



Quinquennial Meet, BPQ
(01-03-2023)



Blessing of the New Mission, Pompurna
(31-03-2023)



Muron Holy Qurbana, BPQ
(04-04-2023)



Perpetual Profession of SABS Sisters,
Aluva (18-04-2023)



Golden Jubilee Celebration of Sr. Pushpa FCC
(19-04-2023)



Renovated Assisi Convent, Wasa
Blessed on 19-04-2023



The Renovated St. Thomas Church,
Chandrapur (23.04.2023)



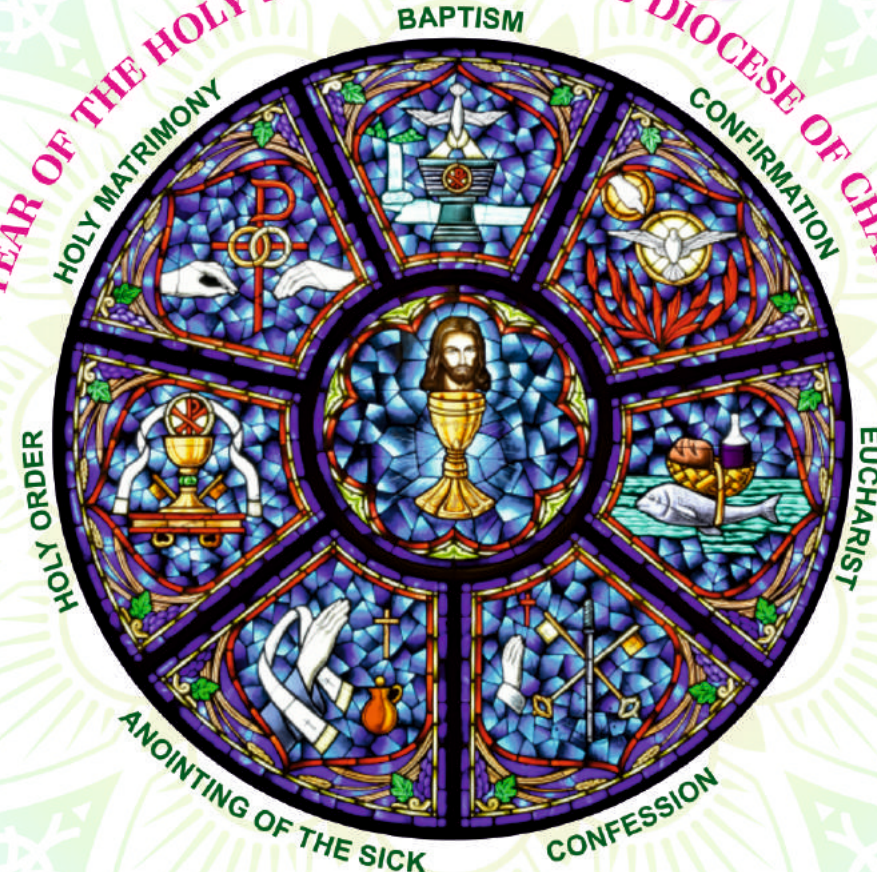
Blessing of Sacred Heart Bhavan Convent,
Kurkheda (19-04-2023)



chanda samachar

Bulletin, Eparchy of Chanda

YEAR OF THE HOLY SACRAMENTS 2023 DIOCESE OF CHANDA



Vol. XLVI No. 3 & 4

May - Aug 2023



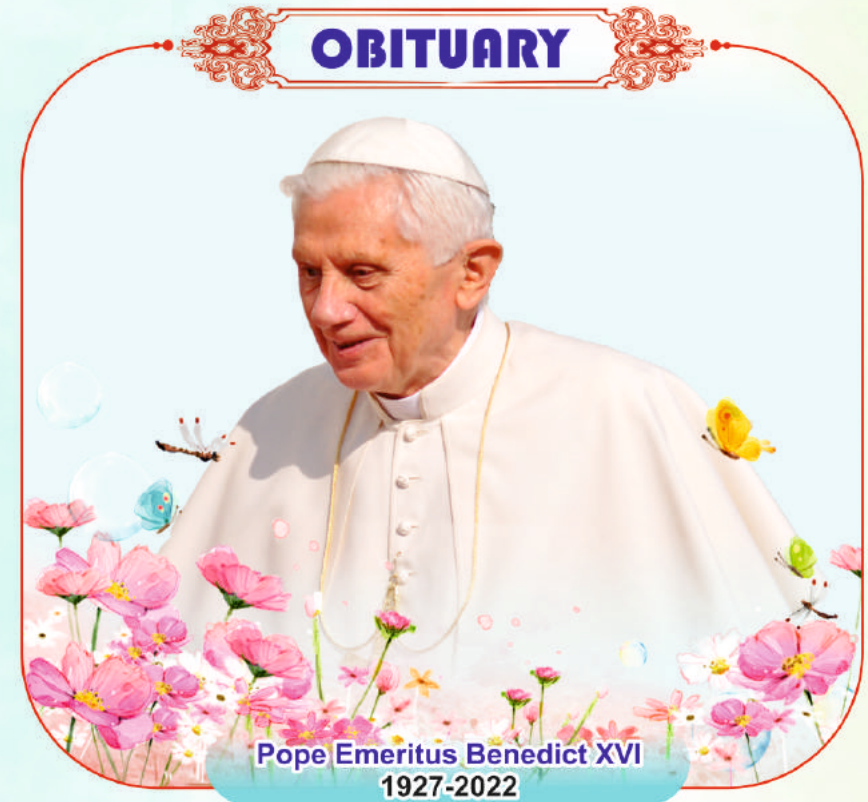
Congratulations!



Bp. John Rodrigues
(Bishop of Poona)



Bp. Sebastião Mascarenhas
(Bishop of Baroda)



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
1927-2022



Fr. Deepak Tirkey
26/04/2023

*Newly Ordained
Priests*



Fr. Vishal Janagam
26/04/2023

FR. JOBIN OVELIL
Department of
Communication
(09922832724)

CHANCERY, BISHOP'S HOME
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FR. SHINE MANJALY
Editor
(07025943781)



Silver Jubilee of Sr. Roshini ASMI,
Allapalli (02-02-2023)



Blessing of Gojoli Church
(08-02-2023)



40 Hours Adoration, BPQ
(20,21 & 22-02-2023)



28th Death Anniversary of Bp. Januarius CMI,
BPQ (28-03-2023)



The

Chanda Samachar

CHANDA DIOCESAN BULLETIN



Thy Kingdom Come (Mt. 6:10)

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



Vol. XLVI

MAY - AUGUST 2023

No. 3 & 4

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*The Sacraments are the salvation of those
who use them rightly, and the damnation of
those who misuse them.*

– St. Augustine

I. SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and My beloved People,

Thy Kingdom Come!

I am happy to share with you the news that this year -2023- we have in total six ordinations in the diocese – five for the diocese and one for the archdiocese of Nagpur. Out of six, there are three from the diocese itself. Until now we have 23 priests and more than 108 sisters from the diocese. The invitation of our Lord is to pray for vocation. “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Mt 9:37-38). Hearty congratulations to all the new priests. We shall continue praying for more vocations to priesthood and religious life. For Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits (Cf. Mk 6:7, Lk 10:1).

With good wishes
Your Shepherd in the Lord



† Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



II. PASTORAL LETTER - I

SACRAMENTS

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers Sisters and my dear faithful,

Thy Kingdom Come!

The Sacraments in the Church for a believer is the source of divine life. They are consoling, comforting, healing and calls each one to communion. They are the means of sanctification and salvation. The Holy Mother Church teaches us that each sacrament is special and has different effects on our Christian life.

Baptism: Takes away our original sin, the sins of omission and commission, make us members of the mystical body of Christ, the Church and make us worthy to inherit the Kingdom of heaven (Gen 12:1-4, 15:1-6, Dt 30:15-20, Rom 6:3-11, Mt 16:24-27, Jn 3:1-6).

Confirmation: Confirm our call to Christian life by providing us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and strengthens us to be the soldiers of Christ to witness, profess and defend our faith. (Is 11:1-4, Acts 1: 3-8, Lk 4: 16-22, Jn 7: 37-39, 16: 5-13)

Holy Eucharist: is the sacrament of thanksgiving and communion. It nourishes our soul to grow in faith and it is the medicine for all our spiritual sicknesses. It is a sacrament of unity, by which it preserves the harmony of Christians particularly in parish level as a local Church (1 Cor 11:17-34, Mt 26:26-29, Mk 14:22-25, Lk 22:14-20).

Penance: The sacrament of penance condones all our actual sins and open the way for re-entry to the Church's spiritual communion and fill us with divine grace so as to receive the Holy Eucharist in a worthy manner. It engraces to saves us from the temptation of sin (2 Cor 5:17-20, James 5:13-15, 1Jn 2:2).

Anointing the Sick: is the sacrament that strengthens or prepare our soul to accept God's will in physical illness. The Church teaches us that the effect of this sacrament is either a physical healing in ailments or a good death as God wills (Ex 3: 7-8, Is 35:1-10, Acts 3:1-10, Gal 4: 12-19, James 5:13-16, Mt 8: 5-17, Lk 18:9-14, Jn 9: 1-7).

Holy Orders: is the sacrament of ministry of service in the Church. Church by her very nature is missionary and every Christian by the sacrament of baptism partakes in the royal priesthood of Christ (1 Pet 2:9, Rev 1:6). By the Holy Orders a few are specially chosen and ordained to ministerial priesthood as functionaries for various services in the Church and to be the leaders (Num 3: 5-9, Lev 8: 1-12, Jer 1: 4-3, 1 Cor 12: 27-31, 1 Tim 4: 6-14, Mt 10:1-5, Lk 12: 35-44, Jn 15: 9-17).

Holy Matrimony: is the sacrament of life. Christ came to give life and life in abundance (Jn 10:10). Source of life is God. The Father almighty avail the co-operation of the crown of creation, the man and woman to continue the human life. The primary end of Holy Matrimony is spousal communion and as God wishes the spouses to become partners in procreation to continue life on earth (Gen 1:26-28, Prov 26: 1-4, 1Cor 6: 12-20, Mt 3: 3-6, Jn 2: 1-11)

Thus the sacraments are the will of God accomplished through the mission and ministry of Christ, his only begotten son. Every sacrament is instituted by Christ with the purpose as mentioned above. They are the means of sustenance of Christian life and add beauty to Christians' life in the world as social beings. The celebration of the sacraments also maintain some corporeal aspects of the Church as a human community. Thus our participation and reception of the sacraments is not only nutritious to our Christian life but also our community life and societal life as well.

As we all know in our Pastoral Plan we have declared the year 2023 as the year of the sacraments. This year we shall try to know the sacraments well and live by it effectively by their fruits to become genuine witnesses of Christ's values in personal, family, parish and social life. May God bless everyone.



Yours devotedly in Jesus,

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

NB : Please read and explain the content of the Pastoral Letter to the faithful any of the forthcoming Sunday



PATRON'S DAY

Our Dear Bishopji celebrates his Patron's day on June 09. Let us specially pray for God's choicest blessings on our Bishopji on the special day. Chanda Family wishes a HAPPY FEAST.

Poet, Teacher, Orator, and defender of the faith, St. Ephrem is the only Syrian recognized as a doctor of the Church. He took upon himself the special task of opposing the many false doctrines rampant at his time, always remaining a true and forceful defender of the Catholic Church. St. Ephrem, patron of spiritual directors and spiritual leaders, pray for us...



Bp. Ephrem Nariculam
(Diocese of Chanda)

PASTORAL LETTER - II

PRIESTLY OBLIGATIONS

Dear Rev. Fathers,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Priesthood is an invaluable and indescribable gift God has granted us through our High Priest, Jesus Christ our Lord. We the priests by our sacerdotal commitment and imposition of hands by the Elders are ordained to participate in the Ministerial Priesthood of Christ after the order of Melchizedek (1 Tim 4:14, Heb 6:20). We are ordained to fulfill the priestly functions to preach to lead and to sanctify.

