



DIOCESE OF ALLAHABAD

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

DIOCESAN CIRCULAR NO. 04/17

June 23, 2017



Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly

MY PROGRAMME

JUNE 2017

25-27	Staff Orientation Program at IMS, Varanasi
29	Administers Confirmation at Chandari, Kanpur

JULY 2017

2	Departure to Kohima
3-8	Retreat for the Priests of Kohima Diocese
10	Return to Bishop's House
11	Presides over Golden Jubilee Inaugural & Thanksgiving Mass of Bethany Sisters, Sultanpur
12	Visits Mudila & Dostpur
15	Investiture at St. Joseph's College, Ald & Fr. D. Bhatt Memorial Lecture at Sadhna Sadan, Allahabad
17	Visits Duddhi
18	Visits Shaktinagar
20	Clergy Recollection
23	Presides over Mass & Pastoral Visit at Kidwainagar
24	Visits Ashoknagar, Kanpur
25	Visits Chakeri & St. Aloysius', Kanpur
30	Inauguration Blessing, Dedication of Divya Jyoti School, Sadhna Sadan, Allahabad

My Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

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

I. The Nativity of John the Baptist

I write this circular on the eve of the Nativity of John the Baptist. I take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have John the Baptist as their patron. He was an extraordinary saint and the celebration of his *Jayanti* itself is an extraordinary thing. For in the Catholic Church the day of a saint's departure from the world is celebrated as his/her feast. The '*Jayanthi*' of a saint is not celebrated. The exceptions are Jesus the incarnate Son of God, his most Holy Mother Mary and St. John the Baptist.

His birth took place due to a special intervention of God as he had to be the precursor of the Anointed One. He was born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age when they had already given up the hope of ever having a child. His birth proves the axiom: *God hears all our prayers and in his time he makes all things beautiful.*

John was a prophet of extraordinary humility. He had the respect and attention of the whole Jewish nation when he confessed that he was neither the Messiah, nor Elijah nor the Prophet. At a time when people were doing everything possible to appear before the world bigger and greater than what they were, he had the humility to say that he was not worthy to untie the thong of the Messiah's sandal. At a time when people were dying to be in the limelight and were ready to trample on and even eliminate others to be on the top, he preferred to be a counter sign and said, "He must increase and I must decrease." A truly humble person is able to say, "I am what I am by the grace of God." Or, "The Almighty has done great things for me." A truly humble person is able to accept gratefully his/her self as God's gift and is able to submit himself/herself to God's loving plans knowing fully well that they are better than one's own.

John was a prophet of exceptional courage. A prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God and interprets God's will. Unlike the boy Samuel, John was familiar with God's speech and ways. And he did not hesitate to announce God's message to all. He was ready to denounce the Pharisees and Sadducees- powerful and influential groups in the then Jewish society- because they were hypocrites (Mt 23:15), blind leaders of the blind (Mt 15:14) and wicked in that their hearts were full of murder (Jn 8:37). He called them to repentance and warned them against God's judgement.

Inspired and strengthened by God's Holy Spirit he chastised the despotic King Herod and told him that it was not lawful for him to have his brother's wife (Mk 6:18). John is a glowing example for Christian courage which is the willingness to say and do the right thing regardless of the earthly cost.

Let the life and message of John the Baptist lead us to true repentance for our sins, help us love Jesus more and more and give us strength and courage to give witness to his mercy!

II. Centenary of Fatima Apparition and Synod of Bishops

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima, Pope Francis quoted Paul VI and said; "If we want to be Christian, we must be Marian; in a word, we have to acknowledge the essential, vital and providential relationship uniting our Lady to Jesus, a relationship that opens before us the way leading to him". Underlining the biblical nature of the rosary and its usefulness for evangelization Pope Francis said: "Each time we recite the rosary, the Gospel enters anew into the life of individuals, families, peoples and the entire world".

The centenary celebrations might have come to an end. But the message of Fatima is as relevant today as it was a hundred years ago. The rosary that sustained the spiritual life of generations of Catholics is needed even today for obtaining salvation and peace for us and for the world. Since consecration to Mary is a powerful means of spiritual renewal and growth for the individuals and the Church, I exhort and encourage you to consecrate yourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. To consecrate please do the following: 1) Repent of your sins and make a good confession; 2) Receive the Holy Communion; 3) Recite the creed; 4) Recite the prayer of Consecration.

