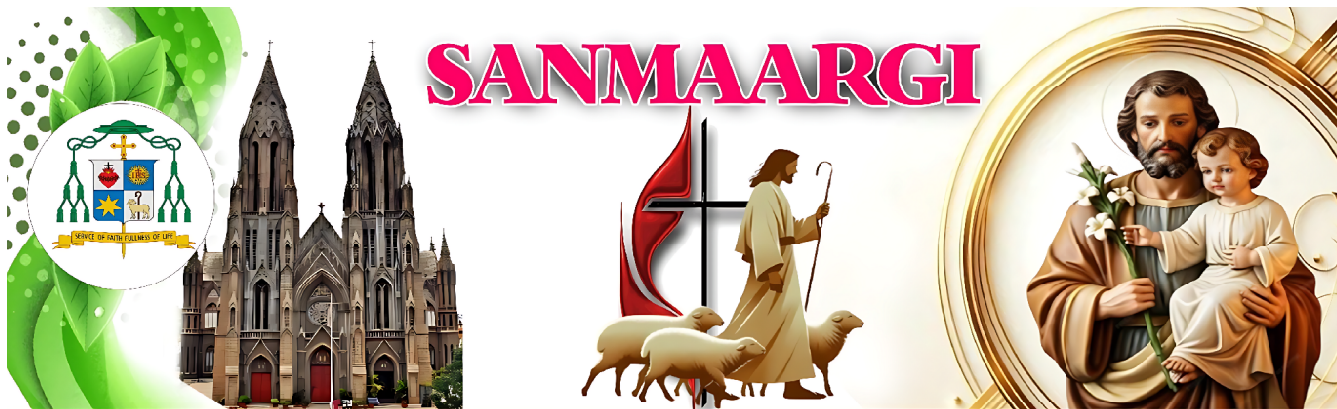




MDB 09/2026

MYSORE DIOCESAN BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER - 2026

DIOCESE OF MYSORE

Shepherd's Voice

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated with great joy and solemnity by our people as “Arogya Maathe”, our Lady of Good Health. Among some sections of our people it is also the harvest festival, just like Pongal and Onam, harking back to our ancestral roots as cultivators of crops. For all of us, regardless of our geographical, linguistic and cultural origins, 8 September is the day to honour our Blessed Mother on her birthday.

Mother, as we know, is the most important source of acceptance, appreciation, affection and attachment for every child, and we carry the joyful and grateful memories of this priceless bond into our adulthood, and even in the evening of our life. So important is the role a mother plays in the life and growth of every person. Mother is the capital pillar of family life. That is why, for many of our people, the Nativity of Mary is also a family feast.

We would do a great pastoral service to our people, therefore, if we would make the family and the role of the mother in the family as the central theme and focus of our celebrations of the birthday of our heavenly Mother. We also need to multiply and intensify our pastoral attention and care to our Catholic families. As 8 September is especially dedicated to the Girl Child in honour of Infant Mary, we need to redouble our efforts for the promotion of the dignity and well-being of the girl child. These two aspects have a special significance in the context of this feast and could be beautifully woven together in your reflections, celebration and concrete pastoral action.

This is particularly important in the context of the increasing disruption to family life that we are sadly witnessing in our times. Family bonds are weakening. Loneliness is increasing. Marital conflicts are increasing. Marriages are breaking down. Children are literally craving for parental love and especially motherly tenderness, care, guidance and discipline. Reasons for this malaise are many and complex, not the least of which are the explosion of digital media, weakening of the moral fiber, decrease of faith, cooling down of fervour, absence of family prayer etc.

We need to take this up as an urgent pastoral priority in our diocese. May be we would do well to take this theme for an extensive study, intense reflection and synodal discernment at all levels, in the parishes, in the diocesan bodies and especially in Parish and Diocesan Pastoral Councils. For the present, however, let us focus on the feast of our Lady as the Feast of the Family, and make the best possible use of this God-given opportunity to make our celebrations pastorally relevant and fruitful.