CCEO 281 § 1 categorically states that the primary mission of a priest/pastor is “care of souls”. Above all, a priest must focus on salvation of souls. He is ordained to this divine task of paving the way for the salvation of all. It is an ineffable and gratuitous gift of God granted to everyone. “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mk 1:15). Priestly tribe/class became intermediaries between God and the human community guiding and leading the people of God to “Kingdom living” here on earth and the bliss of God's kingdom in life after (Num. 16:5).

'Nemo dat non quod habet' - no one can give what one does not have. Priests are called to have a pre-experience of God's Kingdom in life here on earth by prayer and priestly commitment to the mission. They include communion with God in moments of prayer, administering sacraments, reading and proclamation of the Divine Word, social involvement with compassion and charity etc. The divine experience that they obtain by their priestly commitment gives the horizon of the vision of God for themselves and for others. The divine experience becomes a channel of divine grace, which empowers others to become channels of divine grace.

Unless one has this experience in a preeminent way, one cannot communicate it with others in anyway.

Exemplary life, availability, humility, co-operation, obedience, acts of mercy, patient listening above all fraternal communion among priests, religious and the people of God boosts the efficiency and effectiveness in imparting God-experience to the people. The people have something to remember and something to carry with them always. They gradually move in the path of salvation and do experience God in their life, in the families and in the society at large. Thus priests are the sign-boards or pointers to the people of God for a life in the Spirit and in communion. “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you (Rom 8:11).

Paul continue to remind us that we are called to be God's children so as to call God, 'Father' and by participating in Christ's suffering to be glorified with him so then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”(Rom 8:12-17).

Thus we have a great task to fulfill as priests and the leaders of the parish communities. In collaboration with those in authority (Rom 13:1) and with all others we resolve to accomplish this divine task handed over to the fragile human hands, yet under divine guidance. It shows that how much care and orientation we require

to fulfill this task, indeed we are not free birds but instruments in God's hands who are his laborers but only fulfill the commands we are ordered. "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" (Lk 17:10). May I wish that we all take our responsibility seriously, sincerely and sensibly and so as to do it with utmost commitment to the mission so that we may become true witnesses and genuine God's ambassadors on earth. May God bless everyone.



Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus

†Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



PASTORAL VISIT 2023

Sl.No.	Parish/Station	Date	
1.	Balapur	July	20-23
2.	Hinganghat	July	28-30
3.	Kaotha	September	23-24
4.	Marakbody	October	05-08
5.	Chincholi	October	19-22
6.	Awarpur	November	03-05
7.	Repanpalli	November	23-26

†Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

Fr. Shibu Monipallil
Chancellor, Diocese of Chanda

NB: Please contact chancery two months before the dates of pastoral visit.

PASTORAL LETTER - III

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Rerum Noverum by Pope Leo XIII is the first encyclical letter about the involvement of the Church on social issues. Ever since the inception of the Church, she has been involved in various charitable activities helping the poor and the needy. Indeed it was the mission Jesus entrusted to the Church. His public ministry was mission of proclamation of Good News, and witnessed it with helping the needy. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (Lk 4:18-19). The evangelist summarizes the ministry of Jesus as follows; "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity" (Mt 9:35, Mk 1:38-39, Acts 10:38).

Though Church was always in the mission of helping the poor and the needy, it was done as an organized way by St. Vincent De Paul. The society of St. Vincent De Paul founded by Bl. Frédéric Ozanam (1813-1853) started doing great ministry to the poor in a large way and the society spread far and wide in the world at large. Today the society has branches in all the continents and in all parts of the world.

As pointed out earlier, the invitation of the Church to social involvement for the various needs of the people by the Church started with the call of Pope Leo XIII with the encyclical letter *Rerum Noverum* (15 May 1891). It emphasized the need to uplift

the poor and also to stand for justice. The encyclical supported not only doing charity but also labor movements. The encyclical discussed in detail the relationships and mutual duties between labor and capital as well as government and its citizens. “The misery and wretchedness pressing so unjustly on the majority of the working class” (RN, #3) need to find a just, lasting and satisfactory solution was the crux of the encyclical. It supported the rights of the labors to form unions, rejected both socialism and unrestricted capitalism while affirming the right to private property. One with all humility should admit that it did not bring out desired results. In this context it is our duty to resolve to do our best.

Rerum Novarum is considered a foundational text of modern catholic social teachings. Many of the position in *Rerum Novarum* are supplemented by later encyclicals in particular Pius XI's *Quadragesimo Anno* (May 15, 1931), John XXIII's *Mater et Magistra* (May 15, 1961) and John Paul II's *Centesimus Annus* (1 May, 1991) each of which commemorates an anniversary of the promulgation of *Rerum Novarum*.

With the encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* (May 15, 1931) by Pope Pius XI and *Octogesima Adveniens* (May 14, 1971) by Pope Paul VI once again gave clarion call for an effective social involvement to build up a just society with compassion, equality and liberty. Later in 1991 Pope St. John Paul II promulgated the encyclical letter *Centesimus Annus* (1 May 1991), on the centuary of *Rerum Novarum*, once again emphasized the need of establishing just society. He questioned all political and social structures that curtail human liberty and love for poor.

Populorum Progressio (March 26, 1967) by Paul VI called on every political and social structures to act for the progress of the people. A human centered society with respect for human dignity and human freedom was the focal point in the encyclical. Every

human person is a child of God and he/she is called to be free and have the right to progress based on one's own aptitude. The human progress by each ones' aptitude and effort is not at the mercy of anyone but it is one's own right and duty. Every government is to provide opportunity for all to grow and each ones' human right is to respected. Pope reiterated that the human dignity cannot be restricted with political pressures or pleasure.

My dear missionaries, today we live in a world of respect for human dignity and freedom. Drawing the spirit from these encyclicals we shall resolve to do our best to help the poor and the needy. May I request everyone to commit our missionary involvement accordingly so that each one's right is recognized and respected. God bless everyone.



Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus

†Ephrem Nariculam

Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



PRIESTS' ANNUAL RETREAT 2023

Starting 9.00pm on Sunday 12 November ends with Lunch on Friday 17 November 2023

Preacher: FR. DANIEL POOVANNATHIL

Bp. Ephrem Nariculam

III. CIRCULAR - I

Prot. No. 002/2023

02/01/2023

To,
Priests-in-Charge and the heads of the institutions in the diocese of Chanda

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

**Greetings to everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!
May the year 2023 be grace-filled to everyone.**

With deep sorrow we heard the news of the sad demise of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. A great theologian and staunch defender of Christian faith he served the Church in different capacities. Holy Mother Church is ever grateful for his great contribution in the field of liturgy, theology and ecclesiology. Church will always remember with gratitude his service to the Church as priest, archbishop, Cardinal and Pope. May God grant his soul Rest In Peace.

Hereby I request everyone to arrange memorial holy Qurbana for the repose of the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in every parish, mission and institution in our diocese on 5 January 2023. Please announce this in public and make sure that maximum number of faithful attend the memorial Qurbana for the Pope. January 5, 2023 shall be observed as a day of mourning in our diocese. Please cancel all celebrations until the funeral is over. We shall continue to pray for the Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church. God bless everyone.



Yours devotedly in Jesus,

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

IV. BISHOP'S DIARY

JANUARY 2023

- 1 Administered a baptism in Madackal parish in Ernakulum-Angamaly Archdiocese.
Blessed the newly constructed house of Fr. Vincent Pangola (Thottuva Parish).
- 5 Blessed a marriage in Melukavumattom parish in Palai diocese.
- 9-14 Attended Synod of Bishops at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad.
- 15 Blessed a marriage at Chalakudy parish in Irinjalakuda diocese.
- 16 Presided over a betrothal at Kallettumkara parish in Irinjalakuda diocese.
- 17-18 Mangalore seminary visit and met with Bro. Ajay Varkey.
- 20-21 Visited Bel-Air Hospital, Panchgani and met with the students from Chanda diocese who do nursing there.
- 22-23 Met with Bp. Joseph Arumachadath MCBS at Bishop's House, Badravathy and visited some mission stations in the diocese.
- 24 Offered Holy Qurbana at Katradge parish in Pune of the diocese of Kalyan.
- 25 Offered Holy Qurbana at Carmel Bhavan at Pune and met with scholastics there.
- 26 Bishop hoisted National Flag and delivered Republic Day message at St. Alphonsas' School, Kalewadi and offered feast day Holy Qurbana at Basody parish (Pune) in Kalyan diocese.
- 27 Offered Holy Qurbana at Papal Seminary and met with Bro. Joseph Jumade.
Bishop visited CMC Abandoned Women centre, Shirur (Pune), Vincentian Ashram and Salatian Institute (Nagar) near Pune.
- 29 Offered Holy Qurbana for the Finale of Bible Convention at Wirur parish.

- 30 The superior general of Holy Spirit Congregation, Sr. Alphy SHSp met with bishop at Bishop's Home.
Bishop attended monthly recollection for priests.
- 31 Rev. Fr. Martin Koottaplackal CMI, The provincial superior of Muvattupuzha Province met with bishop in the Bishop's Home.
Bishop presided over solemn Holy Qurbana offered in connection with the 350th Birth Anniversary of St. Louis De Montfort at Montfort School Community, New Daheli.

FEBRUARY 2023

- 1 Bishop attended Pastors' meet at Bishop's Home, in connection with Unity Octave.
- 2 Presided over the Jubilee Holy Qurbana of Sr. Roshmi ASMI at Allapally Church.
- 3 Bishop inaugurated Kiranodei Tailoring Centre in the Pastoral Centre.
- 5 Bishop presided over and gave message at Holy Qurbana at Darsana Philosophate, Wardha, in connection with the feast of St. Chavara Kuriakose Elias.
- 6-10 Bishop animated the pastoral orientation Programme for the Deacons.
- 8 Bishop blessed the newly constructed Chapel at Gojoli.
- 10 Bishop met with Rev. Sr. Daisy Kalamparamban, Superior general of FHGS Sisters.
Bishop took part in the Zoom meeting of Bishops of Syro-Malabar Mission diocese in Northern India.
- 11 Bishop presided over Feast Holy Qurbana for Grotto Feast at Warur.
- 12 Bishop presided over Feast Holy Qurbana at Jarawandi parish and First Holy Communion to 38 Children and Adults.
- 13 Bishop met with Bp. James Athikalam MST of Sagar who is on a short visit to Chanda Mission.

- 18 Bishop attended Episcopal Ordination of Rt. Rev. Dr. Fr. Sebastião Mascarenhas SFX, the new bishop of Baroda at Cathedral Church, Baroda.
- 20-22 Bishop attended 40 hours adoration at Cathedral, Ballarpur.
- 21 Bishop attended monthly recollection of Priests, Men and Women Religious at Cathedral, Ballarpur.
- 24 Bishop visited Montfort Provincial House, Hyderabad.
- 26 Bishop offered Holy Qurbana for Ballarpur Zone Bible convention at Divine Vachan Ashram, Bamni.

MARCH 2023

- 1-2 Bishop animated the Quinquennial Priests' meet at Pastoral centre, BPQ
- 6 Bishop offered Requiem Holy Qurbana for Fr. Paranabhai CMI at CMI Provincial House, Bamni.
- 7 Bishop met with Rev. Fr. Siby Njavallikunnel CMF, Claretian Provincial superior at Bishop's Home.
Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Rajura Convent.
- 8 Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Mount Carmel CMC convent, Chandrapur.
- 9 Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at SSS convent, Chandrapur.
Bishop attended ZOOM meeting of the Bishops of Syro-Malabar dioceses in North Indian Mission.
- 10 Bishop chaired Finance Council Meeting at Bishop's Home.
- 12 Rev. Sr. Lydia DM, the Superior General of Daughters of Mary Congregation met with bishop at Bishop's Home.
- 13-22 Visit to Miao, Dibrugrah, Calcutta and Krishnagar dioceses.
- 24 Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Morning Star Seminary, Barrackpore (Calcutta) and met with Bro. Romario.
- 28 Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at the death anniversary of Bp. Januarius Palathuruthy CMI at Cathedral, Ballarpur.

