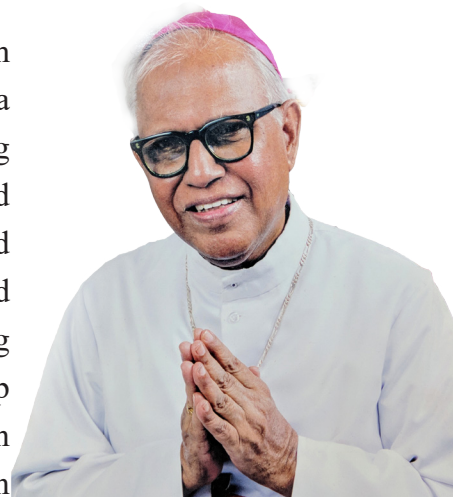




CIRCULAR FEBRUARY 2018
IN MEMORIAM

HIS EXCELLENCY MOST REV. DR BISHOP MAXWELL VALENTINE NORONHA

Maxwell Valentine Noronha was born at Kayamkulam in Quilon district on February 14, 1926 of Ambrose Noronha and Jessy, eldest of five children but while he was still a young boy the family migrated to Badagara where Ambrose worked as a Registrar. Maxwell did his schools at Payyoli, Azhiyur and Mahe, and joined the Jesuit Seminary in 1943, but proceeded to Kandy (Sri Lanka) for philosophy and theology, securing Licentiate in both. After being ordained a priest by the Bishop of Trincomalee (Diocese in Sri Lanka), he did his graduation at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore and taught at St. Joseph School, Tellichery in 1955-56. Again he complemented it with BT at Government Training College in Calicut. Subsequently he was sent to Rome for higher studies, where he obtained a doctorate in Canon Law and a Diploma in Social Sciences in 1962. Back home, he was appointed on the staff of R.C. High School, Chundale right until he was called to Calicut to be the Vicar General in 1979. Obviously Bishop Patroni had in mind to recommend his name as his own immediate successor. The recommendation was accepted and on June 7, 1980 Msgr. Maxwell Noronha was appointed Bishop of Calicut.



Thus, the very first native bishop of Calicut and immediate successor to the first three bishops who were Italian, namely Most Rev. Paul Perini S. J. (1923-1932), Most Rev. Leo Proserpio S.J. (1938-1945) and Most Rev. Aldo Maria Patroni S. J. (1948-1980), was, humanly speaking, better prepared than any one of them. He was ordained on September 7, 1980 by Bishop Patroni himself in a magnificent and beautiful ceremony conducted at the Manachira Maidan of Calicut in the presence of 15 Bishops, hundreds of Priests and Sisters and a huge crowd of Christians and non-Christians alike estimated to be over 10,000 who participated in the six-hour long ceremony in an admirable atmosphere of prayerful silence.

Bishop Maxwell was deeply spiritual, but man of action and achievements at the same time. His singularly unassuming ways could be deceptive at first sight. His keenness in getting the laity involved and participate in the affairs of the Church prompted him to set up commissions and boards so that the apostolic mission of the Diocese might be better served. Thus the Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Commissions were born. The organization of the Family Apostolate, Social Service Center, Basic Christian Communities, KCYM, Mothers' Association, Legion of Mary, C.L.C., and Little Way Association must be noted. The celebration of Bible Convention on

every anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination was the first of its kind in India.

It is in the same context that we must mention the educational, social and pastoral work achieved and fostered in the Diocese. Thus must be noted nearly 30 churches in the various parishes which owe themselves at least in part to his concern translated into action, so too some fifteen residences of priests. He was involved in the construction of nine parish halls. Even more notable are Navajyothis Renewal Center at Eranhipalam, Shine Studio which changed into Tejas Communications, Marikkunnu, new block for Little Flower Orphanage, Cheruvannur and St. Paul Minor Seminary at St. Joseph Church, Calicut. Then altogether some 13 school buildings all over the Diocese owe themselves to him. By way of providing for the diocesan needs five shopping complexes too were constructed, as well as an apartment at Eranhipalam; as a proof of his concern for the destitutes, a home for the aged (Fathima Bhavan) at Pallikkunnu.

