



SANMAARGI

MDB 07/2026

MYSORE DIOCESAN BULLETIN

JULY - 2026

DIOCESE OF MYSORE

Shepherd's Voice

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Holy Father Pope Leo XIV convened a gathering of 178 Cardinals worldwide for two days of prayer, reflection, and spiritual conversations on the current situation in the world, where the Church has to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Insisting that the Lord is leading the Church along the synodal path so that she can grow in communion, he said that synodality is learned "by practicing it" and that "we learn together to grow in communion." As this important ecclesial event has much to say to the universal Church, including us in this diocese, I would like to focus my message on it.

Pope Leo led the cardinals in contemplating the world "through the eyes of faith," listening and walking with others amid contemporary challenges. Secondly, they reflected on a "civilization of love" in a time of conflict, oppression and division, drawing on his encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, which explores human dignity and the common good. Thirdly, they explored that encyclical in greater depth by examining how the Church can build the common good through shared responsibility and adopting a "synodal style." Finally, they considered how to implement the Synod on Synodality "in the face of the world's wounds."

Synodality a recurring theme in both the Holy Father's opening address and homily at the opening Mass, "points to a way forward: listening, discerning and jointly assuming responsibility." Pope Leo said that it is not simply a set of procedures, but "an attitude, an openness, a willingness to understand." Nor does it entail a "diminishment of authority;" rather it serves to "safeguard communion" while fostering the participation of all and helping pastors exercise authority more evangelically. We are not guardians of special interests or hidden agendas. We are shepherds and servants and builders of communion, for the sake of our shared mission of evangelizing today's world. We are "but disciples and witnesses of the Kingdom of God, called to be, in Christ, the leaven of universal brotherhood," which, "takes shape in a synodal Church in which everyone cooperates in the same mission, each according to their own charism and ministry".

Therefore, our focus should never be solely on the internal life of the Church but to shape "our view of the world, peace, the common good, synodality," so that the Gospel may be proclaimed with greater fidelity and credibility. The goal is to improve the Church's witness and to become better heralds of the Gospel, which requires listening and the sharing of responsibilities. Pope Leo said he was convinced the Lord is "teaching us a more evangelical way of living out together the responsibility he has entrusted to us," and that the credibility of their witness and fruitfulness in mission depend on this.

Indicating the new way in which the Petrine ministry is exercised, the Holy Father said, "You will find in me one who asks, not commands. The authority of primacy belongs to the one who listens and only then leads, to the one who learns and only then teaches, always following the one and only Teacher".

The Cardinals, reflecting and sharing on the situation of the world today, emphasised that the Church must present herself as a mother and a welcoming home, including through the renewal of parish life. The Church, they said, must acknowledge her own shortcomings, help suffering to become an opportunity for growth, and remind the world that humanity is one family. A strong awareness also emerged of the responsibility entrusted to the Church at this particular moment in history. While numerous institutions are experiencing a crisis of credibility, the Church is called to speak with

authority in defence of human dignity, peace, reconciliation and the common good. Especially where she remains close to those who suffer, the Church discovers a credibility that many other institutions have lost. The Church is an expert in authentic relationships, looking upon the world with compassion. Many young people are showing a growing thirst for the Gospel and can help build a better world through closeness and solidarity. Synodality is a providential path for both the Church and humanity in seeking answers to today's challenges. Charity and solidarity are authentic witness offered by generous lay men and women. The Church continues to work for peace and for the inclusion of all within communities of faith.

The Assembly also pointed to the powerful witness offered by the Church wherever she lives as a minority, a "little flock" among many peoples, religions, and cultures. Education was highlighted as a place where the common good can be rebuilt, while growing vocations, popular devotion and the joyful faith of the People of God were all identified as signs of hope. It also stressed the importance of rejecting violence even in thought, promoting dialogue-including ecumenical and interreligious dialogue-and recognising prayer as fundamental in sustaining peace.

