



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

VOL: LIII

NO.01

JANUARY 2026



MARY MOTHER OF GOD



BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF THE NEW PRESBYTERY AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, ALIRAJPET



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

JANUARY

2026



Archbishop's Message



Christmas time which ends with the glorious feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, wonderfully bridges the infinitesimal interval between the year of grace that ends with Holy Mother Church's intonation of Her *Te Deum Laudamus* to Almighty God and the year of grace that begins with her maternal cry to the Immaculate Ever-Virgin 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and the hour of our death.'

The Church's solemn celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord, commemorates and celebrates the Eternal Father's threefold manifestation of His incarnate Son: firstly, to the Magi from the Gentile world in Bethlehem, as His promised Christ for all the people of His promised new and everlasting covenant, secondly to John the Baptist and to the Remnant of the people of Israel at the river Jordan, as His promised servant who will baptise them in the Holy Spirit into His promised new covenant by establishing it through His historical fulfilment of the mystery of His redeeming death on the Cross and His eschatologically sanctifying and saving bodily resurrection from the dead in the Holy Spirit and subsequent enthronement by His Eternal Father as His promised Lord, Christ and 'high priest according to the order of Melchisedek at His own right hand in heaven', and thirdly, at the marriage feast at Cana to the Apostles, as the everlasting bridegroom of the entire body of the people of the new covenant who will be constituted as His everlasting bride by Him through their own bodily resurrection from the dead in the Holy Spirit on the 'last day'.

The Eternal Father's threefold manifestation of His incarnate Son which we solemnly celebrate in our annual festival of our Lord's Epiphany at the close of Christmas time, is actually the prototype of the fullness of the Eternal Father's threefold manifestation of His incarnate Son in every Holy Mass celebrated on the sacred altars of His one Catholic Church from the beginning of Her existence in this world on Pentecost day to the day of the glorious consummation of her earthly existence in the Holy Spirit on the last day. For in every Holy Mass we are gathered around the Sacred altar of the Lord God's true tabernacle by the Holy Spirit as the true Magi from the pagan gentile world to receive from the Eternal Father and meet on this altar His very same incarnate Son, in the fullness of His body 'given up for us' and His blood of the new and everlasting covenant 'poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins' and worship Him with our three divinely bestowed gifts of supernatural faith, hope and charity and exclaim the truth of His historical and eschatological fulfilment of the mystery of our redemption and salvation : 'We proclaim your death O Lord and we profess your resurrection, until You come again in glory!' And after He is offered in sacrifice to the Eternal Father by the Church at the true tabernacle, we receive the Father's incarnate Son in the fullness of His 'body given up for us' and His 'blood poured out for us' as the bread of life and spiritual drink given to us by the Eternal Father in order to be constituted by Him as the everlasting bride of His incarnate Son in the Holy Spirit in one body on the day of our own bodily resurrection from the day on the last day: 'The marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready!. Alleluia.!'

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God our Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

POPE INTENTION: JANUARY 2026

For prayer with the Word of God: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: JANUARY 2026

Let us pray for the leaders of our nation and states, that they may govern according to the Constitution and the rule of law, uphold justice with impartiality, and protect the dignity and rights of all people, especially those facing religious violence or persecution.



Solemnities and Feasts

JAN 1st

Mary the Holy Mother of God (Solemnity)

The Church begins the New Year by celebrating Mary as the **Holy Mother of God (Theotokos)**. This solemnity reminds us of the central mystery of our faith: that Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man. By calling Mary the Mother of God, the Church proclaims not Mary's divinity, but the divinity of her Son. Her motherhood is rooted in God's saving plan, and her humble "Yes" opened the way for God to enter human history.



Mary stands before us as a model of **faith, obedience, and trust**. She did not fully understand all that was happening to her, yet she believed in God's promise and surrendered herself completely to His will. At the beginning of a new year, Mary invites us to place our lives in God's hands, trusting that He walks with us through joys and struggles alike. The Gospel shows Mary as one who **treasured and pondered all things in her heart**. In a world filled with noise and haste, Mary teaches us the value of silence, prayer, and reflection. She encourages us to slow down, listen to God's Word, and discern His presence in the ordinary events of our lives.