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

EVENTS

POPE'S MESSAGE FOR THE TENTH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION:

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announces the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for the 2026 celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, held on September 1, 2026 as “They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks” (Is 2:4). The day is inspired by Pope Francis’ landmark encyclical *Laudato Si’*, which calls on “every person living on this planet” to care for our shared Earth. In the statement from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development making the announcement, the Dicastery states that the Holy Father’s Message for the Day highlights the connection between armed conflict and environmental degradation. In the statement from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development making the announcement, the Dicastery states that the Holy Father’s Message for the Day highlights the connection between armed conflict and environmental degradation. Such degradation, it underscored, constitutes both a serious violation of our duty to care for creation, as well as a long-term threat to the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Moreover, it said “the now widespread awareness of the impact of war on natural resources has not led to the creation of adequate institutions or to responsible decisions aimed at preventing conflicts and resolving disputes peacefully.” The title chosen from Prophet Isaiah prophesies the transformation of weapons into agricultural tools, “is an explicit invitation to prioritize development and sustainability over violence and destruction.”

TEACHERS DAY :

Every year, India celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (September 5) as National Teachers’ Day to offer tribute to his contributions and achievements. Teacher’s Day in India was first observed in the year 1962. On this day

students all over the country pay respect and offer tribute to their teachers. It is a reminder of the role that teachers play in nation-building by guiding and educating the brightest minds of our country. It is an accepted fact that the future of a country lies in the hands of its children, and teachers, as mentors mould students into future leaders who shape the destiny of India. Our teachers help us to become good human beings, a better member of society, and ideal citizens.

GIRL CHILD DAY:

India’s Catholic Bishops have designated the birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary celebrated on September 08, to be the Day of the Girl Child to express the Church’s concern for the country’s neglected girl children. This day is dedicated to celebrating and raising awareness about the importance of the girl child, promoting their rights, and highlighting the need for equal opportunities and treatment. The Church in India has been commemorating this day, viewing it as a time to recognize the inherent dignity and value of every girl child. The day is used to focus on the declining sex ratio and the violence against girls, including female foeticide and infanticide. The celebration emphasizes the importance of treating girls with dignity, respect, and love.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF MARY:

This feast is celebrated on the 8th of September and is closely connected with the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Mary who is prepared by Divine Providence to be the Mother of Jesus the son of God, was conceived without the stain of sin. The Church considers this as a solemn event. Tradition tells us that Saints Joachim and Anne were our Lady’s parents. Mary’s birthday has been described as “the hope of the entire world and the dawn of salvation”. That is why the Liturgy of the day says: “Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Virgin Mary, of who was born the Sun of Justice.... Her birth constitutes the hope and the light of salvation for the whole world.... Her image is light for the whole Christian people”.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS:

On this day we honour the Holy Cross on which Christ died out of love for us and by his death on the cross he brought Salvation to the world. The public veneration of the Cross of Christ originated in the fourth century, beginning with the miraculous discovery of the Cross on September 14, 326, by Saint Helen, mother of Constantine while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and on the same day the two churches built at the site of Calvary by Constantine were dedicated. In the Western Church, the feast came into prominence in the seventh century, after Emperor Heraclius of Constantinople recaptured the Cross of Christ from the Persians and returned it to Jerusalem. The Holy Cross is the most potent and universal symbol of the Christian faith.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS:

The title, Our Lady of Sorrows, given to our Blessed Mother, focuses on her intense suffering and grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Traditionally, this suffering is not limited to the passion and death event; rather it comprises the seven sorrows of Mary, which were foretold by Simeon to Mary, this child [Jesus] is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and she shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare (Luke 2:34-35). These seven sorrows of our Blessed Mother included the prophecy of Simeon; the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and finding of the child Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified; holding of Jesus when He was taken down the cross; and the burial of our Lord.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL:

On September 27, the Catholic Church remembers Saint Vincent de Paul, the French, 17th century priest known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor and marginalized. Born

to a poor family in the southwest of France, he showed his intellectual gifts from his young age, studying theology and becoming priest. Moved with compassion for the poor, he began undertaking missions and founding institutions to help them both materially and spiritually. Saint Vincent de Paul established the Congregation of Priests of the Mission in 1625, and later founded the Daughters of Charity, with an extensive apostolate among the poor, the sick, prisoners and abandoned children. Today world over the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, a lay Catholic organization is working for the relief of the poor.

THE WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES :

The 112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees is set to be celebrated on Sunday, September 27, 2026. The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for the 2026 observance is "Even just one of these children," focusing on pastoral care for minors on the move. The title is a reference to Matthew 18:5: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." With this theme, the Holy Father intends to express the Church's concern for minors directly involved in migration, recalling the duty to welcome each one of them as the Gospel spirit. Further the day is an opportunity to reflect on the need for global solidarity and shared responsibility in addressing migration issues.

