



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



## CIRCULAR NO 12/2019 DECEMBER

### ‘TODAY THE CHURCH PRAISES “LITTLENESS”

(From the mass at Casa Santa Marta, 03 December 2019, taken from

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta/2019-12/pope-at-mass-today-the-church-praises-littleness.html>, accessed on 15/12/2019)

The Spirit of God can only germinate in a humble heart, Pope Francis says in his homily at the daily Mass. The Holy Father says that God’s revelation always begins with “littleness”, implying trust in God rather than being closed in oneself.

In his homily at the daily Mass in Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis said the day’s liturgy “speaks about little things; we could say that today is the day of littleness”. The first Reading, taken from the book of the Prophet Isaiah begins with the announcement, “On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him...” “The Word of God sings the praises of what is small”, the Pope said, “and makes a promise: the promise of a shoot that will sprout. And what is smaller than a sprout?” And yet “the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him”. Pope Francis explained:

*Redemption, revelation, the presence of God in the world begins like this, and is always like this. The revelation of God is made in smallness. Smallness, both humility and so many other things, but in smallness. The great seem powerful – let us think of Jesus in the desert, [and] how Satan appears powerful, the master of the whole world: “I will give you everything, if you...” The things of God, on the other hand, begin by sprouting, from a seed, little things. And Jesus speaks about this smallness in the Gospel.*

### **Make yourself small so that the Kingdom of God might sprout**

Jesus rejoices and thanks the Father because He has made known His revelation to the little ones, rather than to the mighty. Pope Francis noted that at Christmas, “We will all go to the Nativity scene, where the littleness of God” is present. And he said forcefully:

In a Christian community where the faithful, the priests, the bishops do not take this path of littleness, there is no future, it will collapse. We have seen it in the great projects of history: Christians who seek to impose themselves, with force, with greatness, the conquests... But the Kingdom of God sprouts in the small thing, always in what is small, the small seed, the seed of life. But the seed by itself can do [nothing]. And there is another reality that helps and that gives strength: “On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.”

### **The Spirit cannot enter into a proud heart**

“The Spirit chooses the small, always,” the Pope said, “because He cannot enter into the great, the proud, the self-sufficient”. The Lord reveals Himself to hearts that are small. Pope Francis gave

the example of those who study religion, saying that true theology does not mean simply knowing a lot of facts; people like that, he said, could be called “encyclopedists” of theology: “They know everything, but they are incapable of doing theology because theology is done ‘on one’s knees’, making ourselves small”.

Similarly, the Pope said that a pastor, “whether he be a priest, bishop, pope, cardinal, whoever he might be, if he does not make himself small, is not a [true] pastor”, but rather an office manager. This is true of everyone, he said, “from those who have a function that seems more important within the Church, to the poor old lady who performs works of charity in secret”.

### **Christian smallness does not mean being fainthearted**

Pope Francis then anticipates an objection that might be made: that “littleness” might lead to faintheartedness – that is, being closed in oneself – or to fear. On the contrary, he said, “littleness is great”, precisely because it is not afraid to take risks, since it “has nothing to lose”. He explained that “littleness” leads to magnanimity, because it allows us to go beyond ourselves, knowing that God is the reason for greatness.

The Pope then turned to St Thomas Aquinas, who, in the Summa, explains how Christians, though they recognize their own littleness, must behave in the face of the challenges of the world, so as not to live as cowards. He summarizes St Thomas as saying, “Don’t be afraid of great things” – and notes that the Saint of the Day, St Francis Xavier, shows us the same thing. “Don’t be afraid, go forward; but at the same time, take into account the smallest things, this is divine”. A Christian always starts from smallness. If in my prayer I feel that I am small, with my limits, my sins, like that publican who prayed at the back of the Church, ashamed, [saying] “Have mercy on me, a sinner”, you will go forward. But if you believe that you are a good Christian, you will pray like that Pharisee who did not go forth justified: “I give you thanks, O God, because I am great”. No, we thank God because we are small.

### **The concreteness of children’s confessions**

Pope Francis concluded his homily by saying how much he likes to hear the confessions, especially those of children. Their confessions, he said, are very beautiful, because they talk about concrete facts. So, for example, a child might confess, “I said this word” – and then repeat it for you. The Pope described this as “the concreteness of that which is small”. This can be an example of how we should approach God: “Lord I am a sinner because I have done this, this, this, this... This is my misery, my littleness. But send your Spirit so that I might not be afraid of great things, not be afraid of you doing great things in my life”.

### **Priests’ Christmas gathering**

Dear Reverend Fathers, I am extremely happy to inform you that our Christmas gathering of 2019 begins at 10.00am on Monday, 23 December in Navajyothis Renewal Centre, and ends with lunch. Kindly note this program in your personal diaries.

### **Religious sisters’ Christmas gathering**

Dear Reverend Sisters, I am extremely happy to inform you that our Christmas gathering of 2019 will be on Saturday, 21 December in Cathedral hall at 10.00am. Kindly note this program in your personal diaries.

### **Ecumenical Christmas Gathering of Calicut**

The Ecumenical Christmas celebration of Calicut will be held at St. Joseph’s Church ground on **22 December 2019 at 5.30pm**. Please participate and make this event a celebration of Joy with other fellow Christians.

