



SHEPHERD'S CALL

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD

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MARCH 2026



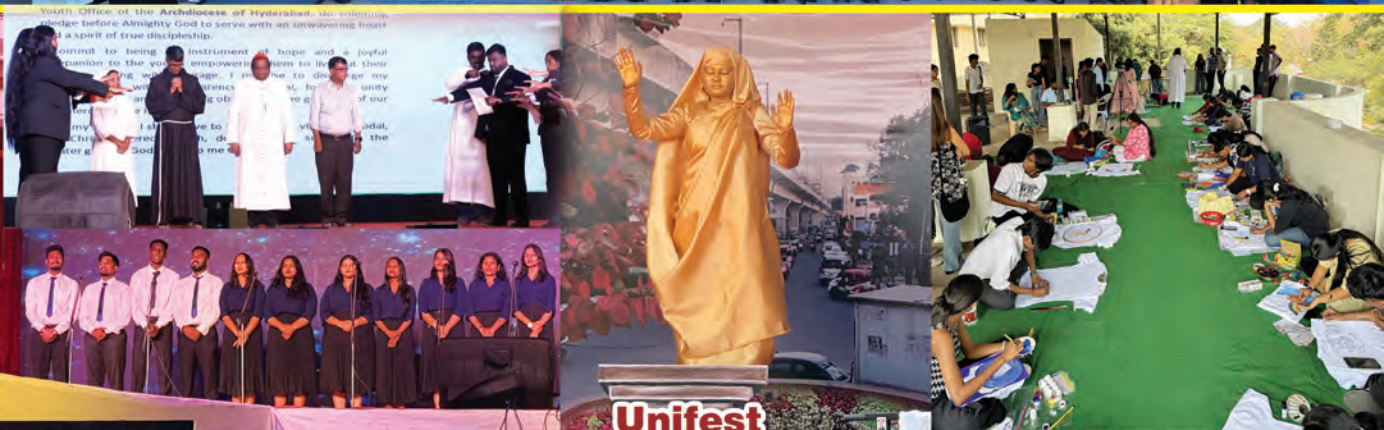
St Joseph

Annunciation

Palm Sunday



World Marriage Day



Unifest



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MARCH

2026



Archbishop's Message



Holy Mother Church desires and prays during this season of Lent that all her children may grow in genuine covenantal prayer life with the Eternal Father in His Eternal Son our Lord Christ wherein “the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words”.

In so far as we express the truth of our covenantal life with God the Father to Him in prayer, we can say, that in doing so we embrace God our Father in love. Thereby, our souls become illuminated by receiving from Him the outpouring of the sevenfold gifts of His Holy Spirit. Clearly the benefits of authentic prayer to God the Father in His Holy Spirit are incalculable and encourage us to be generous and diligent in cultivating our covenantal prayer life with God the Father in truth and charity for Him, particularly during this Lenten season. Authentic prayer is possible for us Christians, only because God the Father has related us to Himself through His sacrament of holy Baptism in order to cultivate our personal and community life with Him in Christ Jesus His Son, and lead us to enjoy the eternal life for which He has created us. Consequently, the degree and quality of our prayer life in Christ

and in the Holy Spirit will depend upon the extent to which we have grown in our covenantal obedience to Him in His Holy Spirit.

“Come Holy Spirit and live in us
with God the Father and the Son
and grant us your abundant grace
to sanctify and make us one.

May mind and tongue made strong in love,
your praise throughout the world proclaim.

And may that love within our hearts
set fire to others with its flame.”



Solemnities and Feasts

MARCH 19th

SAINT JOSEPH HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.



When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness, and hence it is really “right” for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God. The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph’s manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this “quietly” because he was “a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame” (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

Source: franciscanmedia.org

MARCH 25th

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. Now, as Luke 1:26-38 tells us, the decision is being realized. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love.

Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).



Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. We could say that God's decrees of creation and redemption are joined in the decree of Incarnation. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.

Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Psalm 40:8-9; Hebrews 10:7-9; Luke 1:38).

Together with Jesus, the privileged and graced Mary is the link between heaven and earth. She is the human being who best, after Jesus, exemplifies the possibilities of human existence. She received into her lowliness the infinite love of God. She shows how an ordinary human being can reflect God in the ordinary circumstances of life. She exemplifies what the Church and every member of the Church is meant to become. She is the ultimate product of the creative and redemptive power of God. She manifests what the Incarnation is meant to accomplish for all of us.

