



DIOCESE OF KARWAR

Waves



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POPE LEO



“ Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.”

BISHOP'S DESK

Dear Fathers and Sisters,

A very **Happy New Year 2026** to you all! As we begin this new year of ministry, I wish to ground our pastoral efforts in the wisdom of Pope Leo XIV's Apostolic Exhortation, **Dilexi Te**.

This document reminds us that our service to the poor and the marginalized is not a secondary task, but the very heart of our vocation. As the Holy Father writes, "The poor are not there by chance or by blind and cruel fate. Nor, for most of them, is poverty a choice. Yet, there are those who still presume to make this claim, thus revealing their own blindness and cruelty." (**Dilexi Te, 14**). **The poor are not objects of our pity, but the living icons of the Crucified Lord.** We must approach the suffering with the realization that we are meeting the Lord Himself in their midst.

I instruct you this year to move beyond a model of simple charity toward one of true fraternity and presence. True Christian service does not consist in a hand reached down from above, but in a hand extended from the side. We do not merely give 'to' the poor; we must learn to live 'with' them. Our rectories and religious houses must be sanctuaries where the lonely and

forgotten find not just a meal, but the **"dignity of being heard"**

Finally, our mission must include a prophetic commitment to justice and the transformation of the structures that create poverty. The Holy Father reminds us: "The wisdom of the Scriptures warns us that 'to close one's ears to the cry of the poor is to invite a time when one's own cry will not be heard' (Prov 21:13). This is a spiritual law: our relationship with God is inextricably bound to how we respond to the least among us " (**Dilexi Te, 51**). In 2026, let every parish and community in this diocese become a "school of social conscience,"

To ensure these principles take root, I instruct every priest to develop a concrete **Pastoral Plan** for the coming year that explicitly prioritizes the care of the poor within your local community. I urge you to move forward with courage and administrative clarity, involving your parish councils to turn these spiritual ideals into tangible actions. Let us advance together with a shared vision, ensuring that no one in our diocese is left behind or forgotten.

Doming

✠ *Bp Doming Dias*

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2026

2. FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is a major feast day in the Catholic Church that honors Mary's pivotal role in the Incarnation. Occurring exactly one week after Christmas, this day marks the conclusion of the **Octave of Christmas**, emphasizing that the child born in the manger is truly divine. The feast celebrates the theological title *Theotokos* ("God-bearer"), which was formally defined at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD to safeguard the belief that Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Beyond its historical roots, the day is also observed as the **World Day of Peace**, a tradition started by Pope Paul VI in 1968, inviting the faithful to entrust the coming year to Mary's maternal protection and to pray for global harmony.

January 14: The Feast of the Infant Jesus, celebrated predominantly on **January 14th**, honors the childhood of Christ and the mystery of the Incarnation—the belief that God became a small, vulnerable child to draw closer to humanity. While the devotion is most famously associated with the miraculous **Infant Jesus of Prague** (a 16th-century wax-coated wooden statue in the Czech Republic), the feast is celebrated with immense fervor globally, particularly in India and the Philippines. The image of the Infant, dressed in royal robes and a golden crown while holding a *globus cruciger* (a globe topped with a cross), symbolizes Christ's dual nature: his innocent humanity and his sovereign kingship over the world. **The Theme of "Mercy and Blessing"**: Devotion often centers on the famous promise associated with the Prague statue: *"The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you."* This year, many parishes are focusing on **humility and child-like trust** as a remedy for modern anxieties.

January 18-25: Unity Octave: The **Unity Octave**, more commonly known as the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, is an eight-day period of prayer observed annually from **January 18 to January 25**. It was established in 1908 by Fr. Paul Wattson to promote reconciliation between the various branches of Christianity, symbolically beginning on the (former) feast of the Chair of St. Peter and concluding on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Each year, an ecumenical group from a specific part of the world

selects a biblical theme and prepares reflections to guide the global community toward the "visible unity" of the Church. Theme for 2026: "One Body and One Spirit" **"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."** *Ephesians 4:4*.

February 11: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes : Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes commemorates the first of 18 apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to a 14-year-old peasant girl, St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. At a grotto in Massabielle, France, Mary revealed herself as the "Immaculate Conception" and directed Bernadette to a hidden spring whose waters have since been associated with countless miraculous healings. Because of this connection to physical and spiritual restoration, **Pope St. John Paul II designated this feast day as the World Day of the Sick in 1992.**

Observances for 2026 Pastoral Theme: The Sanctuary of Lourdes has chosen **"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee"** (Luke 1:28) as the theme for 2026. This focus invites pilgrims to reflect on Mary's absolute trust in God's will and her "yes" that changed the course of history.

