



# SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LII

NO.12

DECEMBER 2025

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026.





## ALL SOULS DAY MASS IN METTUGUDA CEMETERY



# SHEPHERD'S CALL

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DECEMBER

2025



## *Archbishop's Message*



*I wish you a Happy Christmas and a Holy New Year*

Christmas is the historical, soteriological and eschatological fulfilment of the promise made by God the Father for Israel and for all the peoples of the world through His prophet Isaiah 700 years before the birth of His Eternal Son Jesus Christ (now living and reigning at His right hand as His Christ and high priest over the people of His Church on earth):

‘In the days to come’, says the Lord God, ‘the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: “Come let us climb the Lord’s mountain to the house of the God of Jacob that He may instruct us in His ways and that we may walk in His paths” (Is. 2: 2-3).’

Who are the people who have climbed the mountain of the Lord and entered into definitive communion with Him? They are the ones who, beginning with the Pentecost, responded affirmatively and decisively

through their baptismal promises to the apostolic proclamation of Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead in the Holy Spirit and His present anointed kingship at the Father's right hand, in order to enter into everlasting covenantal life with the Eternal Father in Christ and in the Holy Spirit through their definitive obedience of faith to Him on earth. They are the Saints in heaven for sure! And beginning with the conversion and baptism of our forefathers we too are the people who are presently climbing this eschatological mountain of God the Father in His Eternal Son our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. But are we climbing this mountain 'to receive His instruction in His ways that we may walk in His paths'? What instruction does the Eternal Father give us through His Eternal Son our Lord Jesus Christ on this mountain? 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is God's kingdom.' 'Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God.' 'Blessed are those who thirst for holiness, they shall be satisfied.' 'Blessed are those who suffer for the sake of righteousness, theirs is the kingdom of God'.

Christmas season is the time to learn from the Son our Lord Jesus Christ His way to His Eternal Father and to follow it in our personal lives in order to become eternally acceptable to Him at the judgement seat of Christ after our holy bodily death on earth.

I wish you all a Christmas season spiritually illuminated by your meditation on this promised word of God the Father for our eternal life with Himself in Christ and in His Holy Spirit, and by your merciful works of justice and charity done according to His word out of love for Him, and for your truly meaningful life on earth and your everlasting happiness with Himself.

# Solemnities and Feasts

**3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER**

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER**



Today the Church celebrates the feast of St Francis Xavier, SJ (1506–1552), one of the first companions of St Ignatius of Loyola and among the greatest missionaries since the Apostles.

Born in Navarre, Spain, he studied in Paris, where he met Ignatius and Peter Faber. Together with four others, they professed vows at Montmartre on August 15, 1534, forming the nucleus of the Society of Jesus.

Xavier was ordained with Ignatius in 1537 and helped prepare for the formal foundation of the Jesuits in 1540. Appointed by King John III of Portugal as a missionary to the East Indies, he sailed to Goa in 1542 and spent about three years evangelizing, catechizing children, caring for the sick, and restoring Christian communities along India's southern coast.

From 1545 to 1547 he preached in Malacca and the Moluccas, then met a Japanese man, Anjiro, whose testimony led him to begin the mission in Japan. Xavier spent almost three years (1549–1552) preaching there, establishing the first Christian communities before returning to Goa.

Determined next to reach China, he set out in 1552 but fell ill and died on the island of Shangchuan on December 3, 1552. In just ten years, he carried out extraordinary missionary work across India, Southeast Asia, and Japan, earning the titles "Apostle of the Indies" and "Apostle of Japan."

He was canonized in 1622 and later named Patron of the Missions. His body lies in the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa, while his right arm is venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. Countless institutions around the world bear his name in honour of his missionary zeal.

Source: [jesuits.org](http://jesuits.org)

**8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The Immaculate Conception does *not* refer to Jesus' conception or the Virgin Birth. It means that Mary, conceived naturally by her parents, was preserved by God from original sin from the first instant of her existence. "Immaculate" means without stain: Mary was kept free from the deprivation of sanctifying grace and the corrupt nature caused by original sin. She was redeemed by Christ in a unique, preventive way.

## Early Celebrations

A feast of Mary's conception was celebrated as early as the 5th century in Syria, and by the 7th century it was widespread in the East as the Conception of St. Anne. It later spread in the West, especially in France and England. Iconography also began to depict Mary as *Panachranta* ("all immaculate"), though this referred to her holiness broadly.



## Medieval Debates

The term “Immaculate Conception” faced theological objections from figures like St. Bernard, St. Albert, and St. Thomas Aquinas, who questioned how Mary could be redeemed if she had never contracted sin. The Franciscan theologian John Duns Scotus offered the decisive solution: Mary was redeemed more perfectly—preserved from sin by Christ’s merits in advance, because of her unique role in salvation.

## Toward Official Recognition

Popular devotion to Mary’s conception remained strong.

- **1439:** Council of Basel stated the belief was in harmony with the Catholic faith.
- **1477:** Pope Sixtus IV approved the feast for dioceses wishing to celebrate it, granted indulgences, and allowed the title “Immaculate”, while noting the Church had not yet made a definitive decision.
- **1708:** Pope Clement XI made the feast a holy day of obligation.

## Definition of the Dogma

In the 19th century, bishops worldwide urged a formal definition. After consulting bishops—and through them, the faithful—Pope Pius IX solemnly defined the doctrine on December 8, 1854, in the bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. The definition states:

Mary, by a singular grace of God and through the merits of Jesus Christ, was preserved from all stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception.

This declaration confirmed that Mary possessed sanctifying grace from her beginning and that her privilege was entirely the result of Christ’s saving work, not her own merits.

Source: [sacredheartfla.org](http://sacredheartfla.org)

## 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

## CHRISTMAS: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



The center of the Christian faith is Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Savior of the world. His Hebrew name, Yeshua, means “the Lord saves.” Born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea (Mt 1–2), Jesus fulfilled the ancient Messianic prophecies of Genesis 3:15, Psalm 22 and 110, Isaiah 7:14, Daniel 7:13–14, and Micah 5:2.

Jesus was born around 4 BC, during the reign of Herod the Great and the Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus. His legal father, Joseph, was of the House of David, while Mary was related to Elizabeth, a descendant of the Levitical priestly line.

After the Flight into Egypt to escape Herod’s persecution (Mt 2), the Holy Family returned and settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew up. Scripture records little about his hidden life, except the episode of the twelve-year-old Jesus found among the teachers in the Temple (Lk 2:46). The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John remain the primary sources for his life and mission.

### The Birthplace of Christ and Its Veneration

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem marks the traditional site of Jesus’ birth, identified by St. Justin Martyr in 155 AD. Built by St. Helena and Constantine beginning in 326, it was dedicated in

339, restored by Emperor Justinian in 530, and adorned by the Crusaders in the twelfth century. It is considered one of the oldest continuously used churches in the world.

