



DIOCESE OF CALICUT



## CIRCULAR NO 05/2019 MAY

### **FOUR KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM CHRISTUS VIVIT**

(taken from <https://osvnews.com/2019/04/02/four-takeaways-from-christus-vivit/>, accessed on 28/04/2019)

Addressed “to young people and to the entire people of God,” *Christus Vivit* (“Christ is Alive”) — the post-synodal apostolic exhortation was published on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 with nine chapters: young people in Scripture, Jesus as a youth, the experiences of young people, a great message for young people, the paths for youth, the roots of young people, youth ministry, vocation and discernment.

#### **four key takeaways from *Christus Vivit*.**

##### **Young people are rich in role models.**

Be it within Scripture or through the examples of the saints, young people have no shortage of those to whom they can look for guidance. “A wise young person is open to the future, yet still capable of learning something from the experience of others,” Pope Francis writes. First and foremost, among the examples is the young Jesus himself. “Jesus does not teach you, young people, from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you. It is very important for you to contemplate the young Jesus as presented in the Gospels, for he was truly one of you, and shares many of the features of your young hearts” (No. 31). And Jesus’ mother, Mary, “is the supreme model for a youthful Church that seeks to follow Christ with enthusiasm and docility. ... With open heart and soul, she replied, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord’ (Lk 1:38)” (No. 43). Pope Francis also highlights several young saints, including St. Sebastian, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Joan of Arc, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and others. Pope Francis reminds young people that while these are models of holiness, each young person is different and called to his or her own path to holiness.

##### **The challenges facing the youth are real. But they find their antidote in three great truths.**

Pope Francis also outlines the many challenges that are facing young people today around the world, including “violence in countless different forms,” ideological colonization, and the desires, hurts and longings prevalent in today’s world. In particular, he highlights the dangers of the “digital environment,” migration and abuse, including clergy sexual abuse. “Thank God, those who committed these horrible crimes are not the majority of priests, who carry out their ministry with fidelity and generosity,” the pope writes. “I ask young people to let themselves be inspired by this vast majority.” And he added some encouragement: “Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit and confidently aim for the great goal of holiness” (No. 107), adding: “If you are young in years, but feel weak, weary or disillusioned, ask Jesus to renew you. With him, hope never fails” (No. 109).

At the same time, Pope Francis highlights “three great truths that all of us need constantly to keep hearing”: that God loves you; that Christ sacrificed himself to save mankind; and that, echoing the title of the exhortation, “Christ is alive!” He continues: “Because he lives, there can be no doubt that goodness will have the upper hand in your life and that all our struggles will prove worthwhile. If this is the case, we can stop complaining and look to the future, for with him this is always possible” (No. 127).

### **The key to making the years of youth count is friendship with the Lord.**

Pope Francis reminds the youth that they won't know the "deepest and fullest" meaning of their early years "unless you encounter each day your best friend, the friend who is Jesus" (No. 150). "With the same love that Christ pours out on us, we can love him in turn and share his love with others, in the hope that they too will take their place in the community of friendship he established," he writes. "... Friendship with Jesus cannot be broken. He never leaves us, even though at times it appears that he keeps silent" (Nos. 153-154). To begin and maintain this friendship, Pope Francis encourages regular prayer, which he calls "both a challenge and an adventure."

"Gradually Jesus makes us appreciate his grandeur and draw nearer to him," he writes. "Prayer enables us to share with him every aspect of our lives and to rest confidently in his embrace. At the same time, it gives us a share in his own life and love" (No. 155). He also encourages young people to mature in holiness and to move forward as courageous missionaries. "You have to discover who you are and develop your own way of being holy, whatever others may say or think," he writes. "Becoming a saint means becoming more fully yourself, becoming what the Lord wished to dream and create, and not a photocopy" (No. 162).

He continued: "He invites us to be fearless missionaries wherever we are and in whatever company we find ourselves: in our neighborhoods, in school or sports or social life, in volunteer service or in the workplace. Wherever we are, we always have an opportunity to share the joy of the Gospel" (No. 177).

### **Discerning one's vocation is how young people can respond to the plan the Lord has for them.**

Pope Francis saves his final advice for the subjects of vocation and discernment. Vocation, he writes to the young people, "is a path guiding your many efforts and actions towards service to others." It is "a recognition of why I was made, why I am here on earth, and what the Lord's plan is for my life" (No. 256). To respond, we must find "our true selves in the light of God and (let) our lives flourish and bear fruit" (No. 257).

In addition to the priesthood, religious life, and participating in work, the pope writes eloquently on the call to family life, saying that our sexuality is a gift from God that allows us to love and to generate life. He acknowledges that, with divorce, separation, second unions and single-parent families, many young people are left with a bad taste in their mouth regarding marriage. But, the pope says, "it is worth your every effort to invest in the family; there you will find the best incentive to mature and the greatest joys to experience and share. Don't let yourselves be robbed of a great love. Don't let yourselves be led astray by those who propose a life of rampant individualism that in the end leads to isolation and the worst sort of loneliness" (No. 263).

