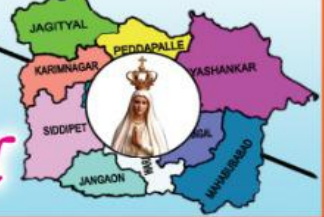


# Fatima Vani



*News Letter*  
*Diocese of Warangal*



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**God Save India**

## Deadly 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave of Covid 19

Let's stay connected to Jesus- Jn 15:12-17

### Health Emergency

Bharath is burning? India is mourning! Dead Bodies are forming Queue? No beds in hospitals, no oxygen, no vaccines, no responsible conduct by Those responsible. Literally, India is in now in the grips of a public health emergency. Social media feeds are full with videos of Covid funerals at crowded cemeteries, wailing relatives of the dead outside hospitals, long queues of ambulances carrying gasping patients, mortuaries overflowing with the dead, and patients, sometimes two to a bed, in corridors and lobbies of hospitals. There are desperate calls for help for beds, medicines, oxygen, essential drugs and tests. Drugs are being sold in black market, and test results are taking days. Even oxygen is likely to be imported to meet the demand.



Meanwhile, almost in a parallel universe, away from the death and despair, in mid-March, the cricket board allowed more than 130,000 fans, mostly unmasked, to watch two international cricket games between India and England. In less than a month, things began to loosen. India was in the grips of a devastating second wave of the virus and cities were facing fresh lockdowns with the world's richest cricket tournament was being played behind closed doors, and tens of thousands of people gathering at election rallies and attending the religious festivals. Experts believe the government appears to have completely dropped the ball on the second wave of infections that is hitting India!

### Disconnected from God & One another!

Common man is shattered with fear virus, more harmful than Corona! In this frightful and dark tunnel, it is easy to get disconnected from each other and even from God. The One side of the Corona Virus is to disconnect people but on the other side, it teaches us to get connected! Yes, the physical distance, face mask, sanitization, house arrest, Curfew, Lockdown, etc. make people separated. The world is divided and humanity is further divided, separated and even alienated. In this alarming situation, it is vital that we stay connected to Jesus, and equally vital that we stay connected to each other as Christians. Jesus does insist that the branches 'remain in me' and also with each other. He commanded us to LOVE each other and it is not an 'optional extra'! Loving each other is the greatest commandment (Mk 12:28-34). Are you connected to Jesus? He is the vine. Staying connected is not about church buildings or meeting together, it's about our relationship with Jesus. Through Jesus we can be reconnected to God. It is the only hope, the best medicine for body, soul and mind.

### Sudden Surge - Real Reason

It is more than a year since the COVID-19 pandemic began and like many countries, India too, now is facing a sudden spike in daily infections, even as vaccination efforts are in progress. Compared to 2020, the daily infections being reported this year are rising at an alarming rate, indicating a second wave of infections. And unlike the characteristics of the infection reported in 2020, this year, doctors and experts pointed out that the younger people and more members in one family are being infected, and more patients show one or two symptoms of COVID-19. There is no absolute, scientific answer to explain the sudden surge in COVID-19 cases as yet.

Experts attribute this to the recently detected variants of the COVID-19 virus as well as the public lowering their watch against the infection due to the 2020 lockdown tiredness. Since March 2021, restaurants, offices, and shops have opened up and people have also been attending religious and political gatherings in crowds without masks or maintaining appropriate physical distance. Amid the spike, uncertainties over the behaviour of the virus, and with only budding research, experts are asking people to get vaccinated immediately and urging the government to expand the vaccine coverage across all age groups. What is worrying is that entire families are getting infected. This is a completely new trend.

### **India failed to prevent the Second Wave?**

In early March, India's health minister declared the country was "in the endgame" of the Covid-19. From January, India had begun shipping doses to foreign countries as part of its "vaccine diplomacy". His unchecked optimism was based on a sharp drop in reported infections. The jubilation at beating the virus had been building since late last year. Politicians, policy makers and parts of the media believed that India was truly out of trouble. In December, Central bank officials announced that India was "bending the Covid infection curve". As is typical in India, official arrogance, hyper-nationalism, populism and an ample dose of bureaucratic incompetence have combined to create a crisis. India's second wave was fuelled by people neglecting precautions, attending weddings and social gatherings, and by mixed messaging from the government, allowing political rallies and religious gatherings. With infections declining, fewer people were taking the injections, slowing down the vaccination drive.

### **Undercount of Cases n Deaths**

Mortality rates are clearly lower in this second wave. But there is also concern about whether the mortality numbers are accurate, particularly when compared with the numbers from 2020. Do the mortality data give us any conclusive understanding or insight into how the Covid-19 virus is behaving? Every time India reports low mortality figures, people jump up saying there is undercounting. It is possible, to some extent, that there will be under counting. We can't freeze human life, and if we can't physically distance in the crowded cities, we can at least make sure everyone wears a proper mask. And wear it properly. That's not a big ask."Then, India must increase vaccination rates. I am glad the government has said everybody above 45 and even above 18 years can get vaccinated! When? God alone knows!!

