



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



CIRCULAR: JANUARY 2018

## POPE FRANCIS: SEE THE STAR, SET OUT & CARRY GIFTS

[Homily during the Mass on Epiphany Day in St. Peter's Basilica, 6 January, 2018]

Three actions of the Magi guide our journey towards the Lord. The Magi *see the star*, they *set out* and they *bring gifts*.

**Seeing the star.** This is where it starts. But why, we might ask, did the Magi alone see the star? Perhaps because few people raised their eyes to heaven. We are often contented looking at the ground: it's enough to have our health, a little money and a bit of entertainment. I wonder if we still know how to look up at the sky. Do we know how to dream, to long for God, to expect the newness he brings, or do we let ourselves be swept along by life, like dry branches before the wind? The Magi were not content with just getting by, with keeping afloat. **They understood that to truly live, we need a lofty goal and we need to keep looking up.** Yet we can also ask why, among all those who looked up at the heavens, so many others did not follow that star, "his star" (*Mt 2:2*). Perhaps because the star was not eye-catching, did not shine any brighter than other stars. It was a star – so the Gospel tells us – that the Magi saw "at its rising" (vv. 2, 9). Jesus' star does not dazzle or overwhelm, but gently invites. Some stars may be bright, but they do not point the way. **The Lord's star, however, may not always overwhelm by its brightness, but it is always there:** it takes you by the hand in life and accompanies you. It does not promise material reward, but ensures peace and grants, as it did to the Magi, "exceedingly great joy" (*Mt 2:10*). But it also tells us to set out.

**Setting out,** the second thing the Magi do, is essential if we are to find Jesus. His star demands a decision to take up the journey and to advance tirelessly on our way. It demands that we free ourselves from useless burdens and unnecessary extras that only prove a hindrance, and accept unforeseen obstacles along the map of life. Jesus allows himself to be found by those who seek him, but to find him we need to get up and go. In other words, **if we want to find Jesus, we have to overcome our fear of taking risks, our self-satisfaction and our indolent refusal to ask anything more of life.** Setting out is not easy because there is Herod wild with fear that the birth of a king will threaten his power. The priests and scribes know the exact place and tell it to Herod, quoting the ancient prophecy. They know, but they themselves make no move towards Bethlehem. Theirs can be the temptation of those who are used to being believers: they can talk at length about the faith they know

so well, but will not take a *personal* risk for the Lord. They talk, but do not pray; they complain, but do no good. The Magi, on the other hand, talk little and journey much. Ignorant of the truths of faith, they are filled with longing and set out. So, the Gospel tells us: They “came to worship him” (v. 2); “they set out; they went in, and fell down and worshiped him; they went back” (vv. 9, 11, 12). They kept moving. We need to take risks simply to meet a Child. Yet those risks are immensely worth the effort, since in finding that Child, in discovering his tenderness and love, we rediscover ourselves.

**Bringing gifts.** Having come to Jesus after a long journey, the Magi do as he does: they bring gifts. Jesus is there to give his life; they offer him their own costly gifts: gold, incense and myrrh. The Gospel becomes real when the journey of life ends in giving. To give *freely*, for the Lord’s sake, without expecting anything in return: this is the sure sign that we have found Jesus. For he says: “The gift you have received, give freely as a gift” (*Mt 10:8*). **To do good without counting the cost, even when unasked, even when you gain nothing thereby, even if it is unpleasant is what God wants.** He, who become small for our sake, asks us to offer something for the least of his brothers and sisters. Who are they? They are those who have nothing to give in return, the needy, the hungry, the stranger, the prisoner, the poor (cf. *Mt 25:31-46*). We give a gift pleasing to Jesus when we care for a sick person, spend time with a difficult person, help someone for the sake of helping, or forgive someone who has hurt us. These are gifts freely given, and they cannot be lacking in the lives of Christians. Jesus reminds us that if we only love those who love us, we do as the pagans do (cf. *Mt 5:46-47*). Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: “Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving.”

### **Congratulations to Rev. Fr Alexander Kalarikkal**

We congratulate Rev. Fr Alex who completed his doctoral thesis on “The Inseparable unity of Eucharist and the Church in Communion Ecclesiology of Henri De Lubac and Jean -Marie Roger Tillard,” with the grade of **Summa Cum Laude**.

### **Congratulations to Rev. Fr Rabin S. J.**

We congratulate Rev. Fr Rabin S. J., Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Church, Nilambur for successfully completing M. Phil with **First Rank** from Bharathiar University.

### **Mission Sunday Collection**

The Parish Priests and Heads of our Religious Institutions are reminded to remit the Mission Sunday Collections as early as possible as we have to forward the amount to the Pontifical Mission Society.

