



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



## CIRCULAR NO 11/2018 NOVEMBER

### ‘WHO IS JESUS CHRIST FOR YOU’

(From the homily of Pope Francis during the Mass at Casa Santa Marta on Friday 25 October 2018, taken from <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta/2018-10/pope-francis-homily-daily-mass-knowing-jesus.html>, accessed on 30/09/2018)

At the morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis spoke about the importance of recognizing that we are sinners, and knowing the love of Jesus Christ.

**Who is Jesus Christ for you?** Pope Francis posed this question in his homily during the morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta. If someone asks us the question, “Who is Jesus Christ?”, we should say what we have learned: He is the Saviour of the world, the Son of the Father, which “we recite in the Creed.” But, the Pope said, it is a little more difficult to answer the question of **who Jesus Christ is “for me.”** It is a question that can embarrass us a little bit, because in order to answer that question, **“I have to dig into my heart”**; that is, we have to begin from our own experience.

### **Chosen through love, though a sinner**

Saint Paul experienced precisely this uneasiness in bearing witness to Jesus Christ. He knew Jesus through his own experience of being thrown down from his horse, when the Lord spoke to his heart. He didn’t begin to know Christ by studying theology, even if later he “went to see how Jesus was proclaimed in Scripture.”

Paul wants Christians to feel what he himself felt. [In response] to the question that we can put to Paul – **“Paul, who is Christ for you?”** – he spoke simply about his own experience: **“He loved me, and gave Himself for me.”** But he was involved with Christ who paid for him. And Paul wants every Christian – in this case, the Christians of Ephesus – to have this experience, to enter into this experience, to the point that each one can say, “He loved me, and gave Himself for me,” but to say it from their own personal experience.

Reciting the Creed can help us to know about Jesus, Pope Francis said. But **in order to really know Him, as St Paul came to know Him, it is better to begin by acknowledging that we are sinners.** This, the Pope said, is the first step. When Paul says that Jesus gave Himself for him, he is saying that He paid for him, and this comes out in all of his letters. And the first definition Paul gives of himself follows from this: He says he is “a sinner,” he admits that he persecuted Christians. He begins precisely by recognizing that he was “chosen through love, although he is a sinner.”

“The first step in knowing Christ,” Pope Francis emphasized, lies precisely in recognizing that we are sinners. He said that in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we confess our sins – but, he noted, “it is one thing to tell our sins,” and another to recognize ourselves as sinners, capable of doing anything.” St Paul “had this experience of his own wretchedness,” and recognized that he needed to be redeemed, recognized that he needed someone who “would pay for his right to call himself a ‘son of God’”: “We are all sinners, but to say it, to feel it, we need the sacrifice of Christ.”

### Knowing Jesus, not just being “Christians of words”

But in order to know Jesus, there is also a second step: we get to know Him through contemplation and prayer. The Pope recalled a “a beautiful prayer, from a saint: ‘Lord, let me know You, and know myself.’” We should not content ourselves “with saying three or four good things about Jesus,” he continued, because knowing Jesus “is an adventure, but a serious adventure, not an adventure of a child,” because the love of Jesus is without limits.

Paul says that He “is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine.” He has the power to do it. But we have to ask Him: “Lord, let me know you; so that when I talk about you, I am not repeating words like a parrot, [but rather] I am saying words born from my own experience. So that like Paul I can say: ‘He loved me, and gave Himself for me’ – and say it with conviction.” This is our strength, this is our witness. Christians of words, we have many words; we too, so many [words]. And this is not sanctity. Sanctity is being Christians who work in life that which Jesus has taught and what Jesus has sown in our hearts.

In conclusion, Pope Francis repeated the two steps we need to take to really know Jesus Christ: The first step is knowing oneself: [that we are] sinners. Without this understanding, and without this interior confession – that I am a sinner – we cannot go forward. The second step is to pray to the Lord, who with His power makes us know this mystery of Jesus, which is the fire that He has brought upon the earth. It would be a good habit if every day, in every moment, we could say, “Lord, let me know You, and know myself.”