### **Attitudinal and Behavioural Medicine**

The best medicine is about our attitudinal and behavioural issues at the individual and at the societal level. Let's get connected to God in Jesus, who invites "Remain in me". There was the misreading of the epidemic, the infected people coming in close proximity to susceptible individuals and mass gatherings that took place, be it for political reasons or religious regions or social events that actually created an environment where the COVID virus could go from the infected individuals to the susceptible mass. Whatever, Jesus reminds of His sacrificial love in laying down His life for us and He commands us to love others in the same way. We must be a community and not merely individuals. It means thinking and praying for each other at all times, Like Mary interceding too! Love is powerful. Christian love is consoling, healing and comforting. It is to be demonstrated by actions. Let's surrender to God and do our best to pray and to serve in this pathetic situation of life emergency! Christians should be a Blessing to the larger society. Are you a Blessing? Am I?

## II. Holy Father's intention for May 2021

### Universal intention- the world of finance

Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

### III. Pope urges Catholics to pray in May for end to Covid-19 Pandemic

Pope Francis invites Catholics and Marian Shrines around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic. Catholics across the globe are encouraged to dedicate the Marian month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization announced the news. It takes place under the theme “The whole Church was fervently praying to God,” which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).



### Prayer initiative

“The initiative will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic,” read the statement. Pope Francis will open the Marian month of prayer on 1 May with a Rosary broadcast across Vatican Media’s platforms. Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from the various Shines taking part in the initiative. The Pope will also close the initiative on 31 May with another specially-broadcast Rosary.

### End to the pandemic

This year’s dedication of May to pandemic-related prayer recalls a similar occurrence during the first wave in March 2020. Pope Francis led the world in prayer during that confusing and difficult time, celebrating a live-streamed, daily Mass in the Casa Santa Marta. After more than a year, and with the world still in the grips of the pandemic, the Pope and the Church around the world are once again leading the way in imploring God for an end to the suffering which so many people are forced to bear.

## IV. Pope Francis' Message for World Communications Day - May 16

“Come and See” (Jn 1:46) Communicating by encountering people where and as they are

Even when physical proximity is impossible, Catholic communicators can use the media to reach out to people, help them experience the closeness of the church and invite them to follow Jesus more closely, the Vatican said. “Come and see: Communicating, encountering people as and where they are” will be the theme for the 2021 celebration of



World Communications Day, said the statement released Sept. 29. A papal message on the theme should be published on or around the Jan. 24 feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists. “In a time that obliges us to social distance due to the pandemic, communication can make possible the closeness that is necessary to recognize what is essential and to understand truly the meaning of things,” said the statement announcing the theme. The pope’s choice of the theme for the 2021 celebration, which will be May 16 in most dioceses, is drawn from Jesus’ invitation to St. Philip in the Gospel of John. “Come and see,” the statement said, is an invitation “central to the Gospel” and to the ongoing proclamation of the Christian faith, a proclamation that is not just about words, but is “made up of looks, testimonies, experiences, encounters, closeness. In a word, life.” “The old saying ‘God meets you where you are’ can be a guide for those engaged in media or communications work in the church,” the statement said. “In the call of the first disciples, with Jesus who went to encounter them and to invite them to follow him, we also see the invitation to use all media, in all their forms, to reach people as they are and where they live.”

**V. CBCI- May Day Message 2021- Ensure Right to live With Dignity  
“Right to live with dignity cannot be denied to any One”**

**Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti**

**Let Us Rededicate Ourselves with Our Patron St. Joseph**

Pope Francis has dedicated this year to St. Joseph, the Patron of workers. Let us thank the Lord for this great opportunity and rededicate ourselves in the spirit of our patron to dream and to work unceasingly for a new world order of ‘Social friendship and universal fraternity’. At this moment of great anxiety and distress let us place the whole humanity especially the workers – informal, unorganised and migrants, to the intercession of St. Joseph to journey with a Father’s Heart (Patris Corde).



**Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate - Internally Displaced Persons**

The right to live with dignity cannot be denied to anyone, Pope Francis affirms, and since rights have no boundaries, no one can remain excluded regardless of where they are born (Fratelli Tutti no.107). Hence as Pope Francis invites everyone through his World Day Message to the Migrants and Refugees in 2020, Let us, “Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate internally displaced persons”. The Pandemic Covid 19 has exposed plethora of issues, the humanity especially the migrants underwent.

**Another World is Possible**

In the context of the Pandemic and the unceasingly continuing impact of the Corona Virus, unimaginably recurring climate disasters, a search for a new paradigm of development is essential. The discourse that another world is possible is vibrant among the labour associations, social engineers and climate activists. This is where a team of scientists appealed to the national governments to reverse the development parameters in the context of the impending disastrous

natural calamities. In his latest encyclical Pope Francis also invites for a better kind of politics which represents one of the most valuable forms of charity because it is placed at the service of common good and recognizes the importance of people. A better politics is also one that protects work because Pope reiterates that ‘Since production systems may change, political systems must keep working to structure society in such a way that everyone has a chance to contribute his or her own talents and efforts. For “there is no poverty worse than that which takes away work and the dignity of work” (F. T 162). Pope in the encyclical also states that, “It is imperative to have a proactive economic policy directed at “promoting an economy that favours productive diversity and business creativity and makes it possible for jobs to be created and not cut. (F.T. 168) Therefore Pope emphasises that, “in addition to recovering a sound political life that is not subject to dictates of finance, “we must put human dignity back at the centre and on that pillar build the alternative social structure we need.”(F. T. 168) Pope Francis further states that, “We need economics that gives to all access to the fruits of creation, to the basic needs of life: to land, lodging and Labour. We need a politics that can integrate and dialogue with the poor, the excluded and the vulnerable, that gives people a say in the decisions that impacts their lives. We need to slow down, take stock and design better ways of living together on this earth”. (Let Us Dream- The Path to a Better Future)