### **The First Nativity Scene**

The first Christmas Crib was created in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy. He prepared a manger with hay, brought live people and animals, and set the scene for Midnight Mass to help people contemplate the humility of Christ, who embraced creation through the Incarnation.

### **Reflections on the Birth of Christ**

In his 1991 Christmas message, Pope John Paul II proclaimed: *"The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all men' (Titus 2:11). This grace is centered entirely on the Child in the manger—the eternal Son, the Son of divine pleasure and eternal love."*

In the opening of his 1995 encyclical ***Evangelium Vitae***, he added: *"The Birth of the Savior reveals the full meaning of every human birth. The joy that surrounds the Messiah's Birth becomes the foundation of the joy at every child born into the world."*

Source: [jesuschristsavior.net](http://jesuschristsavior.net)

## **27<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

## **ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST**

St John the Divine, son of Zebedee and Salome, was born on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. His brother James was likely older, and their family seems to have been of some means (Mk 1:20; Jn 19:27).

John and James first followed John the Baptist. John is almost certainly one of the unnamed disciples in John 1:35–39 who heard the Baptist proclaim, "Behold the Lamb of God," and spent a day with Jesus—an encounter that shaped his lifelong devotion.

John accompanied Jesus from the beginning of his ministry: at Cana, in Capernaum, and later among the inner circle of Peter, James, and John, who witnessed Jesus' raising of Jairus' daughter, the Transfiguration, and the Agony in Gethsemane. Because of their fervor, the brothers were nicknamed Boanerges, "Sons of Thunder."

At the Last Supper, John—"the disciple whom Jesus loved"—rested close to Jesus. At the Cross, Christ entrusted to him the care of Mary, his Mother (Jn 19:27). With Peter, John was among the first to hear of the Resurrection from Mary Magdalene and was the first to reach the tomb (Jn 20:2–4).

After the Resurrection, John again recognized Jesus on the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21), revealing the deep bond between the two. The Acts of the Apostles show Peter and John working side by side: praying in the Temple (Acts 3), resisting the Sanhedrin (Acts 4), and welcoming the Samaritans into the Church (Acts 8).

### **Later Life and Tradition**

John likely remained in Jerusalem until Mary's death (though some traditions place both in Ephesus). He was still present in Jerusalem fifteen years after Paul's first visit (Acts 15).

Tradition—especially Irenaeus—holds that John settled in Ephesus after the deaths of Peter and



Paul, supervising the Churches of Asia Minor.

Under Domitian, he was brought to Rome, where legend says he survived being plunged into boiling oil near the Latin Gate. Banished to the island of Patmos, he labored in the mines and later, after Domitian's death, returned to Ephesus. There he is believed to have written his Gospel.

Stories from the early Church illustrate both his zeal and his love: fleeing a bathhouse to avoid the heretic Cerinthus, and later rescuing a lost young man who had become a bandit-with compassion that won him back.

In extreme old age, John was carried into the Christian assembly, where his constant exhortation was simply: "Little children, love one another."

He lived to a very advanced age. Christian art often depicts him with an eagle, symbol of the lofty Gospel he wrote, or with a chalice and serpent, recalling the legend of attempted poisoning that did him no harm.

Source: catholic.org

## 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Luke's account of Jesus' presentation in the Temple reveals that "it takes a village to raise a child." When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to fulfill the Law, figures like Simeon and Anna stepped forward, symbolizing the faith of all Israel. Like Samuel presented by Hannah, Jesus is placed at the heart of his people's long history, stretching back to Abraham and God's covenant.

In this scene, it is not officials or religious authorities who recognize the Messiah, but simple, faithful elders. Simeon sees in Jesus the fulfillment of all his hopes, while Anna becomes the first evangelist, announcing the child to all who awaited redemption. Their witness shows that the Holy Family stands within a much larger network of relationships-the entire people of God.

This perspective helps us celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family not merely as a tribute to the nuclear family, but as a reminder of the broader community that shapes our lives. This is especially important for those who struggle during the holidays because of loss, separation, or broken relationships. Luke invites us to see family as an ever-expanding community of love.

Sirach calls us to gratitude for our elders; Genesis reminds us of our roots in the Jewish faith and Abraham's trust in God's promises; and Colossians teaches us that communities are built up when love becomes the bond of perfection, overcoming imperfections.

Ultimately, this feast celebrates not only Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, but the whole human family, created in the image of the Triune God-a God who forms us into a community of love that spans generations. Through Christ, we belong to this holy family, now and forever. Amen.

Source: nronline.org



# *Archbishop's Engagements*

**N.B.:"In office days", Please call the Secretary before coming. Ph No : 72079 40883**

## **DECEMBER 2025**

- 01 – 03. Mon – Wed : The Chosen: Asian Vision Summit 2025, Malaysia
05. Fri : In Office
06. Sat 09.00 a.m. : Telangana Education General Body Meeting, Little Flower Junior College, Uppal
- 04.00 p.m. : Inaugural Mass of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations commemorating the founding of Loyola Academy, Alwal
07. Sun 09.30 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad.
- 05.00 p.m. : Christmas Celebrations- Healing Hands (Specially Abled), at St Mary's High School, Secunderabad.
08. Mon 11.00 a.m. : Governing Body Meeting HASSS, Secunderabad.
- 06.00 p.m : Festive Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bandlines
09. Tue 10. 00 a.m. : Holy Mass, 175 years Jubilee of St Francis High School, Secunderabad
10. Wed : In Office
- 05.30 p.m. : Annual Day of St Mary's High School, Secunderabad
11. Thu 09.30 a.m. : Clergy Recollection and Christmas Get-Together at Archbishop's House, Secunderabad.
12. Fri : In Office
- 04.30 p.m. : Annual Day of St. Philomena's High School, Bhoiguda.
13. Sat 10.30 a.m. : Mill Hill – 150 years Closing Celebration and Inauguration of St Joseph's Shrine, Ramanthapur.
- 05.30 p.m. : CRI Christmas Get-together, Begumpet

14. Sun 08.30 a.m. : Festive Mass, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, at Immaculate Conception Church, Kutakpally
16. Tue 11.00 a.m. : Christmas Programme at HASSS Office, Sec-bad.
17. Wed 10.30 a.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of the New Presbytery at St Joseph's Church, Alirajpet
18. Thu 09.30 a.m. : Inaugural Ceremony – Science Exhibition, Annual Day at Sacred Heart School, Lallaguda
20. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Closing Celebration of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee of Heavenly Abode of Servant of God Mother Thatipatri Gnanamma (CSSA Sisters) at Infant Jesus Cathedral, Phirangipuram, Guntur
22. Mon : In Office
24. Wed 11.00 p.m. : Christmas Vigil Mass at St Mary's Basilica, Sec-bad.
25. Thu 09.15 a.m. : Christmas Day Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
27. Sat : Mary Mediatrix Sisters- Jubilee, Holy Mass at Karunapuram, Warangal
28. Sun 05.30 p.m. : Closing of Jubilee Year 2025 at St Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
29. Mon 10.30 a.m. : Festive Mass, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Basuregadi
31. Wed 11.30 p.m. : New Year Midnight Mass at St Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry

