



Shepherd's Voice

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord

We are in the month of June. As you know, June is a month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. As Pope Francis reminded us just a year before his sad demise, the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a sacred symbol of the divine love of God, which took flesh in Jesus Christ, bore untold sufferings, paid an unbelievable price of love on the cross, and gave us the ultimate proof of His divine-human love through His supreme sacrifice.

In the face of this tremendous testimony to such great love, we can only remain and silent speechless with wonder, awe and amazement, as well as immense gratitude that will impel us to return love for love, by our own faith, fervor, fidelity, fellowship, forgiveness and fruitfulness in daily life.

Those who have this experience of God's love, personally and profoundly, are freed from all other earthly attachments. They find their heart totally centred on the person of Jesus. Their only treasure is Jesus. Their closest friend is Jesus. Their supreme master is Jesus. That great love for and loyalty to Jesus, frees them from all slaveries to their primeval and perverse passions, especially from greed, lust, and pride. Their loving surrender to the priestly heart of Jesus breaks the chains that keep them hopelessly bound to the perennial pursuit of property, pelf and profit. It releases them from the bruising bondage to physical pleasures and capricious comforts. It makes them offer themselves totally, freely and generously to the selfless and sacrificial love of their Faithful Friend, Jesus. It leads them to that detachment which is the fruit of a strong attachment to Christ, born of a passionate love for Him who manifests His great, unique and personal love for them in the Sacred Heart.

A good measure of this kind of detachment was on display during the routine transfers and new assignments that took place recently in the Diocese. The smoothness with which, the sometimes painful process of relinquishing old incumbencies and assuming new responsibilities, progressed, was truly remarkable and consoling. The interior freedom with which almost all our priests, with just a handful of exceptions, left behind persons, places and properties joyfully and generously, in order to go to the places and pastoral positions where the Lord had called them was indeed consoling and edifying. The Sacred Heart of Jesus will certainly be a superb source of superabundant graces and blessings to those who have shown exemplary detachment from the love of possessions, pleasures and power, out of their overriding love for their Lord and for the Lord's flock.

Speaking of the Lord's flock, the love of the Sacred Heart, interior freedom that results from that loving surrender, one cannot but dwell on the very first encyclical, "Magnifica Humanitas", Magnificent Humanity, of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, where he stresses the need, above all, to safeguard the dignity of the human person, by not surrendering ourselves as spineless and supine slaves to digital devices, however handy and helpful. We will have more to say on this profound pastoral proclamation by the Pope. Meanwhile, may God bless you all.

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

EVENTS

SACRED HEART OF JESUS:

In Catholic tradition, June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrating His divine love, compassion, and humanity. This devotion emphasizes Christ's heart, often depicted as on fire with love, pierced for humanity, and crowned with thorns, symbolizing His sacrifice. This devotion invites all faithful to meditate upon and venerate the immense love and compassion symbolized by the Sacred Heart. It serves as a profound reminder of Jesus Christ's unwavering love for humanity; a love that endures beyond suffering and sacrifice.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus goes back to the visions of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, who reported that Jesus had revealed His heart to her, surrounded by thorns, aflame with love, and surmounted by a cross. It was through her that the message of the Sacred Heart began to spread, eventually gaining widespread acceptance in the Catholic Church. Pope Pius IX officially established the Feast of the Sacred Heart in 1856, to be celebrated on the Friday after Corpus Christi. However, the entire month of June has since become a time for a more extensive and focused devotion, allowing the faithful to immerse themselves in the contemplation of this profound mystery. In a world often marked by division, suffering, and indifference, the message of the Sacred Heart calls for us to love, be compassionate, and selfless towards others, as Christ is with us every day. Through prayer, reflection, and acts of kindness, the devotion to the Sacred Heart encourages us to cultivate a heart like Christ's - one that is open, loving, and merciful. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY:

05 June 2026: World Environment Day on June 5, 2026, is to be hosted by Azerbaijan under the theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future," focusing on accelerating climate action and addressing the urgent environmental signals from Earth. The 2026 event emphasizes sustainable solutions like AI for energy grids and green hydrogen. World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment to be celebrated on June 5 annually, to bring awareness and initiate protection of the environment strongly supported by 143 countries. Several non-governmental organizations, businesses, government entities, linked to the United

Nations support the environment. This celebration brings awareness of other environmental issues such as marine pollution, overpopulation, global warming, sustainable development and wildlife crime.