This solemnity is also closely connected with the **World Day of Peace**. Through Mary, the Prince of Peace was born into the world. As we step into a new year marked by uncertainties and conflicts, we pray through Mary for peace in our hearts, peace in our families, peace in society, and peace among nations. True peace begins when we allow Christ to reign within us. Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

JAN 2nd

Epiphany of the Lord (Feast)

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the **manifestation of Jesus Christ as the universal Savior**, revealed not only to Israel but to all nations. The visit of the Magi from the East shows that God takes the initiative to reach out to all peoples, cultures, and races. Guided by the light of a star, the Magi symbolize every human heart that searches sincerely for truth and meaning and is led, often unknowingly, toward Christ.



The gifts they offer **gold, frankincense, and myrrh** are rich in meaning. Gold proclaims Jesus as King, frankincense acknowledges His divinity, and myrrh

foreshadows His suffering and death. Through these gifts, the Church professes who Jesus truly is: King, God, and Redeemer. The Epiphany reminds us that Christ reveals Himself not in worldly power, but in humility and simplicity, lying in a manger and welcomed by those who seek Him with faith.

This feast also invites a **personal response**. The Magi did not merely observe the child; they fell down and worshipped Him. An encounter with Christ always leads to transformation. Having met the Lord, they returned by a different route, symbolizing a changed life. The Epiphany challenges us to examine our own journey of faith and to ask whether our encounter with Christ leads us to walk new paths of love, justice, and fidelity. The Epiphany calls the Church to be **a light to the nations**. Having received the light of Christ, we are sent to reflect it in the world through our words and actions. As disciples, we are invited to guide others toward Christ by lives that radiate faith, humility, and hope.

Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

January 11th

The Baptism of the Lord



The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to its fulfilment by revealing the **identity and mission of Jesus**. Though Jesus is without sin, He enters the waters of the Jordan to stand in solidarity with sinners. In doing so, He sanctifies the waters of baptism and shows His willingness to embrace fully the human condition.

At the moment of Jesus' baptism, the mystery of the **Holy Trinity** is made manifest. The Father's voice declares Jesus as His beloved Son, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him like a dove, and the Son humbly receives baptism. This revelation assures us that Jesus' mission flows from His intimate relationship with the Father and is empowered by the Spirit. The baptism of Jesus marks the **beginning of His public ministry**. From this moment onward, He proclaims the Kingdom of God, heals the sick, forgives sinners, and ultimately offers His life for the salvation of the world. His baptism points toward the cross, revealing that His mission is one of self-giving love and obedience.

This feast invites us to **reflect on our own baptism**. Through baptism, we are cleansed from sin, reborn as children of God, incorporated into the Church, and entrusted with a mission. As the Father once proclaimed Jesus as His beloved Son, so too He calls each of us His beloved children. The Baptism of the Lord challenges us to live in a way worthy of this dignity, renewing our commitment to faith, holiness, and Christian witness in the world. Source: <https://www.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

Archbishop's Engagements

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

JANUARY 2026

- | | | | | |
|--------|---------|-------------|---|---|
| 02. | Fri | | : | In Office |
| 03. | Sat | 03.00 p.m. | : | Holy Matrimony of Anisha Maria & Akash Reddy at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad |
| 04. | Sun | 09.00 a.m. | : | First Holy Communion and Confirmation at St. Joseph's Church, Bolarum |
| 05-10. | Mon-Sat | | : | Extraordinary Consistory, Rome |
| 11. | Sun | 07.30. a.m. | : | First Holy Communion and Confirmation at Divine Mercy Church, Madinaguda |
| | | 11.30 a.m. | : | Annual Feast of St. Paul the Hermit Church, Nandrakal |
| 12. | Mon | 10.30 a.m. | : | Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph's Church, Jadi Jamalpur |
| 13. | Tue | 10.00 a.m. | : | Golden years Jubilee of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul-Presence at Vincent Home Convent, Alirajpet |
| 14. | Wed | | : | Holy Mass at Infant Jesus Shrine, Bengaluru |
| 15. | Thu | 05.00 p.m. | : | Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Kommareddy Lourdu Marreddy at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur |
| 16. | Fri | | : | In Office |
| | | 11.30 a.m. | : | Inauguration of Urban Shelter Home at HASSS, Sec-bad |
| 17. | Sat | 11.00 a.m. | : | Golden and Silver Jubilee Celebrations of MSI (Nirmala Sisters) at Nirmala Dhyana Sadan, Athvelly, 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
20. Tue : In Office
21. Wed : In Office
- 03.00 p.m. : Holy Matrimony of Maria Diana Dominic and Allen Savio at St. Mary's Basilica
22. Thu 09.30 a.m. : Science Fair Exhibition, Mount Carmel School, Bowenpally
24. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Holy Mass, Blessing and Inauguration of the Newly Constructed Arogya Matha Church, K.K.Basti, Kalwakole Parish
- 05.30 p.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of St. Peter Franciscan Ashram, New Friary at 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 Celebrations at St. Francis de Sales Church, Shanthinagar
26. Mon 10.00 a.m. : Blessing and Inauguration of St. Mother Teresa's Church at Bachupally
- 04.00. p.m. : Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Fr K. Charles at Lillipur
- 27-28. Tue-Wed : In Office
29. Thu 05.30 p.m. : Flag Hoisting at Infant Jesus Shrine, Emjala
30. Fri : In Office
- 05.30 p.m. : Annual Day 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.

