



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



CIRCULAR NO 08/2023 AUGUST

HOMILY OF POPE FRANCIS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

In union with the whole Church, we celebrate the Assumption of Our Lady, body and soul, into the glory of heaven. Mary’s Assumption shows us our own destiny as God’s adoptive children and members of the body of Christ. Like Mary our Mother, we are called to share fully in the Lord’s victory over sin and death, and to reign with him in his eternal Kingdom. This is our vocation.

The “great sign” presented in today’s first reading invites us to contemplate Mary enthroned in glory beside her divine Son. It also invites us to acknowledge the future which even now the Risen Lord is opening before us. Koreans traditionally celebrate this feast in the light of their historical experience, seeing the loving intercession of Our Lady at work in the history of the nation and the lives of its people.

In the second reading, we heard Saint Paul tell us that Christ is the new Adam, whose obedience to the Father’s will has overturned the reign of sin and bondage and inaugurated the reign of life and freedom (cf. 1 Cor 15:24-25). True freedom is found in our loving embrace of the Father’s will. From Mary, full of grace, we learn that Christian freedom is more than liberation from sin. It is freedom for a new, spiritual way of seeing earthly realities. It is the freedom to love God and our brothers and sisters with a pure heart, and to live a life of joyful hope for the coming of Christ’s Kingdom.

Today, in venerating Mary, Queen of Heaven, we also turn to her as Mother of the Church in Korea. We ask her to help us to be faithful to the royal freedom we received on the day of our Baptism, to guide our efforts to transform the world in accordance with God’s plan, and to enable the Church in this country to be ever more fully a leaven of his Kingdom in the midst of Korean society. May the Christians of this nation be a generous force for spiritual renewal at every level of society. May they combat the allure of a materialism that stifles authentic spiritual and cultural values and the spirit of unbridled competition which generates selfishness and strife. May they also reject inhumane economic models which create new forms of poverty and marginalize workers, and the culture of death which devalues the image of God, the God of life, and violates the dignity of every man, woman and child.

As Korean Catholics, heirs to a noble tradition, you are called to cherish this legacy and transmit it to future generations. This will demand of everyone a renewed conversion to the word of God and a passionate concern for the poor, the needy and the vulnerable in our midst.

In celebrating this feast, we join the Church throughout the world in looking to **Mary as our Mother of Hope**. Her song of praise reminds us that God never forgets his promise of mercy (cf. Lk 1:54-55). Mary is the one who is blessed because “she believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord” (Lk 1:45). In her, all God’s promises have been proved trustworthy. Enthroned in glory, she shows us that our hope is real; even now it reaches as “a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (Heb 6:19) to where Jesus is seated in glory.

This hope, dear brothers and sisters, the hope held out by the Gospel, is the antidote to the spirit of despair that seems to grow like a cancer in societies which are outwardly affluent, yet often experience inner sadness and emptiness. Upon how many of our young has this despair taken its toll! May they, the young who surround us in these days with their joy and confidence, never be robbed of their hope!

Let us turn to Our Lady and implore the grace to rejoice in the freedom of the children of God, to use that freedom wisely in the service of our brothers and sisters, and to live and work as signs of the hope which will find its fulfilment in that eternal Kingdom where to reign is to serve. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

Please pray for all our priests who are celebrating their Patron’s Day on 04th August, feast of St John Mary Vianney. St John Mary Vianney was a man of prayer, reconciliation, compassion and availability.

EDUCATION DAY CELEBRATION

Diocesan "Education Day Celebration" and "Distribution of Scholarship" will be held on 12th August, 2023 at Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut. All those who are selected for the Scholarship are requested to come. The celebration will start at 10.30am.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Rev. Fr Clarkson Xavier**, is appointed as the acting Parish Priest of Little Flower Church, Mavoor.
- **Rev. Fr Jeesmon Sebastian Padamattummal PMI** is appointed as the Priest in charge of Arokhya Matha Church, Munderi.