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE

UPAASANA – "SITTING NEAR THE DIVINE"

UPAASANA, a one-day faith formation camp for Catholic students of Classes IX and X, was conducted at Siddapur, Hunsur, and Mandya, with a total participation of 332 students. The programme aimed to help the students grow in faith and prayer, deepen their understanding of Scripture, experience fellowship, and strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

At Siddapur, 158 students participated and the programme was hosted by

Sr Marjorie, CSST, and the CSST Sisters. Hunsur welcomed 121 students from St Anthony's Basilica Deanery, hosted by Sr Diana Rego, UFS, and the UFS Sisters. At Mandya, 53 students from St Joseph's Deanery participated, with the programme hosted by Sr Ashwini, CSST, and the CSST Sisters.

We sincerely thank the CSST and UFS Sisters for their generous support and hospitality. Special thanks to Sr Anitha, CSST, and Sr Lynette, CSST, for their dedicated planning and coordination, which contributed to making UPAASANA a meaningful faith experience for the students.

KṚPĀYĀNA - "A JOURNEY OF GRACE"

Under the guidance of Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao, SJ, Bishop of Mysore, the Diocese conducted Kṛpāyāna - A Journey of Grace, a Synodal Catechist Animation Programme, animated by Rev. Fr Vijay Machado, National Deputy Secretary for Faith Formation.

The programme was conducted in four places: Madikeri - Virajpet on 17 August with 65 participants, Hunsur - H.D. Kote on 18 August with 51 participants, Mysuru - Mandya on 20 August with 105 participants, and Kollegal - Chamarajanagar on 21 August with 85 participants, making a total of 306 catechists and teachers.

The programme renewed and strengthened the catechists in their mission of faith formation and accompaniment. We express our sincere gratitude to Rev. Fr Edward Saldanha, Education Secretary, and to Rev. Fr Rayyappa M., Rev. Fr Bernard Prakash, and Rev. Fr Patrick Xavier for their valuable cooperation and support.

DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING 2026

The Diocesan Youth Council Meeting 2026 was held on 1 - 2 August at Satyaniketan, Catholic Centre, Mysore. The meeting brought together nearly 150 youth

leaders from different parts of the Diocese. The meeting focused on leadership formation, faith formation, and pastoral planning. Most Rev. Dr Francis Serrao, SJ, Bishop of Mysore, encouraged the youth to live with faith, commitment, and a spirit of service. Rev. Fr Maria Xavier, Mr Anson Nazareth, and Ms Sheryl Agnes guided the participants through various sessions on leadership and youth ministry. The meeting concluded with deanery-wise action plans aimed at strengthening and promoting youth ministry in the parishes.

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY 2026 – KOLLEGAL DEANERY

National Youth Sunday 2026 was celebrated on 23 August at Our Lady of Good Health Church, Hanur, with nearly 120 young people representing 12 parishes. With the theme **"Youth are the Present of the Church,"** the celebration focused on encouraging young people to actively participate in the life and mission of the Church. Rev. Fr Rayappa, M., Dean, encouraged greater youth participation, while Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier, Diocesan Youth Director, conducted a session on leadership and life skills. Rev. Fr Sanjay Kumar celebrated the Holy Eucharist and inspired the youth through the witness of St Carlo Acutis. The veneration of his sacred relic was a special spiritual moment for all the participants.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS AND DIOCESAN FINANCE COUNCIL:

The Diocese has constituted the new College of Consultors and the Diocesan Finance Council for a period of five years, with effect from 1 September 2026. I wish all the members every success and God's abundant blessings as they undertake the responsibilities entrusted to them. May they carry out their duties with dedication, commitment, wisdom and a spirit of service, working together for the good of the Diocese and its mission. I assure them of my prayerful support and best wishes for their fruitful service.

The Commission for Education is organizing an orientation and training programme on **Safeguarding in the Educational Apostolate** on 12 September 2026 at 9.30 a.m. at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru.

The Commission for Faith Formation & Vocation and Formation is organizing **UPASANA Camp "Sitting Near the Divine"** for students from Class 5 to II PUC of Chamarajanagar Deanery on 14 September 2026 at 9.00 a.m. at Karunahaya, Nanjangud.