CORPUS CHRISTI:

07 June 2026: The Feast of Corpus Christi is a Christian liturgical solemnity celebrating the Real Presence of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the elements of the Eucharist. This Feast is celebrated in remembrance of Jesus who gave His life for our salvation and commanded us to celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in his memory. The feast was proposed by St Thomas Aquinas to Pope Urban IV, focussing solely on the Holy Eucharist, emphasizing the joy of the Eucharist being the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. The Feast owes its existence to Blessed Juliana of Liege, who began devotion to the Blessed Sacrament in around 1230. Largely through her insistence, in 1264 Pope Urban IV commanded its observance by the universal church. Eucharist means thanksgiving and blessing. We express our gratitude to God for all the gratuitous gifts God has given us in Jesus and we offer back to him the gratitude in the form of Bread and wine. Eucharist is a meal shared by the community in the name of Jesus.

FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS :

12 June 2026: We celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday after Corpus Christi Feast and express our love and devotion to this Heart. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is centred on the heart of Jesus as the symbol of Divine love. Divine love is the highest of three levels of loves: Divine love, spiritual love and physical love. We are reminded on this feast day that in the Sacred Heart is revealed the mystery of the Divine Mind of Jesus as God. The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus affirms Jesus the God-man, is one of the Three Divine Presences of the Holy Trinity. While the symbolic picture of the human heart echoes a Heart of Flesh of the human nature, the Divine Mind that is synonym to Sacred Heart, echoes the Divine nature.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR:

12 June 2026: World Day against Child Labour 2026 is observed on Friday, June 12, 2026, highlighting the need to end child labour worldwide. The 2026 campaign, is featuring the theme "Red Card to Child Labour: Fair play for children, decent work for adults," calls for stronger policies, education, and social protection to combat the trend. The observance of World Day against Child Labour aims to focus attention on the global

extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the Day brings together governments, employers, worker organizations and civil society from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and seek possible solution. Since 2000 the world had been making steady progress in reducing child labour. However, conflicts, crises and the COVID-19 pandemic, have plunged more families into poverty - and forced millions more children into child labour. Today, 160 million children, nearly one in every ten children are engaged in child labour, Africa ranking highest nearly 72 million. Asia and the Pacific ranks second highest with child labour. The fact remains that every child has the right to health, education and protection.

IMMACULATE HEART OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY :

13 June 2026: The Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, June 13, 2026, is a Catholic liturgical feast celebrating Mary's interior life, virtues, and maternal love. It is celebrated on the Saturday following the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and holds significance for its connection to the Fatima. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It focuses on the interior life of the Blessed Mother, meditating on both her inner joys and sorrows, the virtues she exhibited, and her threefold love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus, and her compassionate love for all people. This feast day is not a holy day of obligation and is celebrated the day after the Solemnity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Learn more about the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA :

13 June 2026: The Feast of St. Anthony is observed every year on June 13 to honour the life and work of St. Anthony of Padua, who accomplished many things during his short time in this world as a priest. He was born to and raised by a wealthy family in Lisbon, Portugal, and died in Padua, Italy. Noted by his contemporaries for his powerful preaching, expert knowledge of scripture, and undying love and devotion to the poor and the sick, he was one of the most quickly canonized saints in church history, being canonized less than a year after his death. He was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XII on 16 January 1946. His fame spread through Portuguese evangelization and he became the patron saint of Lisbon, Padua, and many other places in Portugal. St. Anthony is invoked and respected around the world as the patron saint for the recovery of lost items. He is

credited with several miracles involving lost people, things, and even spiritual goods.