Sometimes spiritual writers are accused of putting Mary on a pedestal and thereby, discouraging ordinary humans from imitating her. Perhaps such an observation is misguided. God did put Mary on a pedestal and has put all human beings on a pedestal. We have scarcely begun to realize the magnificence of divine grace, the wonder of God's freely given love. The marvel of Mary—even in the midst of her very ordinary life—is God's shout to us to wake up to the marvelous creatures that we all are by divine design.

Source: franciscanmedia.org

POPE INTENTION: March, 2026

For disarmament and peace Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



CARDINAL'S INTENTION: March, 2026

Let us pray for all entrusted with leadership, especially within the Church, that they may exercise authority with humility and integrity, rejecting every form of clericalism, self-interest, and misuse of power, and embracing instead the path of Christ-like service for the good of God's people.



Archbishop's Engagements

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

MARCH 2026

02. Mon 10.00 a.m. : Annual Feast Mass at Karunagiri Shrine, Khammam
03. Tue 09.15 a.m. : Seminar on FCRA at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur
- 04 – 06. Wed – Fri : TCBC Meetings at St. John's Regional Seminary, Ramanthapur
07. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Women's Day Celebration - HASSS, Sec-bad
08. Sun 11.30 a.m. : Laying of Foundation Stone at Sanjoe Adoration Convent, Chinnathupra, Kalwakole
09. Mon 09.30 a.m. : Memorial Mass of Rev. Fr Thomas Andrew Raj at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad
10. Tue : Programme at Caritas India, New Delhi
13. Fri 08.30 a.m. : Annual Feast of Fathima Mata Cathedral, Warangal
15. Sun 10.30 a.m. : Festive Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Narapally, Ghatkesar
- 16-17. Mon- Tue : In Office
- 19-20. Thu- Fri : In Office
- 22-23. Sun - Mon : St. Thomas Major Archiepiscopal Shrine, Palayur, Thrissur, Kerala.
- 24-25. Wed : In Office

26. Thu 9.30 a.m. : Clergy Recollection at Archbishop's House
 05.45 p.m. : Chrism Mass at St. Mary's Basilica, Sec-bad
30. Mon 09.30 a.m. : International Business Conference at St. Joseph's Degree and PG College, King Koti, Hyderabad

TENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS: APRIL 2026

02. Thu 06.00 p.m. : Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
04. Sat 11.30 p.m. : Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary's Basilica, Sec-bad
05. Sun 09.15 a.m. : Easter Day Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Gunfoundry
09. Thu 09.30 a.m. : Ordinations at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad
11. Sat 10.00 a.m. : Perpetual Profession of Sisters of St. Ann's of Providence at St. Mary's Basilica, Sec-bad
12. Sun 02.30 p.m. : Holy Matrimony, Shrine of Our Lady of Health, Khairathabad
18. Sat 05.30 p.m. : Diaconate and Priestly Ordinations at Our Lady of Grace Shrine, Aliabad
21. Tue 10.30 a.m. : Dedication of Holy Spirit Sisters, Jeedimetla
24. Fri 05.30 p.m. : Priestly Ordination of Dn. Andrew Thomas OFM at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ram Nagar
26. Sat 06.00 p.m. : Priestly Ordination of Dn. David SVD at Mount Carmel Church, Bowenpally

28th February, 2026
Archbishop's House

✠ Cardinal Poola Anthony
Archbishop of Hyderabad

Communications

I. MONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND CHRISM MASS:

1. Archdiocesan Monthly Recollection, for all the Archdiocesan and Pastoral Clergy working in Hyderabad, is arranged at Archbishop's House, on 26th March, 2026, Thursday, from 09.30 am to 01.00 pm. All the Priests are to participate in this recollection for the good and immediate preparation for the Holy Week and Easter.
2. All the Clergy are invited to come and participate in Chrism Mass, which will be held on 26th March, 2026, Thursday, at 05.30 pm at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad. The Religious and Faithful are also invited to participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. **All the Parish Priests are requested to communicate the same to the parishioners and encourage them to attend the Chrism Mass.**

II. DEMISE OF REV. FR. ANDREW RAJ

With deep sorrow and in the firm hope of the Resurrection, the Archdiocese of Hyderabad communicates the demise of **Rev. Fr. Thomas Andrew Raj**, who passed away peacefully in the Lord on **10th February**.

