

Circular No. 03/2018

7th May, 2018

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings from Bishop's House, Balasore!

I. SUMMER HOLIDAYS

It is holiday season now. Schools and hostels have gone quiet. The clergy and the religious of the diocese too are availing themselves the rest that they deserve. May this time of relaxation be of help to us to get back with more vigour for the tasks which lie ahead of us in the coming academic year.

II. 'JOYFUL LEARNING'

It is a joy to see the children of our Diocese participating in the 'Joyful Learning' – the summer catechism programme organized in the month of May. I have been told that this year 17 parishes in the Diocese are participating in this programme. Sincere thanks to Fr. Roy and Fr. Jadu, as well as many volunteers, for their commitment and dedication in preparing and executing the programme.

III. R.I.P. ARCHBISHOP ABRAHAM

Archbishop Abraham Viruthukulangara of Nagpur left for his eternal reward on the 19th of April. He was an advocate of what might be called a 'spirituality of presence'. He made it a point to be present on important occasions in the Dioceses of India. Thus he became familiar to us in our Diocese too, as he was here on various occasions.

He became bishop of Khandwa diocese at the age of 34, setting a record of being the youngest bishop at that time in India. Remaining active in the Episcopal ministry for 41 years (in Khandwa and Nagpur) he was one of the seniors in episcopacy. He was preparing himself to retire next month as completes 75 years of age; but the Lord called him to back to Himself. Despite getting near the retirement age, he was very active with the youth. The Jesus Youth Movement owes much to Archbishop Abraham, for its growth and vigour.

I made it a point to be present at his funeral in Nagpur. The fact that there were more than 50 bishops present on the occasion indicated the love and respect the Church in India had for him. The number of priests, religious and laity present on the precincts of the Cathedral was reportedly unprecedented. May the Good Lord grant the rest that Archbishop Abraham so richly deserves.

IV. R.I.P. SR. SAROJ, H.M.

Sr. Sandhya Saroj Tirkey, belonging to the Congregation of the Handmaids of Mary, was a member of the Maria Nivas Convent Community at Lavanyadeipur. In the morning of Saturday, the 5th of this month, she immediately developed an illness which eventually caused her sad demise. After the prayer services at the Jyoti Hospital, her mortal remains were taken to her Provincialate. Following the funeral mass in her home parish of Jharsuguda, the burial services were held in the Provincialate cemetery. She was only 44.

Lively and cheerful, Sr. Saroj was active in the youth apostolate of the Diocese as well of the Region for some years. Lately she has been in charge of the girls' hostel in her Convent at Lavanyadeipur. Her untimely demise is a great loss for her Congregation as well as for our Diocese. Our sincere condolences to the Provincial and community of the Handmaids of Mary. May the Good Lord grant her eternal rest.

V. MY TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

I had the privilege of visiting the Holy Land in the month of April. Though I had dealt with the Holy Land-related matters in my classes on the Bible, I hadn't got the chance to go there. Some good and generous parishners from my home parish sponsored the trip and I went along with them. It was a good experience of being there in the place where the mysteries of our faith had their origin.

VI. AN UNPLEASANT INCIDENT

The incident involving one of our priests of the Diocese, who had to be served a censure of suspension by me, is an extremely unfortunate one. Let it be clear to all that cases of such nature, especially where public scandal also is reported, is not condoned by the Catholic Church. Added to this the 'zero tolerance policy', currently advocated by the Vatican for instances of the kind, has to be understood with full seriousness. Let not the faith of our Christians, handed over to them by our pioneer and zealous missionaries of the past, be distorted by the unbecoming behaviour of any one of us. That would be sending a wrong message to all our faithful people about what we are and what our ministry is all about.

VII. THE DIOCESAN EDUCATION BOARD

Given below are members of the newly re-constituted Education Board of the Diocese:

Bishop Simon Kaipuram - Chairman
Fr. Isaac Puthenangady - Secretary
Fr. Jose Aresseril
Sr. Jess Maria, SABS
Fr. Saji Karathankal
Fr. Bijay Kiro
Fr. Varghese Panengadan

VIII. OUR JUBILARIANS

Two of our priests have stepped into their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee year – Fr. Jose Aresseril on the 2nd of May, and Fr. Roy Kochupurackal on the 4th of May. May the Lord bless them abundantly during this year of grace and gratitude in their lives.

IX. TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Jojo Vaidyakaran	- Parish Priest, Kusudia
Fr. Tom Mannukunnel	- Parish Priest, Lavanyadeipur
Fr. Jojo Chakkalamattath	- Parish Priest, Krishnachandrapur
Fr. Daniel Kishore	- Parish Priest, Jhatioda
Fr. Isaac Puthenangady	- Parish Priest, Mangalpur
Fr. Cyprian Lakra	- Parish Priest, Amarda Road
Fr. Samir Ddungdung	- Parish Priest, Joda
Fr. Manoranjan Beshra	- Parish Priest, Jaleswar
Fr. Peter Arackel	- Parish Priest, Baghmara & Chancellor of the Diocese
Fr. Joshy K.	- Staff member, Devo Dutto Minor Seminary & Secretary, Bible Commission
Fr. Lijo Nirappel	- Director, Balasore Social Service Society
Fr. Eric Soreng	- Assistant, Balasore Social Service Society & Assitant Priest at Cathedral Parish
Fr. Kuriakose Kadavil	- Studies
Fr. Mathew Karikulam	- Studies
Fr. Silberius Hembrom	- Assistant, Vikas Sadan
Fr. Bino Thomas	- Principal, St. Mary's School, Mitrapur
Fr. Singaray Tudu	- Principal, St. Alphonsa's School, Dubuna
Fr. Francis Xavier	- Assistant, Lavanyadeipur Parish
Fr. C.H. Mahesh	- Assistant Priest, Barbil Parish
Deacon Arbin	- Ghatiduba Parish

All these transfers are expected to be completed by the 17th of June. We thank each one of them for their sincere and committed services in their previous assignments, and wish them all the best in their new assignments.

The Parish Priests and heads of the institutions on transfer are expected to pass on the registers, accounts as well as an inventory of the goods of the parish/institution to newcomers. The format for the inventory will be provided.

X. ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ANANDAPUR

After a few initial hurdles, we have been able to have a school building of our own in Anandapur. For the last three years the St. Mary's School was being run from rented

buildings in the town, despite the obvious inconveniences involved. The newly constructed building, located on the side of Bhadrak-Anandapur road, has been blessed on the 5th of this month. After the re-opening of the school post summer vacation, the classes will be held in the new building.

Sincere thanks to Fr. Efreem, the Principal, for his tireless efforts for the realization of this project. We do appreciate the good work he has done.

XI. MY PROGRAMME

May-June

01	- Biripal	- Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
03	- Vikas Sadan	- Mass at the closing of one-month programme
05	- Anandapur	- Blessing of the St. Mary's School Building
06	- Rangiam	- Sunday Mass
10	- Balasore	- Meeting at Jyoti Hospital
12	- Ghatiduba	- Santal Youth Convention Mass
13	- Bonua	- Pastoral Visit
18-25	- Kerala & Bhopal	
26	- Lavanyadeipur	- Mass; Confirmation
27	- Baghadafa	- Mass
28	- Balasore	- BSSS Meeting
30- Jun 29	- USA	- Missionary Cooperation Programme

With Regards and Blessings

✠Simon Kaipuram, CM
Bishop of Balasore