31 Bishop inaugurated and blessed the newly constructed prayer hall of Pompurna Mission.

APRIL 2023

- 2 Bishop offered Palm Sunday Holy Qurbana at Kurkheda.
- 4 Bishop offered Muron Holy Qurbana at Cathedral, Ballarpur.
- 6 Bishop presided over the Holy Thursday services at Cathedral, Ballarpur.
- 7 Bishop presided over Good Friday Services at Chincholi parish.
- 9 Bishop presided over Easter services at Awarpur Parish.
- 10-18 Bishop visited Nepal and Gorakpur diocese.
- 19 Bishop blessed the renovated convent and attended Jubilee celebration of Sr. Pushpa Manjaly FCC
- 21-23 Pastoral visit of Sumthana and Warora mission stations.
- 22 Bishop attended Jubilee celebrations of Fathers and Sisters at Wardha parish.
- 23 Bishop blessed the renovated Church of Chandrapur Parish.
- 25 Bishop offered Holy Qurbana for Mrs. Gregoria Khalkho, the beloved mother of Fr. Ajay Khalkho at Gatta Parish.
- 26 Bishop ordained to priesthood deacons Deepak Tirkey and Vishal Janagam at Ettapally Parish.
- 28 Bishop blessed the newly constructed convent of SH Sisters at Kurkheda
- 29 Bishop attended Priests' Seminar at Cathedral, Ballarpur.
- 30 Bishop presided over First Holy Communion Qurbana at BPQ.



V. BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

MAY 2023

- 01-12 - Major Seminarians Diocesan Formation Program, SVG
- 03-07 - Ujjain
- 11 - Blessing, Kalmana
- 13 - Minor Orders, BPQ
- 16 - Ordination, Mothirakkanni, Kerala
- 17 - Ordination, Kottanellur, Kerala
- 18 - Ordination, Pattikkad, Kerala
- 19 - First Holy Communion, Madackal, (Cherthala)
- 20 - Jubilee, Payyampally, Mananthavady
- 21 - First Holy Communion Payyampally Parish
- 24 - Wedding, Aranattukara, Trichure
- 25- July 07 - UK-Ireland

JULY 2023

- 09-12 - Western Region Bishop's Council, Sindadurg
- 20-23 - Pastoral Visit, Balapur
- 28-30 - Pastoral Visit, Hinganghat

AUGUST 2023

- 03 - Monthly Recollection, BPQ
- 04 - Vianney Day, SVG
- 12 - CSA Meeting
- 21-Sept 1 - Synod of Bishops, Kakkanad



Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis

Holy Chrism Mass

Holy Thursday

6 April 2023

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me” (*Lk* 4:18). Jesus began his preaching with this verse, which also begins today's first reading (cf. *Is* 61:1). At the beginning, then, the Spirit of the Lord is present.

Dear brothers in the priesthood, today I would like to reflect with you on the Holy Spirit. For without the Spirit of the Lord, there can be no Christian life; without his anointing, there can be no holiness. He is *at the centre* and it is fitting that today, on the birthday of the priesthood, we acknowledge his presence at the origin of our own ministry, and the life and vitality of every priest. Holy Mother Church teaches us to profess that the Holy Spirit is the “giver of life”. Jesus told us: “it is the Spirit that *gives life*” (*Jn* 6:63). His teaching was taken up by the apostle Paul, who wrote that “the letter kills, but the Spirit *gives life*” (*2 Cor* 3:6) and who spoke of the “law of the Spirit of *life* in Christ Jesus” (*Rom* 8:2). Without the Holy Spirit, the Church would not be the living Bride of Christ, but, at most, a religious association – more or less good, not the Body of Christ, but a temple built by human hands. How then are we to build up the Church, if not beginning with the fact that we are “temples of the Holy Spirit” who “dwells in us” (cf. *1 Cor* 6:19; 3:16)? We cannot lock the Spirit out of the house, or park him in some devotional zone, no, he has to be at the centre! Each day we need to say: “Come, for without your strength, we are lost”.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. Every one of us can say this, not out of presumption, but as a reality. For all Christians, and priests in particular, can apply to themselves the words that follow: “because the Lord has anointed me” (*Is* 61:1). Dear

brothers, apart from any merit of our own, and by sheer grace, we have received an anointing that has made us fathers and shepherds among the holy People of God. Let us reflect, then, on this aspect of the Spirit: *his anointing*.

After his initial anointing, which took place in the womb of Mary, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the Jordan. Following that, as Saint Basil explains, “every act [of Christ] was performed with the co-presence of the Holy Spirit”. In the power of that latter anointing, Jesus preached and worked signs; thanks to that anointing, “power came out from him and healed all” (*Lk* 6:19). Jesus and the Spirit always work together, like two hands of the Father – as Irenaeus said – that reach out to embrace us and raise us up. By those hands, our own hands were sealed, anointed by the Spirit of Christ. Yes, brothers, the Lord has not only chosen us and called us to go to that place or another: he has poured out upon us the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who descended upon the apostles. Brothers, we are “the anointed”.

Let us now turn our attention to them, to the apostles. Jesus chose them and at his call, they left their boats, their nets and their homes and so on... The anointing of the Word changed their lives. With great enthusiasm, they followed the Master and began to preach, convinced that they would go on to accomplish even greater things. Then came the Passover. Everything seemed to come to a halt: they even denied and abandoned their Master. We should not be afraid. We are courageous when reading about our life and our failures, even denying and abandoning the Master, as Peter did. They came to grips with their own failure; they realized that they had not understood him. The words uttered by Peter in the courtyard of the high priest following the Last Supper – “I do not know this man” (*Mk* 14:71) – were not only an impulsive attempt at self-defense, but an admission of spiritual ignorance. He and the others perhaps expected a life of triumph behind the Messiah who drew crowds and worked wonders, but they failed to

understand the scandal of the cross, which caused their certainties to collapse. Jesus knew that, on their own, they would not have succeeded, and so he promised to send them the Paraclete. It was precisely that “second anointing”, at Pentecost, that changed the disciples and led them to shepherd no longer themselves but the Lord's flock. Here is the conflict to resolve: Am I a pastor of the Lord's flock or of myself? The Spirit is there to show us the way. It was that anointing with fire that extinguished a “piety” focused on themselves and their own abilities. After receiving the Spirit, Peter's fear and wavering dissipated; James and John, with a burning desire to give their lives, no longer sought places of honour (cf. *Mk* 10:35-45) which is careerism, brothers; the others who had huddled fearfully in the Upper Room, went forth into the world as apostles. The Spirit changes our heart and points it in a different direction.

Dear brothers, something similar happens in our own priestly and apostolic lives. We too experienced an initial anointing, which began with a loving call that captivated our hearts and set us out on the journey; the power of the Holy Spirit descended upon our genuine enthusiasm and consecrated us. Later, in God's good time, each of us experienced a Passover, representing the moment of truth. A time of crisis which took various forms. Sooner or later, we all experience disappointment, frustration and our own weakness; our ideals seem to recede in the face of reality, a certain force of habit takes over, and difficulties that once seemed unimaginable appear to challenge our fidelity. For the anointed, this stage – this temptation, this trail which we have experienced, we are experiencing or will experience – is a watershed. We can emerge from it badly, drifting towards mediocrity and settling for a dreary routine, in which three dangerous temptations can arise. The temptation of *compromise*, where we are content just to do what has to be done; the temptation of *surrogates*, where to find satisfaction we look not to

our anointing, but elsewhere; and the temptation of *discouragement* – which is very common – where dissatisfaction leads to inertia. This is the great danger: while outward appearances remain intact – “I am a priest, I am priest” – we close in upon ourselves and are content just to get by. The fragrance of our anointing no longer wafts through our lives; our hearts no longer expand but shrivel, disillusioned and disenchanted. This is the problem, you know? When the priesthood slowly degenerates into clericalism and the priest forgets that he is a pastor of the people and becomes instead a cleric of the state.

Yet this crisis also has the potential to be a turning point in our priesthood, the “decisive stage of the spiritual life, in which the ultimate choice has to be made between Jesus and the world, between heroic charity and mediocrity, between the cross and comfort, between holiness and dutiful fidelity to our religious obligations”. At the end of this celebration, they will give you a gift, a classic, a book that talks about this problem: “The second calling”. It is a classic by Father Voillaume who touches on this problem. Read it. All of us need to reflect on this moment in our priesthood. It is that grace-filled moment when, like the disciples at Easter, we are called to be “sufficiently humble to admit that we have been won over by the suffering and crucified Christ, and to set out on a new journey, *that of the Spirit*, of faith and of a love that is strong, yet without illusions”. It is the *kairos* that enables us to realize that “it is not enough to abandon boat and nets in order to follow Jesus for certain time; it also demands going to Calvary, learning its lesson and receiving its fruit, and persevering with the help of the Holy Spirit to the end of a life meant to conclude in the perfection of divine charity”. *With the help of the Holy Spirit*: for us as for the apostles, it is the time of a “second anointing”, the time of our second calling, to which we have to listen; the second anointing in which the Spirit is poured out no longer on the enthusiasm of our hopes and dreams, but on the freedom of our

concrete situation. An anointing that penetrates to the depths of our reality, where the Spirit anoints our weaknesses, our weariness, our inner poverty. An anointing that brings a new fragrance: that of the Spirit, not of ourselves. At this very moment, inwardly, I am thinking of some of you who are in crisis – let's say – who are disoriented and do not know how find their way, how to get back on the road of this second anointing of the Spirit. To these brothers – of whom I am thinking – I simply say: courage, the Lord is greater than your weaknesses, your sins. Trust the Lord and let yourself be called a second time, this time with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. A double life will not help you; not a chance, throw everything out the window. Look ahead, let yourself be caressed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

This happens when we take the mature step of admitting the reality of our own weakness. That is what “the Spirit of truth (*Jn* 16:13) tells us to do; he prompts us to look deep within and to ask: Does my fulfilment depend on my abilities, my position, the compliments I receive, my promotions, the respect of my superiors or coworkers, the comforts with which I surround myself? Or on the anointing that spreads its fragrance everywhere in my life? Dear brothers, priestly maturity comes from the Holy Spirit and is achieved when he becomes the protagonist in our lives. Once that happens, everything turns around, even disappointments and bitter experiences – and also sins – since we are no longer trying to find happiness by adjusting details, but by giving ourselves completely to the Lord who anointed us and who wants that anointing to penetrate to the depths of our being. Brothers, let us rediscover that the spiritual life becomes liberating and joyful, once we are no longer concerned to save appearances and make quick fixes, but leave the initiative to the Spirit and, in openness to his plans, show our willingness to serve wherever and however we are asked. Our priesthood does not grow by quick fixes but by an overflow of grace!