Fr. Andrew Raj faithfully served the Archdiocese of Hyderabad for **43 years** with exemplary devotion, humility, and pastoral zeal. Throughout his priestly ministry, he ministered in various parishes of the Archdiocese, touching countless lives through his simplicity, compassion, and steadfast commitment to the Gospel.

A priest deeply rooted in prayer, he was known for his obedience to the Church, his love for the faithful, and his quiet yet effective pastoral leadership. Whether serving as Assistant Parish Priest, Parish Priest, or Co-Pastor, he carried out every responsibility entrusted to him with dedication and integrity.

The Funeral Mass was solemnly celebrated by His Excellency Most Rev. Nazarene Soosai, the bishop of Kottar, on **11th February**, and he was laid to rest in his native village at Alikkal, Nagercoil, amidst the prayers of family members, clergy, religious, and the faithful.

A **Memorial Holy Mass** for the repose of his soul will be celebrated on **9th March 2026 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad**. All priests, religious, and faithful are cordially invited to participate and pray for the eternal rest of our beloved priest.

As we commend his noble soul to the infinite mercy of God, we give thanks to the Lord for the gift of his priesthood and his 43 years of faithful service to the Archdiocese.

III. VOCATION CAMP – ON 16th April, 2026:

“Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation.”
Mk. 16:1

In view of selecting students to the vocation to the Priesthood, the Vocations Committee of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad is organizing a one-day vocation camp on 16th April, 2026 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at St. Mary's Basilica, Secunderabad. A small test will be conducted on the fundamentals on the Catechism.

Hence, we request all the Parish Priests to announce in your Parishes about the Vocation Camp and encourage prospective students to discern and explore their call to the Priesthood.

Young men who have finished SSC or Intermediate or Degree are eligible to come for this camp. Those who are coming for the camp must come with a letter from the parish priest.

CHANCERY NOTICE:

I. REMINDER:

All Parish Priests and Heads of the Institutions, who have not yet paid the special collections, Second Sunday Collections and Mass Intentions are requested to pay as soon as possible. You are asked to clear all dues till March, 2026.

II. INVENTORY, BANK ACCOUNTS & FILES:

All the Parish Priests and Priests working in the Institutions of Archdiocese are asked to update all the account particulars of the parish and institution,

prepare the Inventory, update parish files, update bank passbooks and fixed deposits and organize the land documents. All the deans are asked to visit the parishes and institutions in your respective deanery to ensure that the above-mentioned documents are kept in order.

III. NO FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS AT ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, SEC'BAD FROM 25th MARCH TO 1st APRIL, 2026:

As the financial year 2025-2026 will end on 31st March 2026, there will be no financial transactions in the Archbishop's House, Sec'bad from 25th March to 1st April, 2026. All Fathers, Sisters and Brothers are requested to take note of it and arrange buying of Host, Candle, Wine and other financial matters with the Procurator's office accordingly.

IV. AUDIT 2025-2026:

A NOTE FROM AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

All Parishes are asked to get the following documents/books of accounts/statements before coming for audit as given here below.

1. Receipts & Payments Account for the period from 1st April, 2025 to 31st March, 2026 for as many sets of accounts being maintained.
2. Cash book, Ledger and other books like Daily Collection Register, Salary Register, along with supporting documents like Receipts books, Documentary evidence for payments duly signed by the person in charge/authorized, and sanction letter.
3. The Annexure to be prepared and submitted for the audit will be sent to individual parish/In charge priest by email, please contact Procurator if you do not receive it.
4. Bank Statements for all the Bank Accounts maintained by Parishes for the period as mentioned above, Fixed Deposits receipts original and copies held as on 31-03-2026.
5. Certificate from the Bank for Closing Bank & Fixed Deposits Balance as on 31st March, 2026.