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: FEBRUARY 2026

01. Sun 09.00 a.m. : First Holy Communion and Confirmations and 25 years of Fr. Jose at Sanathnagar
- 05.30 p.m. : Day of Consecrated life, CRI Jeevan Jyothi
- 02-03. Mon-Tue : CCBI Plenary Assembly at St. John's Bangalore
- 04-11. Wed-Wed : CBCI General Body Meeting, Bangalore
13. Fri 11.30 a.m. : Thanksgiving Mass- Declaration of Mary of Sacred Heart as Venerable, JMJ Provincialate, Somajiguda
- 05.00 p.m. : Annual Day Celebrations at St. Joseph's School, Trimulgherry.
14. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Festive Jubilee Mass(25years) at Lourdu Matha Church, Sherigudem
15. Fri : First Holy Communion and Confirmations at Muthangi
18. Wed : Ash Wednesday Mass at St. Mary's Basilica

31st December, 2025
Archbishop's House

✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS		
Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
01-12-2025	DAMMAIGUDA	420
01-12-2025	GUNFOUNDRY	128
05-12-2025	VENKATAPURAM	455
17-12-2025	RAMANTHAPUR	20
18-12-2025	ARUL COLONY	300
20-12-2025	GANDHINAGR	800
22-12-2025	TRIMULGHERRY	550
30-12-2025	METTUGUDA	6000
Total		8673

Communications

1. A VERY HAPPY, GRACE FILLED & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR-2026:

As we enter the New Year 2026, I offer my heartfelt greetings to all Priests, Religious, the Faithful, and our Brothers and Sisters. May this New Year be truly happy, rich in God's grace, and filled with hope and prosperity. I pray that the Lord's abundant blessings may accompany you and your families each day of the year. May 2026 bring deep peace, harmony, joy, good health, and every spiritual and temporal blessing. Under the loving care of our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, may we be continually guided and strengthened, and may our lives be drawn ever closer to Jesus Christ, our Good Shepherd.

2. WORD OF GOD SUNDAY:

In his Apostolic Letter *Aperuit illis* issued September 30, 2019, Pope Francis instituted the celebration of Sunday of the Word of God. "Word of God Sunday" in 2026 will be celebrated on Sunday, January 25, 2026, as part of the Catholic Church's observance of the third Sunday in Ordinary Time. This day is dedicated to the celebration, study, and dissemination of the Word of God.

- **Purpose:** To focus on the importance of the Bible and Scripture in the lives of the faithful.
- **Observance:** The celebration is set by Pope Francis, and parishes are encouraged to find their own ways to observe the day.

3. ECUMENICAL SUNDAY:

The Parish Priests/Religious/ Heads of the Institutions are requested to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity from 18th to 25th January, 2026 and the Ecumenical Sunday on 18th January, 2026. Kindly offer prayers for the unity of Christians as desired and prayed by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. The theme for 2026 is **"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one Hope of your calling"** Eph. 4:4. Please cooperate with Fr. Michael Samala the Diocesan Director for Ecumenism and Dialogue in this regard.

4. ANNUAL RETURNS:

All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions are requested to send the 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 were sent to you by post. If you have not received the forms by 1st January 2026, please contact Chancellor or Secretary. Please send back the filled-in forms by 15th January 2026 to the office at the Archbishop's house, Sec'bad. You may post the form or scan the filled in form and forward to: **archdiohyd@gmail.com**

5. RECOLLECTION IN JANUARY - 2026

All the Deans are here-by requested to conduct the Recollection at Deanery level for the month of January, 2026. All the Clergy are requested to attend the "Deanery Level Recollection." All the Deans are here-by requested to note down the minutes of the meetings with the list of the participants and send a copy of the same to Archbishop's House, Secunderabad.

