



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



## CIRCULAR NO 03/2019 MARCH

### “MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2019”

(taken from [https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco\\_20181004\\_messaggio-quaresima2019.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/papa-francesco_20181004_messaggio-quaresima2019.html), accessed on 27/02/2019)

**“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God”**  
(Romans 8: 19)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Each year, through Mother Church, God “gives us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed... as we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ” (Preface of Lent I). We can thus journey from Easter to Easter towards the fulfilment of the salvation we have already received as a result of Christ’s paschal mystery – “for in hope we were saved” (Rom 8:24). This mystery of salvation, already at work in us during our earthly lives, is a dynamic process that also embraces history and all of creation. As Saint Paul says, “the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God” (Rom 8:19). In this perspective, I would like to offer a few reflections to accompany our journey of conversion this coming Lent.

#### 1. The redemption of creation

The celebration of the Paschal Triduum of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection, the culmination of the liturgical year, calls us yearly to undertake a journey of preparation, in the knowledge that our being conformed to Christ (cf. Rom 8:29) is a priceless gift of God’s mercy.

When we live as children of God, redeemed, led by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 8:14) and capable of acknowledging and obeying God’s law, beginning with the law written on our hearts and in nature, we also benefit creation by cooperating in its redemption. That is why Saint Paul says that creation eagerly longs for the revelation of the children of God; in other words, that all those who enjoy the grace of Jesus’ paschal mystery may experience its fulfilment in the redemption of the human body itself. When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of the saints in spirit, body and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the “Canticle of the Creatures” by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 87). Yet in this world, the harmony generated by redemption is constantly threatened by the negative power of sin and death.

#### 2. The destructive power of sin

Indeed, when we fail to live as children of God, we often behave in a destructive way towards our neighbors and other creatures – and ourselves as well – since we begin to think more or less consciously that we can use them as we will. Intemperance then takes the upper hand: we start to live a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself. We yield to those untrammelled desires that the Book of Wisdom sees as typical of the ungodly, those who act without thought for God or hope for the future (cf. 2:1-11). Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough”, gains the upper hand.

The root of all evil, as we know, is sin, which from its first appearance has disrupted our communion with God, with others and with creation itself, to which we are linked in a particular way by our body. This rupture of communion with God likewise undermines our harmonious relationship with the

environment in which we are called to live, so that the garden has become a wilderness (cf. Gen 3:17-18). Sin leads man to consider himself the god of creation, to see himself as its absolute master and to use it, not for the purpose willed by the Creator but for his own interests, to the detriment of other creatures.

Once God's law, the law of love, is forsaken, then the law of the strong over the weak takes over. The sin that lurks in the human heart (cf. Mk 7:20-23) takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. It leads to the exploitation of creation, both persons and the environment, due to that insatiable covetousness which sees every desire as a right and sooner or later destroys all those in its grip.

### **3. The healing power of repentance and forgiveness**

Creation urgently needs the revelation of the children of God, who have been made "a new creation". For "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). Indeed, by virtue of their being revealed, creation itself can celebrate a Pasch, opening itself to a new heaven and a new earth (cf. Rev 21:1). The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery.

This "eager longing", this expectation of all creation, will be fulfilled in the revelation of the children of God, that is, when Christians and all people enter decisively into the "travail" that conversion entails. All creation is called, with us, to go forth "from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Lent is a sacramental sign of this conversion. It invites Christians to embody the paschal mystery more deeply and concretely in their personal, family and social lives, above all by fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

Fasting, that is, learning to change our attitude towards others and all of creation, turning away from the temptation to "devour" everything to satisfy our voracity and being ready to suffer for love, which can fill the emptiness of our hearts. Prayer, which teaches us to abandon idolatry and the self-sufficiency of our ego, and to acknowledge our need of the Lord and his mercy. Almsgiving, whereby we escape from the insanity of hoarding everything for ourselves in the illusory belief that we can secure a future that does not belong to us. And thus, to rediscover the joy of God's plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.

Dear brothers and sisters, the "lenten" period of forty days spent by the Son of God in the desert of creation had the goal of making it once more that garden of communion with God that it was before original sin (cf. Mk 1:12-13; Is 51:3). May our Lent this year be a journey along that same path, bringing the hope of Christ also to creation, so that it may be "set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom 8:21). Let us not allow this season of grace to pass in vain! Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus' Pasch. Let us stand beside our brothers and sisters in need, sharing our spiritual and material goods with them. In this way, by concretely welcoming Christ's victory over sin and death into our lives, we will also radiate its transforming power to all of creation.