## **TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: JANUARY 2026**

04. Sun 09.00 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church, Bolaram
- 05-10. Mon-Sat : Extraordinary Consistory, Rome
11. Sun 07.30 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Divine Mercy Church, Madinaguda
12. Mon 10.30 a.m. : Silver Jubilee of St Joseph's Church, Jadi Jamalpur

13. Tue 11.00 a.m. : Golden years Jubilee of St. Vincent Convent, Vincentian Sisters, Alirajpet
15. Thu : Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Kommareddy Lourdu Marreddy at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur
17. Sat 11.00 a.m. : Golden and Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Nirmala Sister, MSI Medchal
18. Sun 10.30 a.m. : Festive Mass at Infant Jesus Shrine, Gajwel
19. Mon 10.30 a.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of Grotto and New Presbytery at St. Matthias Church, Jojipet
24. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of the Newly Constructed Church, Kalwakole  
05.00 p.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of the New Friary, Gajwel
25. Sun 10.00 a.m. : Festive Mass, First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda  
05.00 p.m. : Golden Jubilee Celebration at St. Francis de Sales Church, Shanthinagar
26. Mon 10.00 a.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of the Newly Constructed Church at Bachupally  
04.00. p.m. : Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Fr K. Charles at Lillipur
30. Fri 05.30 p.m. : Annual Day and Convocation Ceremony at St. Alphonsus High School, Banjara Hills
31. Sat 04.00 p.m. : Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Estd. of St. Mary's Centenary Degree College, Secunderabad.

**30<sup>th</sup> November, 2025**  
**Archbishop's House**

**✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony**  
**Archbishop of Hyderabad**

# Communications

## 1. A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS – 2025

On the joyful occasion of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025, I extend my warmest and heartfelt greetings to all the Clergy, Religious, Lay Faithful, and to our Brothers and Sisters of other Faiths.

May Jesus the true Light fill our hearts and homes with His peace, love, and abundant blessings. As we conclude the Year 2025, let us gratefully acknowledge God's gracious providence throughout the past year. With renewed hope, let us journey into the New Year 2026, imploring the Lord to accompany us with His grace, strengthen us in faith, and bless us with joy, harmony, and lasting peace.

Wishing each one of you a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas and a Grace-filled New Year 2026!

## 3. THE CHRISTMAS RECOLLECTION AND GET-TOGETHER:

- Recollection for all the Archdiocesan and Pastoral Clergy is arranged on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 at 9:30 am at Vianney Home. All the Archdiocesan and the pastoral clergy are expected to attend the same.
- Christmas Get-together for the Archdiocesan Clergy is arranged at St. Mary's High School Grounds on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 from 3 pm onwards.

## 4. CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATION – 2025

**(28<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 – Feast of the Holy Family):**

As the Universal Church completes its grace-filled journey of the Jubilee Year 2025, the solemn conclusion in Hyderabad will be celebrated on **Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025**, coinciding with the beautiful Feast of the **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**. This day marks the culmination of a year lived joyfully and faithfully as true "*Pilgrims of Hope*."

Throughout this blessed Jubilee, the Jubilee Cross travelled through every deanery, parish, religious community, and institution of our Archdiocese, uniting the faithful in prayer, reconciliation, and renewed zeal for the mission of Christ. The Cross, symbolizing Christ's infinite love, reminded us of His saving act that the Son of God humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant (Phil 2:7) offering hope and strength to His people in every moment of life's journey.

**The Closing Ceremony of the Jubilee Year 2025 will be held at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry, on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025. Holy Mass will be Celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony at 6:00 pm.**

We invite all the Clergy, Religious, and the Faithful of the Archdiocese to come together in solemn thanksgiving for the abundant blessings received during this Holy Year. It is a moment to give glory to God for deepened faith, strengthened unity, and renewed hope within our communities.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we also renew our commitment to build loving, faith-filled, and hope-filled families and parishes - inspired by Christ who is our unfailing anchor (cf. Heb 6:19). Strengthened by this Jubilee grace, we look confidently toward the future, continuing our pilgrimage of faith with courage and joyful witness.

May the Holy Family intercede for us as we journey onward, united in Christ, and ever rooted in hope!

**"Pilgrims of Hope - journeying forward in faith!"**

**With Regards and Prayers  
✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony  
Archbishop of Hyderabad.**

## **CHANCERY NOTICE:**

### **1. CHRISTMAS VACATION:**

All the offices connected with Archdiocese of Hyderabad Society will remain closed (except for emergency) from 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2025 till 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2026 (both days inclusive) in view of Christmas and New Year.

### **2. ANNUAL RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 2025:**

All Parish Priests, Heads of the Institutions and Religious Superiors are requested to start preparing Annual Returns for the year 2025 from January to December, which are to be sent to Rome in the First Quarter of 2026. Forms of Annual Returns will be sent to you by post or can be collected from Fr. Christopher, Secretary to the Cardinal. If you have not received the forms by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, please contact Chancellor or Secretary. Please send the filled in forms by 15<sup>th</sup>

January 2026 to the Chancellor or Secretary, Archbishop's House by post or you may forward it to **archdiohyd@gmail.com**.

### 3. SEMINARIAN FUND:

We encourage local benefactors for our Seminarians and young priests as foreign funds and benefactors are slowly withdrawn. We already have **"Support a Seminarian"** programme. We have the Brochures and forms regarding the Seminarians Fund. Please encourage the faithful to sponsor the future priests.

### 4. MISSION SUNDAY CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Parish Priests/ Priests In-Charge/ Heads of the Institutions are requested to forward the contributions to the Procurator's office, Archbishop's House, Secunderabad, as early as possible. The religious Houses, convents, institutions can handover cheques directly at Archbishop's House and obtain the receipt.

### 5. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions, who have not yet paid the special collections and Second Sunday Collections, are requested to pay as soon as possible. Please clear all dues till December, 2025. Please contact Procurator's office for details of your parish/institute dues.

#### POPE'S INTENTION: DECEMBER 2025

**For Christinas in areas of conflict:** Let us pray that Christinas living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.



#### CARDINAL'S INTENTION: DECEMBER 2025

Let us pray that all people may uphold the sanctity of human life from conception, reject abortion and contraceptive practices contrary to God's plan for life and family, and receive children as His precious gifts.



