



Shepherd's Voice

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The month of October is the month of the holy rosary. It encourages us to meditate on the mysteries of salvation in the life of Jesus and since she was the first disciple of her Son, also of Mary through daily recitation of the Rosary. In the recitation of the rosary, our prayer focuses on four sets of mysteries: the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries, reflecting on different stages of Christ's life and ministry. Hence, the rosary is primarily a Christological meditation and only secondarily it is a Marian devotion. ***"Ad Iesum per Mariam"***. To Christ through Mary.

Of course, the Rosary honors and contemplates Mary too, and rightly so, for the same reason that the Liturgical Year does likewise: Because of the mission she received from God, her life is most closely linked with the mysteries of Jesus Christ, and there is no one who has followed in the footsteps of the Incarnate Word more closely and with more merit than our Blessed Mother.

Daily recitation of the rosary with devotion is a powerful and more effective means of making progress in our personal Christian life, our priestly vocation, our religious consecration and above all, in our apostolic fruitfulness. The family that prays together stands together. Daily praying the rosary together as a family is a wonderful way of building unity, reconciliation and peace in our families.

Today, more than ever before, when great dangers threaten not only Christianity but all civilization, we are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the Rosary for help. If we in sufficient numbers do this, and at the same time carry out the other conditions that she has laid down, we have the greater reason for confidence that we will be delivered from our dangers. Mary is the Queen of Peace. May she intercede for us to be filled with peace deep within us so that each and every one of us becomes a channel of peace and a builder of universal fraternity wherever we go.

I exhort all of our people, priests, religious and laity, to continue, and if needed, revive the wholesome practice of daily recitation of the rosary both personally and in common. I earnestly request our priests to redouble their efforts to spread the practice of family rosary among our people, as a powerful means of new evangelisation.

This leads me to the World Mission Sunday 2026 on 18 October 2026, marking the historic 100th anniversary of the global celebration established by Pope Pius XI. On that day the worldwide Catholic Church comes together to support mission dioceses. This year's theme is, "One in Christ, united in mission," chosen by Pope Leo XIV. The first part of the message of the Holy Father reflects the Pope's pontificate motto, *In Illo uno unum* ("In Him, One"). The worldwide collections during Mass go entirely to the Pontifical Mission Societies to support

churches, hospitals, schools, and pastoral care in developing the poor dioceses. However, we must be on guard to ensure that our entire focus to be not on collection. Rather, let Mission Sunday be an occasion for each of us to reflect on our fundamental mission to give Christ to the people we meet. The pastors of the people, in particular, will please employ most of their time and energy to make our people to understand evangelizing mission to be primarily to spreading the Good News by embodying the Gospel spirit and witnessing to Christ; and only secondarily it is a matter of collections.

✠ **Francis Serrao, SJ**
Bishop of Mysore

EVENTS

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY:

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a beautiful and powerful prayer cherished by Catholics throughout the world. The Rosary invites us to contemplate the mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the loving eyes of Mary, His Mother. The Rosary is not just the repetition of prayers. It is a school of prayer and contemplation. As we meditate on each mystery, we walk with Jesus through the important moments of His earthly life. Mary accompanies us on this journey and teaches us to listen to God, trust Him and follow His will.

In a world filled with anxiety, conflict and distractions, the Rosary offers us a precious moment of silence and peace. Families who pray the Rosary together discover strength, unity and deeper faith. The Rosary can become a source of comfort for those who are suffering and a means of intercession for the needs of the Church and the world. The month of October invites us, to renew our devotion to the Rosary. Let us pray it personally, with our families and in our parish communities. May Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, lead us ever closer to her Son and help us become faithful witnesses of the Gospel.

FEAST OF ST THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS:

The Church celebrates the Feast of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus on October 1.

Known as the “Little Flower,” Thérèse lived a short but profoundly holy life in the Carmelite convent at Lisieux, France. She entered religious life at an early age of 15, overcoming various obstacles to become a Nun in the cloistered Carmelite Community of Lisieux, Normandy. Her two elder sisters were already religious in that community. She was known for her piety but suffered the painful disease of Tuberculosis and died at the young age of 24 to be recognised as one of the most popular saints of the twentieth century. She was canonized in 1925. Pope John Paul II declared her the thirty-third Doctor of the Church and only the third woman to be honoured as doctor. She is the Patroness of the Missions.

FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS:

We celebrate the feast of Guardian Angels on the 2nd of October, remembering that no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers, real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children for they represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death. The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a piety based on Scripture (Matthew 18:10).

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI:

St Francis of Assisi, a saint of the 12th century, is the Catholic Church's patron

saint of animals and Ecology. We celebrate his feast on the 4th of October remembering his simplicity and love of the poor and of nature. He founded three Catholic Orders, including the Franciscan Order named after him. He gathered followers as he rebuilt churches, helped the poor and declared the sanctity of all life. The principle of sanctity for all of God's creations, whether human, animate or inanimate, is the source of his reputation as a lover of nature. He imitated Jesus born poor in a manger empty of everything. He loved nature, and could relate and commune with birds and other animals. He miraculously received Christ's wounds, the stigmata, in his own flesh during September 1224.