6. HEARTY WELCOME TO DEACONS:

We are happy to warmly welcome Deacon Aduri Fathima Dwijesh, Deacon Kasu Akhil, and Deacon Madanu Manoj Kumar to the Archdiocese following the successful completion of their seminary formation at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur. We thank God for their generous response to His call and for the years of formation they have undergone. As they begin this new phase of ministry among us, we assure them of our prayers, support, and fraternal encouragement, and wish them every success, abundant grace, and God's richest blessings in their diaconal service.

7. TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS:

1. Rev. Deacon Aduri Fathima Dwijesh: Pastoral Ministry at Vianney Home, Khairathabad and at Our Lady of Health Shrine, Khairathabad Parish.
2. Rev. Deacon Kasu Akhil: Pastoral Ministry at Holy Family Church, Trimulgherry Parish.
3. Rev. Deacon Madanu Manoj Kumar: Pastoral Ministry at Immaculate Conception Church, Kukatpally Parish.

✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

8. 2ND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1	15-11-2025	Aliabad	1200	58	18-12-2025	Medipally	2250
2		Alirajpet		59		Mettuguda	
3	22-11-2025	Ammuguda	2500	60	23-12-2025	Miyapur	3000
4	10-11-2025	Arogya Nagar (Mission)	200	61	25-11-2025	Moul-Ali	4260
5	18-12-2025	Arul Colony	15985	62		Mudfort	
6	24-11-2025	Balaji Nagar	1000	63		Muthangi	
7	11-11-2025	Balaiah Nagar (Old Alwal)	11250	64		Nacharam	
8	24-11-2025	Band Lines	5320	65		Nandrakal	
21		Borabanda		66		Narayankhed	
22	14-11-2025	Bowenpally	10000	67		Nedunoor	
23		Cherlapally		68	22-11-2025	Neela Camp	300
24		Chintalacheruvu		69	20-11-2025	Nizamabad	2500
25	05-12-2025	Church Colony	3000	70		Pargi	
26	10-11-2025	Dammaiguda	13250	71		Patancheru	
27		Dharmaram		72	10-11-2025	Ramachandrapuram	8100
28		Dayanandnagar		73	17-12-2025	Ramanthapur	3200
29	17-11-2025	Emjala	20000	74	03-12-2025	Ramnagar	14500
30		Gaddiannaram		75	11-11-2025	Sadasivpet	150
31	11-12-2025	Gagillapuram	2500	76		Sainikpuri	
32		Gajwel		77	28-11-2025	Sanathnagar	18000
33	20-12-2025	Gandhinagar	3000	78		Sangareddy	
34	04-12-2025	Garrison (Trimulgherry)	920	79		Santhoshnagar	
35	11-12-2025	Ghatkesar	800	80		Sappers Lines	
36	12-12-2025	Golconda	18490	81	26-11-2025	Secunderabad	50000
37	11-11-2025	Gothumakunda	850	82		Shabad	
38	01-12-2025	Gunfoundry	16000	83		Shamshabad	
39	21-11-2025	Jadi Jamalpur	200	84	13-11-2025	Shanthinagar	2851
40	11-11-2025	Jagadgirigutta	3500	85	04-12-2025	Shapurnagar	2735
41		Jahanuma		86		Siddipet	
42		Jogipet		87		Seethaphalmandi	
43		Joipet		88		Sultan Bazar	
44		Kalwakole		89	15-11-2025	Suraram	3000
45		Kamareddy		90	19-12-2025	Tandur	392
46	23-12-2025	Khairatabad	20000	91		Toopran	
47		KissanNagar(Armoor)		92	25-11-2025	Trimulgherry	32500
48		Kukatpally		93		Uminthal	
49		Lallaguda		94	06-11-2025	Vanasthalipuram	2500
50	24-11-2025	L. B. Nagar	1168	95		Venkatapuram	
51		Lillipur		96		Vikarabad	
52		Mahendra Hills		97	10-11-2025	Yapral	5000
53	11-12-2025	Madinaguda	2500	98		Yeddumylaram	
54	22-11-2025	Mallapur	905	99		Yellareddy	
55		Manikonda Mission		100		Zaheerabad	
56		Mariapuram (Adibatla)				Total	309776
57		Medchal					

Pastoral News

1. ANNUAL FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, BANDLINES

The Parish Priest and the Community of Our Lady of Lourdes Church,



Band Lines (Est. 1865 – 160 year old Church), express our sincere heartfelt gratitude to His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad, for his gracious presence, blessings showered on us, sharing our joy, presiding over the Pontifical High Mass to commemorate the Solemnity of Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Annual Feast on 8th December 2025.

