



# DIOCESE OF ALLAHABAD

## Bishop's House, #32 Thornhill Road Allahabad-211 002,(U.P.) INDIA

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR NO. 08/18

December 11, 2018



Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly

### MY PROGRAMME

**DECEMBER 2018**

1	Centenary Celebrations at Theresapur Mission
2	Platinum Jubilee Celebration of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Ashoknagar, Kanpur
3	Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Anil Abrew at St. Peter's Church, Raebareli
4	Annual Day Function at St. Mary's School, Faizabad
5	Annual Day Function at St. Joseph's School, Pratapgarh
6	Thanksgiving Mass at Ish Mata Ashram, Ajuwa
7	Annual Day Function at St. Joseph's School, Shaktinagar
8	Celebration at Rihandnagar
9	Thanksgiving Mass at Obra at 8:00 a.m. & Nazareth Hospital Day Celebration at 5:00 p.m. Allahabad
11	Annual Day Function at St. Francis Sen. Sec. School, Anpara
13	Christmas Recollection for Clergy
14-16	Golden Jubilee Celebration at NVSC, Pune
19	Annual Day Function at St. Mary's School, Mirzapur

**My Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,**

### I. Advent

It is my joy to wish you a Holy Advent and a Joyous Christmas!

Advent, as you know, is a time of preparation for the birth of Jesus. It is a time of spiritual renewal and revival in our lives as individuals and communities. It is interesting to note that God himself made elaborate preparations for the coming of his only Son Jesus the Christ. If you read chapter one of the Gospel according to Luke it will become clear to you how God prepared the hearts and minds of humans for the gift he was about to send. About the son to be born to old couple Elizabeth and Zachariah the angel said: "He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God... turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (cf Lk 1:13-20).

Through angel Gabriel God prepared Mother Mary: "And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 2:31-33). St. Joseph was told: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:20-21).

The festive season tends to be a hectic time. The days are filled with meetings and all kinds of activities. Nevertheless let us not forget to make the necessary preparation in our hearts and minds for the gift that is given to us by the Father- a savior who came as a baby and lived among us, showing us how to become more loving, more accepting, more forgiving, and more generous in our own lives.

As we make preparations for the greatest of feasts let us infuse our spirits with hope, love, joy and peace, so that we can receive God's gift with gratitude and humility.

24	Celebrates Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Alld
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## JANUARY 2019

1	Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Allahabad
2	Inauguration of the Year of Eucharist
5	Fr. J. B. Castelino Month's Mind at St. John Bosco Church, Naini
7-15	CCBI Plenary Assembly at Chennai
20	Parish Feast at St. Paul's Church, Sultanpur
21-24	CDF-CBCI Theological Symposium at Bangalore
30	Presides over Vestition & Profession of CJ Sisters at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Allahabad

## II. Obituary

The unexpected death of Rev. Fr. John Baptist Castelino has left all of us sad and bereaved. He had been undergoing dialysis for over a year and his health had been indifferent. In the second half of November he was stricken with typhoid and was admitted to Nazareth Hospital. On November 28 his health took a turn for the worse even though the doctors and the hospital staff had done their best. Infarctions (tissue death) were reported in his brain. On Saturday evening December 1, when I returned from Chunar I visited him in the ICU and prayed for him. By then he was already in a coma. Although the prognosis was not good, I entertained the hope that he would be with us for some more time. So in the afternoon of December 2, when I was informed that Fr. John Baptist Castelino had passed away, I could scarcely believe it. Of particular poignancy was the fact that he passed away on the day of Platinum Jubilee of St. Xavier's Church, Ashoknagar, Kanpur, a Church which was rebuilt under his supervision and where he had his longest tenure.

Son of Joseph Castelino and Marceline Castelino, John Baptist Castelino was born on 21.06. 1945 in Pamboor, Udupi. Of the 8 children (4 boys and 4 girls) of this pious couple, John Baptist is the fourth child. After completing his school studies in Shirva, Udupi he joined the Diocese of Allahabad in 1963. St. Paul's Minor Seminary, Lucknow and St. Joseph's Regional Seminary, Allahabad are the institutions in which he pursued his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained a priest on 08.12.1972 in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Allahabad. After his ordination he had two short stints as assistant Pastor at Sultanpur and Dostpur. From 1979-1986 he served St. Joseph's Church and St. Joseph's School, Shaktinagar as Parish Priest and Principal. He had a long tenure (1986-2008) as Principal of St. Xavier's College, Ashoknagar, Kanpur. Before assuming the office as the Parish Priest of St. John Bosco Church, Naini in 2011 he had served the diocese as the Diocesan Education Officer and as the Rector of St. Joseph's Cathedral, Allahabad. When he died on December 2, 2018 at 2:45 p.m. he was still the Parish Priest of St. John Bosco Church, Naini. He died in harness.

His funeral service was conducted on December 4 at 10:00 a.m. A large congregation consisting of priests, religious men and women, lay faithful, relatives and friends attended the funeral rites. Most Rev. Albert D'Souza, Archbishop of Agra, Rt. Rev. Isidore Fernandes, Emeritus Bishop of Allahabad, and almost all bishops of Agra-Ecclesiastical region sent condolence messages. Neighbouring dioceses like Lucknow, Varanasi and Bareilly sent priest representatives to attend the funeral. All those who spoke to me had something good to say about our departed priest Fr. J. B. Castelino. Eulogies were given by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Francis (priest representative), Dr. Derick Denis (St. John Bosco, parish Naini) and Mr. Gregory Castelino (Younger brother of Fr. J. B. Castelino).

I am grateful to Rev. Frs. Reginald D'Souza, Vipin D'Souza, Sr. Moncy CSN, all other Sisters, Doctors and Nurses of Nazareth Hospital who looked after him with much love until his death. Fr. J. B. Castelino was very appreciative of the love and competent medical care he received at Nazareth. I am also grateful to Frs. Stephen Manoj D'Souza and Isidore D'Souza and the staff of the Bishop's House who worked very hard on the day of the funeral. I thank all those who visited him, encouraged him and prayed for him especially during his days of ailment. Please continue to pray for the repose of his soul.

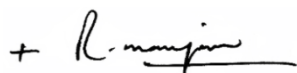
Fr. J. B. Castelino will continue to live in the hearts of the people whom he loved and served. People remember him as a priest who was glowing with pastoral zeal, compassion for the poor and prayerfulness. His companions remember his hospitality, sociability and readiness to render any help, any time. May the righteous judge honour him in heaven with the crown of righteousness!

His Month's Mind will be celebrated in St. John Bosco Church, Naini on January 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. All of you are cordially invited to participate in it.

### **III. Diocesan Year of the Eucharist**

As communicated to you earlier, year 2019 has been declared the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist. This is a preparation for the 52<sup>nd</sup> International Eucharistic Congress which will be celebrated from 13 to 20 September 2020 in Budapest, Hungary. The theme of the congress is "*All my springs are in you*" (Psalm 87:7). We shall retain the same theme for the Year of the Eucharist in our diocese too.

We shall solemnly inaugurate the Year of the Eucharist on Wednesday, January 2, 2019 and conclude it on Tuesday December 31, 2019. The steering committee headed by Rev. Fr. Isidore D'Souza will work out the details of the celebration with the help of others and inform you suitably. The committee will also chalk out various programmes in the diocese for this year dedicated for the Eucharist. I request all of you to make special efforts to make the Eucharist centre of our lives.



**MOST REV. RAPHY MANJALY**  
**Bishop of Allahabad**