### **Special Sunday Collections of 2017**

Last year's special Collections like *Peter's Pence/Community Day (Samudaaya Dinam)/P.M.A.F. (Vianny Day)/Bible Sunday* Collections are to be remitted to the Curia by 15 January 2018.

### Holy childhood Sunday

The Universal Catholic Church celebrates Holy Childhood Day on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It is intended to encourage and move children to share their faith and material means, especially with the children of the neediest regions and Churches. A special collection is to be made on that day and to be remitted to the Curia.

### CBCI Meeting

I will be away from the diocese from 1<sup>st</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> of February to attend CBCI meeting at Bangalore. I will be celebrating my birthday on 7<sup>th</sup> February. Keep me in your prayers.

### Birthdays

January	01	Rev. Fr Jerome Chinganthara
	04	Rev. Fr Milton Jacob
	05	Rev. Fr Martin Elanjiparambil
	16	Rev. Fr William Mendonza
	28	Rev. Fr Sebastian Karakkatt
	31	Rev. Fr Mathew Adatt

We join you dear fathers in thanking the Lord for the gift of life and wish you a very happy Birthday and God's blessings. "*Ad Multos Annos*"

### Obituary

**Rev. Sr Mary Bernarda AC**, of St Antony's Convent, Badgara passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2017. She was laid to rest in the Convent Cemetery on the following day after the funeral rite at St Sebastian's Church, Badagara. May her soul rest in peace.

**ORDO**- Liturgical Calendar is available at Bishop's House.

### BISHOP'S DIARY JANUARY 2018

Jan 1		: Engaged
Jan 2	9:00am	: Seminar, Silver Hills Public School, Calicut
	5:30pm	: Feast Mass, Koonammavu
Jan 3	10:00am	: Cathedral, Kottapuram
Jan 4	5:00pm	: St Mary's School Anniversary, Mavoor
Jan 5	10:00am	: PRO's Meeting, St Joseph's Church, Calicut
Jan 6	10:00am	: Family Bible Quiz, Malappuram
	5:30pm	: Feast Mass, Infant Jesus Church, Nilambur

Jan 7	5:00pm	: Feast Mass, Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut
Jan 10	10:00am	: Kodungallur
	3:00pm	: Meeting at Emmaus, Kalamassery
Jan 11	10:30am	: Feast Mass, St Antony's Church, Pakkam
Jan 12 -13		: KRLCBC, Trivandrum
Jan 14	10:30am	: Feast Mass, St Jude's Shrine, Chundale
Jan 15	10:30am	: Jubilee, Poomala
Jan 16	3:00pm	: Nirmala School of Nursing, Jubilee, Marikunnu
Jan 17	6:30am	: Mass at Sellere Provincial House (Visit of Mother General)
Jan 18		: Meeting People
	5:00pm	: Navathi, St Michael's girls' H.S.S., Westhill
Jan 19	5:30pm	: Feast Mass, St Sebastian's Church, Kappenkolly
Jan 20	10:30am	: Poyya, Mala
	3:30pm	: Feast Mass, Chellanam
Jan 21	10:30am	: Feast Mass, St George Church, Thrikaipetta
Jan 22		: Ordination of Dn. Sham Kumar
Jan 23		: Engaged
Jan 24	11.00am	: Jubilee, Sr Santosh Maria BS (Provincial, Bethany)
Jan 25	5.00pm	: Feast & Blessing of St Thomas Church, Thalapuzha
Jan 26	10:30am	: Youth Meeting, Navajyothis
	5:00pm	: School day, Perinthalmanna
Jan 27		: Jubilee, Paropady
	2:00pm	: Diocesan Teachers get together, Cathedral Hall, Calicut
Jan 28	10:15am	: Feast Mass, St Joseph's Church, Meppadi
Jan 29		: Trichur
Jan 30	5:00pm	: Anniversary, St Gemma's Girls' H.S.S., Malapuram
Jan 31	11:00am	: Feast Mass, Padivayal, Wayanad
Fed 1-9		: CBCI, Bangalore

### **Seminary Formation Fund**

Mrs Jean, Niece of Bishop Maxwell V. Noronha-----	Rs 15,000/-
Mr Joseph Varghese-----	Rs 20,000/-
Mr Jude Thaddeus-----	Rs 1000/-
St Antonys Church, Rippon-----	Rs 10,000/-
St Marys Church, Koyilandy- -----	Rs 5,000/-
Our Lady of perpetual Succour Church-----	Rs 5,000/-

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Total 56,000/-