Audit of Parishes from 20th April to 23rd April 2026 at Archbishop's House, 10 am to 5 pm

S.NO	NAME OF DEANERY	DATE OF AUDIT
1	HYDERABAD RAMANATHAPUR, PASTORAL CENTRE, YOUTH OFFICE	20-04-2026
2	EMJALA, BOWENPALLY, GAGILAPURAM	21-04-2026
3	TRIMULGHERRY, SHAMSHABAD, GAJWEL	22-04-2026
4.	VIKARABAD, NIZAMABAD, SECUNDERABAD	23-04-2026

✠ **Cardinal Poola Anthony**
Archbishop of Hyderabad

RECEIPT OF LOCAL MASS INTENTIONS		
Date	Parish/Individual	No. of Masses
30-01-2026	BOLARUM	60
30-01-2026	GANDHINAGAR	500
02-02-2026	BEGUMPET	260
02-02-2026	DAMMAIGUDA	76
03-02-2026	VENKATAPURAM	591
06-02-2026	SECUNDERABAD (Divine light Ministry)	35
12-02-2026	BOWENPALLY	300
17-02-2026	TRIMULGHERRY	770
21-02-2026	SECUNDERABAD	2000
23-02-2026	METTUGUDA	6000
	Total	10592

2nd Sunday Collection for the month of January 2026

Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount	Sl No.	Date	Place	Amount
1		Armoor		53		Lillipur	
2	03-02-2026	Aliabad	1100	54		Mahendra Hills	
3		Alirajpet		55		Madinaguda	
4	16-01-2026	Alwal	12640	56	24-01-2026	Mallapur	997
5		Ammuguda		57		Manikonda Mission	
6		Arogya Nagar (Mission)		58	28-01-2026	Mariapuram (Adibatla)	1000
7		Arul Colony		59		Medak	
8		Balaji Nagar		60		Medchal	
9		Band Lines		61	28-01-2026	Medipally	2100
10		Bandlaguda Jagir		62		Mettuguda	
11	23-02-2026	Banjara Hills	12500	63		Miyapur	
12		Basuregadi		64		Moul-Ali	
13		Bayyaram		65		Mudfort	
14		Bazarghat		66	17-02-2026	Muthangi	1500
15	23-02-2026	BHEL - MIG	7000	67		Nacharam	
16	02-02-2026	Begumpet	10900	68		Nandrakal	
17		Bodhan		69		Nedunoor	
18		Boduppall/Bolligudem		70	27-01-2026	Neela Camp	300
19	09-02-2026	Bhoiguda	10000	71		Nizamabad	
20	30-01-2026	Bolarum	9200	72		Nizampet	
21		Borabanda		73		Pargi	
22	12-02-2026	Bowenpally	10000	74		Patancheru	
23		Cherlapally		75	12-01-2026	Ramachandrapuram	7240
24		Chintalacheruvu		76		Ramanthapur	
25	19-01-2026	Church Colony	3000	77	02-02-2026	Ramnagar	16000
26	12-01-2026	Dammaiguda	11200	78		Sadasivpet	
27		Dharmaram		79		Sainikpuri	
28		Dayanandnagar		80	19-01-2026	Sanathnagar	19200
29		Emjala		81		Sangareddy	
30		Gaddiannaram		82	26-02-2026	Santhoshnagar	2000
31		Gagillapuram		83	23-02-2026	Sappers Lines	800
32		Gajwel		84	21-02-2026	Secunderabad	50000
33	30-01-2026	Gandhinagar	8185	85		Shabad	
34		Garrison (Trimulgherry)		86		Shamshabad	
35	20-01-2026	Ghatkesar	800	87	16-01-2026	Shanthinagar	2950
36		Golconda		88		Shapurnagar	
37	20-01-2026	Godumakunda	800	89		Siddipet	
38	20-01-2026	Gunfoundry	13000	90		Seethaphalmandi	
39		Jadi Jamalpur		91	19-01-2026	Sultan Bazar	3000
40	23-01-2026	Jagadgirigutta	3500	92	23-01-2026	Suraram	3000
41		Jahanuma		93		Tandur	
42		Jeedimetla		94		Toopran	
43		Jeeva Jala		95	17-02-2026	Trimulgherry	21100
44		Jogipet		96		Uminthal	
45		Jojipet		97		Vanasthalipuram	
46		Kalwakole		98		Venkatapuram	
47		Kamareddy		99		Vikarabad	
48		Khairatabad		100	06-01-2026	Yapral	6000
49		Kissan Nagar		101	13-01-2026	Yeddumylaram	500
50		Kukatpally		102		Yellareddy	
51		Lallaguda		103		Zaheerabad	
52	23-01-2026	L. B. Nagar	1076			Total	252588