If we allow the Spirit of Truth to act within us, *we will preserve his anointing*, because the various untruths – the hypocrisy of clericalism – with which we are tempted to live will come to light immediately. And the Spirit who “cleanses what is unclean”, will tirelessly suggest to us “not to defile our anointing”, even in the least. We think of that phrase of the Preacher, who says that “dying flies spoil the sweetness of the ointment” (10:1). It is true, every form of duplicity – especially clerical duplicity – that insinuates itself is dangerous: it must not be tolerated, but brought into the light of the Spirit. For “the heart is devious above all else; it is perverse, and who can heal it?” (*Jer* 17:9). The Holy Spirit, he alone, heals our infidelities (cf. *Hos* 14:4). For us, this an unavoidable struggle: it is indispensable, as Saint Gregory the Great wrote, that “those who proclaim the word of God, must first be concerned with their own way of life; then, based on his own life, he can learn what to say and how to say it... Let no one presume to say more than what first he heard within”. The Spirit is that interior teacher to whom we must listen, recognizing that he desires to anoint every part of us. Brothers, let us preserve our anointing, invoking the Spirit not as an occasional act of piety, but as the breath of each day. Come, come, and preserve our anointing. Consecrated by him, I am called to immerse myself in him, to make his life penetrate my darkness – and we all have this darkness – so that I can rediscover the truth of who and what I am. Let us allow ourselves to be impelled by him to combat the untruths that struggle within us. And let us allow ourselves to be reborn from him through adoration, for when we adore the Lord, he pours forth into our hearts his Spirit.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me”, so the prophecy continues, to bring good news, liberty, healing and grace (cf. *Is* 61:1-2; *Lk* 4:18-19): in a word, to bring *harmony* wherever it is lacking. As Saint Basil said: “the Spirit is harmony”, he is the one that brings harmony.

After speaking to you about anointing, I would like to say something to you about the harmony that is its consequence. Because the Holy Spirit is harmony. Above all in heaven: Saint Basil notes that “all supercelestial and unspeakable harmony in the service of God and in the mutual symphony of the supercosmic powers, would be impossible to preserve, if not for the authority of the Spirit”. As well as on earth: in the Church, the Spirit is that “divine and musical harmony” that binds everything together. Let us think of a Presbyterate without harmony, without the Spirit: it would not work. He awakens the diversity of charisms and brings them into unity; he creates concord based not on uniformity, but on the creativity of charity. In this way, he creates harmony from multiplicity. In this way, he creates harmony in the Presbyterate. At the time of the Second Vatican Council, itself a gift of the Spirit, a theologian published a study in which he spoke of the Spirit not as individual, but as plural. He suggested thinking of the Spirit as a divine person who is not only singular but “plural”, as the “We of God”, the “We” of the Father and of the Son, since he is their bond. The Holy Spirit is *in himself* concord, communion and harmony. I remember when I read this theological treatise – it was when I was studying theology – I was scandalized: it seemed like heresy, because in our training we did not quite understand who the Holy Spirit was.

To create harmony is what the Spirit desires, above all through those upon whom he has poured out his anointing. Brothers, building harmony among ourselves is not simply a good way of improving the functioning of ecclesial structures, it is not the *minuet* dance, or a matter of strategy or politeness: it is an intrinsic demand of the life of the Spirit. We sin against the Spirit who is communion whenever we become, even unintentionally, instruments of division. For example, I would mention again the topic of gossip. When we become instruments of division we sin against the Spirit. And whenever we play the game of the enemy,

who never comes out into the open, who loves gossip and insinuation, foments parties and cliques, fuels nostalgia for times past, distrust, pessimism and fear. Let us take care, please, not to defile the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the robe of Holy Mother Church with disunity, polarization or lack of charity and communion. Let us remember that the Spirit, as “the We of God”, prefers the “shape” of community: willingness with regard to one's own needs, obedience with regard to one's own tastes, humility with regard to one's own claims.

Harmony is not one virtue among others; it is something more. As Saint Gregory the Great writes: “the worth of the virtue of concord is shown by the fact that without it, the other virtues have no value whatsoever”. Let us help one another, brothers, to preserve harmony – this is the task – starting not from others but each of us from himself. Let us ask ourselves: In my words, in my comments, in what I say and write, is there the seal of the Spirit or that of the world? Do I think about the *kindness of the priest* – but more often than not, we priests, we are rude – let us think about the kindness of the priest: if people see, in us too, people who are dissatisfied and discontented bachelors, who criticize and point fingers, where else will they find harmony? How many people fail to approach us, or keep at a distance, because in the Church they feel unwelcomed and unloved, regarded with suspicion and judged? In God's name, let us be welcoming and forgiving, always! And let us remember that being irritable and full of complaints does not produce good fruits, but spoils our preaching, since it is a counter-witness to God, who is communion in harmony. Above all, it displeases greatly the Holy Spirit, whom the apostle Paul urges us not to grieve (cf. *Eph 4:30*).

Dear brothers, I leave you with these thoughts that come from my heart, and I conclude with two simple and important words: Thank you. Thank you for your witness and for your service. Thank you for the hidden good you do, and for the

forgiveness and consolation that you bestow in God's name. Always forgive, please, do not withhold forgiveness. Thank you for your ministry, which is often carried out with great effort, with little recognition and is not always understood. Brothers, may the Spirit of God, who does not disappoint those who trust in him, fill you with peace and bring to conclusion the good work he began in you, so that you may be prophetic witnesses of his anointing and apostles of harmony.



PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our Deacons.....



Dn. Linto Varghese

(Diocese of Chanda)

Date of Ordination : 16th May 2023
 Venue : St. George Church,
 Mothirakanny, Irinjalakuda
 Time : 09.00 AM

Dn. Naveen Varghese

(Diocese of Chanda)

Date of Ordination : 17th May 2023
 Venue : Our Lady of Fatima Church,
 Kottanellur, Irinjalakuda
 Time : 09.00 AM



Dn. Alwin Varghese

(Diocese of Chanda)

Date of Ordination : 18th May 2023
 Venue : St. Xavier's Forane
 Church, Pattikad, Trichur
 Time : 09.00 AM




VII. CURIA MATTERS


TRANSFERS / APPOINTMENTS Eparchy of Chanda (January - April 2023)

No.	Name	From/Relieved	To/Appointed	W.E.F
1	Fr. Jobin Ovelil		Priest-in-Charge, Mul (Additional & Temporary)	12/01/2023
2	Fr. Bosco OP	Priest-in-residence, SVG		16/01/2023
3	Fr. Thomas (Tigi) Karakkunel		Asst. Parish Priest, Wardha	18/01/2023
4	Fr. Joseph (Josekutty) Pathampally		Asst. Priest-in-Charge, Mul	18/01/2023
5	Fr. KD Chaacko Kakkaniyil	Priest-in-residence, Brahmapuri	Sant Vianney Priest Home, LSSS Campus, Bamni	28/01/2023
6	Fr. Bernard Kujur		Priest-in-Substitute, Shengaon (Additional)	07/02/2023
7	Fr. Priju Puthenpurackal	Asst. Priest-in-Charge, Gatta	Asst. Parish Priest, Warur and Pastoral Assistance in Shengaon	12/02/2023
8	Fr. Joseph Mukalel CFIC	Asst. Parish Priest, Brahmapuri		16/03/2023
		Relieved from service in the diocese		10/05/2023

No.	Name	From/Relieved	To/Appointed	W.E.F
9	Bro. Jils Sebastian		Regency, Bishop's Home	01/04/2023
10	Fr. Rajat Valiyamangalam	Priest-in-Charge, Jarawandi	Study Leave	15/04/2023
11	Fr. Denny Chittinapilly CSsR		Asst. Parish Priest, Chavara Bhavan Church, Ettapalli	15/04/2023
12	Fr. Suresh Thomas CMF		Episcopal Vicar for religious in Chanda	15/04/2023
13	Fr. Jacob Eraly		Priest-in-Charge, Jarawandi (Additional & Temporary)	15/04/2023
14	Fr. Binu Thomas		Director, <i>Jeevotsav</i> Parish Retreat Program (Additional)	15/04/2023
15	Fr. Nelson Mudaliar SDB	Vice Rector, Programme Co-ordinator, Youth Department and Relieved from service in the diocese		20/5/2023



Fr. Shibu Monipalli
Chancellor



† Bp. Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

SPIRITUAL ORIENTATION FOR MISSIONARIES

Monthly Recollection Schedule - 2023 (Diocese of Chanda)

Month	Date	Time	Occation	Participants	Venue	Special Event	Organizer
May	Prayer Day for priests, Men & Women Religious and People (Parish Level) (Please fix the date according to the convenience in the parish)						
June	June 6	06.00 PM	Recollection	Priests and Men & Women Religious	Zonal Centre	Parish day/Gathering	Respective Priest in charge
July	July 12	06.00 PM	Recollection	Priests and Men Religious	Online	Zonal Presbyterium	Zonal Vicar
August	August 3	05.45 PM	Recollection	Diocesan Priests	BPQ	Vianney Day	Fr. Shime Manjaly (Secretary)
September	Sep 16	10.00 AM	Missionary Conference	Priests and Men & Women Religious	BPQ	Missionaries' Diocesan level gathering	Fr. Vivek & SVG Rector
October	Oct 24	10.00 AM	Chanda Family Day	All Missionaries and Lay delegates from parishes	BPQ	Diocese Gathering	Cathedral Vicar
November	Nov 12-17	12 - 9.00 PM 17 -afternoon	Priests Annual Retreat	Priests and Men Religious	BPQ	Priests Renewal + Spiritual Orientation	Proto- Syncellus
December	Dec 09	09.00 AM	Advent Recollection	Priests and Men & Women Religious	BPQ	Christmas Gathering	Bishop

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

Diocesan Collection

Name of the Parish	Good Friday	Sabhadinam (JULY 3)	Mission week (January)	Chanda foundation day (Augt 15)	Mission Sunday (OCT)	Advent (Dece)
St. Thomas, Ballarpur	1500	500	1500	2000	30000	2000
St. Peter Church Visapur	150	150	150	200	600	250
Christ the King, Brahmपुर	5000	3500	3500	3000	40000	5040
St. Thomas, Chandrapur	10000	10000	5000	5000	30000	10000
Chavara Bhavan, Ettapalli	500	500	500	500	3500	500
St. Lawrence, Nagepalli	100	1000	500	500	7000	5000
St. Thomas, Shengaon	500	500	250	250	3000	500
St. Antony, Wardha	10000	10000	5000	10000	40000	10000
Our Lady of Lourdes, Warur	500	500	500	500	2500	500
Christ the King, Wirur	2570	780	1260	640	16230	2250
St. Mary, Durgapur	500	500	500	500	6000	2000
Christ the light of the world, Aksapur	250	250	250	250	1000	456
St. Mary, Awarpur	1500	1500	1000	1000	14565	1290
St. Joseph, Babupeth	500	500	500	500	5000	500
St. Mary, Balapur	500	500	500	500	500	
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bhamargarh	200	200	200	100	1000	200
Ascension of our Lord, Chincholi	300	500	400	500	1500	1500
Archangles, Dhanora & Gajamandi	1000	500	1000	500	7500	1000
Darsana Institute wardha	10000	10000	10000	10000	40000	4880
Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, Gatta	500	500	500	500	1000	1000

St. John Maria Vianney, Ghugus	2000	2000	2000	2000	18000	2000
St. Jude ,Gojoli	200	200	200	200	790	200
Christ the king, Gomini	1000	1000	1000	1000	3250	1000
Jeevan Jyothi, Hinganghat	1500	1000	1000	1500	8040	
Jeevan Jyothi, Jam						
St. Alphonsa, Jarawandi	250	500	250	500	5000	250
St. Thomas, Jiwathi	750	1000	250	500	1000	500
St. Alphonsa, Kalmana	500	300	200	200	3000	500
St. Mary, Kaotha	1000	1000	1000	500	4000	500
St. Joseph the worker, Kopreli	100	100	100	100	1600	
St. Francis Assisi, Kurkheda	500	500	500	500	1940	
St. Francis Xavier, Lakkadakot	500	500	500	500	1250	750
St. Alphonsa, Nandgaon	250	250	250	250	500	500
Muktidatha ,Pattaguda	500	500	500	400	5000	500
Mary Matha, Rajura	3260	3000	2000	5000	10000	5000
Queen of the most Holy Rosary, Repenpalli	200	200	200	200	500	200
St. Thomas Sumthana & Warora	1500	1500	784	1500	10000	1500
Infant Jesus, Wani	1000	1000	500	500	1500	500

INFORMATION

HOLY QURBANA REGISTER
(Holy Qurbana Account of Priests)

Holy Qurbana Register is ready for distribution.
It is printed in Devdan Press and published by CLC.
Copies are available in CLC book stall.