### **Way Forward**

The year of St. Joseph, the Patron of workers is an occasion to rededicate ourselves to organise and empower informal, unorganized and migrant workers. The Governing Council, Workers India Federation, in a recent meeting proposed to apprise the regional Chairmen and directors of labour Commissions to organize regional programmes to Commemorate the year of St. Joseph, our Patron. Meanwhile Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have initiated a joint process with different religious groups, Civil Society organizations and workers leaders to work out common matrix to engage together to address migrant workers issues. Such initiatives may be worked out in every region in collaboration with the above and other likeminded civil society organizations to mark the year of St. Joseph, Our Patron and to develop a synergy. Let us all stand united with St. Joseph, the Patron of workers to dream for and create a post Covid, and New World order.

### **VI. CBCI’s Call for a Day of Prayer and Fasting on May 7 (Friday)**

A very grace filled Easter season to you. I am happy to be connecting with you once again — after a long break. Earlier all of us were more or less in a similar situation regarding Covid-19 and hence it was possible to make common plans for our relief efforts and pastoral work. We are now in diverse situations regarding the pandemic, except that there is now a massive surge in the number of cases. We are recording around 300,000 new cases of Coronavirus every single day. The second wave has hit us like a tsunami, and we are yet to reach the peak! Added to this is the apparent lack of planning, resulting in shortage of hospital beds, anti-viral drugs, oxygen, and vaccines. It could get worse before it gets better!



After taking counsel with Cardinal Alenchererry, Cardinal Cleemis, and CCBI President, Archbishop Fiilipe Neri Ferráo. I thought that especially during the Easter season of hope and light, we should unitedly turn to God in this time of distress. Hence, I am inviting all our Churches to observe **Friday, May 7 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting** for relief from the Covid-19 pandemic. Our ecumenical brothers from the NCCI and EFI have willingly agreed to join us in prayer on this day. Since we have diverse local circumstances, I leave every diocese to have its own mode of Prayer and Fasting. I request our Bishops to inform the Parishes and Religious in the diocese about this Day of Prayer and Fasting. I invite all religious communities, especially our cloistered Sisters, to have a special holy hour praying for an end to the pandemic: a healing for those infected, comfort for those mourning, courage for our frontline workers and success to the efforts of those involved in research and production of medicine and vaccines.

It would be good if all Bishops of our country meet in their own Bishop's House / Cathedral for a prayer service around noon so that we feel strengthened and united in prayer at this moment. A proposed prayer service which you may modify / change or replace as you consider appropriate, will be sent to you in a few days by our Secretariat. All of us have heard reports from several religious congregations and some dioceses about the large number of priests and sisters who have been infected, with a number of fatalities too. While we wish to give pastoral care to our people, it is our moral obligation to take care of our health and protect others. A Covid Appropriate Behaviour is necessary: wearing of masks. Social distancing, covid washing/sanitizing of hands. Our priests and sisters should urge our people to follow these norms for their own safety and the safety of others. Do also encourage our people to get themselves vaccinated. The restrictions imposed by the Government from time to time are a necessary inconvenience, meant for our safety.

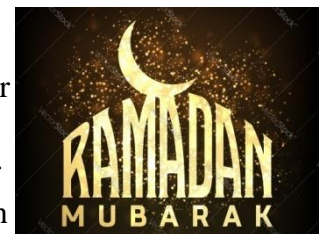
Caritas India has done a marvelous job at relief work; as has CHAI in coordinating our medical assistance. They have operated in and through our dioceses. I request you to document these efforts and preserve pictures of them. This will be useful for future generations. We are having our next Standing Committee Meeting (via video conference) on April 28-29 during which we will discuss different issues. I expect to get in touch with you after the Standing Committee Meeting. With affectionate regards and best wishes, I remain

**Oswald Cardinal Gracis**, President of CBCI

## **VII. CCBI-Message for the Month of Ramadan and 'Id al-Fitr' Christians and Muslims: Witnesses of Hope**

Dear Muslim brothers and sisters,

We at the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue are glad to offer you our fraternal good wishes for a month rich in divine blessings and spiritual advancement. Fasting, along with prayer, almsgiving and other pious practices, brings us closer to God our Creator and to all those with



whom we live and work, and helps us to continue walking together on the path of fraternity. During these long months of suffering, anguish and sorrow, especially during the lockdown

periods, we sensed our need for divine assistance, but also for expressions and gestures of fraternal solidarity: a telephone call, a message of support and comfort, a prayer, help in buying medicines or food, advice, and, to put it simply, the security of knowing that someone is always there for us in times of necessity. The divine assistance that we need and seek, especially in circumstances like those of the current pandemic, is manifold: God's mercy, pardon, providence and other spiritual and material gifts. Yet, what we need most in these times, is hope. At this time, then, we think it fitting to share with you some reflections on this virtue. As we are aware, hope, while certainly including optimism, goes beyond it. While optimism is a human attitude, hope has its basis in something religious.