Archdiocesan News

1. World Marriage Day 2026: Celebrating Faithful Unions in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad

The **Archdiocese of Hyderabad** joyfully celebrated World Marriage Day on February 21, 2026, at **St. Mary's Pharmacy College**, Secunderabad, under the theme "*Man and Woman He Created Them: Together With Purpose.*" Couples, priests, religious, and families gathered to honor the beauty and sanctity of sacramental marriage.

A Prayerful Celebration

The event began with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by His Eminence **Cardinal Poola Anthony**, concelebrated by jubilarian priests and Archdiocesan clergy. In his homily, the Cardinal expressed gratitude to God, the Dicastery for the Family, and **Pope Francis**, who describes marriage as a true vocation. He also appreciated the vibrant Family Apostolate of the Archdiocese.

Special acknowledgment was given to Golden Jubilarian Fr. Kandula Charles and Silver Jubilarians Fr. Govindu Arogya Swamy and Fr. Komareddy Mareddy for their dedicated service.

Reflecting on Scripture, the Cardinal contrasted fleeting romantic sentiments with the lifelong covenant celebrated on World Marriage Day. From the Book of Tobit, he highlighted how Tobias and Sarah began their married life in prayer, asking to "grow old together," offering a timeless model of fidelity and perseverance. Quoting "God is love" from 1 John and Jesus' prayer "that they may all be one" (John 17), he emphasized that marital unity mirrors Christ's self-giving love and becomes a witness of faith.

Drawing from *Amoris Laetitia*, he described marriage as a daily journey expressed through patient actions rather than mere words—marked by kindness, forgiveness, friendship, and the constant choice to love. In the Sacrament of Matrimony, he said, Christ sanctifies this covenant, making marriage a path to holiness sustained by prayer in every season of life. He praised couples for their heroic fidelity and prayed that they continue to reflect Christ's unity, grow old together, and build loving families within the Archdiocese.

Joyful Fellowship and Felicitations

Following the Mass, a lively programme fostered fellowship and celebration. Ice-breakers energized participants, and the global significance of World Marriage Day was explained. The Cardinal was felicitated, and a celebratory cake-cutting was led by him along with jubilant priests and a Diamond Jubilee couple.



Testimonies from jubilarians—priests and couples marking Diamond, Golden, Ruby, and Silver milestones—deeply moved the gathering. Group photographs captured these joyful moments with the Archbishop.

A heartfelt vote of thanks acknowledged all who made the celebration possible: the Cardinal and clergy, organizers and emcees, the Family Apostolate team, the choir from St. Anthony's Church, Gandhinagar, the Principal and staff of St. Mary's Pharmacy College, media and technical teams, and numerous volunteers.

A Grace-Filled Conclusion

The day concluded with snacks, fellowship, laughter, and prayer, coordinated by the Family Apostolate Director. World Marriage Day 2026 in the Archdiocese of Hyderabad stood as a vibrant testimony that marriage is not merely a feeling, but a sacred covenant—an enduring vocation of love, unity, and holiness.

Parishes extended the joy:

St. Thomas Church, Sultan Bazaar held a special Mass on Sunday, February 1, 2026, celebrated by Frs. M. Anthony and Dominic Savio. Couples actively participated in the liturgy, renewing vows in a deeply moving rite.

St. Michael's Church, Golconda Parish observed the day across all three Masses on February 15, 2026, using Archdiocesan Family Apostolate liturgy.



Couples renewed vows, received special blessings, and got marriage prayer cards to sustain their faith journey.

This celebration reaffirmed marriage's sacred purpose, inspiring fidelity across the Archdiocese.