And to round it all off, he was at least obliquely involved in the starting of some 35 convents. And of course, he played a pivotal role in the bifurcation of the Diocese and the birth of another – the Diocese of Kannur on December 9, 1998. The main reason that motivated him in the enterprise was, as usual, the good of the flock. The territory of the Diocese spanning no fewer than five revenue districts, was much too vast to attend to for one local church unit, and as a result the faithful scattered to the north up to Hosdurg themselves neglected. His plea was earnest, substantiated with facts and Rome saw wisdom in it and made the decision.

In 2001 Bishop Maxwell, in keeping with the Church's mind, offered to retire at the age of 75, and 21 years as Bishop. Having made a singular success of the twenty two years of his tenure Bishop Maxwell retired in 2002, welcoming his successor in Mgr Joseph Kalathiparambil who hailed from Verapoly Archdiocese. After making over the charge of the diocese to his successor, he withdrew to Shalom at Marikunnu.

Bishop Maxwell had a flair for writing particularly in Malayalam. He could contribute articles to religious periodicals occasionally. But his magnum opus has been his autobiography named "Orma Cheppu" in two volumes, completed despite his failing eyesight. With this and other ailments of his age he still managed to spend the evening of his life at Shalom experiencing peace in the Lord and spreading it all around.

Bishop Maxwell was a priest for 66 years and a bishop for 38 years. Our beloved Bishop Maxwell Valentine Noronha went to his eternal abode on 28 January 2018 at 11:20pm at Nirmala Hospital. His body was interred at the side altar of Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut on 30 January 2018 at 3:30pm after the Eucharistic Celebration and funeral rites. Archbishop Joseph Kalathiparambil, Archdiocese of Verapoly, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration, Archbishop Soosa Pakiam, Archdiocese of Trivandrum, preached the homily and the final rites were administered by Bishop Varghese Chakkalakkal, Diocese of Calicut. The following bishops and Archbishops were present for the funeral ceremony

1. Most Rev. Joseph Kalathiparambil, Archbishop of Verapoly
2. Most Rev. Soosa Pakiam, Archbishop of Trivandrum
3. Most Rev. Alex Vadakumthala, Bishop of Kannur
4. Most Rev. Antonysamy Peter Abir, Bishop of Sultanpet

5. Most Rev. Joseph Karikassery, Bishop of Kottapuram
6. Most Rev. Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop of Thamarassery
7. Most Rev. Jose Porunnedom, Bishop of Mananthavady
8. Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas, Bishop of Sulthanbathery
9. Most Rev. Francis Kallarackal, Bishop Emeritus of Verapoly
10. Most Rev. George Valiyamattam, Bishop Emeritus of Thalassery
11. Most Rev. Jacob Thoomkuzhy, Bishop Emeritus of Thrissur

Bishop Maxwell was a happy and contented person and no complaint escaped his lips in good time or bad time, or in health or illness. He accepted all the events of his life both pleasant and unpleasant as ordained by the most Loving Father and was ready to do God's will in all circumstances of his life. He "grew gracefully old" and this, because he was a person of prayer and integrity. As a Bishop, he used to spend hours at the feet of our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament, praying for the priests, religious and the people entrusted to his care and found solutions to all the problems he faced in the Diocese. As St John 17:16 reminds us that "we are not of the world, though we are in the world", is hundred percent true of Bishop Maxwell. Nothing in the world, money name and fame attracted him, except to do the will of God and find his joy and consolation in doing God's will. When he left the Bishop's house, there was no bank balance in his personal account. He gracefully acknowledged all the little services done to him by mailing a 'Thank you' card. Cardinal Newman defined gentleman as the "one who never inflicts pain on others" is true of Bishop Maxwell and he was a gentleman in thought, word and deed. May he have the joy of seeing God face to face without delay!

Besides these personal qualities, he did great service for the Diocese of Calicut which extended from Shornur to Kasaragod. Some of the new establishments during Bishop Maxwell's time are as follows.