Hope arises from our belief that all our problems and trials have a meaning, a value and a purpose, however difficult or impossible it may be for us to understand the reason for them or to find a way out of them. Hope also carries with it belief in the goodness present in the heart of every person. Many times, in situations of difficulty and despair, help, and the hope it brings, can come from those whom we least expect. Human fraternity, in its numerous manifestations, thus becomes a source of hope for all, especially for those in any kind of need. Thanks be to God our Creator, and to our fellow men and women, for the quick response and generous solidarity shown by believers and also persons of good will with no religious affiliation in times of disaster, whether natural or man-made, like conflicts and wars. All these persons and their goodness remind us believers that the spirit of fraternity is universal, and that it transcends all boundaries: ethnic, religious, social and economic. In adopting this spirit, we imitate God, who looks benevolently upon the humanity he created, upon all other creatures and upon the entire universe. This is why the growing care and concern for the planet, our "common home", is, according to Pope Francis, yet another sign of hope. We are also aware that hope has its enemies: lack of faith in God's love and care; loss of trust in our brothers and sisters; pessimism; despair and its opposite, unfounded presumption; unfair generalizations based on one's own negative experiences, and so forth. These harmful thoughts, attitudes and reactions must be effectively countered, so as to strengthen hope in God and trust in all our brothers and sisters. In his recent Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti*,

Pope Francis speaks frequently of hope. There he tells us: "I invite everyone to renewed hope, 'for hope speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfilment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... and it can open us up to grand ideals that make life more beautiful and worthwhile' (cf. *Gaudium et spes*, 1). Let us continue, then, to advance along the paths of hope" (No. 55). We, Christians and Muslims, are called to be bearers of hope, for the present life and for the life to come, and to be witnesses, restorers and builders of this hope, especially for those experiencing difficulties and despair.

As a sign of our spiritual fraternity, we assure you of our prayer, and we send best wishes for a peaceful and fruitful Ramadan, and for a joyful 'Id al-Fitr.



### VIII. Why is May, the Month of Mary

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from



their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance". This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

### IX. St. Joseph the Worker – May 1

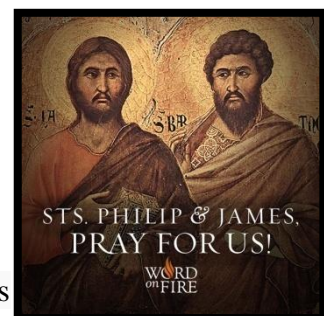
#### WORKERS' DAY

The 1<sup>st</sup> of May also coincides in many countries with the working holiday weekend to celebrate the 'unofficial' start of summertime, the 'May Day' Bank Holiday festivities in the UK as they are known. St Joseph is also patron saint of the universal Church of Christ on earth, the dying, marriages, fatherhood, families, house sales and finances. He is also an excellent example of humility and obedience to the calling of God in his life. However, it is St Joseph's patronage of workers that is one of his most illustrious titles, warranting a special feast day in his honour. St Joseph was himself a humble carpenter who knew what it was to work hard, often for meagre pay, in order to earn a living to support his wife and foster child. Though a hard worker, he knew poverty and when presenting gifts at Jesus' presentation in the Temple, it was the gift of the poor that St Joseph presented to God, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons' (Lk 2:24). In these times of recession with unemployment rising high we ask for Joseph's intercession and help from Heaven to help us in our work or indeed to find good, productive work which will improve the society in which we live and give us a spirit of peace and joy.



### X. Feast of Philip and James, Apostles – May 3

Philip and James appear in the list of the twelve apostles in the first three gospels but are frequently confused with other early saints who share their names. In John's gospel, Philip has a more prominent role, being the third of the apostles to be called by Jesus and then himself bringing his friend Nathanael to the Lord. Philip is the spokesman for the other apostles who are questioning the capacity for feeding the five thousand and, at the Last Supper, enters



into a sort of dialogue with Jesus which leads to the Farewell Discourses of our Lord. James is said to be the son of Alpheus and is often known as ‘James the Less’ to distinguish him. He may also be the ‘James the Younger’ who, in Mark’s gospel, is a witness at the Crucifixion. They are celebrated on the same day because the church in Rome, where their relics rest, was dedicated on this day in the year 560.

### **XI. Mother’s Day – May 9**

Mother’s Day celebrates motherhood and is a day to make an extra-special effort to recognize and appreciate mothers’ roles in our lives. Often this day is extended to generations of mothers grandmothers, great-grandmothers, stepmothers as well as to mother figures. Mother’s Day is always celebrated on the second Sunday in May. A day to honor mothers is as old as human time. Festivals honoring mothers in ancient times were often tied to gods and goddesses. The Phrygians held a festival for Cybele, the Great Mother of the Gods.



The Greeks honored mothers with a festival for the goddess Rhea; the Romans continued the tradition. Even today, an important festival in India, Durga-puja, honors the goddess Durga. During the middle Ages, people would return to their home or “mother” church once a year during the middle of Lent. (Back then, children would often leave to work at the tender age of ten!). Historians theorize it was return to the “mother” church which led to the tradition of children getting the day off to visit their mother and family. Later, this day became Mothering Sunday. Children, mainly daughters who had gone to work as domestic servants, would be given the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to return to their mothers and home parish. As they traveled the country lanes, children would pick wildflowers to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift.