World Day of the Sick Theme: Pope Leo XIV has announced the theme for the 34th World Day of the Sick: **"The Compassion of the Samaritan: Loving by Bearing the Pain of Others."** It calls the faithful to move beyond empathy and engage in concrete acts of closeness to those suffering from illness, isolation, or poverty.

3. CHRONICLES

Family Commission:

The Marriage Preparation Course : The Marriage Preparation Course was held from November 7–9, 2025, at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Shirwad, with 21 eager participants. The program opened with prayer and introduced the spiritual and practical goals of Christian marriage. Over three days, resource persons and clergy led sessions on the Sacrament of Marriage, communication, family life, parenthood, finances, and

Christian values. The course included group discussions, reflection, and Eucharistic celebrations. Certificates were distributed on the final day, and participants expressed gratitude during the concluding evaluation and thanksgiving prayer. The program proved spiritually enriching and well-organized.

Marriage Preparation Course : The Marriage Preparation Course for December 2025 was held from 12–14 December at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Shirwad–Karwar, with 32 participants. The three-day program, led by clergy and resource persons, focused on spiritual, emotional, and practical aspects of Christian married life through talks, discussions, and prayer. The course concluded with feedback, certificate distribution, and a thanksgiving prayer, proving to be enriching and well received.

Youth Commission

Karwar Diocesan ICYM DEXCO Election 2025–2027 : The ICYM DEXCO Election for the 2025–2027 term was held on 16 November 2025 at St. Joseph's High School, Kajubhag, beginning with delegate registration and Holy Mass. Bishop Duming Dias addressed the youth, thanking outgoing leaders and encouraging them to use their talents and aim high. Certificates were distributed in recognition of service, and a two-year activity report was presented. Outgoing members shared their experiences, and the event concluded with the transparent and spirit-filled election of new DEXCO office bearers to lead the diocesan youth for the next term.

KDSC holds First Meeting with Bishop Duming Dias at Shirwad, Karwar: The newly formed Karwar Diocesan Service Communion (KDSC) met with Bishop Duming Dias on November 17, 2025, at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad. After an opening prayer and welcome, the committee presented its plans and sought the bishop's guidance. Discussions focused on strengthening prayer groups, visiting the sick, promoting charity, organizing retreats, and enhancing parish-level spiritual growth. Bishop Duming offered insights and encouragement, urging unity and dedication. The meeting concluded with his blessing on the mission of the KDSC.

Two-day seminar on Evolving a Diocesan Pastoral Plan : A two-day seminar on "Evolving a Diocesan Pastoral Plan" was held on November 18–19, 2025, at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad. Guided by Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo and resource person Rev. Dr. Joseph Xavier, SJ, the seminar brought together Bishop Duming Dias, clergy, commis-

sion directors, and lay collaborators. Sessions focused on the identity, mission, vision, and key elements of pastoral planning, followed by group discussions and presentations. On the second day, participants drafted pastoral goals and action plans for various commissions. The seminar concluded with expressions of gratitude to the speakers and organizers for their valuable contributions.

Karnataka Christian Development Corporation: On November 21, 2025, the Karnataka Christian Development Corporation Limited held an information workshop at Puneeth Sadan, Karwar, to educate the Christian community about government welfare schemes. The session was led by State-level Member, along with Karwar District In-charge, and was attended by pastors, priests, religious, and lay faithful from across the diocese. Participants were given detailed guidance on the various schemes available for the Christian minority community, including eligibility criteria, application procedures, required documents, and where to apply. A question-and-answer session followed, during which officials addressed participants' doubts. Bp Duming Dias thanked the officials for organizing the workshop and urged priests and pastors to help those genuinely in need access these benefits. He emphasized the responsibility to share the information with others and expressed gratitude to the government for supporting the Christian community. The meeting concluded with the formation of a committee tasked with raising awareness about the schemes and ensuring they reach deserving beneficiaries.

Proclamation and Evangelization Commission

MCA Units established in Kodani and Bellimakki : The Commission inaugurated new Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) units at Kodani and Bellimakki on 29–30 November 2025. Rev. Fr. Stewart Fernandes led the training for 36 children and presided over the Eucharistic celebrations. The MCA units were formally launched with the installation of 25 members in Kodani and 12 in Bellimakki. Parish Priest Fr. John Abel D'Souza, Dn. Rohan Fernandes, and many faithful participated in the joyful event, celebrating the commitment of these young missionaries.