## **HEALING HANDS - HEARTS WITHOUT BORDERS: EMBRACING ALL ABILITIES – ARCHDIOCESAN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

In close proximity to the International Day for Persons with Disabilities that is on 3<sup>rd</sup> December every year, the Family Apostolate of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad is pleased to announce a very special celebration dedicated to our beloved specially-abled brothers and sisters. It will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at St. Mary's High School Grounds, Secunderabad. At this event - filled with warmth and joy - we will come together for the 4th Annual Christmas Celebration for the specially-abled persons and their families.

The theme chosen by the United Nations (UN) is “Fostering disability inclusive societies for advancing social progress”. For our Archdiocesan celebration the theme is: Hearts Without Borders: Embracing All Abilities

This gathering is a beautiful reminder of the precious gifts each person brings to our community. It is a time to celebrate their courage, talents, and the light they shine in our lives. Through heartfelt prayers, joyful music, and shared smiles, we create a space where everyone feels seen, embraced, and deeply cherished in a spirit of inclusivity.

Each specially-abled individual will receive a Christmas gift hamper worth Rs.1500/-, a small but meaningful token of love and care from all of us. These gifts symbolize the compassion that Christ calls us to live every day-a love that knows no boundaries and welcomes all with open arms.

We warmly invite individuals and organizations to become sponsors of these gift hampers. Your generosity will bring joy and hope to families who often face challenges and remind them they are an integral part of our faith family.

To offer your support or learn more, please reach out to Fr. David Francis at 9490941460; or John Roger Anthony/Jessy at 9515110473 – Secretary Couple; or Joachim Joseph at 9562942839. Together, let us share the “Good News of Great Joy” this Christmas, embracing all abilities with open hearts.

- Sylvester Isaac for the Family Apostolate



**SOCIETY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH  
INDIA**

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T.S, INDIA.

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Lr.No.96.2025 pn /nj**

**To,**  
**His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony,**  
**Archbishop of Hyderabad.**

**Your Eminence,**

**Greetings of peace and joy in the Lord!**

We are delighted to share the joyful news that on **21 November 2025**, the **Dicastery for the Causes of Saints**, with the approval of **Pope Leo XIV**, officially declared **Dr. Sr. Mary of the Sacred Heart (Mary Glowrey), JMJ**, as **Venerable**.

Her journey toward sainthood began earlier when, in 2013, the Church formally opened her Cause for Canonization and she was proclaimed **Servant of God**, acknowledging the holiness and inspiration of her life.

Born on 23 June 1887 in Birregurra, Victoria, Australia, she was the third of nine children and was baptized shortly thereafter during the parish priest's visit. Her life marked by deep faith, human richness, and unwavering dedication became a radiant example of Gospel-rooted service.

As the first woman religious to be formally recognized as a medical doctor, she devoted herself wholeheartedly to the care of the poorest and most vulnerable. Having served in St. Joseph's Hospital, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, we feel especially privileged to have inherited the grace of her compassionate presence and healing ministry among our people.

She is also remembered as the visionary founder of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHA). What began as her simple yet prophetic initiative has now grown into one of the largest not-for-profit healthcare networks in India, continuing her mission of accessible and compassionate healthcare for all.

We thank God for this singular grace granted to our Congregation of Jesus Mary Joseph and to the Church, and we humbly request your prayers for the continued progress of her Cause.

We request your Eminence, to kindly inform the priests, religious and the faithful of your Diocese about **Servant of God** declared as **Venerable**.

With warm regards and prayers,

**Yours sincerely in Christ,**

**Sr. Pauline Nusi JMJ**

Provincial - Soc. of JMJ  
JMJ Provincialate  
Jyothinilayam  
6-3-900, Somajiguda,  
Hyderabad - 500 082.