1. Navajyothis Renewal Centre
2. Shalom retired Priests Home
3. Tejas Communication Centre
4. Churches at Mavoor, Badagara, Poomala, Moothedam, Thrikalangode, Thenkara, Mavunkal, Pilathara, Keezhpally, Payyanur, Valathode, etc.,
5. Parish halls at Mattool North, Seminarian's Villa cum hall- Vythiri, kanakapally, Marikunnu, Ezhimala.
6. Primary School buildings at Karanthur, Azhikode, Nileshtar, Vengapally, Chalil, Marikunnu
7. Shopping Complexes at Perinthalmanna, Badagara, Malappuram, Iritty, Thaliparamba etc.,

MESSAGE FROM THE HOLY FATHER POPE FRANCIS ON THE DEMISE OF BISHOP MAXWELL V. NORONHA

The Right Reverend Varghese Chakkalakal Bishop of Calicut

His Holiness Pope Francis was saddened to learn of the death of the Right Reverend Maxwell Valentine Noronha, Bishop Emeritus of Calicut, and he sends his prayerful condolences to you and to the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Calicut. The Holy Father gives thanks for the late Bishop's long years of devoted priestly and Episcopal service, and he commends his soul to the tender mercy of Almighty God. To all those present for the Mass of Christian Burial, His Holiness imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and peace in the Risen Christ.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin,
Secretary of State

Ash Wednesday

This year, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lent will fall on 14th February. I wish all of you a fruitful lent.

My Episcopal Ordination Anniversary and Birthday

I thank all of you for remembering in your prayers on the occasion of the anniversary of my Episcopal ordination and birthday on 7 February 2018.

Pre Cana

A Pre Cana Conference will be held from 21 to 24 February, 2018 at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam

Month's Mind Mass of Bishop Maxwell V. Noronha

The month's mind mass of Bishop Maxwell V. Noronha will be on 3 March 2018 at 10 am in Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut. After the Mass there will be a Condolence Meeting.

New Appointments

Rev. Fr Willam Rajan is appointed as the Parish Priest of St Thomas Aquinas Church, Thenhipalam with effect from 31 December 2017.

Rev. Fr Alphonse Lucious OFM Cap. is appointed as the Parish Priest of St Antony's Church, Rippon with effect from 28 January 2018.

Birthdays

February	02	Fr Varghese Alukal
	02	Fr Aneesh P. M.
	07	Most Rev. Dr Varghese Chakkalakkal
	13	Fr Sebastian Kanjirathingal
	20	Fr Paul Puthenpurakal
	27	Fr John Geolin
	28	Fr Antony M.H.

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".

Seminarian's Formation Fund

1.	Mr S. J. Joe, St Patrick's Church Kallai	: 5,000.00
2.	St. Sebastian's Church, Kappenkolly	: 20,000.00
3.	Mr Nithin Mathew, Kannur	: 75,000.00

Total : 100,000.00

BISHOP'S DIARY - FEBRUARY 2018

Feb 1-9		: CCBI Meeting, St John's Bangalore
Feb 10	9:30am	: PMOC, Religious Symposium, Marikunnu
	11:00am	: SRC, Inauguration of Theology Course, Malaparamba
	5:00pm	: 225 Years Jubilee, St Joseph's Boys' HSS, Calicut
Feb 11	10:30am	: Feast Mass, Lourdu Matha Shrine, Pallikunnu
Feb 12	6:30pm	: Holy Mass, Anugraha Novitiate House, Malaparamba
Feb 13	5:30pm	: Feast Mass, St Peter's Church, Chalil
Feb 14	7:00am	: Ash Wednesday, Mass at Cathedral
Feb 15	4:30pm	: Feast Mass, Our Lady of Miracles Church, Milagres, Mangalore
Feb 16	9:00am	: Social Workers Meeting, S.H. Provincial House, Marikunnu
Feb 17	10:00am	: Blessing of Retreat House, Holy Spirit Fathers, Pulpally
	5:00pm	: Annual Day, RCHSS, Chundale
Feb 18	10:00am	: Feast Mass, St Patrick's Church, Kallai
Feb 19		: Engaged
Feb 20-22		: State Conference of Diocesan Clergy, Alpha Centre, Edakochi
Feb 23	5:00pm	: Anniversary, St Joseph's EMS, Marikunnu
Feb 25	6:30pm	: Ecumenical Bible Convention, Karimba, Mannarkad
Feb 27	5:00pm	: St Aloysius EMS, Karanthur
Feb 28	5:30pm	: St Joseph's L.P. School, Kannur Road, Calicut