



DIOCESE OF KARWAR

Waves



Vol. 3 Issue 4 July–Aug 2026

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POPE LEO



"Only genuine relationships and stable connections can build good lives."

BISHOP'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Peace and joy in the Holy Spirit!

St Thomas, the Apostle: We remember St. Thomas the Apostle, whose historic "Yes" brought the light of the Gospel to our beloved homeland, cementing our roots in an ancient, courageous faith. May his legacy inspire us to move past our own doubts, boldly stepping into unfamiliar territory to share the living truth of Christ with a world that longs to believe.

Mount Carmel: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, whose feast reminds us of the beauty of silence, contemplation, and the protective mantle that wraps around our daily ministry. Under her gentle guidance, we seek to cultivate a quiet heart amidst the noise of our work, trusting that her maternal care shields, sustains, and draws us ever closer to her Son.

St John Maria Vianney: On this special day, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all the priests serving in our diocese. Thank you for your radical "Yes" to the Lord. Thank you for your daily sacrifices, your endurance, and your unwavering commitment to the altar and the confessional.

My dear priests, the Church of Karwar is blessed by your ministry. I pray that, like the Curé of Ars, you continue to cultivate a true shepherd's heart, one that smells of the sheep, beats with compassion, and seeks out the lost. You are the hands and feet of Christ, and your dedication does not go unnoticed. Happy Feast to you all!

Day of Grand Parents and the Elderly:

Turning our hearts to our families, our Holy Father reminds us of the invaluable treasure we have in our elders through the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. This is a beautiful reminder that faith is passed down through generations. I encourage all parishes and religious houses to organize special prayers, visits, or small gatherings to honor our seniors. Let us actively bridge the gap between the youth and the elderly, ensuring that no grand parent in our community feels lonely or forgotten, for their wisdom is the anchor of our families.

Independence: August 15 is a beautiful convergence of our earthly duties and our heavenly hopes. As we celebrate Independence Day, let us pray for our country, recommitting ourselves to building a nation of peace, harmony and justice. On the very same day, we look to the heavens as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary's assumption gives us hope that where she has gone, we, her children, hope to follow. We entrust the safety, progress, and spiritual growth of the Karwar Diocese into her maternal hands.

In conclusion, let these celebrations fill our hearts with renewed zeal. May our priests be re-energized in their vocation, may our elderly feel deeply loved, and may our devotion to Mother Mary guide our diocese towards Christ.

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✠ Bp Doming Dias

2. FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES

July 3, 2026: St Thomas the Apostle : As we reflect on the life of St. Thomas the Apostle, we find a model for our shared ministry and religious life. **Thomas reminds us that true faith is not afraid of honest questions or human vulnerability;** his journey from a place of deep doubt to his ultimate declaration, **'My Lord and my God!'**, shows us that Christ always meets us in our uncertainty to transform it into conviction. Inspired by his immense missionary zeal, which led him to carry the Gospel to the ends of the earth and plant the seeds of faith in India, let us have the courage to step beyond our comfort zones. In our daily pastoral care, may we never judge those who struggle to believe, but instead follow the example of St Thomas by helping them encounter the tangible love and living presence of the Risen Lord. Let us pray that the same Holy Spirit who turned a doubting apostle into a fearless martyr will renew our own zeal, to bring Christ's healing touch to the doubts, fears, and wounds of the people we serve today.

26 July 2026: World Day of Grandparents

and the Elderly: World Grandparents' Day was instituted by Pope Francis in 2021 and is celebrated every fourth Sunday of July to closely coincide with the feast day of Sts. Joachim and Anne. It offers an opportunity to show the elderly the closeness of the Church and to value their contribution to families and communities.

This year, the date coincides exactly with the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne on Sunday, July 26, 2026. The Holy Father has invited everyone to celebrate the day with a Eucharistic liturgy in the cathedral church of their respective dioceses.

The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV: **"I will not forget you"** (Isaiah 49:15). This verse was chosen by the Holy Father to emphasize how God's love for every person never fails, not even in the frailty of old age. Let us find creative, meaningful, and pastoral ways within our local communities to honor the irreplaceable wisdom of our elderly, to treasure their contribution to our families, and to ensure they always feel cherished, valued, and never forgotten.

Aug 04, 2026: St John Maria Vianney :

As we turn our hearts to August 4, we celebrate the Memorial of Saint John Mary Vianney, the beloved patron of parish priests, whose life reminds us that **'the priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus.'** In an age that often measures success by worldly standards, the Curé of Ars stands as a timeless beacon of humility, relentless pastoral charity, and absolute self-giving. He allowed himself to be entirely consumed by his ministry, spending grueling hours in the confessional, anchoring his life in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and radiating a simple holiness that converted thousands of souls. When the faithful express their deepest gratitude for your daily, quiet sacrifices, let us look to Saint John Vianney to renew our fervor for the Holy Mass, remembering his warning that a **"routine liturgy breeds a lukewarm spirit"**. May the Lord grant our diocese many more shepherds after His own heart, who joyfully give everything and hold nothing back.