RETREAT

As it was informed earlier, the retreat for our priests, both Diocesan and Religious working in the diocese, will start on August 20, 2023 at 08.00 p.m. and will end on August 25, 2023 by lunch. Rev. Fr Vincent Variath, Director of Ashirbhavan, Archdiocese of Verapoly, will preach the retreat. The retreat will be conducted at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam, Calicut. **The retreat is obligatory for the diocesan Priests. Please try to stay at NRC and attend all the programmes of the retreat. You may arrange a priest to Celebrate Mass or inform the parishioners that there will not be Masses on those days. People will understand and appreciate well that our priests are serious about their retreat.** Please pray for the success of the Retreat.

Honoring Mr. C. J. Robin, former Mayor of Calicut and pride of Calicut Diocese

Mr. C. J. Robin, former Mayor of Calicut Corporation and the pride of our Diocese is celebrating 90 years of life. As we thank God for such a wonderful person from our community, we come together to wish him God's abundant blessings. On behalf of the entire Diocese, we shall honour him for all his valuable contributions to the society and also to the Diocese of Calicut. The honouring program is arranged on 25th August Friday, the final day of Priests' Retreat, at Navjyotis Renewal Central at 11.30 am. All the priests, two sisters from Calicut Forane convents, all provincials, all members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the representatives of various associations are cordially invited to participate in the program.

CONGRATULATIONS - LIBRARY BLOCK

Providence College and St Xavier's College have constructed a well-equipped and beautiful library block. I congratulate the Apostolic Carmel Provincial Superior, Principal and Manager of the Providence College. I also congratulate Rev. Fr Paul A.J., the Manager, Rev. Fr Johnson K.S., the Vice Principal and Mr. Varghese the Principal for the marvelous work. The Library Block was blessed on 10th and 11th of July 2023 respectively by our Bishop.

THANKS

In fulfilment of 100 Years of Grace, Diocese of Calicut launched NAVADARSAN COUNSELLING CENTRE at our Pastoral Center, City St Joseph's Church, Calicut. I congratulate Rev. Fr Jiju Palliparambil, the Director of Family Apostolate, and his team for the realization of the dream. Counselling Centre was blessed on 30th July, 2023 by the Bishop.

SEMINARIANS' FORMATION FUND

1. Mr Binu, Calicut - Rs 5,000/-

DEEPALAYAM SCHOOL OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED

1. Solomon David, Thenhipalam - Rs 10000/-

BIRTHDAYS – AUGUST 2023

Diocesan Priests

- 01 : Rev. Fr Tom Arackal
10 : Rev. Fr Clarkson Xavier
12 : Rev. Fr Joseph Anil
15 : Rev. Fr Aloysius Kulangara
31 : Rev. Fr Sanal Lawrence D' Souza

Religious Priests

- 02 : Rev. Fr Sibi Vattapara OSB
03 : Rev. Fr Joseph Jose Kadankavil SJ
13 : Rev. Fr Benoy Lean, OFM Cap
23 : Rev. Fr Shajan Valiaparambil OSB
27 : Rev. Fr Mani Manimala SJ

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 – AUGUST 2023

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| August 1-4 | | : Meeting people. |
| August 3 | 05.00pm | : Vianney day celebration, Navajyothis Renewal Centre. |
| August 5 | 10.30am | : Meeting, POC. |
| August 7-11 | | : Retreat for Priests of Irinjalakuda Diocese. |
| August 12 | 10.30am | : Education Day, Cathedral Hall. |
| August 13 | | : Engagement. |
| August 15 | | : St Antony's Jenmadhinam Mallapallipuram. |
| August 16 | 02.30pm | : Providence B.Ed College, Malaparamba. |
| August 17 | | : Pallikunnu. |
| August 18 | | : Meeting people. |
| August 19 | 06.00pm | : Eudes Convent Convent, West Hill. |
| August 20 | 04.00pm | : Inauguration and Blessing of St Paul Book and Art Centre, Marikunnu |
| August 20-25 | | : Priests Retreat of Calicut Diocese. |
| August 27 | 11.00am | : Marriage, Thoppumpady. |
| August 30 | | : KRLCBC Carmelgiri, Alwaye. |
| August 31 | | : Mangalore, Seminary Board Meeting. |

Fr Nidhin Antony Baruva
Secretary to the Bishop