His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, Archbishop of Hyderabad presenting the First Prize Trophy to the Youth of our Parish on the Feast Day of Immaculate Conception on 8th December, 2025, for securing the coveted First, Second and Third prizes in Inter-Parishes 2025 Carol Singing Competitions. Our Heartfelt Appreciation and Congratulations goes to the Youth of our Parish for their talent, dedication, passion and commitment in spreading joy, worship and community spirit during Christmas season by sharing the story of Jesus' birth.

- Fr. A. Pranith, Parish Priest

2. SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARY'S BASILICA, SECUNDERABAD



3. ANNUAL FEAST AND SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH, KUKATPALLY



Archdiocesan News

1. FAMILY APOSTOLATE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD BASIC SKILLS COUNSELLING COURSE

Therapy is a gift. It is a chance to finally be heard, understood and supported
- Bessel Van der Kolk

The Family Apostolate Commission of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad conducted a 12-week course in Basic Counseling Skills in collaboration with Peyton Institute for Families, Bangalore with the aim to raise trained counsellors for the Archdiocese to meet

various challenges evolving in lifestyle across all age groups. There were 18 participants from different parishes across the Archdiocese.

The Course commenced on 27th September 2025 and concluded on 13th December, 2025 with the distribution of certificates. The participants met every Saturday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM for the said classes.

During the 12 weeks, participants received theoretical content of the skills required to be Counsellors together with practical classroom interactions for reinforcing the skills taught to them. Qualified and well experienced resource persons were invited to teach the course and to equip them for practical case study. Feedback was provided by the resource persons from time to time to enable the participants to sharpen their skills.

The course began with removing many misconceptions that participants had about Counselling. Prior to the Course it was thought that Counselling was giving advice and helping people solve their problems as the course progressed participants learnt that Counselling in fact helps us to facilitate the client discover that he/she has the potential to solve their own problems. There were therapies that were taught – practical ways to further the client's healing.



They learnt that Counselling is a sacred space for facilitating healing. These interventions stirred in them the curiosity to learn more on the subject.

There were lots of discussions on the concluding day which included evaluation of the course, convenience of location, facilities at the venue, presentation of case studies and planning for ongoing classes on a monthly basis before the commencement of the next level of training in 2026.

We look forward to meeting the participants again to help them stabilize in the journey they have just undertook of being healers in a wounded world.

-Ms. Jean Stephenson for Family Apostolate

2) HEALING HANDS – Hearts Without Borders: Embracing All Abilities Community Celebrates Christmas with the Specially-Abled

A festive spirit of compassion and inclusivity marked the Christmas celebration held under the theme “Healing Hands – Hearts Without Borders: Embracing All Abilities”, dedicated to the specially-abled members of the community. The event highlighted the joy of Christmas through faith, fellowship, and the recognition of the unique gifts of every individual.



The evening commenced with the arrival and registration of participants, followed by warm interactions among guests, organizers, and attendees. Proceedings began with a hymn, a scripture reading, and an opening prayer that set a tone of reverence and gratitude befitting the Christmas season.

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Distinguished Guests and Opening Ceremony

The community was honored by the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, along with Mrs. Aruna Bahuguna, former IPS officer, and Mr.



Deepak John, Chairman of the Christian Minority Finance Corporation, who graced the event as Guests of Honour. The dignitaries were welcomed and felicitated for their continued support and encouragement towards social inclusion initiatives.

In his keynote address, Cardinal Poola Anthony commended Fr. David Francis for his sustained commitment to empowering individuals with special needs. He drew inspiration from the Great Pilgrimage of Hope held in Penang, Malaysia, noting how the journey of the Magi symbolizes transformation through encounter with Christ. Cardinal Poola likened the creativity and expressiveness of the specially-abled to “their own way of communicating,” reflecting the diversity of God’s creation.

He urged those present to live out the deeper meaning of Christmas, expressed through the acronym JOY – Jesus, Others, You, reminding the audience that true joy arises from placing faith, service, and humility at the heart of daily life.