₹ 100/- per copy.

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL (DPC) 2022

DPC meeting of the Diocese of Chanda at Bishop's Home, Ballarpur on 10/12/2022

TIME TABLE

- Prayer
- Introductory Talk by Bishop
- Welcome Speech by Fr. Robinson
- Session on Synodality in the Church by Fr. Joshy Vazhappilly CMI
- Tea Break
- Bishop's Announcements
- Department Sharing
- General discussion
- Vote of Thanks
- Angelus
- Lunch, Good Bye.

Report

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) meeting of the Diocese of Chanda held on 10/12/2022 at 10:30 am. DPC began with a short prayer by Bishop and he reminded the participants about the importance of DPC in a diocese and their duties as per the Canon Law.

Fr. Robinson, DFO & VG, welcomed everyone to the meeting and elected the new secretary and joint secretary for DPC as Fr. Thomson Pullashery and Mrs. Rani Joseph respectively.

Fr. Joshy Vazhappilly CMI has given a Session on Synodality in the Church. He emphasised on Synodality, Synodal Church, purpose of Synodality in the Church etc. Synodality means **journeying together as the people of God**. It indicates a way of listening to each individual as a member of the Church to

understand how God might be speaking to all of us. A synodal Church is where there is unity in faith and where all participate actively in the prophetic mission. The purpose of synodality is a spirit of collaboration and openness among all. A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place in the Catholic Church that culminates in the final Synod gathering of Bishops in Rome in October 2023. The overall theme is “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission”.

Synodality ought to be expressed in the Church's ordinary way of living and working. In this sense, synodality enables the entire people of God to walk forward together, listening to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, to participate in the mission of the Church in the communion that Christ establishes among us. The people of God form us in synodality by way of action and way of prayer.

Bishop shared the following points:

The 2023 will be observed as *Year of Sacraments*. The sole aim and purpose of it is to make the people aware about the importance of the sacraments.

In connection with Diamond Jubilee we, the Chanda diocese observed 2022 as the year of most Sacred Heart of Jesus

As part of Diamond Jubilee we have decided to build 60 houses for the needy. This year 30 houses and the rest in the following years. Besides there are 200 toilets under construction.

For the Covid pandemic time we spend more than 2crores for the needy for food kits, medicine, self-employment, tuition fee etc.

Bishop also mentioned that we have focus and encourage local vocations

There are Job oriented opportunities for the youth in Ahamadnagar by Salesian fathers for that please contact Fr. Nelson SDB, asst. Rector of SVG

We have to focus more on the deepening the faith of our parishioners and bring back who lost faith

It is our duty to protect the nature in order to do so we have observed year of *Haridavarsh*. The spirit of green campus should be continued unabated.

For the spiritual growth and development of the mission we, the missionaries are to pray earnestly. And also, to promote people to the divine retreat centre (Vachan Ashram).

To regularise our spiritual life and to grow in a spirit of prayer Chanda Diocese brought out a prayer book called “My Family Prayer”, compiled Bp. Ephrem Nariculam. It will be translated into Marathi and Hindi.

We have built the following Churches recently (Bhamragrd, Gajoli and Kurgheda) and also started 7 mission stations (Kurgheda, Dlenwadi, Danora, Korchi, Kotgul, Karancha and Pomburna) in our diocese.

We are blessed to get 4 priests from outside of Chanda to serve in our Diocese, they are Fr. Sebastian Kandathil CSSR, Fr. Nelson SDB, Fr. Joseph Mukulel CFIC, Fr. Joseph OFM CaP.

We need Palliative care centre and old age home in the diocese. We are resolved to start it.

CNEWA has stopped their funding because of that we are finding difficult to run our boardings. Hence, we have to find some other sources to run our boardings.

Department Sharing

Catechism, Youth, CLC and Holy childhood – Fr. Vivek Puthenpurayil

Catechism

1. This year's catechism was inaugurated by Rev.Fr. Robinson on

3 July 2022. After the covid we could start catechism in every parish

2. A Catechism teachers' seminar was organised in the month of June. 42 teachers from different parishes participated in it.

3. This academic year online speech competition and drawing competitions were conducted.

Future plans

1. Zonal level competitions in the month of January

2. Retreats for children

3. Three days of seminar in all the parishes on seven sacraments

Youth

The year 2022 the department of youth conducted youth conventions in our Diocese from 25th October to 1st November in four zones. On 25th and 26th in Brahmapuri 57 youths were participated. The second youth convention was held in Ettapalli in which 148 youth were present. The Third and fourth conventions were held in Warur and Divine Vachanashram, there were 83 and 89 youths respectively participated. Salesian priests from Ahemad Nagar animated the sessions. The youth department of Chanda diocese thank whole heartedly all the Fathers, sisters and all the youths, for their Co-operation and active participation for the same.

Future plans of youth department

1. Selection of youth leaders in zonal level and diocesan level

2. Three days animation programs for youth in zone level

3. One week retreat for youth (diocesan level)

CLC

1. Village oriented retreats are going on.

2. One day conventions are arranged (29th Jan. in Wirur and Ballarpur date yet to be fixed).

3. Popular mission retreats are arranged in Ettapalli (on 26 Jan to 28) Wardha (29 Jan to 3 Feb.) popular mission retreats will be continued according to the need of the parishes

Forthcoming Programmes

1. Retreats in the parishes and villages
2. Marriage preparation course
3. Catechists training program.

Holy childhood

1. One day seminars for children conducted almost every parishes in the diocese

Future plan

1. Such one-day program will be continued

Fr. Thomson Pullasherry - LSSS and Kalabhavan

Loksamghra Social Service Society (LSSS) had been working towards the overall development of the marginalized people in the districts like Wardha, Gadchiroli and Chandrapur since the last four decades.

Caritas India is supporting a project called *Jeevan III*, it's in Jeevathi block. It is to strength the demand of empowered and capacitated women and ensure the greater participation and control of women in agriculture leading to more sustainable and resilient farming systems.

Good shepherd project is a welfare programme for the people belonging to the ten parishes in Gadachiroli district. This project is supported by *Missio – Austria*.

Envisaging Health and Well-Being of Tribal communities supported by *Manos Unidas*. The impact of this project is to improve the health and wellbeing of the Madhia, Oraon and Gond tribal population in the ten villaged of the Aheri block in the Gadchiroli district.

Railway Childline BPQ, Childline is a national 24 Hour free,

phone emergency outreach service for children in need of care and protection. LSSS is in association with the ministry of women and child Development under the Government of India and child line India Foundation.

A Short project from *CHAI – Miseror- Covid 19 Emergency Response Program* – Hygine and infection control support for 300 vulnerable families in 6 months.

Archdiocese of Toronto has given 2 Projects i.e., *Love and care Project and Houses for Diamond Jubilee Project*.

Save A Family has given 2 Projects i.e., *Housing Project and Individual Toilet Construction Project*. The implementation of these projects will ensure better dignity in the lives of the beneficiaries.

Kalabhavan

The new academic year started for our children from 25th June 2022.

We are currently having 42 Children which includes 25 girls and 17 boys.

Fr. Jobin Ovelil, the former director of the Kalabhavan got transferred on 30th April 2022 as he had completed nine years of selfless and dedicated service to the institution.

The Present Staff of Kalabhavan Children's home consists of Fr. Thomson (Director), Fr. Sebastian (Asst. Director), Sr. Anila SABS (Incharge), Sr. Blessy SABS and Sr. Liz SABS (the care takers).

The institution assists them to meet all their needs concerned with spiritual, physical, intellectual, social, emotional and cultural aspects.

General discussion

Priests and Nuns have come in the Diocese of Chanda from

distant lands to serve us, so it is our duty and obligation to respect and honour them all.

There was a suggestion to start a convent in the Chellawada village, Reppanpalli.

Mobilize the children and youth in the parishes and it is our duty to bring up the children and youth in faith.

It is good to have an agenda for PPC.

We had many catechists and they were preaching the word of God. Same way we need to Catechise the youth for a better evangelisation.

CNEWA stopped fund for our boardings and we need to revive our boardings.

Bishop thanked everyone for the presence and support to the diocese. Fr. Shibu Monipalli proposed vote of thanks. Bp. Ephrem chaired the meeting. With Angelus, the meeting came to an end at 1:30pm.

Fr. Thomson Pullasherry
Secretary, DPC



Congratulations...!

Chanda Family congratulates Bro. Algin Thomas, who received the minor order of Heupadiaknusa at Rome on 22 April 2023.

VIII. NEWS FROM THE MISSION STATIONS

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, AWARPUR

For Easter service Bp. Ephrem Nariculam was the main celebrant. We have bought 50 new chairs for the Church. The Diamond Jubilee house will be constructed very soon with the help also of Holy Family Convent School. DM sisters have bought a piece of land and planning to start a health care centre. Little land is allotted to the diocese in the corner of the DM sisters plot and the diocese plan to build a small Chapel with priest's residence for the pastoral needs of the religious communities of Gadchandur, Korpana and also the Awarpur parish. It will initiate contact with new villages in the area. Thanks to everyone.

Fr. James Kurissery

ST. THOMAS CATHEDRAL, BALLARPUR

- We celebrated *Apana Utsav* on 29 January 2023. We had solemn Holy Qurbana at 08.00 AM. Fr. Jimmy Koottala was the main celebrant. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam inaugurated the celebrations soon after the Holy Qurbana. We had various games and competitions throughout the day.
- We had 40 hours Adoration in preparation for the great lent from 20 February to 22 February. On 21 Tuesday a talk was given by Fr. Nelson Mudaliar SDV. It concluded with solemn Eucharistic procession and Holy Qurbana led by Fr. Robinson Chekkathadathil. Many of the Priests, Brothers, Sisters and faithful actively participated from all the zones.
- Annual Catechism exam was conducted on 26 March 2023.
- A solemn requiem Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Bp.

Ephrem Nariculam on the occasion of the 28th death anniversary of late Bp. Januarius Palathuruthy CMI on 28 March 2023.

- We had Muron Holy Qurbana on 04 April 2023. Bp. There was a talk by Fr. PJ Thomas OP followed by Holy Qurbana. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam was the main celebrant. Other priests joined for the Holy Qurbana. There were many sisters for the talk and Holy Qurbana.
- An outing was held for Pitrusangha on 23 April to Bhamragarh
- 34 faithful received the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation on 30 April 2023. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam presided over the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Qurbana.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, CHANDRAPUR

The renovated Chandrapur Church was blessed on 23rd April at the hands of Bp. Ephrem Nariculam. Ten children received First Holy Communion and Confirmation on the occasion. The work was completed by the co-operation of the parishioners. Thanks to everyone for prayers and helps to renovate the Church. Around 800 people participated in the function.

Fr. Joseph Kalathil

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHURCH, CHELLAWADA

The First Holy Qurbana of Fr. Visal Janagam was conducted on 30th April 2023 at Chellawada Church. There was a felicitation meeting after the Holy Qurbana. Around 300 people, priests and religious were present.

Fr. Saju Mathew

ASHIRVAN CHURCH, CHINCHOLI

This year Good Friday service was marked by the presence of Bp. Ephrem Nariculam. He officiated Good Friday service and delivered homily. The acting out of Stations of the cross was very touching and evoking devotion. It went through the village and even the people of other faiths were moved by it. There is plan to renovate the Convent building, if possible before the next rainy season.