From the Vatican, 4 October 2018, Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

### **Unum Presbyterium and Chrism Mass:**

In preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Triduum, we will have a day of recollection and Chrism Mass on **15 April 2019** at **10:00am** in Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam. The Chrism Mass will be at 4pm in the Cathedral. I invite ALL the priests both Diocesan and Religious in the diocese to take part in the recollection and Chrism Mass. Kindly inform our lay faithful about the Chrism Mass and ensure the participation of as many people as possible.

## Ordination to Priesthood

**Deacons Clarkeson Xavier and Rijoy** will be ordained to the order of priesthood on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 10:30am in Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut. I cordially invite all the priests and Religious to participate in the ordination ceremony and pray for our deacons.

## Come Let us Adore Him: 40 hours of Adoration

This year the 40 hours of adoration will begin on Friday, 5 April and will conclude on 7 April. The centers of Adoration are the following,

1. St. Joseph's Church, Calicut
2. Lourdu Matha Church, Pallikunnu
3. St. Jude's Church, Chundale
4. Lourdu Matha Church, Perinthalmanna

## Collections - Season of Lent

You are requested to make the following Church Collections during lent

Lenten Campaign	Two Sundays in Lent	Against Hunger and Disease
Good Friday	19 April 2019	Towards Holy Land

## Birthdays

March 01	Rev. Fr Urban OCD
03	Msgr Vincent Arackal
08	Rev. Fr Marceline Machiaveetil
12	Rev. Fr Alphonse Lucious OFM
18	Rev. Fr Jose Thaiparambil SJ
	Rev. Fr Thadeyoos SJ
19	Rev. Fr Anselm Pallithazhath OSB
20	Rev. Fr Danny Joseph
21	Rev. Fr Varghese Anikuzhy SJ
24	Rev. Fr Joseph Pulickathara
31	Rev. Fr Majo Jose

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	
Mrs Shoji Stephen, Chathamangalam	Rs 1000.00
Mrs Bini A.S., Chathamangalam	Rs 1000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 2000.00</b>

Seminarians Formation Fund	
Msgr Thomas Panakal	Rs 10,000.00

### BISHOP'S DIARY MARCH 2019

March 1, Friday	5.00pm	Gandhi Memorial UP School, Anjukunnu
March 2, Saturday	5.00pm	St Antony's School, Cathedral, Calicut
March 3, Sunday	4.300pm	BCC Meeting, St Joseph's Church, Calicut
March 4, Monday	10.00am	Ekastha Sangamam, St Joseph's Church, Calicut
March 5, Tuesday	11.00am	Talk- Nirmala Hospital, Marikunnu
	4.00pm	Holy Mass & Talk, DSS Provincial House, Peruvayal
March 6, Wednesday	7.00am	Ash Wednesday, Holy Mass, Mother of God Cathedral, Calicut
March 7-8		Board of Administration Meeting, St Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore
March 9, Saturday	10.30am	Trivandrum, Meeting the Nuncio
March 13, Wednesday	5.30pm	Platinum Jubilee, St Joseph's L.P. School, Kannur Road
March 15, Friday	3.30pm	Diaconate, MCBS Seminary, Thamarassery
March 16, Saturday	11.00am	Pro-Life Conference, St Joseph's Church, Calicut
	5.15pm	Feast Mass, St Joseph's Church, Pilakkavu
March 17, Sunday	10.00am	Jyothirbhavan, Kalamassery
	5.00pm	Adoration, Perumpadappu, Kochi
March 18, Monday	5.00pm	Holy Mass, Benedictine Monastery, Makkiyad
March 19, Tuesday		Feast Mass, St Joseph's Church, Calicut
March 20, Wednesday		Bishop's House
March 22, Friday	11.00am	Jeevana help distribution, St Joseph's Church, Calicut
March 26 -28		All Kerala Priests' Conference, Alleppey
March 29, Friday		Bishop's House
March 30, Saturday		Bishop's House
March 31, Sunday		Marriage, Daughter of Asokan