



Shepherd's Voice

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

Easter this year comes in the context of a terrible war raging in West Asia, including the very place where Jesus was born, grew up, preached, taught, healed, suffered, died and rose again. We too, though separated by thousands of miles from the horrors of the wanton violence and mayhem being perpetrated by the so-called believers in the Biblical God of mercy and compassion, are not immune to the adverse effects on our economy and the necessities of daily life. Above all, none of us can stay safe and unfeeling from the pain, loss, grief, despair and death that millions of our fellow human beings are enduring almost daily, indeed hourly. It is in this dark and dismal scenario that Easter poses a challenge to us to truly believe that Jesus has overcome sin, suffering and evil in all its form. As St Augustine writes, 'We are Easter People and Alleluia is our song' Have a blessed and hope-filled Easter full of peace and joy.

This Easter grace of peace, hope, joy and love is carried to every home and every family through the pristine pastoral practice of house blessings. My earnest hope and insistent exhortation is that our pastors and our people continue this time tested tradition not as an annual routine and a perfunctory ritual to be hurriedly gone through and done with but rather as a moment of powerful grace from the Risen Lord both for the priest and the family. Take enough time to pray together, talk together and strengthen the bonds between the shepherd and the flock, and within the family as well, as an important dimension of your pastoral care.

It is this deep sense of being men on mission that we priests are called to accept transfers and new assignments, not as mere administrative placements but as real reception of mission from the Lord mediated through the instrumentality of our superiors. A few gentle words of fraternal advice to those on transfer. Kindly avoid speaking ill of your predecessors or successors. Don't bring any structural changes in your new place in the first year of your tenure at the new [lace. Visit all the families and get to know your flock personally. Let me take this opportunity to thank all those on transfer not only for graciously accepting their new assignments but above all for their selfless service at the previous place. Let me also thank the Religious men and women who are on transfer for their generous service to the Diocese.

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

EVENTS

Maundy Thursday - 2 April 2026

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood. By washing the feet of His disciples, He taught that true greatness lies in humble and loving service. As the Church celebrates the Mass of the Lord's Supper and recalls His agony in Gethsemane, we are invited to deepen our love for the Eucharist, remain faithful in times of trial, and serve one another with generosity of heart.

Good Friday - 3 April 2026

Good Friday is the most solemn day of the liturgical year, when we contemplate the Passion, Crucifixion and death of the Lord. Though innocent, Christ willingly embraced the Cross for the salvation of humanity. What appeared to be defeat became the victory of redeeming love. In silence, prayer, and fasting, we venerate the Cross with gratitude, remembering that through His suffering comes healing and through His death shines the hope of Easter.

Easter Sunday - 5 April 2026

Easter Sunday is the greatest and most joyful feast of the Christian liturgical year, celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and His victory of life over death, light over darkness, and hope over despair. After the sorrow of Good Friday and the silence of Holy Saturday, the Church proclaims with joy, "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" Through His Resurrection, Christ conquered sin and death and opened for us the path to eternal life. Easter is thus a feast of new life, forgiveness, and renewal, inviting us to rise from fear and sin and to live as witnesses of the Risen Lord. May the Risen Christ bless our families, our parish community, and our Diocese with peace, unity, and renewed faith. Happy and Blessed Easter to one and all! Alleluia!

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday (12 April 2026), celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter and established in 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II, is rooted in the revelations received by Saint Faustina Kowalska, through whom Jesus proclaimed the message of His boundless mercy. This feast reminds us that God's love is greater than our sins and weaknesses, and that humanity finds true peace only by trusting in

His mercy. The Divine Mercy image, with red and pale rays flowing from the Heart of Jesus, signifies the blood and water poured out for our salvation. On this day, the Church encourages the faithful to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive the Holy Eucharist, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and practice works of charity, renewing their trust in the prayer: "Jesus, I trust in You."