## 2nd Sunday Collection for the month of October 2025

| Sl No. | Date       | Place                        | Amount | Sl No. | Date       | Place                 | Amount        |
|--------|------------|------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1      | 27-10-2025 | Aliabad                      | 600    | 52     | 16-10-2025 | Mahendra Hills        | 2860          |
| 2      | 23-10-2025 | Alirajpet                    | 650    | 53     |            | Madinaguda            |               |
| 3      | 22-11-2025 | Ammuguda                     | 2500   | 54     | 31-10-2025 | Mallapur              | 995           |
| 4      | 10-11-2025 | Arogya Nagar (Mission)       | 200    | 55     |            | Manikonda Mission     |               |
| 5      |            | Arul Colony                  |        | 56     | 13-10-2025 | Mariapuram (Adibatla) | 1000          |
| 6      | 24-11-2025 | Balaji Nagar                 | 1000   | 57     |            | Medchal               |               |
| 7      | 17-10-2025 | Balaiah Nagar (Old Alwal)    | 12428  | 58     | 13-11-2025 | Medipally             | 2250          |
| 8      | 24-11-2025 | Band Lines                   | 5700   | 59     |            | Mettuguda             |               |
| 9      | 29-10-2025 | Bandlaguda Jagir (Kismatpur) | 64880  | 60     |            | Miyapur               |               |
| 10     |            | Banjara Hills                |        | 61     | 25-11-2025 | MoulAli               | 5460          |
| 11     |            | Basuregadi                   |        | 62     |            | Mudfort               |               |
| 12     |            | Bayyaram                     |        | 63     |            | Muthangi              |               |
| 13     |            | Bazar Ghat                   |        | 64     |            | Nacharam              |               |
| 14     | 06-11-2025 | BHEL - MIG                   | 5200   | 65     |            | Nandrakal             |               |
| 15     | 14-10-2025 | Begumpet                     | 3750   | 66     |            | Narayankhed           |               |
| 17     |            | Bodhan                       |        | 67     |            | Nedunoor              |               |
| 18     |            | Boduppall                    |        | 68     | 22-11-2025 | Neela Camp            | 300           |
| 19     |            | Bhoiguda                     |        | 69     |            | Nizamabad             |               |
| 20     | 15-09-2025 | Bolarum                      | 12260  | 70     |            | Pargi                 |               |
| 21     |            | Borabanda                    |        | 71     | 03-11-2025 | Patancheru            | 950           |
| 22     | 14-11-2025 | Bowenpally                   | 10000  | 72     | 10-11-2025 | Ramachandrapuram      | 7340          |
| 23     |            | Cherkapally                  |        | 73     |            | Ramanthapur           |               |
| 24     |            | Chintalacheruvu              |        | 74     | 11-11-2025 | Ramnagar              | 19000         |
| 25     |            | Church Colony                |        | 75     | 11-11-2025 | Sadasivpet            | 150           |
| 26     | 16-10-2025 | Dammaiguda                   | 12500  | 76     | 30-10-2025 | Sainikpuri            | 5216          |
| 27     |            | Dharmaram                    |        | 77     | 28-10-2025 | Sanathnagar           | 19250         |
| 28     | 05-11-2025 | Dayanandnagar                | 3700   | 78     |            | Sangareddy            |               |
| 29     | 17-11-2025 | Emjala                       | 20000  | 79     | 15-10-2025 | Santhoshnagar         | 2000          |
| 30     | 24-10-2025 | Gaddiannaram                 | 3050   | 80     |            | Sappers Lines         |               |
| 31     |            | Gagillapuram                 |        | 81     | 24-10-2025 | Secunderabad          | 50000         |
| 32     | 30-10-2025 | Gajwel                       | 500    | 82     |            | Shabad                |               |
| 33     | 21-10-2025 | Gandhinagar                  | 3000   | 83     | 14-10-2025 | Shamshabad            | 2500          |
| 34     | 27-10-2025 | Garrison (Trimulgherry)      | 950    | 84     | 17-10-2025 | Shanthinagar          | 2861          |
| 35     | 31-10-2025 | Ghatkesar                    | 800    | 85     |            | Shapurnagar           |               |
| 36     | 12-11-2025 | Golconda                     | 16711  | 86     |            | Siddipet              |               |
| 37     | 11-11-2025 | Gothumakunda                 | 850    | 87     | 30-10-2025 | Seethaphalmandi       | 3000          |
| 38     | 15-10-2025 | Gunfoundry                   | 13000  | 88     | 03-11-2025 | Sultan Bazar          | 5000          |
| 39     | 21-11-2025 | Jadi Jamalpur                | 200    | 89     | 25-10-2025 | Suraram               | 3000          |
| 40     | 16-10-2025 | Jagadgiri Gutta              | 3500   | 90     |            | Tandur                |               |
| 41     |            | Jahanuma                     |        | 91     |            | Toopran               |               |
| 42     |            | Jogipet                      |        | 92     | 31-10-2025 | Trimulgherry          | 32500         |
| 43     |            | Joipet                       |        | 93     |            | Uminthal              |               |
| 44     |            | Kalwakole                    |        | 94     | 06-11-2025 | Vanasthalipuram       | 2500          |
| 45     |            | Kamareddy                    |        | 95     |            | Venkatapuram          |               |
| 46     |            | Khairatabad                  |        | 96     |            | Vikarabad             |               |
| 47     |            | Kissan Nagar (Armoor)        |        | 97     | 13-10-2025 | Yapral                | 5000          |
| 48     |            | Kukatpally                   |        | 98     | 22-10-2025 | Yeddumylaram          | 850           |
| 49     | 07-10-2025 | Lallaguda                    | 15000  | 99     |            | Yellareddy            |               |
| 50     | 03-11-2025 | L. B. Nagar                  | 2287   | 100    |            | Zaheerabad            |               |
| 51     |            | Lillipur                     |        |        |            | <b>Total</b>          | <b>389198</b> |

# Pastoral News

## 1. Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St John Maria Vianney Church, New Bhoiguda



## 2. Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Christ the King Church, Ramanthapur by His Lordship Most Rev. Anthony Das Pilli, Coadjutor Bishop of Nellore



### 3. Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. Francis Xavier Church, Borabanda



### 4. Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Holy Family Church, Trimulgherry



## 5. Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry



## 6. Golden Jubilee of Mary Mediatrix Congregation Presence, L.B. Nagar



# Archdiocesan News

## 1. ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD – CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 FOR FAMILIES

**Venue** : St Anthony's Shrine, Mettuguda, Secunderabad

**Date** : November 16, 2025

**Theme** : *Faithful Families: Witnesses of Hope in a World in Crisis*

The Archdiocese of Hyderabad concluded the Jubilee Year 2025 for Families with a solemn Eucharistic celebration held at St. Anthony's Shrine, Mettuguda. Organized by the Family Apostolate, the event drew families from across the Archdiocese who gathered to give thanks, renew their faith, and reaffirm their commitment to family unity in Christ. The theme, *Faithful Families: Witnesses of Hope in a World in Crisis*, invited Christian households to rediscover their mission as domestic churches, rooted in God's mercy amid global uncertainties.



The Holy Mass was presided over by Most Reverend Mallavarapu Prakash, Archbishop Emeritus of Visakhapatnam, and concelebrated by Fr. Aloysius, Fr. Wilfred, Fr. Y. M. Joseph, Fr. Noel, and Fr. David Francis. In his homily, Archbishop Prakash reflected deeply on the sacred vocation of family life, describing the family as “a bundle of relationships” united by mutual consent, lifelong

commitment, and faith. He reminded the faithful that joy and endurance in family life spring from shared time, attentive listening, and steadfast prayer. Emphasizing that faith sustains families through both blessings and trials, he urged them to remain rooted in Christ and to trust the Lord's enduring promise: *"I am with you always."*

The celebration concluded with the renewal of the family pledge, encouraging families to be beacons of stability, compassion, and hope in a world marked by crisis. As the Jubilee Year for Families closes, the Archdiocese continues to call families to live as visible signs of God's faithfulness.

*- Sylvester Isaac for the Family Apostolate*

## **Celebrations in Other Parishes**

At **Gagillapur Parish**, the community gathered on the 33rd Ordinary Sunday of the Year to conclude the Jubilee celebrations. Three families from each area represented their communities during the Holy Mass, which began with parish children-dressed as angels and saints-welcoming the faithful. In the homily, **Fr. Michael Samala** stressed the importance of strong family life, encouraging growth in the Fear of God, deeper faith, and dedication to the Catholic formation of children. Cultural programs by the catechism children followed, concluding with a simple breakfast shared in fellowship.

**St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ramnagar**, also celebrated the closing of the Jubilee with a special Mass for all families, including children joining their parents. This was followed by fun-filled games and a breakfast fellowship that strengthened parish unity and joy.

**St. Pius X Church, Nacharam:** The closing of the Jubilee Year for families was celebrated at St. Pius X Church, Nacharam on Sunday, 23rd November 2025. The Mass was led by Fr. Kishore (Parish Priest), Fr. Lourdu (Assistant Parish Priest), Fr. Anthony Ambaddam (Pioneer of the Church), and Fr. Jerome Lewis (Youth Director), who delivered an inspiring sermon.

Following the Mass, the family day celebrations began with fun games for all ages, a youth dance performance, and a scrumptious lunch. A lively round of tombola was also held, with prizes for the winners.

It turned out to be a truly joyful and memorable Sunday, filled with smiles and togetherness among all the parishioners.

As the Jubilee Year draws to a close, the Archdiocese invites all families to continue walking together in faith-embracing hope, unity, and the enduring presence of God.