Cultural Performances and Music

A moving skit presented by the residents of the Home for the Disabled, Bansilalpet received heartfelt applause, capturing the audience through its message of friendship and hope. Students from St. Ann’s High School followed with a lively performance showcasing their creativity and joy.

The evening resonated with carols rendered by the Children’s Choir of Holy Family Church, Trimulgherry, and the Mount Carmel Church Choir, Bowenpally, whose harmonious voices created an atmosphere of celebration befitting the season.

Embracing Inclusion and Gratitude

The programme was ably compered by Group Captain Joachim Pereira and Ms. Sylvie, whose engaging presence guided the evening's proceedings. Ensuring full inclusivity, Ms. Karima Gilani served as sign language interpreter, effectively bridging communication barriers and embodying the theme of "Hearts Without Borders."

In closing, Sister Flavia and Sister Sharmila expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the programme participants, volunteers, benefactors, and guests. The celebration concluded with the distribution of gift hampers to the specially-abled children and individuals, bringing smiles of joy and contentment to all.

This Christmas gathering stood as a testament to the enduring message of love, unity, and compassion a celebration of abilities that remind the community of the healing power found in inclusion and faith.

- Mr. Sylvester Isaac for Family Apostolate

3. DIOCESAN YOUTH OFFICE ELECTIONS 2025

The final stage of Diocesan Youth Office elections were held on 7 December 2025 at the Pastoral Centre, with 35 youth representatives (4 members, i.e., Deanery Youth president, General secretary, male representative and female representative) from each of the 12 deaneries participating in a fair and transparent process.

Candidates presented their vision for youth ministry, and a secret ballot was used to elect the new team. The newly elected office-bearers are: Youth President – Harry Wilfrid Pranay

General Secretary	–	A. Jesney Mary
Vice President	–	K. Niteesha
Joint Secretary	–	Elizabeth Maria Huggett
Treasurer	–	Christy Mary Praveen
Media Secretary	–	Reuben
Liturgy Secretary	–	Koya Karuna Vikas

Sports

Secretary	–	Chris
Cultural Secretary	–	Rennie Pearl Johnson

Male Representative – Sumith Madhanu
Female Representative – B. Pravalika

This new team steps into leadership with enthusiasm and a shared desire to plan initiatives that strengthen faith, build community, and form young leaders for the Diocese till 2028.

4. FIESTA DE NAVIDAD

On the 20th of December the youth of the archdiocese of Hyderabad gathered under one banner to celebrate the nativity of Christ. We began at twelve noon with the crib making competition and went forward with card making and star making till the evening. The evening featured melodious carol singing competitions both at catholic college and parish level. A key highlight was the release of the youth magazine Ablaze and the launch of the Youth Calendar, marking important milestones for the Archdiocesan youth apostolate.

The Chosen India gave us the shepherd episode to screen and the response to it was awesome. The entire programme was well coordinated and prayerfully conducted, making Fiesta de Navidad a truly meaningful and memorable celebration for all present.



Regional News

1. JWALA 2025, THE REGIONAL YOUTH FEST

JWALA 2025, the Regional Youth Fest was held at Srikakulam from 11–14 December, 2025. It brought together young people from across the Telugu region for days of faith formation, fellowship, and leadership building.

The atmosphere was one of joyful worship, deep sharing, and renewed commitment to serve the Church.

A major highlight was the Regional Youth Elections, conducted smoothly and transparently in the presence of Most Rev. Rayala Vijay Kumar, the Regional



Youth Director, and the diocesan youth directors. Fr. Jerome our youth director was one of the facilitators of the election process. Five members represent the Archdiocese of Hyderabad, with Sumith Madhanu being elected as the Male Representative to the National Youth team, Pravalika, Rexco Member and Harry Joshua, Sharon and Reuben are taken as part of advisory board. It is a proud moment that reflects the strong leadership and involvement of Hyderabad youth in regional initiatives and now even in National

International News

1. PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN ASIA: WALKING “ANOTHER WAY” FROM PENANG TO 2033

The Great Pilgrimage of Hope in Penang, Malaysia (27–30 November 2025) gathered 773 delegates from 29 Asian countries, including 104 bishops, 155



priests, 74 religious sisters, 8 deacons and 422 lay leaders, with India sending the largest national delegation of 76. The congress, organised by the FABC Office for Evangelisation, placed Asia's Church on a shared journey toward the 2033 Jubilee as “pilgrims of hope” rooted in Christ, attentive to cultures, and committed to the poor and the

young.