At the conclusion, the Pope referred to the parable of the man wounded and half dead on the road, saying: "If we are not blind, we know that there is so much suffering. Loneliness and suffering are among the consequences of today's society. The Church responds to this challenge by inviting everyone into communion, not only by opening our churches and celebrating the sacraments, but also by creating opportunities and experiences of genuine encounter in genuine fraternity. Communion, said the Pope, is never achieved once and for all, but requires daily conversion, prayer, trusting relationships, and a willingness to listen to one another.

Addressing a festering wound of the world, the war, Pope Leo warned that war stems from a broader "culture of power" affecting politics, economics, and even religion. "War is born within us, but it is precisely in the heart that peace is also decided. It is in that same heart, where Christ continues to meet us, speak to us, and to convert us, and calls us to a renewed commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and nonviolent responses rooted in the Gospel". God desires peace for every nation and every people, and the Church exists to help the world reject violence and rediscover the Lord's paths of reconciliation.

In this diocese, as individuals and as the Local Church, myself the Bishop included, we have much to learn about being the builders of communion, messengers of the Good News, channels of peace, fellowship, justice and reconciliation. We need to listen to the call of the Holy Father to go beyond the sanctuary, the sacristy and the presbytery, and become enthusiastic bearers of the Good News by building communion among people both Catholics and the wider community. Above all, let us heed the warning of the Holy Father that all wars and conflicts begin within our hearts and, hence the dire need for all of us to drain our inner selves of all negativity, anger, hatred, suspicion, resentment, unforgiveness, revengefulness, violence in thoughts, feelings, attitudes, speech and action. May the Lord of peace and fraternity help us.

Please Note:

1. There is widespread anxiety among the minority groups, including the Church, over the proposed Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Amendment Bill. The legislation, likely to be introduced in Parliament's Monsoon Session, has raised concerns about its adverse impact on charitable, educational, healthcare, and social apostolates run by Christian institutions, and other minority communities.

Meanwhile, the Union Government has issued more stringent FCRA norms, by amending the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011, with effect from 22 June 2026. Registered Non-Profit Organisations (RNPOs) registered under FCRA or seeking renewal of registration or having prior permission to receive foreign contributions will be required to submit several new disclosures and comply with some new stringent rules and regulations. RNPOs must stick to specified activities in their category and geographical areas; disclose social media accounts, websites and publications. They are barred from activities with political content. Only social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious categories of objectives are permitted. RNPOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes. They must also pay separate

fees for each category, State and Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous single fee for FCRA registrants. Any violations will be penalised.

All this makes it imperative for all those who are dealing with the administration of FCRA Contributions to strictly abide by the stringent norms. Personal bills and expenditures, even if granted by the donor, must be avoided.

2. Even with regard to the expenditure of Indian currency, strict accountability is being demanded, since the governmental agencies even in States ruled by non communal forces, are watching us with eagle's eyes for any discrepancies and misdemeanors. Therefore, we all need to be honest, transparent, accurate and meticulous in these matters. If not the love of the Gospel, let at least the fear of getting on the wrong side of the Law keep us strictly on the straight and narrow path.
3. What is true of financial matters is equally valid for land records and other important legal documents. We need to keep up to date documents and certificates regarding our lands, building etc, maintain them safe and sound, protect them from loss, tampering, damage or pilfering, and, when the time comes, hand them over to the successors.
4. In this connection, let me also remind you of the need for constant vigilance with regard to the repairs and maintenance of our premises, buildings and infrastructural facilities.
5. Lastly, another urgent and worrying point is the SIR of Electoral Rolls which has just started in Karnataka. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has already been used for partisan purposes in other States, even by victimizing lakhs of citizens who have been unjustly disenfranchised solely because they do not seem to favour one particular majoritarian political dispensation. The pertinent constitutional bodies would appear to be complicit in these nefarious schemes with the tacit tolerance of the judiciary and supine surrender by political forces. We, therefore, need to be extra vigilant, because no one else, not even the Constitutional authorities will safeguard our rights.

On June 30 the electoral rolls in Karnataka shall be nil. Through the fresh process to verify and revise the rolls through house-to-house enumeration, pre-filled forms will be issued and verification of old voter data will be done. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs), will start visiting the houses of voters from June 30 with the forms. BLOs will distribute and collect Enumeration Forms to verify and update voter details, including mobile numbers, date of birth, Aadhaar number (voluntary), and family information.