Aug 15, 2026: Assumption of Mother Mary and the Independence day:

On August 15, let us join the nation and the universal Church in a magnificent 'double feast' celebrating both the earthly freedom of our nation on Independence Day and the heavenly liberation of our Blessed Mother in her glorious Assumption. This beautiful convergence reminds us of Mahatma Gandhi's profound insight that **'Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes,'** yet as people of faith, we know that true freedom finds its ultimate purpose in love and service. In her Assumption, Mary body and soul into heaven points us toward this ultimate, eternal liberation from sin and division. Let us echo the powerful words of Saint Pope John Paul II: **'Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.'**

As citizens of this great country and as children of the Church, let us commend our motherland to the maternal protection of Our Lady, remembering the beautiful promise of Saint Maximilian Kolbe: **'Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.'**

May our priests, religious, and faithful continue to work tirelessly to build a society rooted in the gospel values of justice, peace, and dignity for all, keeping our eyes fixed on Mary, who stands as a beacon of ultimate hope and our true heavenly destiny.

3. CHRONICLES

Commission for Proclamation & Evangelization

Formation of MCA Unit: The Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization of the Diocese of Karwar formed a Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) Unit at St. Anne's Church, Binaga, on 14 June 2026. The programme was led by Fr. Stewart Fernandes, Secretary of the Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization. 13 children and 2 animators participated in the programme.

Formation of MCA unit in St. Joseph's Church, Manaki: St. Joseph's Church Manaki, witnessed the formation of the MCA Unit on 28th June, 2026. The unit was formed by 30 enthusiastic children who promised to hold out the light of Christ.

Family Commission

Marriage Enrichment Program: The Family Commission successfully organized a Marriage Enrichment Program on 8th May 2026, at St. Sebastian Church, Manchikeri, with the support and cooperation of the Parish Priest-in-charge, Fr. Ronny Rodrigues. The resource persons for the day were Mr. Stephan Almeida and Fr. Sachin D'Souza, who guided the participants through inspiring talks, interactive discussions, and meaningful activities.

Family Life Education and Enrichment Program: The Diocesan Family Commission successfully organized a Family Life Education Program at Mudkani Parish on 7th June 2026, with the support and cooperation of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Benjamin D'Souza. Around 35 participants attended the program. The initiative brought together married couples, children, and youth through specially designed sessions aimed at strengthening family life and promoting healthy Christian values.

Youth Commission

YCS, YSM, and MCA Training Program:

The Commission for Youth and the Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization jointly organized a full-day YCS, YSM, and MCA Training Program on 13th May 2026, at St Joseph Church, Lower Kasarkod, for the animators involved in youth and children's ministry. Twenty-two participants attended the program with enthusiasm. Fr. Steven Fernandes provided valuable guidance on the YCS and YSM movements and conducted various interactive activities that inspired and energized the animators, helping them better understand their role in youth ministry.

Sports Meet "Rise to Victory": The ICYM Kajubag Deanery Sports Meet, held under the inspiring theme "Rise to Victory," was organized on May 4th, 2026, at the Holy Redeemer Church ground, bringing together youth from across the deanery for a day of vibrant sportsmanship and fellowship. Events such as a knockout football tournament, a girls' badminton tournament, and a tug-of-war attracted the youth to participate and fully involve themselves in the events.

Communio Awareness Program for Youth:

A half-day Communio Awareness Program was organized for the youth of the Diocese of Karwar on 11 June 2026 at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad. The program witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 45 youth members from various parishes of the diocese and was conducted by Sr. Margarita Dias, SCB. Through an interactive presentation, animation, and group activities, Sr. Margarita helped the youth understand the vision, objectives, and responsibilities of Communio volunteers. As a symbol of growth, care, and commitment to creation, a sapling planting ceremony was conducted.

Formation of YCS Unit: A half-day Formation Programme for Young Catholic Students was conducted at St. Joseph's Church, Sadashivgad, on 14th June 2026. The programme brought together 22 students from Class VIII to PUC, marking the formation of a new YCS Unit in the parish. The students were introduced to the concept of cell meetings, where members regularly gather for prayers, reflection, discussion, and action-oriented initiatives.

