



DIOCESE OF ALLAHABAD

Bishop's House, #32 Thornhill Road
Allahabad 211 002, INDIA

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR NO. 02/16

March 28, 2016



Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly

MY PROGRAMME

MARCH 2016

19	Presides over Parish Feast at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Alld
20	Palm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Alld
24-27	Holy Triduum

APRIL & MAY 2016

01	Inauguration Blessing, Dedication of St. Joseph's School, Naini
02	Inauguration Blessing, Dedication of St. Mary's School, Dudhi
03	Administers Confirmation at Shaktinagar
4-8	CDPI General Body Meeting at Goa
10	Administers Confirmation. Blessing, Dedication Presbytery at Raebareli
11-13	Agra Regional Bishops Meet at Agra
14-15	Hindi Regional Bishop's Meet, Hindi Sahitya Samiti at Varanasi

My Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

Grace and peace from God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. An Easter Meditation

Faith in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the central doctrines of Christianity. The life, liturgy, creed, and day-to-day faith of Christians prove this point.

Though we believe and profess our faith in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we are not quite clear what exactly it is. Our situation is very much like that of St. Augustine when he attempted to define time in his Confessions: "What, then, is time? I know what it is, provided that nobody asks me. But if I am asked what it is and try to explain, I am baffled" (Bk. XI, ch. 14). We know what the resurrection of the Lord is as long as we don't have to explain it.

Just as the Trinity, the Church and the Eucharist, the resurrection of the Lord too is a multidimensional mystery. No amount of the theological explanation can make us understand the truth of the mystery. God alone can teach us what it means. For mysteries are revealed by God and they are to be received in faith and lived. Sometimes, more than theological discussion, a prayerful contemplation of the Gospel scenes can give us a profound insight into the mystery of the resurrection and fill us with Easter joy.

Fr. Ignatius Puthiyadam says: In order to be convinced of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the same Holy Spirit has to instill into us a spark of faith and a share in the new life. What is important is to be inserted into the risen life of Jesus and to be transformed by its power.

What do we mean when we say that Jesus is raised from the dead? It means that the death of Jesus was not the end of his story. He continues to live with us and for us. The resurrection of Jesus has great significance for our lives. The risen Jesus is the source of our life. To borrow

17	Presides over Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Rolfie D'Souza at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Ald	<p>St. Paul's expression, Jesus who suffered, died and rose from the dead, has become "a life-giving Spirit" (cf. 1 Cor 15:45). Through baptism we are united to Christ as branches to the vine. It is the link with the vine that guarantees the branches life, growth and development. Even so it is the vital communion with the risen Jesus that gives us the guarantee of our own resurrection and life.</p> <p>Even though it is baptism that establishes the vital link between the Christian and the risen Lord, it is Eucharist that makes the baptismal life grow and fructify. Every worthy reception of the Eucharistic Lord gives us a greater share in his Easter life.</p> <p>The risen Lord is also our source of Joy. A number of things can destroy our joy: meaninglessness, suffering, pain and fear of death. The risen Jesus teaches us how to live and how to die. For life and death and life beyond death, the model for the Christian is Jesus. By his death and resurrection, Jesus has destroyed the sting and power of death (cf. 1 Cor 15:55-56) and given us meaning and hope. He tells us: "Do not be afraid, I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld" (Rev 1: 17-18).</p> <p>When we abandon sin and selfishness and live and die for others, we participate in the mystery of Christ's resurrection and fulfill its purpose: "He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Cor 5:15).</p> <p>I would like to conclude this meditation with the words of Fr. George Maloney: "The miracle of the resurrection is happening at every moment of our lives, as we are open to God's Word speaking in his creative act of raising us up to new levels of sharing in his resurrectional, transforming love... As long as we love another, Christ is more completely being risen and manifested in power and glory on this earth."</p> <p>I wish each of you a very Happy Easter and new life in the Holy Spirit.</p>
19	Inauguration Blessing, Dedication of Little Flower Ashram, Faizabad	
24	Presides over Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Ald. & Mass at St. Joseph's the Worker Church, Chakeri	
26-28	Attends CCBI Executive Meeting at Delhi	
28-16	Departure to Cochin, Refreshing At Home With Loved Ones	
16	Return to Bishop's House	

II. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee

I presume by now you have received the invitation to Rev. Fr. Rolfie D'Souza's Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebration sent from St. Joseph's College. It is scheduled for April 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. The venue is St. Joseph's Cathedral. The thanksgiving mass will be followed by a very short felicitation and agape. On behalf of the Diocese of Allahabad I extend a cordial welcome to each father, sister and brother. Please consider this as a personal invitation to you to this diocesan celebration. To ensure that we have no logistical problems I request Parish Priests/Station Incharges and Superiors to give Fr. Isidore D'Souza the information he asks for on time.