If the voter's name or his/her parents' name appears in the 2002 electoral roll, then only the Enumeration Form needs to be submitted. If a voter is not listed in the 2002 electoral roll, he/she must submit at least one prescribed supporting document such as: Birth Certificate/ Passport/ Driving Licence/ Educational Certificate/ Residence Certificate/ Property/ Land Records/ other valid documents as prescribed by the Election Commission of India. The voters will have to fill both the forms- one must be handed over to the BLOs. The second, attested by the BLO, will be retained by the voter.

All citizens, including all eligible Christians are requested to actively participate in the SIR exercise by keeping the required documents ready, along with their latest passport-size photograph. They must sign the enumeration forms and retain a copy with them.

The campaign will also facilitate: Registration of new eligible voters, (Form-6), Deletion of names of deceased or shifted voters (Form-7), Corrections and updates in voter details (Form-8).

My appeal to all priests, heads of institutions, PPC members and Members of associations to take the SIR campaign seriously, ensuring all eligible voters, including the migrants are enrolled. Kindly help the new voters and the elderly. Please announce the SIR campaign on all Sundays of July urging people to comply. Your participation matters and it is important. Well informed, alert and responsible citizens are the pillars of democracy!

✠ Francis Serrao, SJ
Bishop of Mysore

EVENTS

ENCYCLICAL MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS OF POPE LEO XIV:

Magnifica Humanitas ("Magnificent Humanity"), the first encyclical of Pope Leo XIV, was issued on 15 May 2026 to address one of the defining challenges of our age: the rapid growth of artificial intelligence and digital technologies. Published on the 135th anniversary of *Rerum Novarum*, it seeks to provide a Christian and ethical framework for navigating technological change while safeguarding the dignity of the human person.

The encyclical begins with the conviction that every human being is created in the image and likeness of God and therefore possesses an inviolable dignity. Technology is neither evil nor inherently opposed to humanity; however, it is never neutral. Its effects depend on the values, intentions, and structures that shape its development and use. Pope Leo warns that humanity stands at a crossroads: it can either build a new "Tower of Babel," marked by pride, domination, and technological control, or a civilization founded on solidarity, justice, and communion.

Drawing upon the Church's social doctrine, the Pope reaffirms the principles of the common good, solidarity, subsidiarity, social justice, and the universal destination of goods. He argues that these principles must guide the governance of artificial intelligence and digital technologies. AI should serve humanity, protect human rights, and promote integral human development rather than concentrate power in the hands of a few corporations or governments.

A major concern of the encyclical is the impact of AI on truth, work, freedom, and peace. Pope Leo warns against misinformation, surveillance, manipulation of public opinion, and the erosion of critical thinking. He emphasizes the dignity of work and calls for economic systems that place people before profit. The document also strongly criticizes autonomous weapons and the use of AI in warfare, urging greater international cooperation and ethical regulation.

The encyclical concludes with a message of hope. Human greatness is found not in technological power but in love, relationships, moral responsibility, and openness to God. The future must be shaped by a "civilization of love" where technology remains a servant of humanity and never its master.

ST THOMAS APOSTLE OF INDIA FEAST:

St. Thomas was the first to bring Christianity in India during the first century. He is also known

as Didymus, but is better remembered for his moment of doubt regarding Christ's Resurrection when Jesus appeared to the disciples. Later Thomas made his powerful profession of faith "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), affirming his acceptance of resurrected Jesus. After the Ascension of our Lord, Thomas travelled beyond the Roman Empire. He worked on spreading the Gospel in the East, particularly in India. As per traditions, St. Thomas came to India around 52 AD and landed on the Malabar Coast and preached the Good News converting several individuals into Christianity. He is believed to have established seven churches in Kerala. They formed the foundations of the St. Thomas Christians, which is one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. St. Thomas was also popular for his architectural skills that led him to serve a local king. But he was imprisoned for using his earnings to help the needy and his continued evangelization efforts caused unrest among the ruling class, ultimately leading to his martyrdom. He was martyred by a spear in Mylapore (modern-day Chennai) around 72 AD. His tomb in Santhome Cathedral, Chennai, remains a revered pilgrimage site.