It also became popular to bake a cake for Mothering Sunday. This probably originated as well out of Lent because Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday; the fasting rules were relaxed for that day. (Often, the gospel for the day was about Jesus feeding the crowd with loaves of bread. The traditional cake, called a Simnel cake, is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste. The cake was made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples. (Judas is not included.) Traditionally, sugar violets would also be added.

### **XII. First Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima- May 13**

May 13 marks the anniversary of the first of six apparitions of the Virgin Mary to three shepherd children of Fátima, Portugal. Lucia dos Santos (aged 9) and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto (aged 8 and 6, respectively) were tending sheep in central Portugal in 1917 when they had a vision of a woman surrounded by light who identified herself as the Lady of the Rosary. She

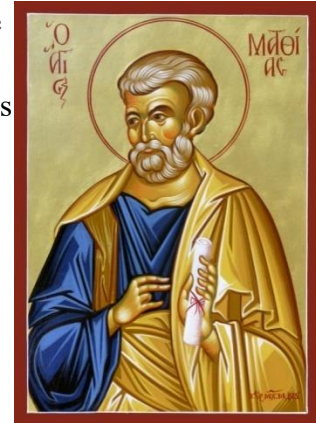
exhorted them to pray the rosary for world peace and, over the course of her six apparitions, gave the children three "secrets."

She promised a miracle in October, and on the 13th of that month a crowd of perhaps 70,000 people witnessed a "miraculous solar phenomenon," in which the Sun appeared to fall toward Earth. After initially questioning the authenticity of the children's visions, the Vatican accepted them as appearances of the Virgin Mary (Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Fátima), and Fátima became the location of one of the greatest Marian shrines in the world, visited by thousands of pilgrims each year. Although Lucia dos Santos would later become a Carmelite nun and live to the age of 97, Francisco and Jacinta Marto died as children as a result of the influenza pandemic of 1918-19. The pious siblings were beatified in 2000 by Pope John Paul II, making them the youngest non-martyred children to be beatified in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. They were canonized as saints by Pope Francis in 2017 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of their visions.



### **XIII. Feast of Saint Matthias, Apostle- May 14**

Saint Matthias, the disciple who, according to the biblical Acts of the Apostles 1:21–26, was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot after Judas betrayed Jesus. Jesus' choice of 12 Apostles points to a consciousness of a symbolic mission - originally there were 12 tribes of Israel - that the community maintained after the Crucifixion. Acts reveals that Matthias accompanied Jesus and the Apostles from the time of the Lord's Baptism to his Ascension and that, when it became time to replace Judas, the Apostles cast lots between Matthias and another candidate, St. Joseph Barabbas. St. Jerome and the early Christian writers Clement of Alexandria and Eusebius of Caesarea attest that Matthias was among the 72 disciples paired off and dispatched by Jesus. Soon after his election, Matthias received the Holy Spirit with the other Apostles (Acts 2:1–4). He is not mentioned again in the New Testament.



### **XIV. The Ascension of the Lord – May 16**

#### **World Communication Day**

Ascension, in Christian belief, the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the 40th day after his Resurrection (Easter being reckoned as the first day). The Feast of the Ascension ranks with Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost in the universality of its observance among Christians. The feast has been celebrated 40 days after Easter in both Eastern and



Western Christianity since the 4th century. Prior to that time, the Ascension was commemorated as a part of the celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Thus, the Gospel According to John uses both the sayings of Jesus and his post-Resurrection appearances to indicate a new relationship between Jesus and his Father and between him and his followers, rather than a simple physical relocation from earth to heaven.

## XV. Pentecost Sunday – May 23

Pentecost, also called Whitsunday, (Pentecost from Greek *pentecostē*, “50th day”), major festival in the Christian church, celebrated on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter.

It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles, chapter 2), and it marks the beginning of the Christian church’s mission to the world. The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. The church’s transformation of the Jewish feast to a Christian festival was thus related to the belief that the gift of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus was the firstfruits of a new dispensation that fulfilled and succeeded the old dispensation of the Law.



When the festival was first celebrated in the Christian church is not known, but it was mentioned in a work from the Eastern Church, the *Epistola Apostolorum*, in the 2nd century. In the 3rd century it was mentioned by Origen, theologian and head of the catechetical school in Alexandria, and by Tertullian, Christian priest and writer of Carthage. In the early church, Christians often referred to the entire 50-day period beginning with Easter as Pentecost. Baptism was administered both at the beginning (Easter) and end (the day of Pentecost) of the Paschal season.

Eventually, Pentecost became a more popular time for baptism than Easter in northern Europe, and in England the feast was commonly called White Sunday (Whitsunday) for the special white garments worn by the newly baptized. In *The First Prayer Book of Edward VI* (1549), the feast was officially called Whitsunday, and this name has continued in Anglican churches. In Catholic and other Western churches, priests often wear red vestments during Pentecost to symbolize the “tongues of fire” that descended on the disciples from the Holy Spirit; members of the congregation also wear red in some traditions, and the altar is commonly dressed in a red frontal cloth.