Fr. Anoop

ST.MARY'S CHURCH, DURGAPUR

➤ **Visit By Our Dear Bishop**

Our dear Bishop Ephrem Nariculam visited us and offered Holy Mass in our church. He also prayed for the entire parish community for its wellbeing. He enquired about the parish and its different activities and future programme. Fr. Binoy, the parish priest thanked him for his pastoral visit and personal concern for the Durgapur Parish. He also interacted with sisters and asked about their educational activities. We thank dear bishop for his pastoral visit to our parish.

➤ **Core Committee Meeting**

The parish conducted the core committee meeting to discuss in detail about the holy week programmes, new baptisms, holy communion and the marriages. Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil CMI, the Parish Priest along with Fr. Bonis Karottukizhakel CMI, the assistant parish Priest and all the sisters actively participated in the meeting and explored the ways and means to organize the forthcoming programmes effectively. We have divided the duties among ourselves for the better execution of the same.

➤ **Star Collection**

All the families of the parish contributed a star each during the offertory procession to decorate the church with stars representing all the families of the parish to prepare well for the X'Mas. It essentially shows that Christmas is a celebration of love and togetherness and only in the midst of such unity Christ can be born. The stars offered by the parishioners were hung at the four sides of the church in and out and it brought smiles to the hearts of all the parishioners.

➤ **X'mas Carol**

The church formed a X'Mas Carol group and practiced songs very well to systematically present the Carol in each house. The Parish Priests and Sisters were with the choir full time and guided them. We not only visited the houses of our own parishioners but other houses of various faith at their requests. It was an enriching experience for the youth and the entire parish as we gave the joyful experience of X'Mas to various people of different religions. We thank everyone who supported in this endeavour.

➤ **Family Day & Catechism Annual Day**

Our parish community celebrated its family day and catechism annual day with a lot of enthusiasm and unity. It started with the solemn mass followed by the breakfast. After the breakfast there were various interesting competitions for the various groups like children, couples, *Mathrusangh* and *pithrusangh*. There was also tug of war for the various groups. We made sure that all participated in all the group activities and we didn't conduct any individual items to emphasize the value of everyone's participation. There was a variety cultural

entertainment put forward by various groups which was well appreciated by the entire parish. It came to an end with the sumptuous meal shared by all. The plantain shared at the end were brought by all the families and offered during the mass as a sign of unity and togetherness.

➤ **Rice And Oil Collection**

The entire parish community including fathers and sisters contributed rice and oil for the use of poor people and also for the parish get-together. All of us offered them during the mass in offertory procession at the hands of the main celebrant of the mass. It reiterates the giving habit among the parishioners.

➤ **St. Chavara Koinonia Group**

St.Chavara koinonia group took leadership in celebrating the feast of St. Chavara. It creatively organized the mass with introduction, offertory procession, special intercessory prayers and special songs. They also arranged the agape for all the participants of the programme. It was the final and last group among the three koinonia groups. All these celebrations gave a clear picture about the saint concerned and fostered unity among the parishioners and it increased the faith in God.

➤ **First Holy Communion**

This year for the first time the church conducted its first Holy Communion programme separate to give more focus on the children who receive communion. Earlier it was clubbed together with the church feast. There were around ten students who received communion and confirmation. The children were prepared by Rev. Sr. Gladis DM. the parents of the children arranged agape for

the all the parishioners to share the joy of the occasion.

➤ **Bible Convention**

The parishioners very actively participated in the bible convention held in Divine Vachan Ashram at forane level jointly organized by the diocese of Chanda and the CMI Mar Thoma Province, Chanda. The church arranged two buses for the conveyance of the parishioners and there was around hundred people who attended the bible convention from Durgapur Parish alone. It was a very good spiritual programme prepared the people for the Holy Week giving meaning to the lenten season.

➤ **Oneday Retreat**

The church organized the one-day retreat as an immediate preparation for the Holy Week. It was conducted by Rev. Fr. Shinu, the director of Divine Vachan Ashram. The entire parish attended the programme and they got rejuvenated before the Holy week.

➤ **Regular Confession**

The church organized the regular confession for the parishioners at regular interval especially during Holy week. We thank Rev. Fr. Sebastian Vayalil for making himself available for the confession whenever requested and required.

➤ **Visit Of DM General**

The superior general of DM congregation Rev. Mother Lydia blessed the parish with her visit. She attended the holy mass with us and interacted with the parishioners. It was a joyful experience for all of us. Her humility and simplicity were well noted by the parishioners and all appreciated her for the same. The parish priest thanked

Mother Lydia for the good services DM sisters are rendering for the parish over the years.

➤ **Ordination Day Of Fr. Bonis**

The church with a lot of love and enthusiasm celebrated the first ordination day of our assistant Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Bonis and prayed for him as a parish community and wished him all the very best. He was wished by all the heads of various groups and all appreciated his silent but very active and helpful nature. We had the solemn holy mass presided over by him followed by the felicitation.

➤ **Holy Mass At Home**

As per our master plan we offered a holy mass at the house of Mr. Rajeswar Chalurkar a Durgapur parishioner and the entire parish community took part in it. It was a wonderful spiritual experience as it gave people the idea that every house is a miniature church and all have to maintain the purity and holiness in the home environment in spite of whatever. Sr. Nirmal CMC came and shared her vocation experience to foster the vocations in the parish. we also had sisters from CMC communities Chandrapur. Hearty thanks to Sr. Philo CMC for cooperating with the parish for this spiritual endeavour.

➤ **New Initiative From Mathrusangh**

The members of the Mathrusangh of our parish decided to have a lucky draw in the place of traditional Christmas tree to collect some money for the church to meet the expenses of the church. All worked very hard and gave the church a feeling of strong leadership on the side of the Mathrusangh.

➤ **Blessing Of The Vehicles**

The church organized a common blessing of all the vehicles of the parish to invoke God's blessings on the

travels and travellers. All the parishioners brought their vehicles clean and neat and arranged very systematically for the blessing ceremony. We prayed for the safety and security of all the parishioners and sprinkled holy water on the vehicles and people for the special blessings.

➤ **St. Chavara Day Celebration**

Around hundred parishioners attended the Chavara Day celebration held at Mount Carmel Auditorium jointly organized by BJM Carmel Academy, Chandrapur and Mount Carmel School, Chandrapur. There was a solemn mass by Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil CMI and the homily was on the life and charism of St. Chavara. There was a very good participation of both priests and sisters from this area. All the parishioners of Chandrapur and Durgapur parishes were invited for the programme. The choir was led by the CMC Sisters well supported by Durgapur Church choir. It was a good platform for the both parishes to interact with each other. The programme was concluded with agape.

➤ **Renovation of the Church and Grotto**

The parish council felt the need of renovating the church and the grotto as the cement particles were falling down from both areas. Most of the parishioners along with fathers and sisters contributed whatever they could for the cause. We thank our bishop Mar Ephrem Nariculam for his support. We also thank BJM Carmel Academy for taking care of most of the renovation work. Now we have a church in rather good condition and a beautiful grotto.

➤ **For Christ...**

The Church decided to give a small box to each family where it was written “For Christ” to collect some money for the church as there is no source of income for the

Church. Every family accepted it with a smile and brought the box back to the church after a year and gave back to the Parish Priest in the offertory procession during Holy Mass. It was a great support to the Church as it not only created financial source but an awareness of giving tithe to the parish Church.

➤ **Holy Week Celebration**

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Durgapur celebrated the holy week in a very devotional and meaningful manner. It started with Palm Sunday ceremonies. The palm leaves were blessed and distributed to the parishioners and conducted a procession remembering all the events that happened in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The holy mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Prince Munjanat and the homily was preached by Rev. Fr. Bonis Karotkizhakkal, the assistant parish priest, St. Mary's Catholic Church Durgapur. The traditional washing of the feet ceremony was enacted and presided over by the parish priest Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil. There was a sharing of the pascal bread which were brought by different families fostering the spirit of unity. Good Friday service started in the morning and it was presided over by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Vayalil, the director of ICSE School, Datala. The sermon was preached by Rev. Fr. Prince. After the passion reading there was a solemn way of the cross which filled the minds of the people with empathetic love as they went through the different stations with cross remembering the great agony of Christ. Easter service began with the blessing of the new fire and water. There was a solemn holy mass and enactment of the resurrection of Christ. The holy mass was presided over by Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil and there was a procession with the statue of the risen Christ. Fr. Binoy, the Parish Priest thanked Fr. Bonis, the entire DM

Community and all the parishioners for their great support for the success of the Holy week celebration.

CHAVARA BHAVAN CHURCH, ETTAPPILY

The ordination of deacons Deepak Tirkey and Vishal Janagam were conducted on 26th April 2023. A traditional reception was arranged to the bishop and deacons. The ceremony began at 9.30 AM and ended at 02.00 PM. Almost 1300 people participated. Thanks to everyone for presence, prayer and support. The First Holy Qurbana of Fr. Deepak Tirkey was held in Petta village on 27th April.

Fr. Jacob Eraly

MARIARANI CHURCH, GATTA

The lenten retreat was conducted and many people participated in it enthusiastically. Fr. Jose Zade and Mr. Francis preached the retreat. Bishop visited the parish for the Requiem Holy Qurbana for the Mother of Fr. Ajay Xalxo. There is a plan to renovate the convent.

Fr. Nikhil Varghese

JEEVAN JYOTHI CHURCH, HINGANGHAT

The presbytery renovation work is completed. The Priest-in-Charge Fr. Joseph OFM Cap is attending Marathi course at Mumbai. In his absence Frs. Mathew Paikada OFM Cap and Fr. Sharon OFM Cap are assisting in the parish.

Fr.

SHANTI NILAYAM, KARANCHA, CAPUCHINS (OFM Cap)

Fr. _____ OFM Cap, the provincial Superior laid foundation

stone for the new house at Karancha on 14 April 2023. Around 30 Priests, religious and people attended the function. Though we digged two bore-wells in the land, both did not give sufficient source of water. A third attempt will be done in couple of months. Everyone’s prayer is requested for the success to get good source of water in the land. We are planning the construction as early as possible.

Fr. Sharon OFM Cap

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH, KURKHEDA

- The parishioners along with Priest and Sisters have gone on pilgrimage to Dongargarh on 24 March 2023 in the Raipur Archdiocese.
- One day Retreat and confession was arranged for the parishioners on 31 March.



- Bp. Ephrem Nariculam was the main celebrant on 02 April for the Palm Sunday liturgical celebration. Five faithful received the sacrament of Holy Communion, two new families received baptism and 65 people received the sacrament of Confirmation.
- The new Convent Sacred Heart Bhavan was blessed at the hands of Bp. Ephrem Nariculam on 28th April 2023. Fr. Peter

Kisan gave the homily on the occasion. The ceremony began at 10.00 AM and ended at 02.00 PM. Almost 120 people participated. SH Sisters have given financial support for the higher secondary students and for the house construction on this occasion Thanks to everyone for presence, prayer and support.

LAKKADAKOT

The Calvarigiri pilgrimage was done this year as usual. Many people turned up for the pilgrimage. Fr. Shinu VC gave reflection at the foot of the hill. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam gave the final blessing on the top of the hill after the Stations of the cross. As usual agape was served after the pilgrimage for all pilgrims. Around 2000 people might have visited the hill on Good Friday.



Fr. Somy Varghese

Regional House, SABS, Bamni

Four sisters Sr. Jyoti Therese SABS, Sr. Lino Maria SABS, Sr. Liya Tom SABS, Sr. Arpita Maria SABS had their final profession on 18 April 2023 at SABS Generalate Cenacle, Aluva, Kerala. We wish them every best in their future ministry. May God bless them.

Sr. Little Treasa SABS

SANT VIANNEY GURUKUL

- Brothers actively participated in the Grotto feast of Lourde Matha at Warur on 8 February 2023.

