from Covid-19. We also were involved for cutting and stitching the masks and Covid-19 Protection dresses, for the distribution of the food kits etc. Sisters spend from their personal allowance in order to provide for the poor and especially through fasting and prayer continue to intercede for the infected and affected people of Covid -19, of our country and the whole world.

- DW Sisters, Ballarpur

During this Covid-19 lockdown, we the Sisters from Gnana Sadan community distributed family food kits to families in Amit Nagar village who are daily wage workers. We also explained them the prevention methods against Corona Virus, importance of cleanliness, using mask etc.

- DM Sisters, Durgapur

We extended our helping hand to some families in our village who are suffering without enough food in these lock down days. 10 Grocery kits and vegetables are distributed to most needy ones. By God's grace nobody is affected by this pandemic till now in our area.

- Montfort Brothers

We, Montfort Brothers could help 175 deserving families in Daheli, Bamini and Ballarpur. We also provided 550 food packets through the youth of Ballarpur. Thanks to all who supported us.

- St. Anne's Sisters

St. Anne Multipurpose Society, Mul, St. Anne's Education Society & St. Anne's Health Centre, Sumthana provided Kits of Rs-750 containing food grains and other materials to the needy persons at their doorsteps with the support of the local Government bodies like Tahsildars and Nagarparishad officers at Mul, Bhadravati & Warora. We could distribute five hundred kits to the poor and needy persons in these Talukas.

BRAHMAPURIZONE

- Christanand Hospital, Brahmapuri

1. On request from civil administration we have agreed to provide our hospital facilities for Covid-19 patients in our hospital. By the

grace of God no Covid-19 patients were brought to our hospital for treatments until today.

2. FHGS Sisters have started ministry in our hospital from June 2020.

- Nagbhir Ad-Gentes Mission

The official Inauguration of the St. Paul Mission, Nagbhir was done by lighting the Lamp by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda, on 21 June 2020. Fr. Lawrence, Fr. Vigil Sr. Mary Tom SABS, Superior Nagbhir Convent, also lighted the lamp. Then Bishop blessed the photo of the Patron saint, St. Paul, which was followed by the Solemn Holy Qurbana in SABS Convent Chapel, Nagbhir. We are very grateful to our Beloved Bp. Ephrem Nariculam, for Inaugurating and Blessing our Mission. We are also grateful to our SABS Sisters at Nagbhir, for their whole hearted support.

- Santwadi, Mul

1. With the help of Government subsidy this year we have started turmeric cultivation in our field. The cultivations are progressing well. Fish pond also seems to be very profitable enterprise. A fruit garden is getting ready in the front area of our land.
2. A project for new chapel construction is sanctioned by the Mission Department of the Archdiocese of Toronto, Canada and we hope to start the construction in couple of months.

WARDHA ZONE

- St Antony Catholic Forane Church, Wardha

1. In this lockdown time we have our Sunday mass online. Almost 60 families from Wardha attend our Mass and other online programmes.
2. On Mondays we celebrate special mass for the dead, online at 09 am.
3. We celebrated the feast of St Antony of Padua, our Patron Saint on 13 June 2020 with online Holy Qurbana and special prayer of consecration. We also had nine days of Novena followed by Bible reflection, by various Fathers and Sisters, assisted by technical artists Master Patrick, Master Justin, Ku Princy Akhilesh, Mr Marshal Alexander and Mr Albert. We also conducted online

retreat with the help of Priests and Religious from Wardha. Its very laudable that these youngsters did wonderful job and continue to do so.

4. The St. Antony National School established hand wash centres in Wardha city and are regularly maintaining it, from the onset of Covid-19 in India.
5. With the help of CMC, MSMI and SD Sisters and from the contribution from the St. Antony Nationals School, we reached out to hundreds of poor people with dry ration kits and other helps. Thanks to the donors and we appreciate them, wholeheartedly. All priests and religious are immeasurably involved in the charitable activities to face the Covid 19 challenge and lockdown crisis.

