



DIOCESE OF KARWAR

Waves



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POPE LEO



“Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words.”

BISHOP'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Year of the Poor: We have officially entered a season of profound grace. The Year of the Poor was solemnly inaugurated on February 12, 2026, at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre (DPC) in the presence of our Clergy and Religious. This was followed by a public launch for all the faithful on **February 18, 2026**, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Assumption, Kajubagh. Let this year be defined not by words, but by our proximity to those who suffer.

One Parish, One House : Inspired by *Dilexi Te*, the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV, we are called to embody the love of Christ through concrete action. Every parish in the Diocese is tasked with identifying and building one house for the most needy family in their community. This is not about luxury; it is about providing a fundamental human right a roof over the head of the marginalized and a place of dignity for those in distress.

Strengthening the Vineyard: To reach the peripheries, we must revitalize our parish structures. We must galvanize all efforts to strengthen or form the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) and other charitable associations in every parish. Through regular family visits and constant availability, let us ensure the Church is a living presence in every home.

Deepening the Roots of Faith: A mature faith requires constant nourishment. We are introducing Adult Catechesis- a five-minute teaching on the Profession of Faith that will take place every Sunday before the Holy Mass to ground the faithful in our Creed. On the fourth Sunday of each month, a specialized short reflection will be shared to guide spiritual growth throughout the year.

Investing in our Future: Our young people are the heartbeat of the Diocese. We are organizing Faith Formation and Vocation Camps across our three zones. Participation is essential for 10th standard students and no student should be left out of these formative camps. Both I and II PU students are required to attend Vocation Camps in their respective zones to discern God's call with a clear heart.

As we witness the dawn of the Resurrection, may the triumph of the Risen Christ bring light to the darkest corners of our lives. Just as Christ rose to give us new life, may we rise to serve those in need. I wish you and your families a Joyous and Grace-filled Easter

Doming

✠ *Bp Doming Dias*
Bishop of Karwar

2. FEASTS & SOLEMNITIES

MARCH 8, International Women's Day: observed annually on March 8, is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while serving as a vital call to action for accelerating gender parity. Rooted in the early 20th-century labor movements, the day has evolved into a powerful moment of reflection on the "**feminine genius**" the unique strength, intellect, and empathy women bring to every sphere of life, from the heights of leadership to the heart of the home. As we honour the trailblazers who have broken barriers and the unsung heroes who sustain our communities, March 8 challenges us to move beyond mere appreciation toward active support for equity and dignity. It is a day to recognize that a world where women are empowered is a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for everyone.

March 19 The Feast of Saint Joseph : The Feast of Saint Joseph, celebrated on March 19, serves as a joyful "Lenten loophole" where the usual somber penance is paused to honour the foster father of Jesus. As the patron saint of workers, fathers, and the Universal Church, Joseph is celebrated with deep cultural roots, particularly in Sicily, where tradition says he ended a devastating medieval famine. This history is kept alive through "**St. Joseph's Tables**" elaborate, three-tiered altars overflowing with symbolic meatless dishes, "lucky" fava beans, and pasta topped with breadcrumbs to represent a carpenter's sawdust. While Joseph himself remains the "**Silent Saint**" with no recorded words in Scripture, his feast day teaches us that fatherhood is not about "possession," but about a love that points toward a greater Father. To our religious: Joseph's life of consecrated service to the Word Incarnate is the blueprint for your own. Like him, you are called to be **Custodians of the Holy**. Whether you are laboring in the "workshop" of a parish office, a classroom, or a hospital, remember that your hidden work is what sustains the life of the Church.

March 25 : The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, celebrated on March 25, commemorates the pivotal moment when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce that she would conceive the Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Occurring exactly nine months before Christmas, this feast

celebrates the mystery of the **Incarnation** the Word becoming flesh and honors Mary's "**Fiat**," her courageous and humble "**Yes**" that allowed God's plan of salvation to enter human history. Often described as the moment the "**New Eve**" undid the disobedience of the first, the Annunciation is fundamentally a feast of the Lord, marked liturgically by the congregation kneeling during the Creed at the mention of Christ's birth. It serves as a profound reminder of the power of human cooperation with divine grace, turning a quiet encounter in Nazareth into the dawn of the world's redemption.

April 05 : EASTER : Alleluia! He is risen!

After the long, quiet journey of Lent and the somber shadows of Good Friday, these words break through the darkness like the first rays of the morning sun. Easter is not merely a look back at an empty tomb from two thousand years ago; it is a living encounter with the God who transforms endings into beginnings. The Resurrection tells us that no stone is too heavy for God to roll away. Whether we are carrying the weight of personal grief, the anxiety of a restless world, or the simple fatigue of daily life, Easter arrives as a divine guarantee that death, in all its forms, does not have the final word. Life does. Love does. Let us remember that we are called to be "**Easter people**." This means carrying the light of the Resurrected Christ into the dark corners of our communities offering a word of comfort to the lonely, a hand to the burdened, and a spirit of radical hope to all we meet. May your "Alleluia" be loud, your joy be infectious, and your faith be renewed.