- Brothers participated in Zonal level Bible convention at Divine Vachan Ashram, Ballarpur on 26 February.
- Annual examination of academic year 2022-2023 was conducted from March 20 to 27.
- Higher secondary students have done their examination at Carmel junior college, Mandamari from 03 to 25 March.
- Brothers of first year batch had gone for their holidays from 29 March to April 28.
- Brothers of second years went for Easter ministry to Wardha and Kalamana parishes.

Dn. Linto Varghese

SEVA KUNJ CHURCH, SUMTHANA

Bishop did the Canonical visitation in the parish from 21 to 23 April 2023. He visited all the families in the parish both in Warora and Sumthana. He also met with the communities of sisters. On the last day of the Canonical visitation he offered Holy Qurbana at defense colony Church and administrated baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The SAB sisters built three houses as part of Diamond Jubilee House Construction Project. Two in Sumthana and one in Warora. Thanks to everyone for cooperation.

Fr. Sharon OFM CAP

JYOTHI NIWAS CHURCH, WANI

- Women's' Day was celebrated on 10 March 2023. Fr. Anil Murmade took a session on Women's' empowerment.
- There was one day retreat on 31st March. Fr. CC George preached the retreat.
- There were eight people sent to Tabore retreat centre, Mumbai in the month of March.

- We had senior citizen's gathering on 4 February. They also performed cultural programs.

Fr. Benson Cherian

ST. ANTONY FORANE CHURCH, WARDHA

1. *Apnautsav*, Parish day was celebrated on 15th January with the great participation of faithful. Faithful participated in various competitions and they were awarded with a memento.
2. The newly appointed Fr. Tiji Karakkunnel was welcomed in the parish on Sunday 22nd January 2023 by the Vicar, Rev. Fr. Vincent Pangola.
3. One day retreat was held in the parish on 29th January by Rev. Fr. Ajith VC and Nithya SJB.
4. A seminar on the sacrament of Baptism was arranged for the Faithful on 26th February. The resource person of the seminar was Rev. Fr. Ajesh Vadakkel CMI.
5. *Fanari*, Women fest was conducted on 12th March in connection with the Women's day celebration. Rev. Sr. Aneeja CMC conducted a seminar on Women empowerment together with an eyes breaking session.
6. A seminar on the sacrament of Confirmation was held for the Faithful on 19th March. The resource person of the seminar was Rev. Sr. Roslin FCC.
7. St. Joseph's feast was solemnly celebrated on 19th March with the participation of the *Pithruvethi*. Rev. Fr. Vicar conducted an eyes breaking session for the participants.
8. Superiors' meet was held on 27th March and Bp. Ephrem Nariculam met with them.
9. The following Fathers and Sisters silver Jubilee was celebrated on 22nd April : Fr. Joshy Vazhapilly CMI, Fr. James Karakombel, Sr. Jiss Rose DST, Sr. Leonsa MSMI, Sr.

Jothis MSMI, Sr. Maria CMC, Sr. Namitha CMC and Sr. Trincy SD. The Holy Qurbana was celebrated by Jubilarians in the evening at 05.30. The silver jubilee three couples who was celebrated on the occasion. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam presided over the felicitation meeting.

CARMELODAYA PROVINCE, WARDHA

- On 11th December 2022, the Foundation Stone for Carmel Study House, Bamini was blessed and laid by Mar Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda. Mother Philo the Provincial Superior and team, Fr. Martin VC the Administrator of Divine Vachan Ashram, Fr. Shine Antony – the Secretary to the Bishop, Mother Lilly Grace the Former Provincial and others were present.
- Symponia, a programme for HIV/Aids was held on 12th December 2022. Dr. Pramod Bhahulekar, a renowned Social Worker, Mr. Nerul Sheikh, HIV Programme Officer, Mother Philo, Sr. Meritta, Sr. Josy the Councillor for Social Work were the guests of the day. Nutritious kits and snacks were provided to all the participants. They appreciated the sisters and the Organization for the charitable activities undertaken by the CMC Sisters for the needy brethren.
- On 17th December 2022, Sr. Aneeja CMC attended the Regional Council meeting in Mumbai on the theme “Synodality of the Synod – my dream Church”. Representing Chanda Diocese, Sr. Aneeja presented a paper on the activities undertaken in our diocese and its upshot.
- 158th Foundation Day of CMC Congregation was celebrated in a solemn way on 13th February 2023. Rev. Fr. Vincent Pangola officiated the Holy Qurbana. In the

afternoon, there was an awareness programme conducted for the sickle cell and Thalassemia affected patients. There were 51 participants. All were given nutritious food kits, travelling allowance tea and snacks.

- Hearty Congratulations to our dear Dr. Sr. Ann Mary who secured Doctorate in Moral Theology. The Public Defence of the Doctoral Dissertation was on 7th March 2023, on the topic “A Good Christian Family is the Image of Heaven: Family Ethics in the Chavarul of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara”. She did research at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetra, Bangalore .

SISTERS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND MARY THE QUEEN

- Home mission team SJB (Srs.Jyoti, Divya, Dhannya and Valsa) generously spared their time and energy to regain and revitalise Catholic families in Gomini and Kopreli parishes of Chanda diocese. Sr. Jyoti and Nitya spent a few days preparing people for receiving Sacraments at Gomini. Sr.Divya directed Lenten retreats at Kalmana.
- Our Superior General Rev. Sr. Arpita Mathew was given a warm reception at our Provincial House on 26th March 2023.
- SJB health ministry had its meeting at Ashakiran with input sessions and sharing.
- Socio-pastoral ministry conducted women's day celebration at our various centres.
- Sanjeevani Ashram at Sewagram had three days retreat in the month of March preached by Fr. Jinse Madathiparambil from Jagdhalur diocese.
- SJB health ministry in collaboration with socio-pastoral ministry and education ministry implemented projects

sanctioned through CHAI, like Covid response Self Help Group and Livelihood Project and SOCHARA Community Health Project in different villages of Kopreli, Hinganghat and Allipur School. Through these, we could reach out to thousands of people and extend our service in the form of conducting tailoring classes, village based SHGs, medical camps, awareness programs and nutritional material supplement programs.

TERAPREM CHURCH, WARUR

The Grotto feast was solemed on 11 February 2023 with gaiety and honour. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam and the new priests celebrated Holy Qurbana along with other priests. Fr. Binoy Chekonthayil CMI preached the homily. The procession through village was greatly appreciated. The bishop and the new priests were accorded a traditional welcome. Thanks to everyone.



Fr. Dinesh Mate

ASHA NIKETAN CHURCH, WASA

The renovated Convent building was blessed on 19th April by Bp. Ephrem Nariculam. Thanks to everyone for cooperation. The provincial superior FCC Bhopal province is specially remembered with gratitude for her generous help in renovation of the centre. On this occasion the Golden Jubilee of the religious profession of Sr. Pushpa Manjaly FCC was also celebrated. The Holy Qurbana was followed by felicitation meeting. Around 150 people, sisters and priests participated.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

CLC



1. The ministry of Family Apostolate arranged Alpha Marriage Preparation course from 17 March 04.00 PM to 19 March 01.00 PM. Twenty Nine participants took part in the course. Different topics were dealt during the marriage preparation course to help the participants to lead a healthy and faithful married life.



2. Home Mission was arranged in eleven parishes of our diocese during the month of February and March in preparation for Holy Week. Sisters from SD, MSMI, CMC and SJB conducted home mission in the parishes. Thanks a lot to sisters for their willingness to help our faithful to lead a meaningful Christian life.

3. The department of CLC in collaboration with CMI Marthoma Province Chanda conducted three Bible conventions in the three

zones of the diocese. More than 1800 faithful participated in it. The department of CLC diocese of Chanda gratefully remembers the support and help from CMI Marthoma Province Chanda and all the fathers, sisters, brothers and faithful worked behind it to make these conventions a successful one.

CMI Mar Thoma Province of Chanda

Department of Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry

Bible Conventions

The department of evangelization and pastoral ministry of CMI Mar Thoma Province of Chanda in association with the diocese of Chanda conducted three bible conventions. We had the full cooperation of the parish priests, religious and parishioners of those areas. We conducted them zonal basis and all the three bible convention had good response from the people. Bible conventions at different places in Chanda prove that direct evangelization is still possible in our diocese and we need to pay due care attention to these duties as it is the primary duty of any priest. Hearty thanks to Bishop Ephrem, Bishop of Chanda diocese and Fr.Benny Mukalel CMI, Chanda Provincial for sincere support and encouragement.

I. First Bible Convention

The first Bible convention was organized on Jan 29, 2023 in Wirur involving all the churches under Wirur zone and the local convenor was Rev.Fr.Mathew Nirappel, the forane vicar. Almost all the parish priests and many sisters were present for the bible convention and brought many parishioners for the programme. One day bible convention was conducted by the Rev. Fr. Shinu and team from Divine Vachan Ashram. Bible convention was concluded with the



Holy Qurbana offered by our bishop Mar Ephrem Nariculam. Rev. Fr. Benny Mukalel CMI, the provincial Superior preached the homily. There was a large group of faithful who actively participated in the bible convention. Hearty thanks to Rev. Fr. Mathew Nirappel and all the priests, sisters and laity for the cooperation.

ii. Second Bible Convention

The second bible convention was organized on Feb 26, 2023 in Divine Vachan Ashram for the Balharshah Zone. The local convenor was Rev. Fr. Robinson, the forane vicar. The entire retreat centre was filled with people and missionaries for the bible convention. It was conducted by Fr. Shinu and team from Divine Vachan Ashram. One talk was given by Fr.



Binu, the parish priest of Babupeth. Almost all the priests and religious from Balharshah zone and nearby places attended the programme. It was a great spiritual nourishment for the people during the lenten season. It was concluded by the Holy Qurbana offered by bishop Ephrem Nariculam and Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil CMI preached the homily. Hearty thanks to Rev. Fr. Robinson, all the priests, religious and faithful for the cooperation. A special word of thanks to Divine Vachan Ashram for making the retreat centre available for the bible convention.

iii. Third Bible Convention

The third bible convention was organized on March 12, 2023 in Prabhu Sadan Ashram, Tarsa. The local convenor was Rev. Fr. George Chackalackal CMI. The priests and religious from the nearby parishes cooperated and brought many parishioners for the Bible Convention. There was a huge response from all the parishes of the zone for the one day programme. Rev. Fr. Shinu and team from Divine Vachan Ashram conducted the programme. Bishop Ephrem blessed the bible convention with his Holy Qurbana and Rev.



Fr. Benny Mukalel preached the sermon. It was an awakening experience for the people who came from interior villages. Hearty thanks to Rev. Fr. CC George, the members of Prabhu Sadan Ashram, all the priests and religious who worked hard for the success of this bible convention.

Commemoration of a great Missionary

A special commemorative mass, meeting followed by agape organized by the department at Kalmana Parish at the request of the Parish Priest Rev. Fr. Praveen on the first death anniversary of the great missionary Rev. Fr. Prasanna Bhai who founded the Kalmana Parish. Fr. Praveen, Sisters and the entire parish community took part in all the programmes very actively and all of them fondly remembered the selfless service of Fr. Prasanna Bhai.

Music Ministry

The department continued with the online evangelization programme especially the music ministry. It is noted that many people are using our songs for the holy Qurbana and many other occasions. Recently we released two songs on Holy Spirit. We also released a song for offertory. We released a song on Hosana in Hindi for the use of the song on palm Sunday and other major occasions. The karaoke of all these songs are available on our CVision channel. The department whole heartedly thank all of you for your great support over last three years.

Speech Competition on the relevance of my Congregation/Diocese

The department has conducted an international level speech

competition for Priests, Sisters and Seminarians. Its topic was “The relevance of my Congregation/Diocese Today”. This competition was intended to create awareness among the faithful and even among clergy and religious about the relevance of Religious and Clergy today. It was conducted in English, Malayalam and Marathi languages. We had a very good response from various countries. The three winners who obtained cash prizes and certificates of appreciation are Sr.Jefia SD, Kerala, Sr.Joel CSM, Kerala and Sr.Yajna CMC from Maharashtra. All the other participants were given E participation certificates.

