



DIOCESE OF CHIKMAGALUR

CIRCULAR



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No.06/2025

09-10-2025

Dear Fathers/Brothers/Sisters/People of God,

1. OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:

“The Rosary is a chain that links heaven and earth,” said Pope Pius IX. As we enter the beautiful month of October, the Church invites us once again to rediscover the Rosary as a prayer of contemplation, faith, and love. Through each bead, we walk hand in hand with Mary, reflecting on the life of her Son and drawing closer to the mysteries of salvation.

The Rosary is not a mechanical repetition but a living rhythm of the heart, a prayer that transforms our worries into peace and our struggles into trust. Pope Francis reminds us that “the Rosary is a summary of the Gospel,” helping us to see our daily lives through the eyes of Jesus and Mary.

This month, let our homes, parishes, and communities resound with the gentle sound of the Rosary. Let parents teach their children this simple yet profound devotion that has shaped saints and strengthened generations. When prayed with faith, the Rosary becomes a weapon of hope, a shield of protection, and a source of comfort in times of trial.

May every Hail Mary we utter echo the words of Our Lady at Fatima: “Pray the Rosary every day for peace in the world and an end to war.” I encourage all of you, priests, religious, and lay faithful to renew your commitment to this devotion. Let October truly be a month of prayer, unity, and missionary zeal, where every heart beat in rhythm with the heart of Mary.

2. MISSION SUNDAY (October 19):

Every year, the Church throughout the world pauses on **Mission Sunday** to remember and renew her universal mission: to proclaim Christ, the Hope of the world. For this year, Late Pope Francis had chosen the theme “**Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples,**” reminding us that every baptized Christian is called to bring light, healing, and peace wherever there is darkness, pain, or division.

In his message for Mission Sunday 2025, the Holy Father beautifully states that “Christ Himself is the Divine Missionary of Hope.” He came to restore humanity’s faith in God’s promise and continues His saving work through His Church. As members of this Church, we are invited to become living signs of hope, people whose presence brings comfort, whose faith brings courage, and whose love reveals God’s mercy to others.

This day calls us to a deeper missionary spirit. We are not all called to leave our homes and travel to distant lands, but we are all called to live as witnesses through compassion, service, forgiveness, and solidarity. As Pope Francis reminds us, “Missionaries of hope are men and women of prayer, for the person who hopes is a person who prays.” Let every community, family, and parish make this day a time of intercession and renewal of faith.

Instituted in 1926 by Pope Pius XI, Mission Sunday supports the worldwide work of evangelization through the **Pontifical Mission Societies**, helping to build churches, form clergy, educate children, care for the sick, and sustain the faith in mission territories. Last year, our Diocese contributed **Rs. 34,40,159.00/-** toward this mission of love and hope. I thank all our parish priests and the faithful for their generous spirit.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us strive to grow even more in our missionary giving and participation. I urge all parishes to conduct meaningful spiritual and community-building activities in preparation for Mission Sunday prayer gatherings, mission exhibitions, children’s programs, and parish-level initiatives that awaken faith and generosity.

Please send the **entire collection** to the Diocesan Account or through **Rev. Fr. Prashanth S.G., Diocesan Secretary for the**

Pontifical Mission Societies, ensuring timely contribution to the universal mission of the Church.

Account Details:

Name: *Diocese of Chikmagalur*

Bank: *Canara Bank, Town Branch, Chikmagalur*

A/c No.: *0507101003788*

IFSC: *CNRB0000507*

May this Mission Sunday inspire each of us to become true bearers of hope, proclaiming through our lives that Christ is alive and that His love still transforms the world.

Kindly Note: I request all the Religious Houses and Institutions in the Diocese to send Mission Sunday and all other special contributions directly to the Diocese. It will be recorded in a separate column. Please do not club them with the Parish Collection.

3. ALL SAINTS DAY:

All Saints' Day, celebrated on **November 1st**, is a joyful feast honouring all the saints known and unknown, who now share in the glory of heaven. It reminds us that holiness is not reserved for a few but is the calling of every Christian.

The saints are ordinary people who loved God with extraordinary faith. As Pope Francis says, ***"The saints are not supermen who are born perfect, but people who let God's love act in them."*** They show us that by living daily life with love, patience, and mercy, we too can become saints.