- Sylvester Isaac for The Family Apostolate, Hyderabad

2. UNIFEST 2026

Youth commission successfully conducted UNIFEST 2026 held on 14th and 15th February 2026 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ramnagar, the host parish. The two-day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 50 parishes across the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. It all began with a short prayer service at 10 am on the first day. First event was a rangoli competition with about 22 participants making colourful presentations on the theme peace in the world of pieces. Many events such as T-shirt painting, solo instrumental, elocution, Written Bible Quiz, bible enactment and group singing was held till late evening of first day. The second day oral Bible Quiz began the day. Cultural competitions added vibrancy and showcased the diverse talents of the youth. The event was lively, well-organized, and spiritually enriching.

His Eminence Cardinal Poola Anthony graced the occasion with his esteemed presence. A significant highlight was the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected team of the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. The ceremony was conducted solemnly in the presence of His Eminence. Distinguished judges ensured fair evaluation and added value to the competitions. St Joseph's cathedral were the winners of Unifest 2026. We would like to thank the clergy and laity of our Archdiocese for their support and a special mention of thanks to Fr Praveen, Parish Priest of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ramnagar and the youth of His parish for toiling hard for a month for the success of the event. We also thank Fr. Jerome, Mario Kevin, Harry Wilfrid and their team for the relentless efforts they put in for the good of the youth of Our Archdiocese.

- A. Jesney Mary General Secretary, Youth Commission, Archdiocese of Hyderabad.

3. One-Day Formation Programme for Clergy and Religious. **Archdiocese of Hyderabad – 26 February 2026.**

The Archdiocese of Hyderabad joyfully witnessed the successful completion of its One-Day Formation Programme for Clergy, Religious Men & Women, and Ecumenical Pastors held on 26th February 2026 at Vianney House,

Secunderabad. Conducted during this grace-filled Jubilee Year, the programme was marked by spiritual depth, pastoral relevance, and fraternal communion.

The gathering commenced with a warm welcome by Rev. Fr. Victor Emmanuel T., Chancellor and Procurator of the Archdiocese, who greeted the distinguished resource persons, and all participants. He expressed gratitude for the collaborative spirit that made the day possible.

In his keynote address, Cardinal Poola Anthony emphasized that the Holy Land is not merely a destination, but a “Living Gospel” — the sacred land where our salvation history unfolded. Pilgrimage, he noted, is not tourism but transformation. When rooted in prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments, it deepens faith and renews pastoral zeal. He also encouraged proclaiming the Gospel in the Indian context through witness, service, dialogue, and respect for all, making Christ known through compassion and solidarity.

The first session on **Holy Land Awareness** was animated in collaboration with the Israel Ministry of Tourism, with the presence of Ms. Amurtha, Director of the Ministry of Israel Tourism. The session invited participants to rediscover the Bible by encountering the living context of salvation history and highlighted the importance of well-prepared, prayerful pilgrimages. She was assisted by Mr. George Devassy who collaborated in organizing the Seminar.

The seminar on **Ecumenism and Dialogue** was led by Rev. Fr. Raju Alex and Rev. Fr. Samala Michael. Reflecting on the Lord’s prayer “That they may all be one,” they emphasized the urgent need for Christian unity and sincere interreligious dialogue in India’s pluralistic context.

The session on **The Chosen – Pastoral Use** was conducted by Mr. Ajin, who offered practical insights into using contemporary media creatively and responsibly in pastoral ministry, especially during the Lenten season to prepare the faithful for Easter.

The final session on **Communio & Our Mission** was conducted by Rev. Fr. Vignan Dass and Rev. Sr. Margarita. They highlighted the call to deepen communion, co-responsibility, and collaborative mission within the Church, reminding participants that we are one Body in Christ, sent forth together. They also emphasized on the importance of raising funds for the mission in rural areas within India.

The Archdiocese expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all the resource persons, collaborators, and participants for their valuable contributions. A special word of thanks is extended to Rt. Rev. Jose D’Souza, Bishop of Good Shepherd Church,

for his Message, gracious presence and support.

The programme concluded with a prayer by Rev. Sr. Margarita and on a note of renewed enthusiasm and missionary zeal. Participants departed enriched and inspired, committed to fostering unity, promoting spiritually meaningful pilgrimages, and proclaiming the Gospel with courage and love.

May the fruits of this formation continue to strengthen the life and mission of the Church in Hyderabad and beyond.