## XVI. Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity - May 30

God, the creator and sustainer of the universe, reveals Himself in the Bible. The Bible clearly tells us there is only one God. “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deu 6:4).

At the same time, time and again we encounter passages in the Bible that show the one God consists of more persons. This is hard for us to understand. We should realize that is not because of a logical contradiction. But because of our limitations. That the complexity and beauty of God’s being surpasses our understanding is not strange. He is God and we are man. Plurality in God: When we take the passages that are talking about a plurality in God together, we see there are actually three persons. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This is what we call the Trinity. The term Trinity is not used in the Bible. But the concept is clearly there. It means one God in three persons.



**Old Testament:** There are various verses that distinguish between God the Father and God the Son. A clear example is Psalm 110:1, where David says: “The LORD says to my Lord...” Since David as king did not have any earthly lord, he must refer here to a heavenly Lord who is distinct from the LORD. Jesus confirms this when He claims this verse is about Him. And implies that He is the Son of God (Matthew 22:41-45). In other verses a distinction is made between the Lord and His Spirit. For example, Isaiah 48:16. “And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and His Spirit.”

**New Testament:** The New Testament makes this all much clearer. Many verses teach us about the divinity of God the Father. One example is 1 Corinthians 4:8. “For us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things.” Many verses teach us about the divinity of God the Son. One example is Titus 2:13: “...the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mat 28:19).

## XVII. Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary - May 31

The Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin, and the Gospel narrates the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. When Luke speaks of Mary, he thinks of the communities of his time which lived dispersed throughout the cities of the Roman Empire and offers them Mary as a model of how they should relate to the Word of God. Once, while hearing Jesus speak about God, a woman in the crowd exclaimed: “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts that fed You”, praising the mother of Jesus. Immediately Jesus answered: “More blessed still are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” (Lk 11:27-28). Mary is the model of the faithful community which knows how to live and practice the Word of God. In describing the visit of Mary to Elizabeth, he teaches how the communities should act in order to transform the visit of God into service to the brother and sisters.



### **XVIII. Bishop's Schedule for May, 2021**

1	:	Feast of St. Joseph, the Worker
10	:	Mother's Day
12	:	5.30 pm Holy Matrimony at Peddakottala, Nandyal
13	:	First Apparition, Our Lady of Fatima
15	:	Webinar of CCBI Executive Body Meeting
16	:	Ascension of the Lord: World Communication Day
23	:	Pentecost Sunday: Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination Bishop Udumala Bala, Easter Season ends
28	:	Holy Matrimony at Lourdunagar, Gudur
29	:	Singaram Village Centennial Celebrations
30	:	Solemnity of Most Holy Trinity
31	:	Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary

### **XIX. Communications**

1. **Thanks to Priests who are on Transfer:** I thank all Priests who are on transfer for their dedicated ministries and valuable services in their current Parishes/Institutions. I wish them the blessing of the Lord in their new assignments. The final list of Transfer is:

*With effect on or before May 8, 2021*

01.	Fr. A. Prakash	Retirement, Vianney Home
02.	Fr. Y. Joji	St. Pius X Seminary, Karunapuram
03.	Fr. K. Vijay Kumar	Pastor, Palakurthy
04.	Fr. P. Chinnaiiah	Pastor, Shantinagar
05.	Fr. D. Raja	Pastor, Narsampet/ Maheswaram
06.	Fr. Y. Lourdu	Sick Leave
07.	Fr. K. Showreddy	Pastor, Manugonda
08.	Fr. G. Prakash	Pastor, Singaram
09.	Fr. N. Surender	Pastor, Kumarpally
10.	Fr. S. Prabhakar	Pastor, Ghanpur
11.	Fr. Yerra Kiran	Pastor, H.M & Correspondent at St. Francis De Sales High School, Director of St. George Boys Boarding, Veleru
12.	Fr. G. Chinnappa	Pastor, St. Peter's & Director of Medicare Hospital
13.	Fr. Y. Satish	Professor, St. John's regional Seminary, Hyderabad
14.	Fr. N. Sampath	Associate Pastor, Fatima Cathedral
15.	Fr. G. Thomas	Pastor, Kanchanpally
16.	Fr. V. Simon	Director, Divya Vani & Youth Centre
17.	Fr. T. Sharan Teja	Pastor, H.M & Correspondent, St. Thomas High School, Jammikunta

**2. Condolence to Rev. Fr. Sunil Kumar IMS:** The Diocese is saddened to hear the news of the death of Mr. Ruben, the Father of Rev. Fr. Sunil Kumar IMS. He passed away in Jamnapuram near Bhongir at the age of 64 at 7. 15 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. The Diocese conveys heartfelt condolences to Fr. Sunil Kumar IMS, who is serving as Parish Priest in Thorrur and the bereaved family members and pray' May his soul rest in Peace'

**3. Condolence to Rev. Fr. Prabhakar Lazar IMS:** The Diocese is saddened to hear the news of the death of Mr. Bala Swamy, the Father of Rev. Fr. Prabhakar Lazar IMS. He passed away in Govindapuram at the age of 61 on 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2021. The Diocese conveys heartfelt condolences to Fr. Prabhakar Lazar IMS, who is serving as Assistant in St. Mary's School, Dantalapally and the bereaved family members and pray' May his soul rest in Peace'

**4. High Alert-Looming Lockdown:** Covid-19 with its Strain-forms and without symptoms is threatening the entire Humanity. It is going to be with us and we have to live with it. Therefore, let us take all possible caution esp. Priests in conducting Community Worship Services in Churches and otherwise.