III. Divine Mercy Sunday

This year Divine Mercy Sunday falls on April 3. I urge all of you to celebrate it meaningfully and with a fervour befitting the Year of Mercy. Let us keep in mind that mercy is not one of the attributes of God. On the contrary, just as love, mercy expresses God's very essence. St. John said, "God is love." It would be equally correct to say, "God is Mercy." For mercy expresses God's own goodness and love. It is God's dynamic and effective love which attends to and devotes itself to the world and to humanity in ever new ways in history. It is patient; it is kind; it is humble; it is truthful; it is forgiving; it is just; it is hopeful; it is faithful and many other things.

Why is contemplation of the mystery of mercy so important? Because the more we contemplate Jesus, the embodiment of divine mercy, the more we will become his authentic disciples and true children of the Merciful Father. Further, it is by becoming channels of mercy that we can find true love, true joy, true peace and finally, our true salvation.

IV. Freeship For Catholics In Our School

I am happy to note that in general Catholic schools in our diocese are making an effort to implement the guidelines given by the diocese, which, in turn, are inspired by the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

In my last circular dated February 15, 2016, I asked you to **ensure that all Catholics are admitted to our schools and are specially cared for**. These things are mentioned in All India Catholic Education Policy, 2007. I give here below a short extract:

"No Catholic child, Dalit/Tribal or otherwise, should be deprived of quality education because of a lack of means" (CBCI 2016, 8.1). "Those disadvantaged, socially, physically or intellectually, will be specially assisted so that they can be integrated into the educational system. We make this preferential option, even if in this process academic results suffer. All Catholic schools whether run by dioceses, the religious, corporate bodies or individuals, are expected to participate in this project" (CBCI 2006, 8.3).

A corollary of this recommendation is that we must go out of our way to remove all the obstacles on the way of Catholics getting education in our prestigious institutions. Giving freeship or concession is a step in this direction. **Like the children of the teachers or other staff, the Catholics should get 50% concession on the fees. Should they be too poor to pay even that, we must give them further concession.** Given the total number of Catholics in our diocese, I do not think that the number of children receiving fee concession will ever cross 10% of the total strength.

Had the government obliged us, through RTE or some other means, to educate 25% poor children, we would have done it. Hence we should be all the more happy to help the few Catholics we have.

V. Blessing and Inauguration Ceremonies

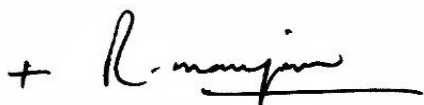
It gives me much joy to inform you about and invite you to the blessing and inauguration ceremonies of **St. Joseph's School, Naini**, Allahabad on April 1, 2016 at 4:30 p.m., **St. Mary's School, Dudhi**, Sonebhadra, on April 2, 2016 at 4.00 p.m., the **presbytery at Raebareli** on April 10, 2016 at 12:00 noon and **Little Flower Ashram (CST), Faizabad** on April 19, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

We are grateful to **St. Margaret Mary Province, Jhansi, of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart** who generously agreed to establish a new community of theirs at **Naini** to help in the mission of education. On behalf of the diocese I welcome them to the new mission and wish them the very best. May God bless them and their ministry!

Franciscan Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Puducherry, are new to our diocese. They have agreed to establish a community of theirs in **Dudhi Mission**. I am grateful to Sr. A. Mary Stella, the General, and her Councilors for their willingness to collaborate with the diocese in its mission at Dudhi. I accord a warm welcome to the sisters and pray that God may bless them and their apostolates.

VI. Congratulation

The Allahabad diocesan family congratulates Bro. Vikas Jason Mathias who was ordained as a deacon by Rt. Rev. Valerian D'Souza on February 6, 2016 at Papal Seminary, Poona. If everything goes well and as per our plans, his Sacerdotal Ordination will take place in May, 2017.



MOST REV. RAPHY MANJALY
Bishop of Allahabad