This celebration, which began with the early martyrs and was extended to all saints by Pope Gregory IV in the 9th century, highlights the communion of the Church, those in heaven, on earth, and in purgatory, united in one faith and one hope.

As St. Augustine challenges us, ***"If they could, why not you?"*** May this feast renew our desire for holiness and strengthen our resolve to follow Christ faithfully, so that one day we too may rejoice with the saints in everlasting life.

4. ALL SOULS DAY (November 2):

All Souls Day is a sacred time when the Church remembers and prays for the faithful departed, especially those in **purgatory**, who await God's mercy before entering heaven. Through **Holy Masses, prayers, almsgiving, and acts of penance**, we assist their souls, offering comfort and relief on their journey to eternal life.

The tradition of praying for the dead is rooted in early Christianity and reflects the **Communion of Saints**, the spiritual bond between the living and the departed. St. Augustine reminds us, *"The prayer of the living for the dead is a duty of charity,"* while St. Therese of Lisieux calls the souls in purgatory our *"most faithful friends,"* whose suffering our prayers can ease.

This day also invites us to reflect on life's **fragility**, God's **infinite mercy**, and the hope of **eternal union with Christ**. Many cultures honour the departed by lighting candles, visiting graves, and offering Requiem Masses. St. Gregory the Great beautifully teaches, *"When we pray for the dead, we act as instruments of God's mercy, offering hope and relief to souls still journeying toward His eternal embrace."*

All Souls Day is a profound reminder that through our love, prayers, and acts of charity, we remain spiritually connected to those who have gone before us, helping them toward the eternal joy of God's presence.

5. SENATE MEETING:

The **Senate Meeting of the Council of Priests** is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, 4th November 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** in the **Bishop's House**. All members are kindly requested to attend **without fail**.

Your suggestions and proposed points for the agenda are highly valued. Please forward them in advance to the **Bishop** or the **Secretary** to ensure their inclusion in the meeting.

6. CLERGY RECOLLECTION:

The upcoming **Clergy Recollection** is scheduled for **Wednesday, 4th December 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**, at **Spoorthi Sadana, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Chikmagalur**. Kindly Block the date.

This recollection will be a sacred opportunity for us to **spiritually prepare ourselves** to celebrate the **Birth of our Lord** in a worthy and pure state. Your **prayerful presence and participation** are earnestly requested.

Kindly note that **immediately after the recollection**, the **Senate Election of the Council of Priests** will be held. All priests are requested to remain present for the same.

7. INAGURATIONS AND BLESSINGS:

a) **Kottighara:** The newly renovated Presbytery at **Kottighara** was solemnly inaugurated and blessed on **15th August 2025**.

This project, undertaken and completed by the **Diocese of Chikmagalur**, stands as a testament to the unity and dedication of our diocesan community. My heartfelt appreciation goes to all those who worked in bringing this work to fruition.

b) **Gonibeedu:** A newly built presbytery and Parish Pastoral Center, “**Petrus**,” was inaugurated and blessed on **30th September 2025** at Gonibeedu.

I extend my sincere gratitude to **Rev. Fr Peter Brank**, the Parish Priest of St Peter’s Church, Gonibeedu, for his dedication and commitment in bringing this project to completion. My heartfelt thanks also go to all the **benefactors and donors** whose generosity made this possible. May God bless them abundantly for their goodwill and support.

8. COMMISSIONS REVIEW MEETING:

The Commissions Review and Pastoral Planning Meeting is scheduled for **18th and 19th November 2025**, at 10:00 a.m., at **Spoorthi Sadana, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Chikmagalur**.

This important gathering will be led by the **Regional Commissions Coordinator, Rev. Fr Anil Prasad** along with **Diocesan Commissions Coordinator Rev. Fr David Prakash**, and will focus on reviewing the current pastoral initiatives and planning the **Pastoral Plan for 2026–2028**.

All **Commission Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and Core Committee members** are earnestly requested to attend and actively

participate in this meeting to ensure fruitful discussion and effective planning for the years ahead.

9. OBITUARY:

- a) **Mrs Benedicta Maria Sequeira**, elder sister of Msgr Elias Sequeira, was called to heavenly abode on 28.09.2025. May her soul rest in peace.

10. KINDLY FIND THE ATTACHMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

- a) Pope's Message for World Mission Sunday 2025.



Yours Sincerely,



Rt. Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Swamy
Bishop of Chikmagalur