The Commission for Youth is organizing a **Youth Convention** in Madikeri Deanery on 14 September 2026 for all the Catholic youth of Madikeri Deanery.

The Commission for Youth is organizing a **Youth Convention** in Virajpet Deanery on 20 September 2026 for all the Catholic youth of Virajpet Deanery.

The Commission for Women is organizing an orientation and training programme on **Gender Sensitization** for representatives from the parishes and institutions on 27 September 2026 at 9.30 a.m. at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru.

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.

The list of priests assigned to the two batches is attached herewith for your reference.

BEYOND THE SHORES

Rev. Fr C. P. Joseph passed away on 05 August 2026. Funeral took place on 07 August 2026 at St Joseph's Cathedral, Mysuru.

Rev. Sr Catherine DC of Snehanilaya Convent, Belawadi, passed away on 06 August 2026. Funeral took place on the same day at 3.30 pm at Hallehalli Bangalore

Rev. Msgr. C Rayappa passed away on 07 August 2026. Funeral took place on 08 August 2026 at St Joseph's Cathedral, Mysuru.

Rev. Sr Vinny Lopes, UFS., of Christa Raja Convent, Naganahalli, passed away on 12 August 2026. Funeral was held on 14 August 2026 at Maria Niketan, Bogadi.

The Diocese expresses its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members of Rev. Fr C. P. Joseph and Msgr. C. Rayappa, and to the Superiors and members of Snehanilaya Convent, Belawadi and Christa Raja Convent, Naganahalli. 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 SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. Rev. Fr. Martin M. | 06-09-1975 |
| 2. Rev. Fr. Arockia Prabhu MSC | 09-09-1982 |
| 3. Rev. Fr. Joseph Marie Anthappa | 17-09-1969 |
| 4. Rev. Fr. Albert Bhaskar | 24-09-1996 |
| 5. Rev. Fr. Joseph Marie Joseph | 25-09-1973 |



Procure Collections Applicable from 1st April 2026			
Sl. No	Name of the Collection	Allotted Date	Account to which the funds have to be transferred
1.	Communio	1st Sunday of January	Bishop and Procurator
2.	Holy Childhood	2nd Sunday of February	Bishop and Procurator
3.	Maintenance of Holy Land	Palm Sunday	Bishop and Procurator
4.	Clergy Medical Fund	Maundy Thursday	Clergy Health Care
5.	Hunger & Disease	Good Friday	Bishop and Procurator
6.	Maintenance of the Seminarians in the Diocese	Good Shepherd Sunday	Bishop and Procurator
7.	Peter's Pence	Last Sunday of June	Bishop and Procurator
8.	Peter the Apostle	2nd Sunday of July	Bishop and Procurator
9.	Prison Ministry	2nd Sunday of August	Bishop and Procurator
10.	Holy See	First Sunday of September	Bishop and Procurator
11.	Mission Sunday	3rd or the last but one Sunday in October	Mission Sunday
12.	Pro Afris (African Missions)	Solemnity of Christ the King	Bishop and Procurator
13.	Maintenance of the Diocese	All the 2nd Sundays of the year (except those already mentioned above) Christmas Night Mass Collections	Bishop and Procurator
Account Details			
Bishop and Procurator:		Clergy Health Care:	Mission Sunday:
NAME OF THE ACCOUNT : BISHOP AND PROCURATOR	NAME OF THE ACCOUNT : CLERGY HEALTH CARE	NAME OF THE ACCOUNT : MISSION SUNDAY	
ACCOUNT NUMBER : 0524-0530-0001-1563	ACCOUNT NUMBER : 1703-2010-0960-40	ACCOUNT NUMBER : 0524-0530-0000-0162	
NAME OF THE BANK : SOUTH INDIAN BANK	NAME OF THE BANK : CANARA BANK	NAME OF THE BANK : SOUTH INDIAN BANK	
IFSC CODE : SIBL0000524	IFSC CODE : CNRB0011703	IFSC CODE : SIBL0000524	
BRANCH : BANNIMANTAP	BRANCH : LASHKAR MOHALLA	BRANCH : BANNIMANTAP	
Kindly Note: All the Religious Communities in the Diocese are requested to send their contributions directly to the Bishop's House for the following purposes: 1. Mission Sunday 2. Communio 3. Holy Childhood 4. Hunger and Disease 5. Prison Ministry			