- Carmelodaya Province, Wardha

1. Covid -19 Pandemic Relief

The entire universe stands still in fear and trembling due to the alarming Pandemic Covid-19 novel corona virus. All are fighting for survival and existence as it is affecting the human life very badly. In this panic and pathetic situation we have moved ahead distributing food packets and food materials to the needy and supplying medicines to the sick. CMC Carmelodaya Province, Wardha extended her hands to the daily wage earners, single mothers, widows, migrant workers, transgenders, prisoners of Chandrapur District Jail, tribal women of Jiwthi Thaluka, and auto drivers with the consent of the Government officials. We distributed 2264 provision kits to the families, 4030 food packets to the migrant workers, single mothers and daily wage earners, 4148 masks and 1802 sanitizers to the migrant workers, teachers, students and police officers, medicine to 25 sick and affected people, sanitary napkins to 1000 women of Jiwthi Taluka and provided fruits and butter milk daily to the police officers and Public sweepers. An awareness programme was conducted for the women and children of 15 villages of Jiwthi Thaluka to conscientize them with regard to the pandemic covid -19. The total amount spent for this cause is Rs. 1728762/-.

2. My heart is ready O Lord

“This is the day the Lord has made, We will Rejoice and be Glad in it”.(Ps.118:24)

The dawn of 13th June 2020 awakened our Novice Lincy Babu with joyful tidings of the day to commit herself to her master to greater holiness and service. She walked to the alter of the Lord with immense joy and gratitude as the church bells chimed at 5.30 a.m on Saturday at St. Xavier's Convent, Cheroor, Thrissur. His Excellency Mar Tony Neelankavil, the Auxiliary Bishop of Thrissur, officiated the solemn Liturgy of the first Profession and vestition of Novice Lincy Babu along with the Novices of Nirmala Province, Thrissur. Hearty Congratulations and Best wishes our dear Sr. Lincy...

- Darsana Institute of Philosophy, Wardha

The Darsana Family at Wardha had one of its finest times during the last few days regardless of being in a very straining situation due to the pandemic that has created havoc around the globe. We are happy to have spent this time of grace extraordinarily well.

1. Pavitr Parivar Sangh

The Eucharistic Community of Darsana had a very vibrant year. They actively participated every Sunday for the Eucharistic Celebration. They took initiative for celebrating the Sacred Liturgy every second week of the month by leading the choir and presenting gifts during the Holy Eucharist. The catechism students were also very active. We started with a new endeavor for the children known as 'Little Star'. Children delivered a short message and shared a bible verse that they have memorized during the Little Star programme held after the Eucharistic Celebration. The valedictory celebrations for the students were held on 1st March 2020. The students presented many creative programmes and it was a time of great joy for all of us.

2. A Time of Extraordinary Blessing

The time of Covid-19 was a time of extraordinary blessings for each one of us in Darsana Mission Philosophate. We made use of our time productively by being involved in various activities,

empowering the people around us financially, morally and spiritually. Fr. Tomy Chirappurath CMI has spent a lot of time visiting the villages around us and inspecting the necessities of the people. Under the banner of *Darsana Samaj Kalyan Samati*, (DSKS) We distributed food kits to around 300 Families covering many villages around Sawanghi Meghe such as Gitti Khadaan, Rajiv Nagar, Sawangi, Salod, Hind Nagar, etc. It was also a time for all of us to feel with the people.

We had 12 hours of adoration followed by Eucharistic procession every month for the last two months. We also had silent adoration every alternate day after the Night prayers. Brothers voluntarily agreed to fast on Fridays and spend the money saved for the people in need. We could renew our religious commitment that we professed to God and His people during this time of hardship thereby turning it to a time of grace and manifold blessings. We also had a night vigil in preparation for the feast of Pentecost.

Brothers used their time creatively by delivering a short speech every day in the refectory before supper. They had prepared them quite well and delivered them amazingly. We also invested a lot of time productively by planting many saplings and connecting with nature.

3. Adieu to the II year Brothers

The second year brothers left for their respective provinces in three different batches. The brothers who belonged to the Provinces in Kerala left our house on 18th June 2020. A special tempo traveller was arranged for them to take them safely back to their respective provinces where they will be quarantined for 28 days.

4. YouTube Channel

When the church was busy evangelizing on Social media and filling the spiritual thirst of the people of God during this hard times of Pandemic, Darsana did not lag behind. We made use of our YouTube channel to spread the message on all the days of the Holy Week. We had also primed an audio file of the 'passion narrative' and distributed it on our You Tube channel. Fr. Rector had given a beautiful message in the channel and urged our

viewers to surge the social distance and shrink the spiritual distance among each other. Kindly subscribe our You Tube channel Darsana Media, Wardha.