### Plenary & Partial indulgence in the month of November

(Concession 29, Enchiridion Indulgentiarum: Normae et Concessiones, 1999 edition)

§1 A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful who,

1° on any and each day from November 1 to 8, devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the departed;

2° on All Souls’ Day (or, according to the judgment of the ordinary, on the Sunday preceding or following it, or on the solemnity of All Saints), devoutly visit a church or an oratory and recite an Our Father and the Creed.

§2 A partial indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful who

1° devoutly visit a cemetery and at least mentally pray for the dead;

2° devoutly recite lauds or vespers from the Office of the Dead or the prayer Eternal

## Feast of St Francis Xavier

The Solemnity of St. Francis Xavier, the Patron of our Diocese is on 3rd December which is to be celebrated as a Solemnity in all our parishes, institutions and Convents. The diocesan celebration will be in Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut.

## Appointments

•Rev. Fr Stalon Stellas OFM Cap. is appointed as the Parish priest of Sacred Heart Church, Payyoli.

## Birthdays

<b>November</b>	01	Rev. Fr Kuriakose Chennelil, la salette
	11	Rev. Fr John Vettimalayil
	16	Rev. Fr Shanu Fernandas
	20	Rev. Fr Fredin R.J.
	25	Rev. Fr Alfred Vadakethundil
	30	Rev. Fr Leo Pottackal

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*"

## Deepalayam School of Visually impaired

Rev. Fr A.D. Mathew.....	Rs 2,000.00
Mr Biju Mathews.....	Rs 2,000.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 4,000.00</b>

## Seminarians formation fund

Dr Francis J. Araoan & Family, .....	Rs 5,000.00
Parents of Junior Priests (last 10 years ordained) .....	Rs 10,000.00
Rev. Fr Joseph Nicholas, West Hill .....	Rs 5,000.00
Mr Jude, Kallai .....	Rs 1,000.00
Rev. Fr A.D. Mathew.....	Rs 5,000.00
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<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 26,000.00</b>

## BISHOP'S DIARY- NOVEMBER, 2018

Nov. 1, Thursday	6.30pm	Chapel blessing. Venerini provincial house, Cheruvannur
Nov. 2, Friday	7.30am	Visit to the cemetery, Marikkunnu
	5.00pm	All Souls day, mass at cemetery, Westhill
Nov. 3, Saturday		Pastoral visit, St Sebastian's church, Vatakara
Nov. 4, Sunday		Pastoral visit, St Sebastian's church, Vatakara
Nov. 5, Monday		Bishop's house, meeting people
Nov. 6, Tuesday	10.00am	Emmaus, Kalamassery
	5.00pm	Golden jubilee, Presentation convent, Chevayur
Nov. 8, Thursday		Bishop's house, meeting people
Nov. 10, Saturday		Retreat, St Joseph's church, Calicut
Nov. 11, Sunday	5.00pm	Mass, St Joseph's church, Calicut
Nov. 12, Monday		Shalom, Peruvannamuzhi
Nov. 13, Tuesday		Malabar Bishop's meeting, Bishop's house, Kannur
Nov. 14, Wednesday		Bishop's house, meeting people
Nov. 15, Thursday	10.00am	Jeevana board meeting, Bishop's house, Malaparamba
Nov. 16, Friday		Bishop's house
Nov. 17, Saturday	5.00pm	Blessing of parish hall, St Stanislaus church, Mala
Nov. 18, Sunday	9.15am	Feast mass & Confirmation, Christ the King Church, Malaparamba
Nov. 19, Monday	11.30am	Retreat for youth, Divine Retreat Centre
Nov. 24, Saturday	6.30pm	Krishtharaja Nivas, CTC Sisters, Vellaramkunnu
Nov. 25, Sunday	8.00am	Feast mass of Christ the King, Cathedral, Calicut
Nov. 26, Monday	11.00am	Pakkom- engagement of Sonia, sister of Fr Sajeev Varghese
Nov. 27, Tuesday		Bishop's house
Nov. 28, Wednesday	11.30am	Golden & Silver Jubilee, Bethany Provincial house, Chevayur
Nov. 29, Thursday	4.00pm	Retreat, Burnacherry Cathedral, Kannur
Nov. 30, Friday		Bishop's house