*- Reports from Parishes*

## 2. CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. LARISA PETER ON BEING INSTITUTED AS A PERMANENT CATECHIST BY THE HOLY FATHER

Hyderabad, September 28, 2025

– With immense joy and deep gratitude to God, the Archdiocese of Hyderabad and YOUCAT India celebrate Mrs. Larisa Peter, a committed lay missionary from Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda, who has been instituted into the permanent ministry of Catechist by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV during the Catechists' Jubilee Mass at St Peter's Basilica.



Mrs. Larisa stands among the 39 catechists from around the world and one of only three from India to receive this special ministry, a historic and grace-filled moment for the Church in India. Her institution comes as a powerful affirmation of the vocation, dedication, and missionary spirit of lay faithful who serve the Church with zeal and fidelity.



We extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Larisa Peter. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide, strengthen, and inspire her as she embraces this sacred mission in service of Christ and His Church.

May her life and ministry continue to shine as a witness of faith, love, and discipleship.

## 3. INAUGURATION OF NEW PHARMACEUTICS LAB AT ST.MARY'S COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ON 27-10-2025

St. Mary's College of Pharmacy, opened a new, highly sophisticated Pharmaceutics Laboratory. His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony inaugurated



newly designed and renovated Pharmaceutics laboratory on 27-10-2025. He performed an experiment in the formulation of Paracetamol syrup successfully. His Eminence shared lighter moments with the students, Principal and Faculty members. He insists upon value based and service-oriented education.

Msgr. Yeruva Balashow Reddy, Vice Chairman, HAES, Rev. Fr. Guvvala Anthony, Secretary, HAES Rev. Fr. Pasala Innaiah, Treasurer, HAES and few other priests also witnessed the program. Finally, His eminence congratulated and we expressed our gratitude by proposing the vote of thanks.

*- Rev. Fr. Yeruva Bala, Director, St. Mary's College of Pharmacy.*

#### **4. ST. MARY'S CENTENARY JUNIOR COLLEGE SURGES AHEAD**

St Mary's Centenary Junior College continues to be a front runner in academics, field trips, and extracurricular activities.

The college hosted its flagship program CONFLUENCE IV – A Journey into Innovation, designed to transform classroom theory into scientific application. Over 100 scientific models and exhibits were presented by students from all departments. The event was a resounding success, drawing more than 500 visitors, including parents, alumni, school students, former principals, and principals of various colleges. The program offered both staff and students valuable hands-on learning experience.

St. Mary's also organized field trips aligned with students' academic streams, including visits to the Air Force Station and T-Hub. Nearly 300 students benefited from these exposure-based educational tours.

In sports, several of our students participated in the SGF Games and brought laurels to the college in both group and individual events. Notably, six students have been selected to compete at the National Level in Haryana and Jharkhand.

To empower students for a bright future, the college conducted multiple motivational and educational seminars on topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Scam Awareness, Communication Skills, Personality Development, Career Guidance, and the Impact of Social Media.

Through discipline and hard work, St. Mary's Centenary Junior College continues to scale new heights in academics, sports, and overall student development

- Shanti Priya, JL, English

## **5. HYDERABAD ARCHDIOCESE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY- XIV TALENT & PROFICIENCY COMPETITIONS – 2025-2026 AT AVE MARIA SCHOOL (CBSE), RAMANTHAPUR**

### **Report on the Success of Talent Fest – 2025**

**Date:** 21st – 22nd November 2025

**Venue:** Ave Maria School (CBSE), Ramanthapur

**Organized by:** Hyderabad Archdiocese Educational Society

**Organizing Committee:** Fr. K. Jaya Prathap (Convener), Fr. Baltha Raj, Fr. G. Vinay, Fr. Michael D'Souza

### **Introduction**

The HAES Talent Fest – 2025 provided a vibrant platform for students of HAES institutions to showcase their abilities and foster community spirit. Rev. Msgr. Yeruva Bala Showreddy, Vice Chairman of HAES, inaugurated the fest and encouraged students to nurture creativity and confidence.

### **Event Highlights**

- **Diverse Competitions:** Singing, dancing, elocution, essay writing, spell bee, drawing, and painting.
- **High Participation:** 17 schools and over 1700 students took part with great enthusiasm.
- **Supportive Audience:** Students, teachers, and parents created an encouraging and energetic atmosphere.

### **Impact**

- **Enhanced Confidence** among students through stage performance.
- **Stronger Community Bonding** among HAES institutions.
- **Greater Appreciation** of student talents and cultural expression.

### **Valedictory Ceremony**

His Eminence **Cardinal Poola Anthony**, Archbishop of Hyderabad and

Chairman of HAES, presided over the closing ceremony. Guests of Honour included Rev. Msgr. Yeruva Bala Showreddy, Fr. G. Anthony, and Fr. P. Innaiah. The ceremony featured a prayer song, welcome dance, a thematic dance on “HOPE”, and performances by junior and senior group dance winners, which captivated the audience.

## **Prize Distribution**

The Chief Guest distributed prizes, certificates, and mementos to the winners. Cardinal Poola Anthony congratulated the organizing committee and appreciated Fr. K. Jaya Prathap and the staff of Ave Maria School for the successful hosting of the fest.

## **Conclusion**

Talent Fest – 2025 was a remarkable success, celebrating student creativity and strengthening unity across HAES institutions. It was a memorable event that highlighted the vibrant spirit and potential of our students.

*- Fr. Kurapati Jaya Prathap, Convener, HAES XIV Talent Fest – 2025*

## **6. DEANERY YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES’ ELECTION OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD**

On November 9, 2025, the Deanery Youth Representatives’ Election of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad was held at the Pastoral Centre in an atmosphere of unity, transparency, and shared mission. Representatives from various parishes gathered to discern and elect dedicated leaders committed to pastoral service. Around 80 delegates participated in the meeting, which reflected strong collaboration, responsible engagement, and a renewed commitment to the spiritual growth of the youth community. The election concluded successfully with the selection of capable Presidents, General Secretaries, and male and female representatives from most deaneries. These newly elected representatives will proceed to the Diocesan Youth Office elections scheduled for December 7, 2025.

## **7. HARMONIA ANGELICA MEGA SINGING COMPETITION**

The Harmonia Angelica Mega Singing Competition was a remarkable celebration of faith and music for the Catholic community of Hyderabad. Organized by the Youth Commission of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad in collaboration with St. Michael’s Church, Golconda, the event was held on November 22, 2025, at St.

Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry. Dedicated to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, the evening became a vibrant showcase of talent and devotion. The competition featured 11 group performances, 25 solo entries, and 10 instrumental presentations, each highlighting the artistic spirit of the archdiocese's youth. With an enthusiastic audience of around 400 people, the cathedral resonated with melodies of praise and youthful energy. The program began in the evening and continued into the night, concluding around midnight, a testament to the passion and commitment of the participants, organizers, and audience. The youth group from St Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry emerged victorious, winning the prestigious rolling trophy along with a cash prize of Rs. 12,000.