By now all know that we must sanitize Churches before and after Services and permit only 50 people of adult age, with strict physical distance of 5 ft, Wearing Face mask, Sanitization as Faithful enter n leave, no sprinkling of Holy Water, Celebrant sanitizing himself at Beginning of Mass, before and after distribution of Communion, after Mass, etc.

Please stop all Choir/ Singing as the Virus spreads upto 9 ft. If at all, let them sing with Face masks put on! Kindly pass on this message to all Faithful of One's Parish and ask them to strictly follow.

**N.B: let's be prepared for total Lockdown as the situation is going from bad to worse.** Parishes/Institutions especially Pastoral Centre, Youth, Sunday school should take initiatives for online ministries like Prayer and Counseling requests, blessing people online etc. let's cultivate our minds with new & creative ideas and programs!

+ **Udumala Bala**, Bishop of Warangal

## **5. LODI MSSS: Achievement in April month**

### **I. Poverty Reduction among Poor and Marginalized rural households with Livelihoods, Ecological farming and Natural Resource Management in Kodakandla mandal**

A. Promoted Backyard Poultry to 300 target women and distributed 3000 Aseel chicks to enhance secondary income in 16 project villages.

B. Distributed loans of Rs. 3,90,000 for promotion of milk animals for 13 women in 3 project villages

C. Constructed 405 stone gullies in farmer's agricultural lands in 102 acres of 102 farmers in 8 project villages to control the soil erosion and increase the soil moisture retention capacity

D. Renovated 1 Feeder channel in 1 project villages and 25 farmers will benefit with increase of irrigation sources and recharge of bore wells

E. 2 irrigation ponds in 2 project villages is renovated by clearance of jungle on the bund, excavation of pond and strengthened the bund and 65 farmers will benefit with the increase of irrigation sources and recharge of bore wells.

F. Constructed 3 check dams in 1 village over the big stream and 156 acres of land of 60 farmers will be benefited with recharge of ground water and enhanced irrigation

## **II. Food Security, Chilpurmandal, Janagoan District.**

A. In 15 villages, 150 drums and yellow sticks & pheromone traps were distributed to 270 Farmers were received under the promotion of organic farming.

B. In 15 villages, existing 7 open wells were deepened to increasing the irrigation sources to the marginalised farmers.

**III. Snehahastam:** Association meeting with Institutions (Hospitals, Dispensaries, Private Clinics) increasing the optimal care of cancer patients

1. Time period: 06. 04. 2021

2. Place: PHC, Malyala, Mahabubabad Mandal & District

3. Chief Guest: Dr. Anvish, Medical Officer

4. Facilitator: K. Suresh, Coordinator

We have conducted Association meeting with Aasha worker and ANMs on increasing the optimal Care of cancer patients at Primary Health centre, Malyala region and Mahabubabad district. On 6 th April'2021, In this program we have focused on the content informed readers not to be afraid of cancer and that if they had the right information, a healthy lifestyle, had screening tests and looked for early signs and symptoms they could stay two steps ahead of cancer and explained importance of nutritious food to improve the health and caring for the cancer patients in the home with support of guardians.

Results:1. Aasha worker and ANMs were gained knowledge on Cancer and optimal care of cancerpatients. They have got knowledge on the referrals for Govt.MGM Hospital Cancer department and palliative care unit.

2. They have shared their owned field experience

3. We have distributed IEC material (pamphlets)

Participants: 46 Aasha worker and ANMs were participated in this program.

**Fr. D. Vijaya Paul**, Director, Lodi MSSS



## 6. Pastoral Centre

1. Marriage Preparation Course and Counseling was conducted on second and Fourth Saturdays of this month that is on 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of April. On the second Saturday 58 members and on fourth Saturday 40 members participated for MPC. In these classes spouses explained about marital life and family life. The group shared and expressed their feelings about this MPC programme. It was really fruitful. During this Pandemic i.e. Covid-19 situation we are following SMS (Social distancing, Mask, Sanitization) in pastoral center.

2. During Holy Week and On Easter Sunday pastoral centre team rendered their services in different parishes as per the need expressed by the Parish Priests.

3. Since Covid-19 virus fast spreading in these days, we began ministry of Prayer in Pastoral centre, for the speedy recovery of Covid patients and for the destruction of Corona Virus.

### **NB :**

- This year summer Ministry for the Diocesan Brothers stands cancelled due to the emergency situation caused by 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of Corona Pandemic. Let's follow the government regulations but make our faithful to makes their Hearts and Homes, Houses of Prayer, Temple of Learning and centres of Holy Families!
- MPC (Marriage Preparation Course) is Organized in every month on second and fourth Saturdays. Those to attend need to follow Covid-19 Rules and regulations especially SMS (Social distancing, Mask, Sanitization).