Fr. Augustine Keemattam CMI has also been one of the viral figures in You Tube now. He has been uploading the daily homilies each day in his You Tube Channel. They are rich in content. For assistance in preparing the daily homilies, kindly subscribe the You Tube Channel of Fr. Augustine Keemattam.

5. A Long Wished Dream Fulfilled

We had long planned to gift a house for the supporting staff of our institute, namely, Mr. Abhil Minj and Mr. Preetam Minj, who have been serving as our chefs for over 20 years. The long wish was fulfilled on 19th of June, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, when Fr. Rector blessed the newly built house in the presence of their families. The house has been constructed on plots of land purchased in their name.

6. Darsana family is happy to re-open its academic year on July 1st with due precautions. We request your valuable prayers for all the activities that we are going to undertake during this year.

- DM, Amala Province, Wardha

As part of our humble efforts to mitigate the sufferings caused by the pandemic spread of Covid19, the charitable Society of Daughter of Mary, Amala Province, Wardha has rendered various remedial and preventive Services to the people in distress through our eight communities spread across the provincial house area. Through our communities serving in remote areas we provided free food to nearly 300 homeless people and destitutes. Besides this we have provided all hygienic requirements to 50 inmates of our poor homes (hostels for the poor) An amount of Rs. 50,000 was spent towards this. Shelter is provided to 30 inmates with food and other necessary of Rs. 15,000 has been incurred towards this. We have supplied drinking water and food to the community volunteers and spent Rs. 30,000 towards procuring and donating 1,000 face masks 1,000 gloves 1500 soaps, 1,000 sanitizers and 500 hand washes. An amount of Rs. 150000 was

spent to supplying free food through Community kitchens and providing food grains and other cooking materials to them. Rs.5000 was spent for providing medical supports to the people of Pattaguda, Shengaon, Jiwiti and Wani.

-MSMI Sisters

We are grateful to God who helped us to serve the needy people during this lockdown. We distributed family food kits to 50 migrant families from Telengana. Besides that with the permission of municipal chair person we donated Rs. 50000/- for making arrangements for food items to covid-19 affected people. Our Sisters were engaged in health ministry by rendering valuable time to serve the sick people. We also distributed Masks to patients and volunteers.

- SISTERS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND MARY THE QUEEN, WARDHA

1. Six Postulants were initiated to novitiate on 1st May at Agragami Provincial House, Wardha.
2. 31st May 2020, was a day of jubilation for the St. John's family as we witnessed the First Profession of Srs. Sarala Montry, Elizabeth Tiru, Padmini Nayak and Archangel during a Holy Eucharist by Rev. Fr. Andrew Fernandes SJ, Provincial Superior of Society of Jesus, Pune Province at Vinay Vikas, Pune.
3. In association with Sneha Charitable trust we respond to the cry of the most vulnerable victims of Covid 19 pandemic of the various villages in Wardha and Gadchiroli districts. We obtained written permission from District Collector of Wardha for two of our vehicles to do the distribution. Sisters were actively involved in approaching the local authorities to get the list of the deserving candidates to provide the materials. We provided dry ration kits, medicines and masks to the migrants, slum dwellers, auto drivers, those without ration cards and the poor patients at Sewagram hospital. It was also a privilege for us to give awareness programme about Covid-19 to the villagers along with the staff. Sr. Sancy is a team member for the care of covid 19 patients in Kasturba Hospital, Sewagram. Staff & parents of our schools, ex-students, well-wishers and friends also have contributed in cash

and kind for this great venture.

4. We, the Indian province of Sisters of St. John the Baptist and Mary the Queen steps into 50th year of its life and service in India particularly in Chanda on 24th June 2020 on the Solemnity of the Birthday of St. John the Baptist. Thank you all for accompanying us and supporting us on various occasions in different events in the life of the Province during the last 50 years. We request you to continue to accompany us in the Golden year as we **celebrate the Graces and providence of God** in the life of our congregation in India.

WIRUR ZONE

- Shanti Niwas Church, Wirur

In collaboration with Ashadham Hospital and SD Sisters the parish community helped the affected people due to corona virus Covid-19 by distributing family food kits, medicines, masks etc.

- SD Convent, Wirur

The newly constructed convent of SD Sisters was blessed by Bp. Ephrem on 25 June 2020. Due to lockdown only 20 participants including Sisters from Chincholi attended the function.