## 8. BLESSING OF RENOVATED YOUTH OFFICE, GUNFOUNDRY



The renovated Youth Office was joyfully inaugurated on 7th December by Rev. Fr. Sagayraj, marking a new chapter in our mission to serve the young people of our Archdiocese with renewed zeal and creativity. This blessed moment reminds us that every brick and every effort offered for the

youth becomes an investment in the future of our Church. With deep gratitude, we thank the Archdiocese and the Pastoral Centre for their constant support, guidance, and encouragement in making this renovation a reality. Their generous collaboration strengthens our commitment to accompany young people, nurture their faith, and create a vibrant space where they can encounter Christ and grow as responsible Christian leaders.



# *Regional News*

## **1. WORKSHOP ON BASIC ECCLESIAL COMMUNITIES FOR ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD PRIESTS AT NAGPUR**

A three-day workshop on Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) for priests of Archdiocese of Hyderabad was successfully organized at the Pallottine Animation Centre (PAC), Nagpur, from 27th to 29th October, by Rev. Fr. M. Anthony, Regional Director for AP Jyotirmai Society and with coordination of Fr. George Jacob SAC, Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for BECs.

The sessions were animated by National Service Team (NST) members from Commission for Basic Ecclesial Communities, who guided participants through an



engaging and reflective series of discussions. 12 priests from the Archdiocese of Hyderabad took part in the workshop. The workshop proved highly interactive, with participants expressing strong commitment to

fostering BEC communities in their respective parishes. Their planning exercises reflected deep enthusiasm and a shared vision to build authentic Christian communities rooted in participation, faith and service. The workshop centered on the theme “BEC: The New Way of Being Church,” the sessions explored vital aspects of community life, including the four marks of BECs, spirituality, Gospel sharing, leadership and ministries. Participants also engaged in discussions on Synodality and the CCBI Pastoral Plan, reflecting on their pastoral responsibilities in light of the Church’s evolving mission. Each day began and ended with spiritual moments, including the Holy Eucharist, prayers and Bible enthronement, which deepened the participants’ collective reflection and faith experience. Group discussions and spiritual conversations further encouraged collaboration and the sharing of



pastoral insights.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment from the priests to strengthen BECs as vibrant, participatory and faith-filled communities in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

- Rev. Fr. P. Prabhudas (*Pastoral Center Director – Hyderabad*)

## RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS

| Date       | Parish/Individual | No. of Masses |
|------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 31-10-2025 | DAMMAIGUDA        | 214           |
| 01-11-2025 | VENKATAPURAM      | 376           |
| 03-11-2025 | SULTAN BAZAR      | 200           |
| 04-11-2025 | KHAIRATHABAD      | 650           |
| 04-11-2025 | GUNFOUNDRY        | 500           |
| 12-11-2025 | GOLCONDA          | 263           |
| 14-11-2025 | BOWENPALLY        | 348           |
| 15-11-2025 | SURARAM           | 50            |
| 17-11-2025 | EMJALA            | 325           |
| 20-11-2025 | BEGUMPET          | 100           |
| 20-11-2025 | NIZAMABAD         | 101           |
| 22-11-2025 | AMMUGUDA          | 350           |
| 24-11-2025 | BANDLINES         | 275           |
| 25-11-2025 | TRIMULGHERRY      | 550           |
| 25-11-2025 | BOLARUM           | 150           |
| 25-11-2025 | MOULALI           | 76            |
| 26-11-2025 | JAGADGIRIGUTTA    | 70            |
| 26-11-2025 | SECUNDERABAD      | 1000          |
| 26-11-2025 | KHAIRATHABAD      | 555           |
| 28-11-2025 | METTUGUDA         | 5500          |
|            | <b>Total</b>      | <b>11,653</b> |

# International News

## 1. SUMMARY OF ‘*MATER POPULI FIDELIS*’, THE 2025 VATICAN DOCUMENT ON MARIAN TITLES RELATING TO MARY’S COOPERATION IN SALVATION.

The document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the expression, “Mediatrice of all graces.”

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith on Tuesday, 4 November 2025, published *Mater populi fidelis* (“**The Mother of the Faithful People**”), a Doctrinal Note “On Some Marian Titles Regarding Mary’s Cooperation in the Work of Salvation.” Signed by the Prefect, Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, and the Secretary for the Dicastery’s Doctrinal Section, Monsignor Armando Matteo, the Note was approved by the Pope on 7 October.

*Mater populi fidelis* (MPF) is the fruit of a long and complex collegial effort. It is a doctrinal document on Marian devotion, centred on the figure of Mary, who is associated with the work of Christ as Mother of believers. The Note provides a significant biblical foundation for devotion to Mary, as well as marshalling various contributions from the Fathers, the Doctors of the Church, elements of Eastern tradition, and the thought of recent Popes.

In this positive framework, the doctrinal text analyses a number of Marian titles, encouraging the adoption of some of those appellations and warning against the use of others. Titles such as “Mother of Believers,” “Spiritual Mother,” “Mother of the Faithful” are noticed with approval in the Note. Conversely, the title of “Co-redemptrix” is deemed inappropriate and problematic. The title of “Mediatrice” is considered unacceptable when it takes on a meaning that excludes Jesus Christ; however, it can be used appropriately so long as it expresses an inclusive and participatory mediation that glorifies the power of Christ. The titles “Mother of Grace” and “Mediatrice of All Graces” are considered acceptable when used in a very precise sense, but the document also warns of particularly broad explanations of the meaning of the terms.

Essentially, the Note reaffirms Catholic doctrine, which has always emphasised that everything in Mary is directed towards the centrality of Christ and His salvific work. For this reason, even if some Marian titles admit of an orthodox interpretation

through correct exegesis, *Mater populi fidelis* says it is preferable to avoid them.

In his presentation of the Doctrinal Note, Cardinal Fernández expresses appreciation for popular devotion but warns against groups and publications that propose a certain dogmatic development and raise doubts among the faithful, including through social media. The main problem in interpreting these titles applied to Our Lady, he says concerns the way of understanding Mary's association with Christ's work of redemption (paragraph 3).

## Co-redemptrix

Regarding the title “Co-redemptrix,” the Note recalls that “some Popes have used the title “without elaborating much on its meaning.” Generally, it continues, “they have presented the title in two specific ways: in reference to Mary's divine motherhood (insofar as she, as Mother, made possible the Redemption that Christ accomplished) or in reference to her union with Christ at the redemptive Cross. The Second Vatican Council refrained from using the title for dogmatic, pastoral, and ecumenical reasons. Saint John Paul II referred to Mary as ‘Co-redemptrix’ on at least seven occasions, particularly relating this title to the salvific value of our sufferings when they are offered together with the sufferings of Christ, to whom Mary is united especially at the Cross” (18).