- Fr. Christopher, Secretary to Cardinal

4. Youth Sunday 2026 - Parish Celebration at St. John Maria Vianney Church



St. John Maria Vianney Church, Bhoiguda joyfully celebrated Youth Sunday 2026 on 22nd February under the theme “Anchored in His Love.” The day began with a vibrant Youth Mass at 9 AM, led and organized by the youth of the parish.

The celebration continued with an inspiring Career Guidance session by Martin Mysa and a spiritually enriching talk by Rev. Fr. Praveen D’Souza. The program also included praise and worship, fellowship, and moments of joy that reflected the faith, unity, and enthusiasm of our young people.

It was truly a grace-filled day, reminding us that when our youth remain anchored in Christ, they become strong leaders for the Church and society.

- Fr Kranthi Kumar, Assistant, Bhoiguda

5. Communication from Divyavani

Dear Rev. Fathers, Religious and Beloved Faithful,

I wish to draw your attention to the Telugu version of The Face of the Faceless, produced by Tri Light Creations and distributed by Divyavani TV in the Telugu States. This inspiring film beautifully portrays the life and martyrdom of Blessed Rani Maria, whose loving service among the poor and marginalised in Madhya Pradesh remains a shining witness to faith, courage, and forgiveness.

The film has touched many hearts for its spiritual depth and artistic



excellence, gently reminding us of our Christian call to stand with the vulnerable and to respond to hatred with forgiveness. It has received wide international appreciation, earning over 123 awards and even being shortlisted for Oscar eligibility. At the same time, the producers continue to carry financial burdens in their commitment to meaningful, value-based cinema.

I therefore appeal to all the faithful, parish priests, religious communities, institutions, and families to support this noble initiative. You may consider organising screenings, arranging ticketed programmes, promoting the film locally, or extending financial assistance. A portion of the proceeds will also support the mission of Divyavani in serving the faithful of our Telugu region.

Let us unite in this mission of evangelisation through media, encouraging

and sustaining efforts that proclaim Gospel values and ensure that the inspiring legacy of Blessed Rani Maria reaches many more hearts.

The screening will be overseen by the Diocesan Communications director of each diocese.

- Fr Lourduraj SJ, CEO Divyavani Social Communication

6. Inclusion of the Divyavani Social Communications Certificate Programme in Digital Media



DIVYAVANI SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS offers

Certificate Programme in Digital Media

4 Weeks of Intensive Training

Batch I: April 6 to 30, 2026
Batch II: May 4 to 29, 2026
Timing: 9am to 4pm

Course Fee
₹20,000
Food & Accommodation
₹15,000

What You Will Learn?

Creative & Design	Mass Communication	Media Production	Social Media Management
Graphic Design, Digital Still Photography	Mobile Journalism, Visual Elements	Digital Film Production (Audio & Video)	Publishing, Promoting, Analyzing content

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Regional News

1. 44th Kaladarshini Summer Course in Fine Arts

1st May 2026 – 30th May 2026

The 44th Kaladarshini Summer Course in Fine Arts will be conducted from 1-5-2026 to 30-5-2026 at the green and sprawling campus of Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada.

We offer both Part-Time and Full-Time courses:

Part-Time: 6:00 am – 8:00 am & 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Full-Time: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Courses Offered: Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Keyboard (Carnatic & Western), Guitar, Pads, Tabla, Violin, Vocal Music, Drawing & Painting, Yoga, Western Dance, and Theatre Arts. The programme is conducted in a good Catholic ambience with Daily Mass, Rosary, and Choir.

Hostel facility for boys and girls (separately) is available.

Fee Structure:

Part-Time: Rs. 4,000; Full-Time: Rs. 6,000; Hostel & Full-Time Tuition: Rs. 11,500

For further details, please contact:

Fr. K. Ravindra SJ

Director

Mobile: 9000921092

Email: kotiravindra@gmail.com

KALADARSHINI
INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS & CULTURE
ANDHRA LOYOLA COLLEGE, VIJAYAWADA - 520 009

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Guitar
Western Dance
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44th SUMMER COURSE in FINE ARTS
FROM 1.05.2026 TO 30.05.2026

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Part Time - 6.00 am to 8.00 am Fee - 4,500/-
4.30 pm to 6.30 pm Fee - 4,500/-
Full Time - 8.30 am to 4.00 pm Fee - 6,000/-
Fee for Hostellers (Room rent & Messing) - 11,500/-

Note :
Institution will not provide instruments. Students have to bring their own instruments. Instruments are for sale on the campus. Fee once paid will not be refunded.
Contact : 90009 21092, 90591 80404, 81868 26565, 94418 45684

For Information : Director, Kaladarshini
email : kotiravindra@gmail.com Ph. 90009 21092

National News

1. Cardinal Poola Anthony Elected President of the CBCI

His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, has been elected President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), becoming the first Telugu prelate to head the national body. The election took place during the CBCI General Assembly held at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru.