Liturgy Commission

Renewing Reverence: Liturgical Seminar for Religious Sisters: A two-day liturgical seminar was held for 47 religious sisters on 4–5

December 2025 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Shirwad-Karwar. Led by Rev. Dr. Rudolph Pinto and coordinated by Fr. Cyprian Silva, the program aimed to deepen understanding and improve the practice of the Church's liturgy within religious communities. Sessions covered core liturgical principles, sacred spaces, decorum, music, and the preparation of community celebrations, with attention to correcting common errors. Participants expressed gratitude for the clarity and relevance of the formation. The seminar concluded with a renewed commitment to enhancing the dignity and authenticity of liturgical celebrations across the diocese.

The Commission for Communication

Seminar on Media Awareness, Cyber Safety, and AI Tools: A day's seminar was held on Media Literacy, Cybercrime, Cybersecurity, and Emerging AI Tools on 7 December 2025 at St. Anthony Church, Ternamakki. Coordinated by Rev. Fr. Stewart Fernandes, the day began with the Advent Eucharistic celebration, after which 30 parish youth participated in the seminar. Fr. Stewart provided clear, practical guidance on responsible media use, cyber safety, video editing, and the opportunities and risks of new AI technologies, supported by hands-on demonstrations and interactive discussions. Participants responded enthusiastically, noting the relevance of the training and requesting similar sessions for children. The program concluded with a vote of thanks, affirming the Commission's commitment to equipping the faithful with essential digital-age skills.

Late Bishop William D'Mello Memorial Cricket Tournament: The Late Bishop William D'Mello Memorial Cricket Tournament was held on 10 December 2025 at Shirwad-Karwar to honor the memory of Bishop William D'Mello. Inaugurated by Bishop Duming Dias of Karwar, the tournament highlighted the late bishop's legacy of unity and fraternity. Four priests teams participated in a spirited league, with the Anointed Strikers emerging as champions and St. Carlos Acutis as runners-up. The event fostered fellowship, sportsmanship, and unity among the priests of the Diocese. The tournament served as a meaningful tribute to Bishop D'Mello while fostering fellowship, sportsmanship, and unity among the priests of the Diocese.

The Commission for Ecumenism : Sauhardh Christmas Celebration

Ankola (15 Dec 2025): Sauhardh Christmas Celebration held at Holy Rosary Hall under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Edwin Paul D'Souza and presided over by Bp Duming Dias, featuring ecumenical prayer, Gospel proclamation, carols, and messages on peace, hope, and salvation.

Dandeli (15 Dec 2025): United Christmas Celebration organized by AKUCFHR Karwar Zone-Dandeli Wing at Ambedkar Hall, with prayers, candle lighting, carols, cultural programmes, and a Christmas message by Fr. Felix Lobo on love, peace, and unity.

Haliyal (17 Dec 2025): Ecumenical Sauharda Christmas Celebration held at Milagris High School Hall, including prayer, carols, cultural performances, cake cutting, and reflections on harmony and togetherness.

Commission for the migrants

On 14 of December migrants from different part of Indian gathered at St John the Evangelist church Chendia Karwar. At the beginning before mass lighted the third week advent pink candle and at 10.15 am had English mass. Their spiritual needs are met. Then they had short meeting about upcoming Christmas gathering at Kone.

Women's Commission

Awareness on Government Schemes: In November, the Women's Commission of the Diocese organized an awareness session on government schemes promoting women's self-employment, with a focus on small-scale food production. Led by Mrs. Dr. Nevias Gomes, the programme encouraged practical entrepreneurship and assured support with documentation and subsidized loans. The sessions were held at Honavar, Kumta, and Bhatkal, with 78 participants from 24 parishes.

Women's Carol Singing Competition : For the first time in the Diocese of Karwar, the Women's Commission organized a deanery-level carol singing competition for Women's League members under the leadership of Sr. Mabel Pinto DHM. Supported by Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Duming Dias and diocesan clergy, the event saw participation from 44 parishes and became a joyful celebration of faith, unity, and talent. Mrs. Nevias Gomes was honored for her contribution to women's economic empowerment, making the programme a historic diocesan event.

Pastoral Visits in the month of NOV-DEC

1. St. Joseph's Church, Kirwatti
2. St. Anthony's Church, Gundolli
3. St. Francis Xavier Church, Hunshettikoppa
4. St. Joseph's Church, Ambewadi, Dandeli
5. Holy Rosary Church, Yellapur

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ordination of Deacons

Ordination of Dns Rohan Fernandes, Simon Siddi, Sandeep Gomes, Claudius Raja Doss and Ceeplus Rodrigues is scheduled on 9.1.2026 at 10.30am at Our Lady of Assumption Cathedral, Kajubagh, Karwar