In his opening keynote and later homilies, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle invited the Asian Church to “take a different way,” drawing from the Magi and the Emmaus disciples to show that true pilgrimage begins with a personal encounter with Jesus who walks beside every person daily. He underlined that Christian hope is not vague optimism but a theological virtue that moves

believers to walk humbly with those who suffer, migrants, and the forgotten, and to let encounters with Christ change the Church's path in history.

Mar Raphael Thattil called Asia to a “new journey of reconciliation,” urging recognition of Christ in every person and a missionary restlessness that is passionate rather than aggressive. He highlighted the irreplaceable mission of the laity, who carry the Gospel into daily life and let Asia's spiritual heritage meet Christ in freedom and mutual respect. Cardinal Pablo David, meanwhile, appealed for a rediscovery of storytelling as an Asian way of evangelisation grounded in listening, respect and witness, especially among the poor, migrants, indigenous peoples and victims of disaster.

Among the 76 delegates representing the Catholic Bishops' Conference of



India (CCBI), the Indian Church offered a vibrant and inclusive testimony to communion and participation. The delegation comprised 36 lay faithful—including 26 women—15 young participants, 9 religious sisters, 14 priests, and 17 bishops, including cardinals.

The Telugu Region was ably led by His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony, together with Most Rev. Udumala Bala, Archbishop, and Most Rev. Gorantla Johannes, Bishop. Sr. Prashanthi participated as a representative of consecrated women. The voice of the youth was represented by Mr. Raju Challagali, Mr. Sagar Gabbeta, and Ms. Amala Gingala. Representing the lay faithful were Mr. Joseph D'Silva and Mr. Sylvester Isaac, completing the delegation from the Telugu Region.

Apart from the CCBI delegation, there were 16 Syro-Malabar delegates led by Major Archbishop Raphael Thattil and Archbishop Andrews Thazhath of Thrissur. India's strong presence shaped the congress and their cultural performances and testimonies were widely appreciated. Youth from India spoke of synodality as “walking together,” of mission beginning with personal conversion, and of serving with humility, creativity and compassion. Women

leaders and nine religious sisters from India returned with a renewed sense of responsibility for synodal leadership, family ministry and service at the peripheries.

What a beautiful time we've shared at the Great Pilgrimage of Hope — coming together, encouraging one another, and inspiring each other to whisper, live, and share the story of Jesus with the peoples of Asia. These precious days in Penang mark the beginning of a new journey, and we are confident that each of us has been renewed and refreshed with a special grace to move forward with fresh vigor in our missionary callings. Below is a summary of the two Conversations in the Spirit:

“The Spirit is calling the Church in Asia to deepen its interior life in Christ, to listen with compassion, to journey together in synodality, to witness to hope through humble and courageous service, to build bridges across cultures and religions, and to proclaim the Gospel through lives rooted in prayer, unity, and love.

From now until the 2033 Jubilee and beyond, the Spirit urges the Church in Asia to:

Know Jesus more deeply.

Live His story authentically.

Tell His story humbly and bravely.

Listen to people with compassion.

Serve the poor with love.

Evangelize creatively, especially digitally.

Walk humbly together in synodality.

Be Jesus' presence in every culture and context.

Thus, the story of Jesus will be seen, heard, and lived across Asia, through transformed lives that radiate His love.”

The final day, including the commissioning of delegates and closing messages from Cardinals Philip Neri and Cardinal Oswald Gracias, sent participants home “by another way” – symbolically and spiritually – as renewed pilgrims of hope. The congress thus marked a decisive step for the Church in Asia: a commitment to walk together in reconciliation, listening leadership, contemplative storytelling and concrete solidarity, trusting that Jesus both walks with the continent and awaits it as its final hope.

- Contingent of Archdiocese of Hyderabad

2. Summary of the APOSTOLIC LETTER A FIDELITY THAT GENERATES THE FUTURE OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV ON THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCILIAR DECREES OPTATAM TOTIUS AND PRESBYTERORUM ORDINIS

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council and during the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Leo XIV reflects on the identity, formation, fraternity, synodality, mission, and future of the priesthood, drawing especially from the conciliar Decrees Optatam Totius and Presbyterorum Ordinis.