Cardinal Poola succeeds Archbishop Andrews Thazhath in this important responsibility. His election marks a historic and proud moment for the Telugu Catholic community and for the Archdiocese of Hyderabad. Clergy, religious, and lay faithful have expressed great joy and gratitude on this significant occasion.

As President of the CBCI, Cardinal Poola will guide and coordinate the pastoral, social, and evangelising mission of the Church in India, strengthening its service in education, healthcare, and social outreach. The Archdiocese assures him of continued prayers and wholehearted support as he undertakes this national leadership in the service of the Church and the country.



International News

1. MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIV FOR LENT 2026

Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening

This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.

In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry” (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he*

does. We must recognize that “the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church.”

Fasting

If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we “hunger” for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our “appetites,” keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbour.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: “In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity.” Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because “those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly.” As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since “austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic.”

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend

and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Dates & Events to Remember

19. St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M (Sol)
25. The Annunciation of the Lord (Sol)
29. Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Happy Birthday Dear Fathers

01. Fr. Chinnabathini Gnanaprakash
07. Fr. Viji Joseph
11. Fr. Madanu Francis Showry
12. Fr. Dodda Bala
14. Fr. Madanu Lourdu Vijay Kumar
16. Fr. Bandanadam Prashanth
17. Fr. Yeruva Bala



18. Fr. Therukunnel M. Mathew
18. Fr. Kata Joseph
23. Fr. Thirumalareddy Showreddy
23. Fr. Wilson Davis
24. Msgr. Yeruva Balashowreddy
27. Fr. Christopher Joseph Michael

Happy Ordination day Dear Fathers

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 04. Fr. Selva Kumar Aloysius | 18. Fr. Thanugundla Gabriel | 23. Fr. Dodda Bala |
| 06. Fr. Madanu Joseph (Sr.) | 19. Fr. Chinnabathini Charles | 24. Fr. Lancelot Menezes |
| 12. Fr. Marneni Varaprasad | 19. Fr. Chinnabathini Jayaraj | 25. Fr. Guvvala Anthony |
| 13. Fr. MettuArogyam | 19. Fr. Gangarapu Balaswamy | 26. Fr. Govindu Arogyaswamy |
| 14. Fr. Kandi Marreddy | 19. Fr. Madanu Francis Showry | 27. Fr. Michael Selvaraj |
| 14. Fr. Madanu Joseph (Jr.) | 19. Fr. Michael Thaigaraj | 27. Fr. Chinnabathini Gnanaprakash |
| 14. Fr. Yeruva Bala | 21. Fr. Yeruva Joji Reddy | 29. Fr. Madanu Chinnaiah |
| 18. Fr. Mettu Johannes | 22. Fr. Gade Showreddy | 30. Fr. MettuArogyam |
| | | 31. Fr. Thatireddy Jayaraj Reddy |

Necrology



01. Fr. Vatti Albin Reddy
05. Fr. Bandanadam Marianna (Sr.)
25. Fr. Ignatius Elenthott

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 :

The Editorial Team, SHEPHERD'S CALL

Archbishop's House, H.No: 9-1-17/1, 11, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad 500 003, T.S.

Tel. 040-27805545, 27805418, Fax: 040-27800709

E-mail: shepherdscall1953@gmail.com

Website: www.archdioceseofhyderabad.org

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Ash Wednesday at St. Mary's Basilica



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Funeral Mass of Fr. Thomas Andrew Raj



Rev. Fr. Thomas Andrew Raj

Priest of Archdiocese of Hyderabad

D.O.B : 17-03-1952 - Ordained: 07-05-1983 - D.O.D : 10-02-2026

Memorial Mass
in St. Mary's Basilica
on 09th March 2026
at 09.30 a.m.