BROTHERHOOD DAY:

Brotherhood Day, celebrated on October 4, invites us to reflect on the values of fraternity, peace, compassion, and mutual respect. It reminds us that, despite differences of religion, language, culture, or social background, we are members of one human family. True brotherhood means recognizing the dignity of every person and reaching out to those who are lonely, poor, marginalized, or in need. The spirit of brotherhood calls us to replace hatred with love, division with unity, and indifference with caring. Jesus teaches us to love one another and to see every person as a brother or sister. May this day inspire us to build communities where everyone feels welcomed, respected, and valued. Let us become instruments of peace, friendship, reconciliation, and hope in our world.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY:

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated on 7 October, invites us to rediscover the beauty and power of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is a simple yet profound prayer that leads us into the mysteries of the life, death and

resurrection of Jesus through the loving eyes of Mary. As we meditate on these mysteries, our faith is strengthened, our hearts are filled with peace, and we learn to follow Christ more faithfully. Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, teaches us to treasure God's word, trust in His providence and remain faithful in times of difficulty. In our busy lives, the Rosary offers a precious moment of silence, reflection and communion with God.

WORLD FOOD DAY:

World Food Day (WFD) is observed annually on 16th of October. It promotes awareness of hunger and action for the future of food, people, and the planet. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) designated 16 October as World Food Day in 1979. The theme for WFD 2025 is "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future". This theme calls for global collaboration to transform agrifood systems and ensure a peaceful, sustainable, and food-secure future for all, emphasizing teamwork across borders, sectors, and generations to address challenges like conflict, climate change, and inequality. Today it is essential to educate children about the event and its purpose.

MISSION SUNDAY:

Mission Sunday is a special occasion for the Church to renew her missionary spirit and to remind every Christian that we are called to be witnesses of the Gospel. The mission of the Church is not the responsibility of priests and religious alone; every baptized person is called to share the joy of Christ with others. The theme of mission begins with the love of God. Jesus sent His disciples into the world with the command to proclaim the Good News and make disciples of all nations. This year is particularly significant because we celebrate the 100th World Mission Day. Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme: "One in Christ, united in mission." The theme reminds us that mission begins with our union with

Christ. Mission is especially meaningful in a world marked by poverty, conflict, loneliness, injustice, and indifference. On this Mission Sunday, let us pray for missionaries who generously serve the Church in difficult circumstances.

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE

UPAASANA – “SITTING NEAR THE DIVINE”

The Chamarajanagar Deanery conducted UPAASANA – “Sitting Near the Divine” on 14 September 2026, with 108 children – 56 girls and 52 boys. With the theme “Called to Pray, Sent to Serve,” the programme included prayer, faith formation, fellowship and service. A special visit to Ashraya, the Home for the mentally ill destitutes, guided by the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, helped the children experience compassion, dignity and acceptance. The programme concluded with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev. Fr Michael Mari A., Dean of Chamarajanagar.

YOUTH CONVENTIONS – MADIKERI & VIRAJPET

As part of the Year of Faith 2026, the Commission for Youth organized Youth Conventions in the Madikeri and Virajpet Deaneries. The Madikeri Deanery programme was held on 14 September, followed by the Virajpet Deanery programme on 20 September 2026. The programmes focused on faith, fellowship, leadership and the active participation of young people in the life and mission of the Church.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY 2026

Kollegal Deanery celebrated National Youth Sunday on 23 August 2026 at Our Lady of Good Health Church, Hanur, with nearly 120 youth from 12 parishes. With the theme “Youth are the Present of the Church,” the programme focused on leadership, life skills and active participation in the Church. The celebration

included the Holy Eucharist and the veneration of the relic of St Carlo Acutis.

SAFEGUARDING IN THE EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE

The Diocesan Commission for Education organized an orientation and training programme on Safeguarding in the Educational Apostolate on 12 September 2026 at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru. The programme focused on strengthening awareness and responsibility for safeguarding children and promoting safe environments in educational institutions. The programme formed part of the Diocese’s ongoing commitment to the protection and well-being of children and young people.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL FEAST & ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The Feast of St. Vincent de Paul and the Annual General Body Meeting of the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Mysore Diocese Area Council, were held on 27 September 2026 at Virgin of the Poor Church, Bannimantap. Nearly 150 Vincentian members from around 30 conferences participated. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Mysore, highlighting the connection between faith and works.

GENDER SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME

The Diocesan Commission for Women, organized a Gender Sensitization – Orientation and Training of Trainers (ToT) programme at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru, on 27 September 2026.

The programme focused on gender equality, dignity, respect and shared responsibility. Mrs. Anita Frank and Mrs. Mercy Selin were the resource persons. Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Mysore, addressed the gathering and encouraged the participants to promote the dignity and role of women in the family, Church and society. 182 participants took active part in this program.

Outstanding Catholic girl students in SSLC and PUC were also honoured for their academic excellence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. PPC & PFC :

PPC and PFC: The parishes that have submitted their Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Parish Finance Council (PFC) members for approval and got them approved will have their **oath-taking ceremony on 04 October 2026**. The list of parishes whose members will be taking the oath is attached herewith.