1. Fidelity as the Heart of the Priesthood

The Pope emphasizes that priests today are called to a “fidelity that generates the future.” Fidelity is not static but a daily journey of conversion, rooted in a personal encounter with Christ. This fidelity sustains perseverance in ministry and helps others discover the joy of the priestly vocation.

2. Formation as a Lifelong Journey

Priestly formation does not end with seminary but must continue throughout life. Human maturity, spiritual depth, intellectual growth, and pastoral charity must be constantly nurtured. Ongoing formation is essential to address challenges such as discouragement, loneliness, abuses, and those who leave ministry.

3. Priestly Identity: Disciple Before Shepherd

Before being pastors, priests remain disciples of Christ. Their identity flows from following Jesus daily in prayer, Eucharist, fraternity, and service to the poor. Authentic priesthood integrates human and spiritual dimensions, enabling healthy relationships and faithful celibacy.

4. Fraternity as a Gift and Responsibility

Priestly fraternity is not optional but intrinsic to ordination. Rooted in Baptism and Holy Orders, it calls priests to mutual care, solidarity, shared mission, and communion with the bishop. Attention to the elderly, sick, isolated priests, and fair material support is a concrete sign of this fraternity.

5. Synodality and Collaboration

The Pope highlights synodality as essential to priestly ministry today. Priests are called to work with bishops, fellow priests, deacons, and lay faithful, valuing diverse charisms and moving away from isolated or authoritarian leadership toward shared responsibility and listening.

6. Mission Over Self-Reference

Priestly identity is fulfilled through missionary service. Priests must resist activism driven by efficiency and the opposite temptation of withdrawal. Pastoral charity—the love of the Good Shepherd—unifies priestly life, balancing contemplation and action.

7. Witness Through Humble Service

Priests are called to credible witness through simplicity, chastity, prayer, fraternity, and service, especially in a fragmented and fast-paced world. Evangelization today requires authentic relationships and collaboration with lay people in social, cultural, and professional spheres.

8. Hope for Vocations and the Future

Despite vocational challenges, the Pope expresses strong hope for a new vocational Pentecost. He urges prayer, courageous proposals to young people, vibrant youth ministry, and a vocational focus in all pastoral activity. The future of the Church depends on nurturing all vocations.

9. Marian and Priestly Entrustment

The letter concludes by entrusting seminarians, deacons, and priests to Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, and Saint John Mary Vianney, reaffirming that “the priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus,” fully revealed in the Eucharist.

Dates & Events to Remember

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| 01. Mary the Mother of God (S) | 16. St. Josph Vaz (M) |
| 02. Sts. Basil the great and Gregory Nazianzen (M) | 17. St. Anthony, Abbot (M) |
| 03. The Most Holy name of Jesus (Op. M) | 22. St. Vincent, Dn&Mrtr (Op. M) |
| 04. The Epiphany of The Lord (F) | 24. St. Francis de Sales (Op. M) |
| 11. The Baptism of the Lord (F) | 25. The Conversion of St. Paul (F) |
| 13. St. Hilary, Bp and Dr (Op. M) | 27. Sts. Timothy and Titus (M) |
| | 31. St. John Bosco (M) |
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Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

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| 01. Fr. Pasala Innaiah |  | 15. Fr. PidikiralaPrabhudas |
| 01. Fr. Vemparla Vijaya Shekar | | 18. Fr. Madanu Ajith Kumar |
| 02. Fr. Reddimasu Anand Rao | | 26. Fr. Chinnabathini Jojappa |
| 06. Fr. Pamiseti Praveen Kumar | | 28. Fr. Vaddamalla Vinod Kumar |
| 06. Fr. Vedamuthu Kulandai Swamy | | |
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Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

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| 02. | Fr. Kata Rajulu |
| 02. | Fr. Marneni Arogyam |
| 13. | Fr. M. H. Wilson Davis |
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Necrology



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| 02. Fr. Christie Daniel | 15. Fr. Marneni Maraiah |
| 08. Msgr. Kambam Joseph | 17. Fr. Allam Marreddy |
| 11. Fr. George Parathiparambil | 27. Most Rev. Alfred Fernandez |
| 12. Fr. Francis Perez | |

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

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ANNUAL FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH, BANDLINES



TELANGANA EDUCATION GENERAL BODY MEETING AT LITTLE FLOWER JUNIOR COLLEGE, UPPAL



**CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 AT ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL,
GUNFOUNDRY (ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD)**



**CHRISTMAS MID NIGHT MASS AT ST. MARY'S BASILICA,
SECUNDERABAD**

