



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



CIRCULAR NO 7/2018 JULY

POPE FRANCIS: THE KINGDOM OF GOD GROWS MYSTERIOUSLY

(Homily of Pope Francis at Casa Santa Marta on 17 June 2018: Accessed on 19/06/2018
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-06/pope-francis-angelus-mustard-seed-kingdom-of-god.html>)

On Sunday, before thousands gathered in St Peter's Square, Pope Francis explains the two parables about the Kingdom of God from the Gospel of the day before the recitation of the Angelus. Pope Francis reflected on the two parables regarding the “Kingdom of God and its dynamic growth” from the Sunday Gospel (Mark 4:26-34).

The Kingdom grows by its own power

Jesus uses the first parable (Mark 26-29) to compare the Kingdom of God to “the mysterious growth of a seed” which is sown, sprouts, grows and produces grain “independent of the care of the farmer”, the Pope said. The message is that the kingdom of God has “erupted on the field of the world”, through Jesus’ preaching and action. The Kingdom grows and develops not as a work of human labour but “of its own power, and according to criteria that are humanly speaking indecipherable.... [It] is above all an expression of the power and the goodness of God”, Pope Francis said.

The Kingdom grows mysteriously

When human history seems to develop contrary to the will of God, the Pope said that “we are called to live this period as a season of trial, of hope and in vigilant waiting for the harvest”. The Kingdom grows mysteriously; its power is hidden in a small seed that is filled with “victorious vitality”. When times are dark, we need to trust in “God’s quiet but powerful action,” and “remain anchored in God’s faithfulness, in his presence which always saves”, he said.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed

The meaning of this parable is “the logic God’s unpredictability” which is not easy for us to accept. Jesus invites us to a faith that exceeds calculation and forecasts. “It is an invitation to open ourselves with greater generosity to God’s plans over our own personal ... plans”. The Lord offers

us occasions “to be involved in his dynamics of love, of welcoming, and of mercy toward all”. It is up to us to be aware of those opportunities.

The Pope concluded his reflection saying that “courageously moving forward in trust and humble abandonment in God” is the means by which we can judge the “authenticity of the mission of the Church”. Placing ourselves in God’s hands, aware of “being small and weak instruments”, we can accomplish great works” and allow “his Kingdom —a kingdom of justice, peace and joy in the Spirit—to progress”.

FEAST OF ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

We celebrate the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola on July 31, 2018. On this joyous occasion, I gratefully remember the priceless contribution of this Saint and the Society of Jesus for their missionary activities in the world especially in our Diocese. I wish and pray that our Lord may shower His abundant blessings on Very Rev. Fr M. K. George S. J., the Provincial of Kerala Jesuit Province and all the Jesuits working in the diocese of Calicut.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

We Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on July 16. The celebration of the feast proclaims the love that the Blessed Virgin Mary has to those who are devoted to her, and who signal that devotion by wearing the Brown Scapular. I wish a very happy Feast to all the Carmelite Fathers and Sisters who are working in the Diocese.

FEAST OF ST JOHN MARIA VIANNEY

We are celebrating the feast of St John Maria Vianney on August 04, 2018. Let us ask the prayers and intercession of St John Maria Vianney so that we may follow his example of simplicity of spirit and total commitment to the mission entrusted to us by the Lord, the Supreme Pastor of souls. Wish you all a very happy feast.

PRIESTS' ANNUAL RETREAT

As it was made known to you earlier the Annual Retreat for our priests, both diocesan and religious priests working in the diocese, will be from Sunday, 29 July 2018 to Friday 03 August 2018 at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam.

DEACONS

Bros. Nobin Ramachankuzhi and Sojan Alackal of the Congregation of the Messengers of Mary Immaculate will be ordained to the order of Diaconate on July 09, 2018 at 10:30am in Holy Redeemer Church, Marikkunnu. Congratulations and prayerful wishes to Deacons.

NEW SEMINARIANS

We are grateful to God for having given us eleven young men to our St Paul's minor seminary, Marikunnu.

1. Antony Keezhath (Bibin) - St Joseph's Church, Meppadi.
2. Devassia (Jomon) - St George Church, Thrikaipetta.
3. Ebin Antony - St Catherine's Forane Church, Payyampally.
4. Immanuval M.M. - Holy Cross Church, Poomala, Sulthan Bathery.
5. Joel Maxim - Lourdu Matha Church, Pallikkunnu.
6. John Prabeesh - Holy Cross Church, Poomala, Sulthan Bathery.
7. Paulose (Justin) - St Sebastian's Church, Kappenkolly.
8. Preeth Saj Stephan - St Joseph's Church, Meppadi.
9. Aron V.R. - St Sebastian's Church, Pallithode
10. Gagul P. B. - St Sebastian's Church, Pallithode
11. Paulson (Rinto)- St Jude's Church, Mukkali (Diocese of Sultanpet)

BIRTHDAYS - JULY 2018

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| 13 | : Rev. Fr Vincent Pulickal |
| 17 | : Rev. Fr Vincent Kunnappilly, OSB |
| 30 | : Rev. Fr Joseph Valander |
| 31 | : Rev. Fr Lal Philip |

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**"

SEMINARY FORMATION FUND

Rev Fr Tom Arackal.....Rs **30,000.00**

BISHOP'S DIARY – July 2018

July 01	09:00am	: Confirmation, Lourdu Matha Church, Perinthalmanna
July 02		: Trivandrum
July 08		: Annual Day Vincent De Paul
July 09	10:30am	: Diaconate, Holy Redeemer Church, Marikunnu
July 11		: Ernakulam
July 12		: KRLCBC, Alpha Centre, Kochi
July 13-15		: KRLCC, Alpha Centre, Kochi
July 16	06:45am	: Feast Mass, Carmel Hill Convent, Malaparamba
July 21-22		: Visit of Rainer Maria Cardinal Woelki, Archdiocese of Cologne
July 24	10:30am	: Meeting of Social Service Members, Bishop's House
	06:00pm	: Feast Mass, Bridgettine Convent, Marikunnu
July 25 - 26		: Episcopal Meeting, Carmelgiri Seminary, Aluva
July 27		: Engaged
July 28		: Engaged
July 29 – August 03		: Priests' Annual Retreat, Navajyothis, Eranhipalam