A Word of Appreciation and Gratitude

As I am completing my term as a councilor for evangelization and pastoral ministry, I am indeed very grateful to all of you for your wonderful cooperation with the department. I appreciate and thank our dear Bishop Ephrem Nariculam for all his encouragements and support. I also thank Rev. Fr. Benny Mukalel CMI, Provincial Chanda Province for all his support. I also thank all the participants of various competitions and other activities especially the wonderful cooperation for three bible conventions.

Fr. Binoy CMI

Holy Childhood

The Holy Childhood Association conducted on 14 April a one day seminar in Gadchiroli for the catechism students from Wasa, Gadchiroli and Chamorshi parishes. More than 75 catechism students took part in it.

On 15 April, the Holy Childhood Association conducted a one day seminar at St. Alphonsa's Church Jarawandi. 69 children participated in it.



Holy Childhood Association of Chanda diocese conducted three seminars for the Catechism students in mission stations in the month of April 2023. The first seminar was at Gadchiroli on 14 April. Catechism students from Gadchiroli, Wasa and Chamorshi participated in it. Sixty three children were present for the seminar. The second seminar was at Jarawandi on 15 April. Eighty students from hostel and from different villages participated in it. The third seminar was conducted at Gatta on 22nd April. Sixty six catechism students took part in this seminar. Thanks to all Priest-in-Charges and Sisters for their support and cooperation.



Quotes

“ The Sacraments are like hoses. They are the channels of the living water of God's grace. Our faith is like opening the faucet. We can open it a lot, a little, or not at all. ”

– Peter Kreeft

A TRIBUTE TO REV. FR. MATHEW NJARAKKATT CMI

(1941-2023)

Birth : 05 May 1941 First Profession : 16 May 1961
Ordination : 22 March 1969 Death : 01 April 2023



When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said: “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit” (Jn. 1: 47). There is no other better attribute that suits to Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt than these words of Jesus.

Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt was born on May 05, 1941 as the second son of late Mrs. Thresiamma and Mr. Joseph Njarakaatt, Vayalar East, near Chertala in Alapuzha District of Kerala. The family belonged to St. Michael's Church, Kavil parish in the archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. He had four siblings: Dr. O Varkey who was working in the US, Mr. N. J. Xavier who is a retired teacher and is at the ancestral home at Vayalar, Mrs. N. J. Mary, a retired teacher and Mr. N. J. Sebastian, the youngest sibling, is a retired Registrar and Secretary of the National Council of Applied Economics Research, New Delhi.

After his schooling at St. Xavier's Primary School, Vayalar and high school education at Thaikkattussery the young Maathachan joined the CMI Congregation as aspirant at Koonammavu, Aluva. After his Novitiate at Karukutty he made his First Vows on 16 May 1964. After his philosophical and theological studies at Dharmaram College, Bengaluru, he was ordained a priest on 22 March 1969.

Father Mathew Njarakkatt came to Chanda Mission in 1971.

After some language studies at Ambikapur, he was appointed at Prabhu Sadan CMI Monastery, Tarsa. His interest was in helping the people in the remote areas through agriculture. Along with Fr. James Thottappilly CMI, he took efforts to make the large fields of the Monastery cultivable. Some fruit and shade trees were planted adding to the beauty of the monastery which was situated on the banks of river Wainganga. During his five-year stay at Tarsa, he took special training in agriculture and helped out the villagers to go for better methods of farming leading to higher yields.

In 1976 he moved to a remote village called Kopreli in today's Gadchiroli district and founded the mission station. It was the fruit of his extension works from Tarsa. Many a times, he used to walk the 20 kilometers distance through the forests, for there were very few transport services available. The new mission station at Kopreli was named 'Kisanwadi.' The people around this station were largely tribal and he helped them out in many ways. He was also instrumental in the formation of the first Christian community here. Father Mathew Njarakkatt was a great help to the late Fr. Jose Parayaruthottam CMI in the foundation and development of the mission station at Gomini which he nurtured after the sudden death of Fr. Jose Parayaruthottam. Then he was asked to take up the charge as the superior of Prabhu Sadan Monastery, Tarsa. This he continued from 1985 to 1988. From here he continued his socio-pastoral activities to the people of these areas. He was also priest-in-charge of the parish attached to the monastery; director of the boarding house, and in-charge of the social works. Then he was member at the CMI communities at Gadchiroli and Datala. In all the places, he left his mark with the development of the agricultural fields. At the same time he was noted for his availability to the people.

Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt served the CMI Congregation as the Councilor for Social Apostolate of Mar Thoma Province, Chanda

from 1984-87. He was instrumental in purchasing the property at Chamorshi where he promoted agricultural activities reaching out from Tarsa. So also, he had initiated agricultural activities at Wadsa before educational institutions came up in both these places.

Two years (2006-2008) he served as the director of the CMI Bhavan, Kannur until Mar Thoma Province got bifurcated and created Mary Matha Vice Province, Hyderabad to which the Kannur house was ascribed. After the bifurcation, Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt moved to Tera Nur, Aluva. There he used to make himself available at the service of the community and the members visiting from missions. There used to be many who would come over to Aluva for medical care. Fr. Njarakkatt was a ready help for all in their needs. He also took care of the small compound at Tera Nur, making the optimum use of the available land for fruits and vegetables, and also caring for the flower and decorative plants.

Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt practiced a filial attachment to our Blessed Mother and used to spend long hours in prayer. An ardent lover of silence and solitude, he was enthusiastic about observations of religious discipline and gentleness. His obedience to religious authority is unmatched. He was very innocent to the core and never have we seen him getting angry or depressed. As he was a lover of silence he worked and moved around silently as a silent worker of God. An early bird in the Mission Stations and CMI houses, he valued time, and made the best use of the free time for prayer and meditation. He was a voracious reader especially of spiritual books. Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt often kept a low profile and was very happy to play the second fiddle, promoting his confreres and co-workers in the Mission. He was dependable and trustworthy.

After leading a fruitful religious, priestly and missionary life, his Lord called him to eternal rest on Saturday, 01 April 2023

after suffering for two days of illness due to old age at the Rajagiri Hospital. On 04 April 2023, his mortal remains were brought to Tera Nur, Aluva and kept for public homage. Rev. Fr. Thomas Chathamparampil, Prior General of the CMI Congregation paid homage to Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt and prayed the Office for the dead. The first part of the funeral ceremony began at 10.30 a.m. on 04 April 2023 and it was led by Rev. Fr. Benny Joseph Mukalel CMI, Provincial Superior of Mar Thoma Province, Chanda. Then he was carried to Little Flower Monastery Chapel at Manappuram, near Cherthala, close to his home parish Kavil. The second part of the funeral ceremony was led by Rev. Fr. Josey Thamarassery, Vicar General, CMI Congregation. Then the requiem mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Vicar General. A befitting homily highlighting the noble qualities of Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt was done by Rev. Fr. Johnson Thekkudan. Before the Holy Qurbana a condolence message from Bishop Ephrem Nariculam, Bishop of Chanda was read out as he could not attend the funeral. The final part of the funeral ceremony was led by His Excellency Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal. Mar Thoma Province would like to thank Sacred Heart Province, Kochi, Rev. Fr. Benny Nalkara, Provincial and the members of Little Flower Monastery, Manappuram, especially Rev. Fr. Prior Anto Mannezharrh and Rev. Fr. Issac Tharayil who was the Master of Ceremony of the entire Funeral services. We also would like to express our sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Bijo Mattaparampil CMI for leading the Choir for the funeral. The funeral was attended by large number of priests, religious, parishioners of St. Michael's Parish, Kavil and relatives of Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt. The funeral ceremony ended with Vote of Thanks proposed by Rev. Fr. Provincial Benny Joseph Mukalel CMI. May God grant Fr. Mathew Njarakkatt eternal rest.

Fr. Benny Joseph Mukalel CMI
Former Provincial Superior

HEAVENLY BRETHREN

MAY

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

JUNE

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

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

01st DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



Second Death Anniversary of Fr. Lawrence Burle falls on Sunday 14 May 2023. Please remember him in our prayers.



Second Death Anniversary of Fr. Joseph Kozhikothickal falls on Monday 14 August 2023. Please pray for the repose of his soul and offer prayers on the day.



XI. ON GOING FORMATION

ADDRESS	COURSE	DATE
Denehalaya, Punnapara, Alappuzha, Kerala, 9747836772 danahalaya@gmail.com	Two Year Diploma Course in Formative Spirituality and Pastoral Counseling together with MA in clinical Psychology - IGNOU	15 June 2023 to June 2025
Denehalaya, Punnapara, Alappuzha, Kerala, 9747836772 danahalaya@gmail.com	One Year Course for Formative Spirituality and Pastoral Counseling	15 June 2023 to 15 March 2024
Gyan Deep Bhavan C/o Bishop's House Ghat Gate, Jaipur 302004 Rajasthan	Psycho Spiritual Integration Program	June 13-19 2023

**SACRED ORDERS AND VESTITION
Eparchy of Chanda**

M'Samsanusa



Heupadiaknusa

Karoyusa



13.05.2023

St. Thomas Cathedral, Ballarpur

07.00am

DIOCESAN YEAR PLAN 2023 : CHANDA

The Year of Holy Sacraments

MAY

- Prayer Day for priests, men & women religious and people (Parish Level)
(One day recollection in the parish)
- Home Mission
- 01 - May Day (International Labour Day), St. Joseph, the patron of workers
- 01-12 - Major Seminarians' Diocesan Formation Programme (MSDFP)
- 05 - First Friday
- 06 - St. Dominic Savio
- 13 - Vestition/Minor Orders, BPQ
- 14 - Second death anniversary of Fr. Lawrence Burle
- 16-18 - Priestly Ordinations, Kerala
- 18 - Feast of Ascension
- 28 - Feast of Pentecost
- 31 - Visitation of Bl. V. Mary

JUNE

- Hindi & Marathi Language Course
- 02 - First Friday
- 04 - Feast of Holy Trinity
- 05 - World Environment Day
- 06 - Monthly Recollection for the diocesan, Zonal level (Zonal Presbyterium)
- 08 - Feast of Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), St. Mariam Theresia
- 09 - St. Ephrem, Patron's Day - Bp. Ephrem
- 16 - Feast of Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 17 - Feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary

- 29 - Sts. Peter and Paul (Bakr-id, Holiday)

JULY

- 03 - St. Thomas the Apostle and the patron of our diocese
- 07 - First Friday
- 12 - Monthly Recollection for Priests and Men & Women Religious (ONLINE)
- 16 - Feast of Mount Carmel
- 20-23 - Pastoral Visit (Balapur)
- 23 - Day of grant parents and elderly
- 25 - St. James
- 28 - St. Alphonsa
- 28-30 - Pastoral Visit (Hinganghat)
- 29 - Muharam/Ashura Holiday

AUGUST

- 01 - Fifteen days fast in preparation for the feast of Assumption of our Lady begins
- 03 - Monthly Recollection for Diocesan priests (BPQ), Board of Education Meeting
- 04 - St. John Maria Vianney - Vianney Day (SVG), First Friday
- 06 - Transfiguration of our Lord, Priests Sunday
- 12 - CSA Meeting
- 14 - Second death anniversary of Fr. K.S. Joseph, Kozhikothickal
- 15 - Feast of Assumption, Independence Day & Chanda Establishment Day (1962)
- 21 - Chanda Establishment Day Sunday Collection
- 21-Sep 01 - Pray for Synod of Bishops
- 29 - St. Euphrasia, Onam
- 30 - Raksha Bandhan Holiday