Commission for Liturgy

Seminar on Updated Konkani Roman Missal:

The Commission for Liturgy organized a session for diocesan priests on the updated Konkani Roman Missal on 10th June 2026 at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad. The seminar aimed to familiarize clergy with the revisions made in the Missal and to deepen their understanding of its proper use in the celebration of the sacred liturgy. The seminar served as an important occasion for ongoing liturgical formation, helping the diocesan priests of Karwar prepare themselves for the effective use of the updated Konkani Missal in their pastoral ministry across their respective parishes. They were also asked to familiarize the faithful with these changes.

Seminar for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

A two-day training seminar for new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) was conducted on 20th and 21st June 2026 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Shirwad, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Cyprian Silva. A total of 36 participants from various parishes of the diocese attended the seminar.

Commission for Communication

Awareness Programme on Media, Cyber Crime, and Cyber Security:

The Commission for Communication of the Diocese organized an Awareness Programme on media, cybercrime, and cybersecurity at St. Anne's Church, Binaga, on Sunday, June 14, 2026. The session was conducted by Fr. Stewart Fernandes. A total of 22 participants attended the programme, which focused on helping children and youth understand the role of media in daily life and the importance of staying safe in the digital world.

Commission for Faith Formation

Training Programme for Catechism Teachers:

The Commission for Faith Formation of the Diocese of Karwar organized a Catechism Teachers' training programme at Prathibhodaya, Honnavar, on June 14, 2026, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Cyprian Silva. The programme brought together 103 Catechism teachers from the Kumta, Honnavar, and Bhatkal Deaneries, providing them with spiritual enrichment and practical training for their ministry. The sessions were conducted by Frs. Cyprian Silva, Benson Fernandes, and Benjamin D'Souza.

Catechism Training Programme for the Deaneries of Kone and Kajubag:

One-day Seminar for the Catechism Teachers of Kone and Kajubag Deaneries was held on Sunday, 28th June 2026. Fr. Cyprian Silva, Fr. Valento Fernandes and Fr. Intru Pinto were the resource persons of the day. 32 teachers benefited from this Seminar.

The Diocesan Golden Jubilee Committee Meeting:

The Diocesan Golden Jubilee Committee convened for a significant meeting at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, on May 5, 2026, to deliberate on preparations for the forthcoming Golden Jubilee Year. A total of 21 participants were present for the meeting, which was headed by the Bishop, Vicar General, Deans, priests, and lay representatives from various deaneries. The meeting primarily focused on planning and organizing initiatives for the Golden Jubilee Year. Through group discussions, several constructive suggestions emerged, emphasizing pastoral outreach, youth involvement, evangelization efforts, and service initiatives.

Commission for Vocation

The Karwar Diocesan Seminarians' gathering was held at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, on 21–22 May 2026, with the participation of 20 seminarians from both minor and major seminaries. The two-day gathering provided an opportunity for prayer, reflection, fraternity, and vocational enrichment. A meaningful sharing session was held during which the seminarians reflected on their experiences from holiday ministry, the propaedeutic year, and parish ministry. The sharing fostered mutual learning, understanding, and encouragement among the participants.

Diaconate Ordination

The solemn Diaconate Ordination Ceremony was held at St. Joseph the Worker Church, Ambevadi, on 7th May 2026. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Duming Dias, along with 29 priests concelebrating the Holy Mass. During the Sacred Liturgy, Bro. Blisson D'Souza and Br. Joyston Coutinho were ordained to the Order of Deacons.

Clergy Meeting: The clergy meeting of the Diocese of Karwar was held at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, on 10th and 11th June 2026. The gathering provided an opportunity for the priests of the diocese to deepen their understanding of the newly issued Encyclical Letter of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV – “Magnifica Humanitas”. It was a time of recollection and reflection on the points discussed during the session.

Commission for Laity

Think-Tank Committee Get-Together:

The Commission for Laity of the Diocese of Karwar hosted a get-together of the Think-Tank Committee at Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad, on 21st June 2026. Fourteen members from different parts of the diocese participated in the gathering. The resource person for the programme, Rev. Fr. Sudeep Paul, MSFS, highlighted the concept of a think-tank in the history of the Church and stressed the importance of faith and reason, dialogue and discernment, the Church’s intellectual heritage, and the shared mission of all the faithful. It was formally inaugurated on this day.

Women Commission

One day Training Programme: The Diocesan Women Commission of Karwar organized one day Training of Trainers (TOT) on POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment), Gender Sensitization, and Gender- Based violence on 26 June 2026. The Programme was conducted under the guidance of Sr. Mable Pinto, with the objective of equipping Deanery leaders to promote child protection, safe environment, gender justice and Women’s empowerment across the Diocese. The training brought together 30 participants from seven deaneries of the Diocese.