## **Second Death Anniversary of Late Bishop Maxwell Valentine Noronha**

Tuesday 28 January 2020 is the second death anniversary of Bishop Maxwell Valentine Noronha. We will have the Requiem mass at 5.00pm in Mother of God Cathedral. Kindly note this program in your personal diaries and avoid taking up other programs on that day.

## **On Going formation and Senior priests get together**

The Diocesan Clergy Commission gladly informs you about the forth coming events in the year 2020. Kindly note:

- I. A get together of Senior Priests who completed 25 years of priesthood at Sacred Heart Church, Kalpetta on **Thursday 16 and Friday 17 January.**
- II. Ongoing Formation: All the priests of the Diocese will have three days ongoing formation. Kindly note the dates in your diary: March 10 (Tuesday), March 11 (Wednesday), March 12 (Thursday). Resource Person: Rev. Dr Shanthi Chacko PIME

## **New Lectionaries in English**

Conference of Catholic bishops of India (CCBI) has approved the new translation of the English lectionaries which are published by CCBI in collaboration with ATC in three volumes. It is mandatory to use these newly translated lectionaries from the beginning of Lent 2020 in all our parishes, convents and institutions where Holy Mass is celebrated in English. The lectionaries are available for a pre-publication offer if order is given before 30 December 2019. You may contact the Bishops House for further details.

Product	Cover price	Pre-publication offer	Postal charges per set/copy
Lectionary (3 volumes)	7500	5000	500
Book of the Gospels	2000	1700	100
Celebration of Marriage	300	250	100
Order of Confirmation	250	200	100

## **Collections**

Community Day	08 December 2019	To be sent to KRLCC
Bible Sunday	29 December 2019	To be sent to KCBC Bible Commission
Communio India	December	To be sent CCBI

Please remit the mission Sunday Collection to the Curia before 15 December 2019.

<b>Deepalayam School of Visually impaired</b>	
Mr Frijo T.V., Beypore	2,000.00
<b>Seminarians formation fund</b>	
Christ the King Church, Malaparamba	25,000.00
Mrs Lisy Alessu, Rose, and Bijoy, Mukkam	20,000.00
Fr A.D. Mathew	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,000.00</b>

## Birthdays - December

19 Fr Sajeev Varghese

24 Fr Sunil Pereira

27 Fr Reni Francis Rodrigues

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"***

## BISHOP'S DIARY DECEMBER 2019

Dec. 1, Sunday	5.00pm	St Francis Xavier Church, Ponekkara, Ernakulam
Dec. 2, Monday	10.00am	Months mind mass of Sr Sr Gianangela Carrara, Vythiri
	4.45pm	Convention Mass, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kannur
Dec. 3-6		KCBC, POC, Palarivattam
Dec. 7, Saturday	10.30am	Visit to Sub jail, Calicut
	5.30pm	Feast Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Church, Andoor
Dec. 8, Sunday	10.15am	Immaculate Conception Church, Mananthavady
	4.30pm	Blessing of chapel, Thalapuzha
Dec. 9, Monday	10.30am	Jubilee Mass, Venerini Sisters, Cheruvannur
	6.00pm	Feast Mass, Nirmala Hospital, Marikunnu
Dec. 10, Tuesday	3.30pm	Governing body meeting, St Xavier's college, Eranhipalam
	5.00pm	Townhall
Dec. 11, Wednesday	10.30am	Governing body meeting, Jeevana
Dec. 12, Thursday	4.00pm	Funeral of Sr Wilma UMI, Marikunnu
Dec.13, Friday	10.00am	H.Ms Meeting, Bishop's House
	7.00pm	Christmas gathering, YMCA, Pulpally
Dec. 14, Saturday	11.00am	Home of love, Calicut
Dec.15, Sunday	10.30am	Feast Mass, St Andrew's Church, Beypore
	6.00pm	Mala
Dec. 16, Monday		Engaged
Dec. 17, Tuesday		Bishops House
Dec. 18, Wednesday		Engaged
Dec. 19, Thursday		Bishop's House
Dec. 20, Friday	8.30am	Devagiri Public School
	10.30am	St Xavier's College, Eranhipalam
Dec. 21, Saturday	8.30am	Christmas Celebration, AJINORAH, Nalanda Auditorium
	10.00am	Christmas Gathering of Religious Sisters, Cathedral Hall, Calicut
	7.00pm	Meeting of the Seminarists, Bishop's House
Dec. 22, Sunday	8.30am	Confirmation, St Xavier's Church, Peruvayal
	5.00pm	Ecumenical Christmas Gathering, St Joseph's Church ground, Calicut
Dec. 23, Monday	10.00am	Christmas Gathering of Priests, Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Calicut
Dec. 24, Tuesday		Bishop's House
	11.45pm	Vigil Mass, Cathedral, Calicut
Dec. 25, Wednesday		Christmas
Dec. 26, Thursday	10.30am	Engagement, Holy Redeemer Church, Marikunnu
Dec. 27, Friday		Engaged
Dec. 28, Saturday	10.00am	Vallarpadam Church, Ernakulam
	11.00am	Jubilee Mass of Fr Tommy Rodrigues, Infant Jesus Church, Ernakulam
Dec. 29, Sunday		Ernakulam
Dec. 30, Monday		Marriage, Thrissur
Dec. 31, Tuesday		Engaged