The document cites an internal discussion within the then-Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which in February 1996 had discussed the request to proclaim a new dogma on Mary as “Co-redemptrix or Mediatrix of all graces.” Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was opposed to such a definition, arguing, “the precise meaning of these titles is not clear, and the doctrine contained in them is not mature. [...] It is not clear how the doctrine expressed in these titles is present in Scripture and the apostolic tradition.”

Later, in 2002, the future Benedict XVI expressed himself publicly in the same way: “The formula ‘Co-redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstandings... Everything comes from Him [Christ], as the Letter to the Ephesians and the Letter to the Colossians, in particular, tell us; Mary, too, is everything that she is through Him. The word ‘Co-redemptrix’ would obscure this origin.”

The note clarifies that Cardinal Ratzinger did not deny the good intentions behind the proposal, nor the valuable aspects reflected in it, but nonetheless maintained that they were “being expressed in the wrong way” (19).

Pope Francis also expressed his clear opposition to the use of the title Co-Redemptrix on at least three occasions.

Tuesday's Doctrinal Note concludes: "*It is always inappropriate* to use the title 'Co-redemptrix' to define Mary's cooperation. This title risks obscuring Christ's unique salvific mediation and can therefore create confusion and an imbalance in the harmony of the truths of the Christian faith. [...] When an expression requires many, repeated explanations to prevent it from straying from a correct meaning, it does not serve the faith of the People of God and becomes *unhelpful*" (22).

## **Mediatrix**

The Note emphasises that "the biblical statement about Christ's exclusive mediation is conclusive. Christ is the only Mediator" (24).

At the same time, MPF recognises "the fact that the word 'mediation' is commonly used in many areas of everyday life, where it is understood simply as cooperation, assistance, or intercession. As a result, it is inevitable that the term would be applied to Mary in a subordinate sense. Used in this way, it does not intend to add any efficacy or power to the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man" (25).

Further, "it is clear that Mary has a real mediatory role in enabling the Incarnation of the Son of God in our humanity" (26).

## **Mother of believers and Mediatrix of all graces**

Mary's maternal role "in no way obscures or diminishes" the unique mediation of Christ, "but rather shows its power [...] Understood in this way, Mary's motherhood does not seek to weaken the unique adoration due to Christ alone but, rather, seeks to enkindle it"

Therefore, the Note states, "one must avoid titles and expressions that present Mary as a kind of 'lightning rod' before the Lord's justice, as if she were a necessary alternative before the insufficiency of God's mercy" (37b).

Thus, the title "Mother of Believers" "enables us to speak of Mary's role in our relation to our life of grace". However, MPF goes on to urge caution concerning the use of expressions that may convey "less acceptable notions" (45).

"Cardinal Ratzinger already affirmed" for example, "that the title 'Mary,

Mediatrice of All Graces’ was not clearly grounded in Revelation.” So, the Note continues, “in line with this conviction, we can recognize the difficulties this title poses, both in terms of theological reflection and spirituality” (45). In fact, “no human person — not even the Apostles or the Blessed Virgin can act as a universal dispenser of grace. Only God can bestow grace, and he does so through the humanity of Christ” (53).

“Some titles, such as ‘Mediatrice of All Graces,’ have limits that do not favour a correct understanding of Mary’s unique place,” MPF explains, adding, “In fact, she, the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrice of the grace that she herself received” (67).

Nonetheless, the Doctrinal Note acknowledges that “the term ‘graces,’ when seen in reference to Mary’s maternal help at various moments in our lives, can have an acceptable meaning. The plural form expresses all the aids even material that the Lord may grant us when He heeds His Mother’s intercession” (68).

**Summary Table: Major Marian Titles in Mater Populi Fidelis**

| Marian Title        | Theological Status        | Summary of Document’s Teaching                                                        | Pastoral Guidance                              |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Co-redemptrix       | Not approved, discouraged | Christ’s work is perfect and unique; title risks confusion                            | Not to be used in doctrine or devotion         |
| Mediatrice          | Subordinate sense         | Mary mediates by cooperation, but mediation is exclusively Christ’s                   | Prefer terms “cooperation” and “maternal help” |
| Mother of Believers | Approved                  | Scriptural and patristic support; her spiritual motherhood encompasses all Christians | Encouraged as the main Marian paradigm         |

Source:<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2025-11/doctrinal-note-mother-of-the-faithful-not-co-redemptrix.html>

# Dates & Events to Remember

- |                                         |                                        |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 03. St. Francis Xavier, Pt (F)          | 26. St. Stephen, Mrtr (F)              |
| 06. St. Nicholas, Bp (OpM)              | 27. St. John, Ap (F)                   |
| 08. Immaculate Conception of B.V.M. (S) | 28. The Holy Innocents, Mrtrs (F)      |
| 12. Our Lady of Guadalupe (OpM)         | 28. Holy Family (F)                    |
| 13. St. Lucy, Vrg & Mrtr (M)            | 29. St. Thomas Becket, Bp & Mrtr (OpM) |
| 25. Nativity of Our Lord (S)            | 31. St. Sylvester I, Pope (OM)         |



## Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01. Fr. T. Lourdu              | 16. Fr. Madanu Anthony (Jr.) |
| 05. Fr. Allam Arogya Reddy     | 21. Fr. Madanu Chinnaiah     |
| 07. Fr. Golamari Louis Reddy   | 25. Fr. Polisetty Balaswamy  |
| 11. Fr. Mayaluru Jeevan Kumar  | 26. Fr. Madanu Hruday Kumar  |
| 13. Fr. Gangarapu Balaswamy    | 26. Fr. Madanu Balashowry    |
| 13. Fr. Thirumalareddy Anthony | 26. Dn. Madanu Manoj Kumar   |
| 16. Fr. Madanu John            | 31. Fr. Daniel Selvaraj      |



## Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

- |                                  |                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 15. Fr. Vedamuthu Kulandai Swamy | 29. Fr. David Francis         |
| 18. Fr. Yeddanapalli M. Joseph   | 29. Fr. Golamari Arogya Reddy |
| 19. Fr. T. Lourdu                |                               |

## Necrology



19. Fr. C. Arogyam  
 25. Fr. T. C. Rayappa  
 28. **Most. Rev. Daniel Murphy**

**MAY ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, THROUGH THE MERCY OF GOD, REST IN PEACE. AMEN.**

Local news items, which might be of interest to the Archdiocese may be addressed to :

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Published from the Archbishop's House and printed at Jeevan Institute of Printing, Sikh Village, Sec'bad 500 009, T.S.



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