When discerning a vocation, the pope suggests young people consider the following questions: Do I know myself, quite apart from my illusions and emotions? Do I know what brings joy or sorrow to my heart? What are my strengths and weaknesses? How can I serve people better and prove most helpful to our world and to the Church? What is my real place in this world? What can I offer to society? Do I have the abilities needed to offer this kind of service? Could I develop those abilities?

"In the end," he writes, "good discernment is a path of freedom that brings to full fruit what is unique in each person, something so personal that only God knows it."

## Month of May

The month of May is filled with the colorful flowers which blossom to welcome the “Queen of May”. During this month we, both in Church and in the privacy of our houses, offer to Mary loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, the benefits of God’s mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance” (ENCYCLICAL OF POPE PAUL VI, *MENSE MAIO* on prayers during May for preservation of peace, NO. 1)

## New Appointment

Rev. Fr Jenson Puthenveettil is appointed as the Vicar General of the diocese of Calicut with effect from 16.04.2019. As Vicar General he will deal with the following matters of the diocese:

1. Formation and general discipline of the clergy, formation of seminarians
2. Director of the consecrated people
3. Coordinator of diocesan ministries
4. Associate Manager of our Corporate Management of Schools
5. Pastoral care of the parishes and finances
6. Monitoring the constructions of the diocese with the Procurator of the diocese
7. Vidhyadharshan education programme.

## Priests' Annual Retreat

The Annual Retreat for our priests, both diocesan and religious priests working in the diocese, will be from Sunday, 18 August 2019 to Friday 23 August 2019 at Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam.

## Seminarians' Villa 2019

The Major Seminarians of our diocese will have the Villa holidays at Vythiri from **01 May 2019 to 15 May 2019**. I welcome all the priests to Villa. Your presence will be a greater joy to our Brothers.

## Birthdays

May	8	Fr Victor Mendonza
	9	Fr Ouseppachan
	12	Fr Alexander Kalarickal
	16	Fr Joseph Thayyil S.J.
	20	Fr Jiju Palliparambil
	20	Fr Anto Dionecius SJ
	21	Fr George Anthicad
	25	Fr Johnson Kochuparambil
	25	Fr Benedict Kodyampurayidam OSB
	28	Fr Sebastian Karukaparambil
	30	Fr Johnson Avarave

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 for the Visually Impaired, Perinthalmanna	
Mrs. Molly, Moothedam	Rs 500.00
Seminarians Formation Fund	
St Joseph’s Church, Kannur Road	Rs 5,000.00
Mr Jude, St Patrick’s Church, Kallai	Rs 2,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs 7,000.00</b>

## BISHOP'S DIARY MAY 2019

May 1, Wednesday		Chakkalakkal Trust meeting
May 2, Thursday	11.00am	Golden Jubilee, Bridgettine sisters, Holy Redeemer Church, marikkunnu
May 3, Friday		Bishop's House
May 4, Saturday	10.00am	Catechism H. Ms' meeting, Navajyothis Renewal Centre, Eranhipalam
	5.00pm	Football tournament inauguration, Cheruvannur
May 5, Sunday	10.30am	KLCA General Body, St Sebastian's Church, Vatakara
	5.00pm	Feast Mass, St John's Chapel, Pottammel
May 6, Monday	3.00pm	Retreat Talk, Alpha Pastoral Centre, Kochi
May 7, Tuesday		Kayamkulam
May 8, Wednesday		Death anniversary of my father
May 9, Thursday	10.30am	Jubilee of Fr Johnson Avarave, Perpetual Succour Church, Andoor
	3.00pm	Villa, Vythiri
May 10, Friday	9.00am	Stamp Exhibition, Kadalas Cafe, South beach, Calicut
	10.00am	Selection of Candidates to Minor Seminary, Bishop's House
May 11, Saturday		Diocesan Youth Convention, St Joseph's Church, Kannur Road
	10.30am	Thamarassery
May 12, Sunday		Diocesan Youth Convention, St Joseph's Church, Kannur Road
May 13, Monday	10.30am	Blessing of CSST School, Pallikkunnu
May 14, Tuesday	8.00am	Confirmation, St Joseph's Church, Vythiri
May 15, Wednesday	11.00am	Mass & Blessing of MSFS De-Care Counselling Centre, Makkiyad
May 16, Thursday		Kannur
May 17, Friday		Bishop's House
May 18, Saturday		Thuruthur, kottapuram
May 19, Sunday	10.30am	Confirmation, Immaculate Conception Church, Mananthavady
		Retreat, Valavayal
May 20- 26		Retreat, Valavayal
May 27, Monday		Bishop's House
May 28-29		Malabar Bishops' meeting
May 30, Thursday	10.30am	KLCWA meeting, St Joseph's Church, Kannur Road
May 31, Friday		Kannur