Good Shepherd Sunday

As we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday on 26 April 2026, we are invited to contemplate Christ, the Good Shepherd, who knows His sheep, calls them by name, and lays down His life for their salvation. This day also holds special significance as a time to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. In a world that often distracts and discourages generous commitment, the Church urgently needs dedicated and faith-filled individuals who are willing to respond to the Lord's call. I earnestly encourage parents, parish communities, and educators to foster a positive and supportive environment where young people can prayerfully discern their vocation. Let us inspire our youth with the beauty and dignity of serving God and His people, and gently guide them to consider the path of the seminary and the religious life. May our prayers and encouragement help many to courageously say "YES" to the call of the Good Shepherd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Statutory Audit 2025-2026

As we approach the period of statutory audit for our diocesan institutions and parishes, I kindly request each one of you, especially those entrusted with the administration of parishes and institutions, to ensure that all relevant financial records and documents are kept ready and up to date. "This includes, but is not limited to, cash books, ledgers, vouchers, bank statements, asset registers, statutory compliance records, and any other supporting documents pertaining to financial transactions. Proper organization and timely preparation of these records will greatly facilitate a smooth and efficient audit process." I also urge you to extend your full cooperation to the auditing team, providing any clarifications or additional information they may require. Your collaboration is essential in maintaining transparency, accountability, and compliance with statutory norms, thereby safeguarding the good standing of our diocesan institutions. "Let us carry out this responsibility with diligence and a spirit of stewardship."

Instructions Regarding Collections

Parish priests are kindly requested to ensure that the following collections are duly taken and remitted as indicated:

- ***The collections during the Holy Mass on Maundy Thursday are to be sent to the diocese towards the fund to care for the elderly and sick priests of our diocese. A/C name: "Clergy Health Care".***
- ***The collections during the Good Friday services have to be sent to the diocese towards the "Hunger and disease" funds. A/C name: "Bishop and Procurator".*** All the religious communities are requested to contribute from their communities for this cause directly to the Bishop's House.
- ***The collections during the Holy Mass on Good Shepherd Sunday are to be sent to the diocese towards the Maintenance of Diocesan Seminarians.***

Diocesan Level Activities

Commission Activities

Year of Faith 2026 - Diocese of Mysore

1. **Catechists & Sacristans Get-Together**
Date: 9th April 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru
2. **UNNATI - Career Orientation & Vocation Camp (for SSLC Students)**
Date: 10th April 2026 (10:00 a.m.) to 12th April 2026 (3:00 p.m.)
Venue: Mathias Auditorium
3. **Family Life Commission**
Diocesan Level Marriage Preparation Programme
Date: 11th & 12th April 2026
Venue: Catholic Centre, Mysuru
4. **Liturgy & Bible Commission**
Bible & Liturgical Instruction Class for Laity
Date: 19th April 2026
Venue : Catholic Centre, Mysuru
5. **Youth Commission**
18th Diocesan Youth Convention - Year of Faith Special
Date: 18th, 19th & 20th April 2026
Venue: St. Philomena's Indoor Stadium

PRIESTS BIRTHDAY IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

Rev. Fr. Gilbert Edward Aranha	-	01-04-1961
Rev. Fr. Vincent Thangaraj	-	04-04-1977
Rev. Fr. John Louis	-	04-04-1961
Rev. Fr. John Bosco	-	05-04-1965
Rev. Fr. Antony Kumar	-	08-04-1996
Rev. Fr. Chinnappa I.	-	10-04-1984
Rev. Fr. Madalai Muthu	-	10-04-1970
Most Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Vazhapilly	-	11-04-1940
Rev. Fr. Joseph G.	-	11-04-1947
Rev. Fr. Rayappa Mariyappa	-	22-04-1976
Rev. Fr. Rohan A.	-	22-04-1983
Rev. Fr. Stanislaus Manickam	-	25-04-1948



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 ACCOUNT NUMBER : 0524-0530-0001-1563 NAME OF THE BANK : SOUTH INDIAN BANK IFSC CODE : SIBL0000524 BRANCH : BANNIMANTAP		NAME OF THE ACCOUNT : CLERGY HEALTH CARE ACCOUNT NUMBER : 1703-2010-0960-40 NAME OF THE BANK : CANARA BANK IFSC CODE : CNRB0011703 BRANCH : BANNIMANTAP	NAME OF THE ACCOUNT : MISSION SUNDAY ACCOUNT NUMBER : 0524-0530-0000-0162 NAME OF THE BANK : SOUTH INDIAN BANK IFSC CODE : SIBL0000524 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			

SANMAARGI - Diocesan Bishop's House

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