Health Commission

Get-together of Health Professionals: The Health Commission of the Diocese of Karwar under the leadership of Sr. Nathasha ,SRA, Secretary of the Commission for Health, organized a get-together of health professionals on 28th June 2026, at Karwar Diocesan Development Council (KDDC) Karwar. During the Programme four distinguished Health Care Professionals were honoured for their dedicated and selfless service in the field of Health Care. Around 36 Participants were part of this programme.

Communio Awareness Programme: A Communio Awareness Seminar for the clergy was also held to introduce the vision, mission, and activities of Communio, an initiative of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India. Sr. Margarita Dias, SCB, and Fr. Ronny Rodrigues were the resource persons of the day. There were 110 priests in attendance, both religious and secular.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commission for Faith Formation: EMHC Renewal Program will be held in the Diocese:

Date	Deaneries	Place
July 4-5	Honnavar, Bhatkal	Pastoral Centre
July 11-12	Haliyal, Sirsi	Pastoral Centre
July 18-19	Kumta, Kone, Kajubag	Pastoral Centre

July 27-28: recollection for the Catechists in Diocesan Pastoral Centre.

Commission for Family

9 July 2026: MFC in Honnavar Deanery

24th July to 26th July

Marriage Preparation Course.

August: Marriage Enrichment Programme and remote preparation in the Parishes.

Commission for Youth

July- August: Formation of YCS Units in the Parishes

August 9th : National Youth Sunday.

Commission for Vocation

August 9th : Altar Boys Day Celebration at the Parish level.

July 6: Sisters in the Health Ministry, Venue: Puneetha Sadan, Shirwad

Prison Ministry Commission

August 30th: Raksha Bandhan Programme for the prisoners from 4:30pm to 6:00 pm.

Ecumenism Commission

July 22nd : Ecumenical Meeting - United Christian Forum, Puneeth Sadan, Shirwad.

Proclamation and Evangelization Commission

July–August: Formation of the MCA Units in the parishes.

Commission for Ecology

July 5th: “Each One Plant One” Campaign
“Vanamahotsava” Parish level by Parish team.

Women commission

26th June 2026- Training on the 2nd objective of the Commission for Deanery leaders at Pratibodaya, Honavar.

July: Training on the self-employable schemes.
Grand Parents’ Day at Parish level.

August-Diocesan Level Singing Competition.

Theme: Mother Mary Model for Family. Each Parish Women Cell will participate. Participants need to make a video of the song and upload.

5. BISHOP’S ITINERARY

In the month of July

06 : 9:30am Sisters in Health Ministry, Shirwad
08-09 : Deanery Meeting
09 : 9:30am MFC, Haliyal Deanery Meeting
16 : 9:30am Mount Carmel Feast, Shimoga
17 : 9:30am Board Meetings, Shimoga

In the month of August

02-08 : Retreat: Batch -1
03-04 : Recollection- Vianney Day
09 : 9:30am ,CRI-Karwar
10 : 9:30am Com. Directors’ Meeting, Shimoga
16-22: Retreat: Batch-2
30 : 5:30pm Flag Hoisting, Minor Basilica, Harihar

6. BIRTHDAYS

In the month of July

01 Fr. Francis L. Fernandes
02 Fr. Noel Prakash Lobo
02 Fr. Bosteao Nazareth
03 Fr. Remend Fernandes
09 Fr. Anthony Rodrigues (Jr)
Fr. Felix Lopes
10 Msgr Simon Tellis
12 Fr. Don Bosco Thomas
23 Fr. Anthony Lopes
25 Fr. Romeo Fernandes
27 Fr. Benedict Rodrigues
30 Fr. Faustine Furtado
31 Fr. Manuel Serrano

In the month of August

01 Fr. Wilson Pinto
04 Fr. Salvador Gonsalves
05 Fr. Melvin Lobo S.J
07 Fr. John Abel D’Souza
08 Fr. John Wilson
Fr. Robin Doss
12 Fr. Marvin Josue Molina
Fr. Albert D’Silva OFM. Cap
13 Fr. Ronald D’Souza
24 Fr. Benjamin D’Souza
31 Fr. Victor Crasta



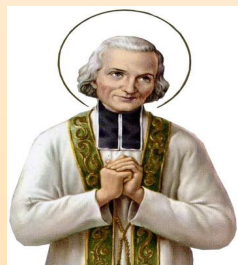
POPE’S INTENTION FOR JULY & AUGUST

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

For Mutual Coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.



“What a great thing is the priest! If he understood himself, he would die... God obeys him: he utters two words, and our Lord comes down from heaven at his voice, and shuts Himself up in a small host”. St John Vianney

**Dear Fathers, Wishing you a very blessed Feast of St. John Vianney!
Thank you for your 'Yes' to God and for your faithful shepherd's heart.**