WORLD POPULATION DAY:

Established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989, this annual event raises awareness about global population challenges, including family planning, gender equality, human rights, and sustainable development. The theme for World Population Day 2026 is "Empowering young people to create the families they want in a fair and hopeful world." The celebration brings awareness about the effects of overpopulation on development and nature. The increasing population also sheds light on health problems faced by women during pregnancy and childbirth, making the need for family planning, gender equality, and maternal health more important than ever. The issue of population is also causing strain on society: heinous crimes are happening more than ever in the areas of gender inequality and human rights, especially in developing countries. Leadership is already doing a subpar job at taking care of its citizens, and as more people come into the world, violations such as human trafficking and child labour are increasingly becoming normal.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL:

The feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is celebrated globally by the Catholic Church on July 16. This date commemorates the traditional appearance of the Virgin Mary to Saint Simon

Stock in 1251, where she presented the Brown Scapular and promised her protection to the Carmelite Order and the faithful. The devotion is linked to Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, associated with the Prophet Elijah's defence of the faith. Origins trace back to the hermits residing on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the 12th and 13th centuries. The scapular is a modified version of Mary's own garment. It symbolizes her special protection of Christians and calls the wearers to consecrate themselves to her to receive her maternal care. The devotion is officially recognized by the Catholic Church, though the scapular is viewed as an aid to prayer rather than a mystical guarantee.

WORLD DAY FOR INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE:

World Day for International Justice is celebrated annually to recognize the emerging global system of criminal justice and honours the fight against impunity for grave offenses like genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Originated on 17th July 1998, with the adoption of the Rome Statute, establishing the International Criminal Court (ICC), has the membership of 124 countries. The ICC is not part of the United Nations system and has a separate agreement governing its relationship with the UN. This a significant step in the fight against impunity for grave crimes, ensuring accountability for perpetrators. The ICC is the first permanent international court and has jurisdiction over crimes under international law including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and crimes of aggression committed on or after 1st July 2002. The day raises awareness about international justice mechanisms and their role in addressing impunity, and promoting global peace and security.

ST JOACHIM AND ST ANNE:

"On the 26th of July the Church celebrates the parents of the Virgin Mary, the grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Anne. In their home, Mary came into the world, accompanied by the extraordinary mystery of the Immaculate Conception. Mary grew up in the home of Joachim and Anne; she was surrounded by their love and faith: in their home she learned to listen to the Lord and to follow his will. Saints Joachim and Anne were part of a long chain of people who had transmitted their faith and love for God, expressed in the warmth and love of family life, down to Mary, who received the Son of God in her womb and who gave him to the world, to us. How precious is the family as the privileged place for

transmitting the faith." (Pope Francis) The devotion to Anne and Joachim is an extension of the affection Christians have always toward our Blessed Mother. The Church invokes this saintly couple as the patron of grandparents.

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:

World Grandparents' Day was instituted by Pope Francis in 2021 and is celebrated every fourth Sunday of July to closely coincide with the feast day of Sts. Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus. It is an opportunity to show the elderly the closeness of the Church and to value their contribution to families and communities. This year, the date coincides with the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, on Sunday, July 26, 2026 and the Holy Father invited everyone to celebrate the day with a Eucharistic liturgy in the cathedral church of their diocese. It is the sixth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, celebrated with the theme "I will not forget you" (Isaiah 49:15) chosen by Pope Leo XIV. The verse chosen by the Holy Father "is meant to emphasize how God's love for every person never fails, not even in the frailty of old age." The Dicastery for the Laity, the Family, and Life also urged particular Churches and ecclesial communities throughout the world to find ways to celebrate the day in their own local contexts.