The approved members of the PPC and PFC will serve for a period of three years. During this period, a member may be replaced only in exceptional circumstances, such as serious change of residence to another parish, illness or death. In such cases, the matter should be brought to the attention of the Bishop, and the name of the proposed new member should be submitted to him for approval. No change of an approved member should be made without the Bishop's prior approval.

The parishes that have not yet constituted their PPC and PFC are kindly requested to complete the process at the earliest possible and submit the list of members to the Bishop's Office on or before 15 October 2026 without fail. This is the last call.

The second oath-taking ceremony for these parishes will be held on 25 October 2026.

I therefore request all the parishes that have not yet completed the process to kindly expedite the necessary arrangements and do the needful within the given time.

2. ANNUAL RETREAT FOR THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE

The annual retreat for our priests will be held in two batches at Prabhodana, Seminary of the Pallottines, Udbur. The

first batch of the retreat will take place from 12.10.2026 to 17.10.2026, and the second batch from 19.10.2026 to 24.10.2026.

I kindly request all the priests to make the necessary arrangements in your respective parishes and institutions well in advance, so that you may be able to participate in the retreat according to the batch assigned to you. I earnestly request your participation in this important time of spiritual renewal and reflection.

3. UPAASANA – “SITTING NEAR THE DIVINE:

The Commission for Faith Formation & Catechetics and the Commission for Vocation & Formation will organize **UPAASANA – “Sitting Near the Divine,”** a faith formation programme for children of Classes VIII–X:

➤ The programme for children of Martalli deanery will be held on 09 October 2026, at Lourdes Church Hall, Martalli, and will be hosted by Rev. Fr. M. Vincent, Dean of Our Lady of Lourdes Deanery, Martalli.

➤ The programme for Mysuru North and Mysuru South Deaneries will be held on 26 October 2026, at Nirmala School, Mysuru, and will be hosted by the CSST Sisters.

4. YSM CONCLAVE:

On 09 October 2026, the Commission for Youth will organize the YSM Conclave for I and II PUC students of Lourdes Deanery. The programme will be held at the Lourdes Church Campus. The programme will be hosted by Rev. Fr. M. Vincent, Dean of Our Lady of Lourdes Deanery, Martalli.

5. REGIONAL YSM KARNATAKA YOUTH CONCLAVE:

From 10 to 11 October 2026, the Commission for Youth will conduct the **Regional YSM Karnataka Youth Conclave**, a regional youth formation and leadership programme. The conclave will be held at St. Philomena's Auditorium, Mysuru.

6. LAITY ORIENTATION PROGRAMME:

On 18 October 2026, the Commission for Laity will organize the **Laity Orientation Programme – Year of Faith 2026** at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru. The programme will focus on orientation and formation on the Sacraments for Charismatic Leaders and Lay Leaders and will be guided by Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Mysore.

7. NATIONAL ECUMENICAL MEETING:

From 27 to 28 October 2026, the **CCBI Commission for Ecumenism** will **organize the National Ecumenical Meeting** at Catholic Centre, Mysuru. The meeting will bring together Office Bearers, National Council Members, Regional Secretaries, and Karnataka Region Diocesan Secretaries. The meeting will be hosted by Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Mysore and National Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism.

BEYOND THE SHORES

Mr Rayappa Thomas (77) brother of Rev. Fr Paulus T passed away on 19 September 2026. Funeral took place on 20 September 2026 at Infant Jesus Church, Balanagar, P. G. Palya.

Rev. Sr Claudia (93) of St Joseph's Convent, Madikeri passed away on 08 September 2026. Funeral took place on 09 September 2026 at St Joseph's Convent, Madikeri.

The Diocese expresses its heartfelt condolences to Rev. Fr Paulus T and to the bereaved family members of Mr Rayappa Thomas and to the Superior and members of St Joseph's Convent, Madikeri. We assure them of our prayerful support during this time of grief and loss.

May the souls of the departed rest in eternal peace and enjoy the everlasting bliss of heaven.

BIRTHDAYS OF PRIESTS IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

1	Rev. Fr. Francis Borgia CM	04-10-1967
2	Rev. Fr. Alex Prashanth Sequeira	04-10-1981
3	Rev. Fr. Staney D'Almeida	06-10-1977
4	Rev. Fr. Ignatius Mascarenhas	10-10-1944
5	Rev. Fr. John Paul Rayappa	10-10-1987
6	Rev. Fr. A. George Deepak	11-10-1971
7	Rev. Fr. Ambrose VC	14-10-1974
8	Rev. Fr. Mari Raj	16-10-1959
9	Rev. Fr. Cyril Selva Kumar	18-10-1994
10	Rev. Fr. Wilfred Anthony Swamy S.,	22-10-1994
11	Rev. Fr. David Sagaya Raj	23-10-1967
12	Rev. Fr. Jerald Sequeira	27-10-1957
13	Rev. Fr. Praveen Kumar Gregory	30-10-1986



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