



Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas The Apostle, Melbourne

Prot. No. MPL: 132/24/4

11 October 2024

Circular

Dear Fathers in Christ, Brothers and Sisters, Children and Youth,

This October is an opportunity to remember in a special way the Holy Rosary Queen, the Holy Virgin Mary, and the World Mission Sunday initiated by the missionaries. It is an occasion to contemplate the significance of prayer and missionary work in the universal Church.

It is also a time for us to reflect on the role of prayer and missionary spirit within our families and communities. May family prayer be a source of growth in love and unity in our homes and among our children.

The words of St. John Paul II, “The Rosary is my favourite prayer,” and the words of Pope Benedict XVI, “I pray the Rosary every day, morning and evening,” should be an inspiration for us. On 13 May 1917, in Fatima, Mary revealed herself, saying, “I am the Queen of the Rosary. Pray the Rosary devoutly.” Through the life of St. Mother Teresa, who stood on one side as an orphan and on the other side with a cross, we learn to practise prayerful concern for both spiritual and mission needs.

This month is a time to remember in a special way the missionaries of the world and to participate in the mission efforts of the Church. Through prayer and missionary efforts, the faithful are called to join in the mission power of the Church, allowing each believer to grow in their faith.

The missionary power of the Church is deeply rooted in theological and scriptural foundations. The command given by Christ, “Go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), is a mission entrusted to the Church by the Lord.

The missionary power lies not only in the hands of priests but also in the responsibility of every Christian. It is an opportunity to strengthen faith through prayer and missionary activities.

May the parents, teachers, and catechists instil in children the importance of missionary prayer and action. Let us celebrate this year’s Mission Sunday with great devotion, giving children an opportunity to engage in missionary power through the celebration of Mission Sunday.

CONSECRATION OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH

With joy and pride, we inform you that the consecration of the Cathedral of our Eparchy will take place on Saturday, 23 November, at 9:30 AM. Major Archbishop His Beatitude Raphael Thattil will officiate the consecration ceremony.

We warmly invite all of you to this holy and significant event. The dedication and tireless efforts of the cathedral parish community, their commitment, and their generous contributions have made this dream a reality. Their work is exemplary and deserving of praise.

In the name of all the members of the diocese, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the vicar of St Alphonsa Cathedral Parish, Rev. Fr. Varghese Vavoliyil, and all the parish members.

Your presence in this holy event, either through participation or in spirit, will be a blessing to all parishes and missions of our diocese. A small contribution from each of you would be greatly appreciated to support the final preparations and upkeep of our cathedral.

UNITE CONFERENCE

Pope Francis has announced the Jubilee Year for 2025. As part of the Jubilee Year celebrations, the youth of our diocese will gather from 6 to 9 February 2025 for the “UNITE CONFERENCE” in Melbourne. I urge parents and priests to encourage and support young people to participate in this important conference.

To organise this conference, our youth will conduct fundraising activities, including Raffles and Merchandise sales, and your generous contributions are welcome.

CHURALMALA AND VILANGADU LANDSLIDE RELIEF FUND

I express my deep gratitude for the generous support and compassion shown by all of you during the time of the landslides in Churalmala and Vilangadu. The total donation collected, \$146,707.41, is a testimony to your commitment to helping those in need. These funds have been donated to the Dioceses of Thamarassery and Mananthavady, which were heavily affected by the natural disaster and will be used for relief efforts for the rehabilitation of the victims. May God bless you for your kindness and selfless acts of service. May God bless you for your kindness and selfless acts of service.

May the intercession of the Holy Virgin Mary, the Queen of the Rosary, and of Little Flower, the patroness of all missionaries, be with you throughout this month of October. With love and blessings in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

With affection in Christ,

Mar John Panamthottathil, CMI

Eparchial Bishop, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne

This circular is to be read on Sunday, 13 October 2024, in all parishes of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Melbourne.