**Fr. Gopu Kamal, Director**

## 7. WADES

The General Body meeting of Warangal Diocesan Educational Society (WADES) was held on 30.03.2021 at Pastoral Center, Fathimanagar, Warangal. The meeting began at 3.30pm with a short prayer said by Fr. T. Joseph. The meeting was organized physically and virtually as well. Despite COVID-19 pandemic many members and Deans, attend physically. Fr. M. Jaya Paul, D.M welcomed the President Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, Mr. Mathias Reddy, the Manager of St. Peter's H/school, as a special guest and the members for the meeting. Mr. Mathias Reddy, addressed the gathering about various boards of education like: STATE, CBSE and ICSE curriculum.

Then the Deputy Manager, informed to the members that "Opening Permission"- for the new school, namely: St. Mother Teresa H/S - proposed as International School with ICSE Curriculum, was granted by the state of Govt of Telangana. It was proposed and agreed upon to start the new school in the D.Ed College building as it is vacant. All the members welcomed the opinion of establishing new school with ICSE curriculum. Various discussions were held with regard to ICSE School for its better functioning. President Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, expressed that providing quality education with ICSE curriculum is right decision and will bear fruit at right time. He also said that we need to adapt new trends of the society and move forward trusting in God. Finally Fr. E. Vijay Kumar the secretary of WADES proposed the vote of thanks and the meeting came to an end at 5.00 pm with a prayer said by Fr. G. Kamal.

**Fr. M. Jayapaul, D.M**

## BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Celebrate your birthday today. Celebrate being Happy every day.

Fr. Gangarpu Suresh	02-05-1984
Fr. Yeruva Papi Reddy	04-05-1968
Fr. Kasu Showreddy	05-05-1963
Fr. Gali Rayappa	06-05-1960
Fr. Narisetty Sampath	09-05-1987
Fr. Rachumalla Inna	10-05-1964
Fr. Gade Prakash	14-05-1969
Fr. Golamari Rayappa	25-05-1967



## PRIESTLY ORDINATION

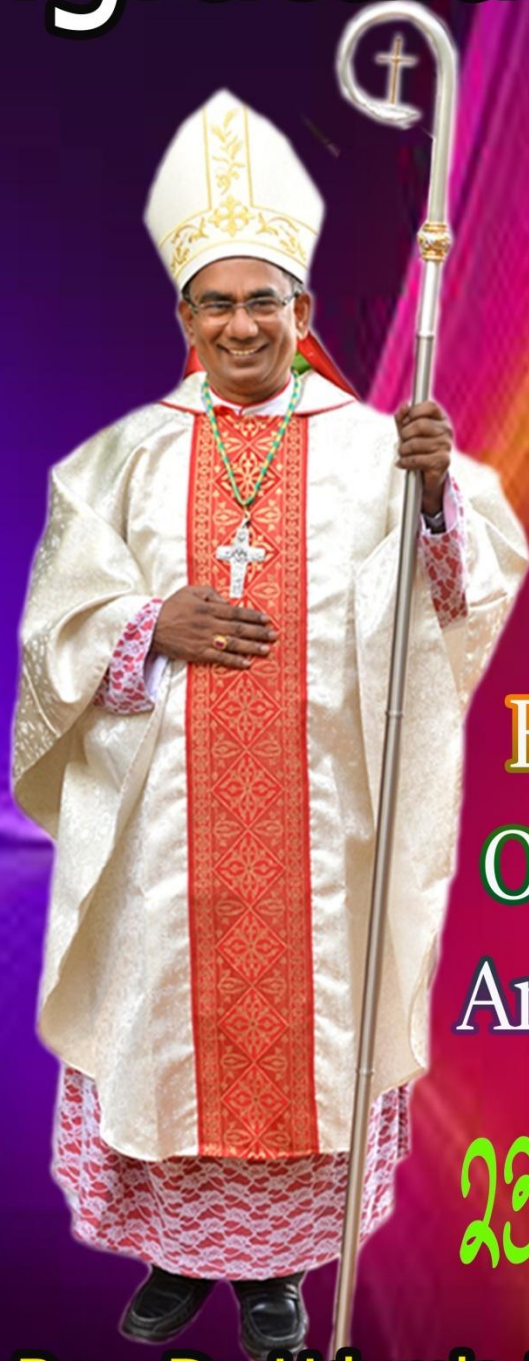
Rev. Fr. B. Chinnappa	01-05-1990
Rev. Fr. M. Anand	02-05-1994
Rev. Fr. D. Joseph	03-05-1990
Rev. Fr. R. Thomas	03-05-1990
Rev. Fr. P. Raja	04-05-1990
Rev. Fr. Gade Prashanth	05-05-2014
Rev. Fr. Gade Chinnappa	07-05-2014
Rev. Fr. Y. Satish	08-05-2014
Rev. Fr. P. John Paul	09-05-1994
Rev. Fr. Y. Bala	12-05-1994
Rev. Fr. G. Sudhakar	16-05-1994



**Note Bene:** The Unimaginable 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave of Corona blocks the Printed copy of Fatimavani May 2021. Please understand.

# Congratulations

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8<sup>th</sup>

Episcopal  
Ordination  
Anniversary

23-05-2020

Most Rev. Dr. Udumla Bala  
Bishop, Diocese of Warangal