It is a special honour for us in the Diocese of Mysore as we have the feast of the Minor Basilica of St Anthony at Dornahalli. As every year, this year too, we will be beginning our annual celebrations with the flag hoisting on 4th June 2026 and conclude the same on 13th June 2026.

WORLD DAY OF REFUGEES :

20 June 2026: World Refugee Day is held annually on June 20 to honour the strength, courage, and resilience of people forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution, or violence. Organized by the UN, this day seeks to build empathy and support for refugees, focusing on solutions for displacement. The purpose of organising this day is to increase awareness of the plight of refugees worldwide and celebrate their contributions to welcoming communities. Inspired by the lives and experiences of people seeking sanctuary, World Day of Refugees 2026 invites us to explore the theme of Courage. For refugees around the world, courage is often a daily necessity. It is the courage to face unknown journeys, learn new languages, navigate unfamiliar systems, or simply to wake up each morning and step into an uncertain world. Courage isn't always loud or bold. It can be found in simple acts: opening your door to a neighbour, speaking up, asking for help, sharing your story - or simply having the courage to be yourself.

FATHERS' DAY :

21 June 2026: Father's Day is a special day for both the father or the father figure and the child. On Father's Day, children express their love for their father, thank him for being there for them, and express their appreciation for the father's role in their lives, whether it's emotional, natural or financial. Father's Day is celebrated every year on the 3rd Sunday of June with lot of fanfare all over the world. This day is dedicated to the role of the father in children's lives and the sacrifice they make to bring them up. It celebrates the father-child bond and the fatherhood. Every father is the hero in the lives of children. They are the ones who can accomplish anything, who teach them to be strong during hard times and are the ones who help them to solve all problems. Father's Day is a chance to create lasting memories and to let every father know just how much their children appreciate them.

NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST :

24 June 2026: On this day we celebrate the Birth of John the Baptist, who was chosen by God to prepare the way for the coming of his Son Jesus into this world. It is indeed a great feast, a feast of

joy, but above all a feast of mercy. Elizabeth, the mother of John, who was called barren received the gratuitous gift from God, the extraordinary favour of conceiving a son in her old age. The scriptures tell us that her neighbours and kinsfolk rejoiced with her for the favour granted to her by God. This is also a feast of mercy primarily because the birth of John proclaimed the coming birth of the Messiah, Christ, and the Son of God made man, sent to earth to redeem humanity from sin. John while in his mother's womb was sanctified and washed of his original sin by Jesus who was in the womb of Mary, his Mother.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE :

26 June 2026: The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed annually on June 26 to strengthen global action and cooperation in achieving a society free of drug abuse. Led by the UNODC, this day focuses on raising awareness of the dangers of illicit drugs and promoting prevention and treatment. This Day, is marked on 26 June annually to strengthen action and cooperation in achieving a world free of drug abuse. This World Drug Day calls for investment in prevention, including justice, education, health care and alternative livelihoods - the building blocks of sustainable resilience. The theme of 2026 campaign is to focus on breaking the cycle of organized crime and investing in prevention, as highlighted in recent years.

ST PETER AND ST PAUL :

29 June 2025: On June 29th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul to honour the two great apostles of Jesus. Saint Peter, one of the Twelve and Leader of the Apostles, the Rock upon which Christ built His Church, and Saint Paul "called to be an apostle, set apart for the Gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1) and very well known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. Together they are honoured as Founders of the Church of Rome, having been separately martyred in Rome during the reign of the Emperor Nero. Peter, who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' and promised to build His Church. St. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, feeling unworthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb. St. Paul was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life

and the faith of the early Church. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

NEWS

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION

As part of the Year of Faith 2026, the Diocese of Mysore organized an Orientation Programme for Parish and School Catechism Coordinators and Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Animators on 25 May 2026 at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru. Most Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Mysore, emphasized the importance of faith formation rooted in Sacred Scripture. Sessions on catechetical ministry, YOUCAT, and missionary formation enriched the participants and strengthened their commitment to evangelization and faith formation.