- Shengaon

Lockdown days were really experiential for all of us. We could serve many poor people in and around our parish. We worked in collaboration with the civil authorities. Thahasildar Shri. Vedse Patil visited our nursing home and asked us not to close the nursing home because there is no other health centre in Shengaon who provide 24 hour health care. We were happy to help the patients. We could help the people with following services:

- Free vehicle service for patients
- Engaging children by creative time management activities
- Food kits to families
- Cooked food packets
- Multi-vitamins and free medicines
- Support to quarantine centers

VIII. NEWS FROM THE FORMATION HOUSES**Sant Vianney Gurukul**

1. Fr. Mathew Kandassamkunnel, Bro. Joseph Jumde, the regent and out going brothers were accorded sent off on 4 June 2020. Fr. Mathew served minor seminary as spiritual director for three years.
2. The major seminarians who received cassock were given a reception on 14 June 2020.
3. Due to corona virus Covid-19 lockdown many brothers could not go for holidays. They stay back in the seminary and are engaged in different activities.
4. This year we have three seminarians going to major seminary for philosophy and five are starting first year theology in different seminaries.
5. Bro. Shine Manjaly is expected to be back to Aluva seminary for pastoral courses in the month of August.

THANKS THANKS THANKS**Fr. Mathew****Fr. Siju****Fr. Paulson**

The Chanda diocesan Family thank Fr. Mathew Kandassamkunnel from Thamarassery diocese who served as spiritual director at SVG for the past three years, Fr. Siju Kolthambrayil MST who served as Asst. Priest-in-charge of Nandgaon parish for the past one year and Fr. Paulson Kunnath CMF who served as Asst. Parish priest of Wardha parish for the past one year, who have terminated their service and returned to their respective home diocese/province. Thank you dear Fathers. Ad Multos Annos.

ADMISSION OPEN...

Assisi Seva Sadan School of Nursing Nagepalli/Allappalli, has started admission to ANM course from June.

For more information contact: **Ph: 9497222607.**

IX. HEAVENLY BRETHREN**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 |
| 4. Fr. Thomas Pandipally CMI | 16-08-2008 | Bellampally |
| 5. (Candidate) Tessa SD | 21-08-1997 | Athirampuzha |
| 6. Fr. James Thottapally CMI | 25-08-1986 | Neeleswaram |
| 7. Fr. Dharmanand Muttathottil CMI | 25-08-1990 | Ballarpur |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. Sr. Hilaria Kochuparambil SD | 01-09-2014 | |
| 2. Sr. Deepthi SJB | 09-09-2009 | Vettukad |
| 3. Bro. Jose Vetticattil SG | 18-09-2005 | Hyderabad |
| 4. Fr. Dan Thottakara CMI | 20-09-1997 | Kalamassery |

5. Fr. Eugene Kizhakethala CMI	22-09-2002	Bellampally
6. Sr. Mercy SSS	23-09-2006	Mallusery
7. Sr. Justina Francis ASMI	26-09-2000	Cherthala
8. Sr. Stephy Maria DM	30-09-1994	Ballarpur
9. Fr. Suresh V.C.	30-09-2012	Janampet



RIP

Let us pray for the departed soul of
Sr. Felicitta Puthuppara SD (86)
Death: 10/3/2020
She was one of the first members of SD
Convent, Wirur in 1966

OBITUARY

Please pray for the departed souls of:

1. Mrs. Chinnamma (93), beloved mother of Sr. Josey CMC 22 March 2020.
2. Mr Paul Edapulavan (60), beloved father of Bro. Jerald (SVG) 21st May 2020 at 5pm.
3. Miss Bhavana Maholkar (22), cousin sister of Dn Jose Zade, 24 May 2020
4. Mr. Joseph Moolayil (97) beloved father of Sr. Alice SH 11 June 2020.
5. Mr. Pappu (85) beloved father of Sr. Sneha ASMI 16 June 2020
6. Mrs. Neithi (94) beloved mother of Sr. Ramya ASMI, 20 June 2020.
7. Sr. Francis Philo FCC (81) beloved sister of Fr. KJ Thomas, 22 June 2020.

Due to Corona Virus Covid-19 lockdown this issue is published together the Nos. 3 & 4 (May-June & July-August 2020)

Editor