WORLD NATURE CONSERVATION DAY:

World Nature Conservation Day established officially at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1972 designated July 28th as a day to highlight the importance of safeguarding nature. This annual observance highlights the urgent need to protect natural while promoting sustainable practices to combat biodiversity loss and climate change. Saving plants and animals that face the threat of extinction is one of the primary goals of World Nature Conservation Day.

This day stresses the need for preserving a healthy environment and natural resources to maintain a stable and healthy society. Also, the celebrations emphasize keeping the various components of nature such as flora, fauna, energy resources, soil, water, and air intact. In addition, World Nature Conservation Day underlines the need for preserving the environment for future generations. We are therefore tasked with the need to leave a healthy planet for those coming after us to enjoy.

Rev. Dr Vincent Monteiro Awarded Doctorate with Summa Cum Laude

The Diocese joyfully congratulates Rev. Dr Vincent Monteiro on the successful defense of his doctoral thesis at the Alfonsiana University, Rome, on 29 May 2026. He was awarded the doctorate with the distinction of summa cum laude.

His doctoral dissertation, titled "Mercy for Inclusion" : The Moral Teachings of Pope Francis on Mercy in the Context of Exclusion," explores the moral vision of Pope Francis, highlighting the transformative role of mercy in fostering inclusion and restoring the dignity of those who experience exclusion in society and the Church.

We thank God for this significant academic achievement and pray that Rev. Dr Vincent Monteiro's scholarly contribution may continue to enrich the Church's mission of proclaiming the Gospel of mercy and promoting a more inclusive Christian community. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his future ministry and academic endeavors.

Higher Studies

Name	Institution	Course/ Programme
Rev. Fr Irudayaraj A	Christa Jyothi College, Bengaluru	Liturgy
Rev. Fr Jeevan Preeth	St Peter's Institution, Bengaluru	Canon Law
Rev. Fr Charles Perianayagam R.	St Aloysius College, Mangaluru	MBA
Rev. Fr Naveen Kumar R.	Christ University, Bengaluru	B. Ed.
Rev. Fr Anthony Kumar H.	St Joseph's College of Law, Bengaluru	LLB

ANNOUNCEMENTS**IMPORTANT MEETING**

A meeting of all the diocesan clergy and all religious priests serving in the parishes of our Diocese, whether as Parish Priests or Assistant Priests, has been convened on Monday, 6 July 2026, from 10.00 a.m. at Catholic Centre, Bannimantap, Mysuru. Since there is a lot to discuss and assimilate, the meeting may go on till lunch on 7 July 2026. Therefore, all the priests are requested to come prepared if there arises a need to stay overnight.

This meeting is of great importance for the life and pastoral mission of our Diocese. Matters concerning the pastoral care of our faithful, the administration of our parishes, and other issues of common concern will be discussed. It is therefore essential that all priests participate in this gathering so that we may reflect together, share our responsibilities, and strengthen our communion and collaboration in the service of the People of God.

YEAR OF FAITH - 2026
DIOCESAN COMMISSION
ACTIVITIES
JULY - 2026

1. Commission for Faith Formation / Catechism

PUC Catechism Teachers' Orientation Programme

Date: 04 July 2026 (First Saturday)

Time: 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru

Participants: PUC Catechism Teachers.

BIRTHDAYS OF
PRIESTS IN THE MONTH OF JULY

Rev. Fr. Paulus T.	01-07-1956
Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier J. A.	10-07-1973
Rev. Fr. Edward William Saldanha	11-07-1964
Rev. Fr. Ignasi Muthu	14-07-1974
Rev. Fr. Sebastian Alexander	15-07-1984
Rev. Fr. Santhosh Kumar	16-07-1977
Rev. Fr. Avinash H. N.	17-07-1990
Rev. Fr. Nehru Muthu A.	20-07-1984
Rev. Fr. Joseph Packiaraj	22-07-1975
Rev. Fr. John Paul Periyannayagam	22-07-1992
Rev. Fr. John Sagaya Pushparaj	25-07-1977
Rev. Fr. Elan Govan CSsR	28-07-1981
Rev. Fr. Marshal Pradeep MMMP	30-07-1981

SANMAARGI - Diocesan Bishop's House

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