Note: In view of the Year of Faith 2026, Faith Formation Classes in parishes and schools are to be conducted regularly and participation is mandatory for all Catholic children and youth. Sunday Catechism and School Faith Formation textbooks from Standard I to XII are available at the Catholic Centre, Mysuru.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWLY APPOINTED DEANS

Madikeri Deanery :

Rev. Fr. Patrick Xavier

Chamarajanagara Deanery :

Rev. Fr. Michael Mari A.

NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS

Rev. Fr Ashwin R. Barnis

Secretary to Bishop

Rev. Fr Jithun Joseph

Asst. Parish Priest, St. Michael's Church, Madikeri

Rev. Fr Jayanth

Diocese of Gulbarga

YEAR OF FAITH - 2026 DIOCESAN COMMISSION ACTIVITIES JUNE - 2026

- Commission for Liturgy
Orientation and Training Programme
for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion
06 June 2026**
Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru
Participants : Religious Sisters, Religious
Brothers, and Seminarians involved in the
distribution of Holy Communion.

2. Commission for Family Life Marriage Preparation Programme Date: 06 & 07 June 2026 Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru 3. Commission for Synodality Mysore Diocesan Synodal Implementation Committee Meeting 09 June 2026 Time: 9:30 AM Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru Participants : Members of the Diocesan Synodal Implementation Committee. 4. Meeting of Diocesan Commission Directors, Secretaries and Joint Secretaries Time :11.30 AM To 1.00 PM Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru 5. Commission for Small Christian Communities (BEC) BEC Orientation Programme for the Parishes of Virajpet Deanery 15 June 2026	Time : 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Venue : St. Anne's Church Hall, Virajpet Resource Person : Rev. Fr. George Sunil D'Souza, Regional Director, BEC Karnataka 16 June 2026 BEC Orientation Programme for Parish Representatives who could not participate in the Deanery Orientation Programme 16 June 2026 Time: 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru Resource Person : Rev. Fr. George Sunil D'Souza, Regional Director, BEC Karnataka 6. Commission for Bible and Commission for Liturgy 21 June 2026 Bible and Liturgical Instruction Class for Laity Time: 9:30 AM to 2.30 PM Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru
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PONTIFICAL SOCIETY & OTHER MINISTRIES

PONTIFICAL SOCIETY Secretary: Rev. Fr. Jebamalai Muthu Joint Secretary: Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar	PIOUS ASSOCIATIONS (LEGION OF MARY & VINCENT DE PAUL) Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier Secretary: Rev. Fr. Jnana Pragasam
NURSES GUILD Spiritual Director : Rev. Fr. Roxon Thomas Baros	MYSORE DIOCESAN COMMUNION SERVICE (CHARISMATICS) Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier Secretary: Rev. Fr. Praveen Kumar G.
THEJOMAYA DE-ADDICTION CENTRE Secretary: Rev. Fr. Gilson MC	WRITERS GUILD Secretary: Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar
POPE'S WORLD-WIDE PRAYER Secretary: Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier	COMMUNIO Director: Rev. Fr. Sebastian Alexander

BIRTHDAYS OF PRIESTS IN THE MONTH OF JUNE

Rev. Fr. Paul C.		03-06-1981	Rev. Fr. Yesu Prasad	15-06-1992
Rev. Fr. Roshan S.		06-06-1986	Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar	22-06-1972
Rev. Fr. Johannes L.		11-06-1956	Rev. Fr. Anthony Swamy CSsR	28-06-1974
Rev. Fr. Xavier Christopher, SJ,		11-06-1979	Rev. Fr. Ronald Danthi	29-06-1977
Rev. Fr. Rajesh		15-06- 1980	Rev. Fr. Vincent Monteiro	29-06-1979
Rev. Fr. Jayaraj D.		15-06-1963	Rev. Fr. Marian Pinto	30-06-1946