Deanery meeting

Deanery Recollection and Meeting is scheduled on 14-15.1.2026 in all 7 deaneries

COMMISSION FOR FAMILY

Date	Place
09-11. Jan	Shirwad, Karwar
13-15 .Feb	Shirwad, Karwar

21.02.2026: Training for Counsellors, Shirwad, Karwar

COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION

Prathiba Career Guidance Course for PU and Degree students

Date	Place
11.01.2026	Mother Theresa School, Yellapur
18.01.2026,	Prathibhodaya, Honnavar
25.01.2026	St. Michael Convent, Karwar

Time:9.30am to 4.00pm

January 30- February 1 , 2026: Barefoot Counsellors' Course for Teachers

COMMISSION FOR IRD

18-25 Jan 2026: Unity Octave

Prayer for Christian Unity in zones

Ecumenical visit of pastors of all denominations and main line churches will be organized during Christian unity octave prayer January 2026 at the parish level

Inter Religious Dialogue: visiting 5 inter faith household in a month of January 2026 and making the team of inter religious in the month of February

COMMISSION FOR SC/ST/BC CHRISTIANS

Date	Activity	Deanery / Place
19.02.2026	Visit & selection of area representatives	Haliyal and Sirsi
13.02.2026	Awareness on the need of quality education for parents	Shirwad, Karwar
26.02.2026	Visit & selection of area representatives	Haliyal and Sirsi

5. BISHOP'S ITINERARY

In the month of January

- 03 Nuptial mass, Sagar
- 04 8.30 am Confirmation, OT, Bhadravathi
- 09 10.30 am Ordination Cathedral.
- 11 10.30 St Lawrence, Thirthahalli
- 13 10.30 Our Lady of Fathima, Molkod
- 14-15 Deanery meeting
- 14 10.30 Infant Jesus Feast, Sirsi
- 15 10.30 Infant Jesus, Bikarnakatte
- 17-18 Pastoral Visit, Dandeli
- 21 10.00 am Feast, Puttur
- 22 Siddakatte
- 24 11.00 am Nuptial Mass , Goa .
- 25 Confirmation, Sagar
- 26 St Lawrence Feast, Attur

In the month of February

- 01 6.00 Pm Don Bosco, Davanagere.
- 02-03 CCBI Meeting, Bangalore.
- 04-11 CBCI Meeting, Bangalore.
- 11-12 Clergy Meeting
- 13 10.30 Blessing of the Chapel, Tatwani.
- 14 10.30 am Holy Rosary Feast, Siddapur.
- 15 Pastoral Visit, Bukkinkop
- 16 Young Clergy meeting
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 21-22 Pastoral Visit, Gund
- 23-27 KRCBC Meeting

6. BIRTHDAYS

In the month of January

- 05 Fr Thomas Fernandes
- 10 Fr Antonio D'Souza
- 12 Fr Sebastian Fernandes
- 17 Fr John Farrugia
- 20 Fr Sebastian Pinto
Fr Royston Gonsalves
- 22 Fr Victor Dias
- 22 Fr Prem Kumar D'Souza OFM
- 24 Fr Simon Fernnades
- 25 Fr Paul Sequiera
- 31 Fr Joseph Pinto

In the month of February

- 04 Fr Britto D'Silva
- 05 Fr Mark Fernandes
- 13 Fr Gabriel Lopes
- 15 Fr Rohan Gonsalves
- 16 Fr Edwin D'Souza
- 21 Fr Valerian D'Souza
- 23 Fr Theodore D'Cunha SAC
Fr Jose Rufino Melendes
- 26 Fr Urban S. Fernandes
- 27 Fr Arun Fernandes
- 28 Fr Bonaventure Rodrigues

Pope Leo's Message for the World Day of Peace- 2026

“Peace be with you all: Towards an ‘unarmed and disarming’ peace,” is the theme for the message for the World Day of Peace 2026 celebrated on January first on the feast of Mary Mother of God. Pope gives an authentic invitation to all people **“to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice.”** He calls for a peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, the God who loves us all, unconditionally. **“It is not enough to call for peace; we must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic.”**

His message is addressed to all believers and non-believers, political leaders and ordinary citizens, with the desire to build together a peaceful and truly human future. The Pontiff recognizes that the world is marked by inequality, environmental degradation, and growing spiritual disconnection. Reconciliation begins by recognizing these wounds and addressing them from the concrete reality of each community. In his quest for peace the Pope proposes a new horizon: **“if you want peace, prepare institutions for peace.”** He firmly reminds us that **“without forgiveness, there will never be peace.”** Forgiveness does not mean forgetting, but rather opening paths of healing that allow us to overcome divisions and advance toward authentic brotherhood. Pope Leo XIV's message for the 2026 World Day of Peace is an invitation to disarm our hearts, to build institutions of peace, and to embrace forgiveness as the basis of all reconciliation. With the strength of youth and friendship, the Church proposes a path to transform history in the spirit of hope and fraternity.