The theme of the Synod of Bishops to be held in October 2018 is: **Youth, Faith and Vocation Discernment**. The Holy Father wants to know how the youth are experiencing the life of faith amid the challenges of our time. The Pope also wants them to discern their personal vocation. Let us pray for the success of the synod. There is need for a greater focus on and renewed interest in ministry to the youth.

The Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, Lorenzo Cardinal Baldisseri, has sent me the Preparatory Document of the Synod. I shall have it forwarded to the Deans and

Principals. You can access the text at the Vatican website: www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/... The important part is the Questions found on pages 26, 27, 28. Please collect the data from all sections of people in your parish/institution and specially the youth. **Please send the answers to me by e-mail or by any other means before 30 September 2017.**

III. First World Day of the Poor on 19 Nov. 2017

On the occasion of the First World Day of the Poor Pope Francis has sent a message. Although the message is worth reading in its entirety, I give here only the concluding part which contains the heart of the message.

“It is my wish that, in the week preceding the World Day of the Poor, which falls this year on 19 November, the Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Christian communities will make every effort to create moments of encounter and friendship, solidarity and concrete assistance. They can invite the poor and volunteers to take part together in the Eucharist on this Sunday, in such a way that there be an even more authentic celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King, on the following Sunday. The kingship of Christ is most evident on Golgotha, when the Innocent One, nailed to the cross, poor, naked and stripped of everything, incarnates and reveals the fullness of God’s love. Jesus’ complete abandonment to the Father expresses his utter poverty and reveals the power of the Love that awakens him to new life on the day of the Resurrection.

This Sunday, if there are poor people where we live who seek protection and assistance, let us draw close to them: it will be a favourable moment to encounter the God we seek. Following the teaching of Scripture (cf. Gen 18:3-5; Heb 13:2), let us welcome them as honoured guests at our table; they can be teachers who help us live the faith more consistently. With their trust and readiness to receive help, they show us in a quiet and often joyful way, how essential it is to live simply and to abandon ourselves to God’s providence.

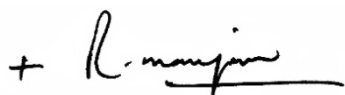
At the heart of all the many concrete initiatives carried out on this day should always be prayer. Let us not forget that the Our Father is the prayer of the poor. Our asking for bread expresses our entrustment to God for our basic needs in life. Everything that Jesus taught us in this prayer expresses and brings together the cry of all who suffer from life’s uncertainties and the lack of what they need. When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he answered in the words with which the poor speak to our one Father, in whom all acknowledge themselves as brothers and sisters. The Our Father is a prayer said in the plural: the bread for which we ask is “ours”, and that entails sharing, participation and joint responsibility. In this prayer, all of us recognize our need to overcome every form of selfishness, in order to enter into the joy of mutual acceptance.

I ask my brother Bishops, and all priests and deacons who by their vocation have the mission of supporting the poor, together with all consecrated persons and all associations, movements and volunteers everywhere, to help make this World Day of the Poor a tradition that concretely contributes to evangelization in today’s world.

This new World Day, therefore, should become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practise in our lives the essence of the Gospel.

IV. Reminders and Pieces of Information

1. **Fr. Thomas Kumar** has been appointed **Assistant Diocesan Education Officer**. As I congratulate him and wish him well, I request you to extend to him your full co-operation. The Diocesan Education Commission and its scope remain unchanged. The DEC members are: Fr. James Francis, Fr. Thomas Kumar, Fr. Lawrence Fernandes, Fr. Rolfie D'Souza and Fr. Melwyn D'Souza.
2. We extend a cordial **welcome to Rev. Fr. Michael Raj**, a newly ordained priest belonging to the Heralds of Good News, and wish him many years of happy and fruitful ministry in our diocese. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Alex Ravindran, the Provincial, for his generosity and love towards our diocese.
3. The **formal inauguration of Divya Jyoti School for the vision-impaired** is scheduled for **Sunday, 30 July, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.** I extend a hearty welcome to each of you.
4. **Rev. Fr. Vikas Jason Mathias** has been appointed the **Diocesan Youth Director**. As I congratulate and wish him well, I thank Fr. Anand John for his generous and dedicated ministry to the youth of our diocese.
5. This is the **Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee year of Rev. Fr. John Baptist Fernandes**. We shall pray that this year may be one of great spiritual growth, renewal and numerous blessings for him.
6. The next **Clergy Recollection** is fixed for **20 July, 2017**. I am looking forward to meeting all of you.