DIOCESE OF MYSORE

DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS - 2026

CHIEF COORDINATOR: Rev. Msgr. Anthappa M. (Vicar General)	CO-ORDINATOR: Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar
COMMISSION FOR LITURGY Director : Rev. Fr. Praveen Kumar G. Secretary : Rev. Fr. John Paul R.	COMMISSION FOR BIBLE Director : Rev. Fr. Anthony Clifford Secretary : Rev. Fr. Vijay Raj Jaunet
COMMISSION FOR FAITH FORMATION Director : Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar Secretary : Rev. Fr. Naveen Bal Kumar Joint Secretary : Sr. Lynette Sequeira CSST	COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION & EVANGELIZATION Director : Rev. Fr. Balraj Secretary : Rev. Fr. Praveen Kumar G.
COMMISSION FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE Director : Rev. Fr. John Sagaya Pushparaj Secretary : Mrs. Veena Williams	COMMISSION FOR ECUMENISM Director: Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar Secretary: Rev. Fr. Staney D'Almeida
COMMISSION FOR LAITY Spiritual Director: Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar Director : Mr. John William D'Souza Secretary : Mr. Grecian Rodrigues	COMMISSION FOR YOUTH Director: Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier Secretary : Rev. Sr. Monica Shanthi USS Joint Secretary : Sr. Dr. Angeline Vimal UFS
COMMISSION FOR VOCATION & FORMATION Director : Rev. Fr. Jebamalai Muthu Secretary : Rev. Fr. Edward Philip SJ; Joint Secretary : Sr. Anitha CSST	COMMISSION FOR LABOUR Director : Rev. Fr. Staney D'Almeida Secretary : Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar
COMMISSION FOR WOMEN Director : Rev. Sr. Preethi DSS Secretaries : Rev. Sr. Prema SSS Joint Secretary : Mrs. Veena William	COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & DEVELOPMENT Director : Rev. Fr. Tenny Kurian Secretary : Rev. Fr. John Fernandis A.
COMMISSION FOR SC & ST Director : Dr. Anthony Paul Raj C. Joint Secretary : Mrs. Latha Theresa B.	COMMISSION FOR ECOLOGY Director : Rev. Fr. Tenny Kurian Joint Secretary : Rev. Fr. John Fernandis A.
COMMISSION FOR FAMILY Director : Rev. Fr. Staney D'Almeida Secretary : Rev. Fr. Michael Augustin Pro (Family Counselling) Joint Secretary : Mr. Michael Noronha	COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION Director : Rev. Fr. Edward William Saldanha Secretary : Rev. Fr. Naveen Bal Kumar A. Joint Secretary : Mr. Seby Mavelly Joint Secretary : Rev. Sr. Juanita CSST
COMMISSION FOR HEALTH Director: Rev. Fr. Roxan Thomas Baros Secretary: Rev. Fr. Naveen Kumar K.	COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS Director : Rev. Fr. Abhilash G. Secretary : Rev. Fr. Martin M.
COMMISSION FOR BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITY (BEC) Director : Rev. Fr. Arul Selva Kumar Secretary : Rev. Fr. Vijay Kumar Joint Secretary : Rev. Fr. John Paul P.	COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS Director : Rev. Fr. Maria Xavier Secretary : Fr. Kiran TOR
COMMISSION FOR DIFFERENTLY ABLED & AGED Director : Rev. Fr. Roxan Thomas Baros Secretary : Rev. Fr. Naveen Kumar K.	COMMISSION FOR PRISON MINISTRY Director : Mr. Michael Noronha Secretary : Rev. Sr. Joyce CSST

SANMAARGI - Diocesan Bishop's House

3845/M2, Nelson Madela Road, Raajamaarga, Near Highway Circle, Bannimantap 'C' Layout, Mysuru - 570 015,