MOST REV. RAPHY MANJALY
Bishop of Allahabad

Enclosure: 1. LIST OF TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS: 2017
2. PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALLAHABAD

BISHOP'S HOUSE, 32 THORNHILL ROAD, ALLAHABAD

16.06.2017

My dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

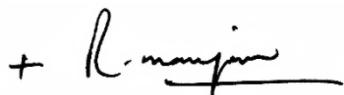
Grace and peace from God Our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Keeping in mind the greater good of individuals, stations, institutions and the diocese as a whole, after consulting the diocesan consultors, some changes have been made to the earlier list of transfers and appointments. I thank all the affected persons for their understanding. Given below is the revised list:

LIST OF TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS: 2017

S. No	Name	From	To	Designation
1	Rev. Fr. Vikas Jason Mathias	(New Priest)	St. Joseph the Worker Church, Chakeri, Kanpur	Asst. Parish Priest
2	Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Marsekatla	(New Priest)	Krist Jyoti, Asnabandh	Asst. Parish Priest
3	Rev. Fr. George Medepalli	(New Priest)	Assumption Church, Dostpur	Asst. Parish Priest
4	Rev. Fr. Joy Rodrigues	Assumption Church, Dostpur	Assumption Church, Dostpur	Parish Priest
5	Rev. Fr. Stephen D'Mello	One year Spiritual Experience	St. Mary's Church, Muirabad	Parish Priest
6	Rev. Fr. George Madathikudiyil	Medical Leave	St. Xavier's Church, Ashoknagar, Kanpur	Head Master & Asst. Parish Priest
7	Rev. Fr. Anand John	St. Francis Xavier's Church, Ashoknagar, Kanpur	Divine Providence School, Raebareli	Head Master
8	Rev. Fr. George Rodrigues	Divine Providence School, Raebareli	St. John's Church & School, Fatehpur	Parish Priest & Manager
9	Rev. Fr. Titus Lobo	St. John's Church & School, Fatehpur	St. Joseph's College, Allahabad	Head Master
10	Rev. Fr. Albert Lobo	St. Joseph's College, Allahabad	St. Joseph's School, NTPC, Kohdar, Meja	Principal
11	Rev. Fr. James Francis	—	Lourdes' Church, Renukoot	Parish Priest
12	Rev. Fr. Joseph Mascarenhas	St. Mary's Church, Muirabad	Bishop's House	Convalescing Member
13	Rev. Fr. Kevin Pradhan	Maria Sadan, Allahabad	Bishop's House	Resident Priest
14	Rev. Fr. Joseph Sagayanathan	Assumption Church, Dostpur	St. Joseph's College, Allahabad	Vice-Principal

15	Rev. Fr. Leslie Benedict Coutinha	St. Joseph's College, Allahabad	St. Patrick's Church, Allahabad	Asst. Parish Priest
16	Rev. Fr. Michael Raj (HGN)	(New Priest)	St. Francis Xavier's Church, Ashoknagar, Kanpur	Asst. Parish Priest

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MOST REV. RAPHY MANJALY
Bishop of Allahabad

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

May you the blessed, O Mary Mother of God, the Handmaid of the Lord, who is the fullest way obeyed the divine call! Hail to you, who are totally united to the redeeming consecration of your Son!

O Mary, Virgin Most Holy and Refuge of Sinners, I Consecrate myself to Jesus through your Immaculate Heart. I consecrate to you my very being and my whole life: all that I have, all that I love, all that I am. To you I give my body, my heart, and my soul; to you I give my home, my family, my friends and my country.

I pledge to live courageously and at all times the truth of Christian Faith. I pledge to keep the Commandments of God and His Church. I renew this day at your feet the promises of my Baptism (and my Religious Profession/Priesthood). I promise to devote myself to making Jesus known and loved, that all God's children in my country, and in the entire world may experience in their hearts the love and mercy of his Most Sacred Heart. Through this act of consecration to your Immaculate Heart, dear Mother, I want to belong eternally to Jesus your Son, my Lord and Saviour.

O Humble Handmaid of the Lord, help me to accept in faith the Father's plan for my life and in the world. Mother of my Saviour, hold my life in your arms: bless and strengthen my every desire for good. Teach me your own preferential love for the little ones and the poor, for the excluded and the suffering, for the sinner and the downhearted.

O Mother of all peoples, embrace with the redeeming love of Jesus this human world of ours, which we now entrust and consecrate to you. Bring everyone, especially those who exercise authority, under your powerful protection and divine Wisdom, and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Way the Truth and the Life. Amen