3. CHRONICLES

Diocese of Karwar Rejoices in the Ordination of Five New Priests: The Diocese of Karwar solemnly celebrated the ordination of five new priests Rev. Frs. Ceeplus Rodrigues, Claudius Raja Doss, Rohan Fernandes, Sandeep Gomes, and Simon Siddi during the Eucharistic celebration held at Our Lady of Assumption Cathedral, Karwar on January 9, 2026. The sacred liturgy was presided over by Bp Duming Dias. In his homily, Bishop reflected on Christ the Good

Shepherd, exhorting the newly ordained priests to carry out their ministry with love, humility, compassion, and unwavering fidelity. He also expressed his gratitude to their families for supporting their vocation. The ceremony concluded with a felicitation programme,

Commission for Migrants

New Year Get-Together: A New Year Get-Together was organized for migrants on 11 Jan. 2026 at Chendia, bringing together migrants from different parts of India in a spirit of unity and cultural diversity. The program began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, invoking God's blessings on migrants and their families for the New Year 2026. Sr. Mabel D'Cruz CCR delivered an informative talk on the protection of migrants, highlighting their rights, challenges, and the Church's role in supporting them. The event was enriched by the presence of diocesan coordinators and commission members, and concluded with breakfast.

Education Commission

Prathiba Career Guidance Program: The Education Commission organized the "Prathiba Career Guidance Program" for PU and Degree students in the following places:

Yellapur deanery: The programme was held in the Yellapur Zone on 11 Jan. 2026 at Mother Teresa School, Yellapur, covering the Haliyal and Sirsi Deaneries. The program featured a keynote address by Fr. Raymond Fernandes on career discernment and value-based decision-making, followed by an inspiring and interactive session led by Prof. William D'Souza, who guided students on identifying their strengths and exploring career options. Fr. Royston Gonsalves, coordinated the program. Total no. of participants were 40 students. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Felix.

Honavar deanery: In Honavar Zone the programme was held at Prathibhodaya, Honavar, on 18th Jan. 2026 covering the deaneries of Kumta, Honavar, and Bhatkal. There were 156 students. Led by Prof. William D'Souza, the interactive session guided students in identifying their strengths and exploring various career options after PUC and degree studies. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Richard Rodrigues, Vicar General, invoking God's blessings on the students. The program concluded with the vote of thanks by Russell Fernandes,

Kone and Kajubag deaneries: The programme was held on 25 Jan. 2026 at K.D.D.C. Hall, Karwar, for Kone and Kajubag Deaneries. 70

students participated. The programme featured an inspiring session by Prof. William D'Souza, highlighting various career opportunities. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Fr. Richard Rodrigues, who motivated students to plan their future responsibly.

Barefoot Counselling Training Phase 1:

The Diocese of Karwar conducted a Barefoot Counselling Training Programme Phase 1 (Batch 1) from 30 Jan. to 1 Feb. 2026 for 22 teachers at Puneet Sadan, Shirwad. The three-day programme aimed to equip teachers with basic counselling skills to support students with empathy and emotional maturity. Facilitated by Fr. Joyson Sujay Vas, SJ, the sessions covered self-discovery, counselling skills, behavioural understanding, mindfulness, the POCSO Act, and teacher well-being.

Day of Consecrated Life

Haliyal Deanery : On February 1, 2026, the Haliyal Deanery celebrated the **World Day of Consecrated Life** at St. Anthony's Church in Dandeli. Organized by Rev. Fr. Urban Fernandes, the event brought together 18 priests and 25 religious sisters in a vibrant display of unity and fraternity. The day's program balanced spiritual depth with communal joy, featuring prayerful reflection and Eucharistic Adoration alongside interactive activities designed to foster deep bonding and shared gratitude. The gathering concluded with a festive fellowship meal, leaving participants with a renewed sense of communion and a reinvigorated commitment to their shared mission in consecrated life.

Kone & Kajubag Deanery : On February 15, 2026, the Kajubag and Kone Deaneries gathered at St. Joseph College, Karwar, to celebrate the Day of Consecrated Life. Centered on the theme "**Called Once, Lived Daily,**" the event featured an inspiring reflection by **Fr. Stany Pinto** on renewing one's vocation through daily prayer and service. **Bishop Duming Dias** commended the religious for their dedicated witness, encouraging a spirit of unity and joyful fidelity. The celebration concluded with prize distributions, a heartfelt vote of thanks, and a shared fellowship meal.

Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization

Missionary Childhood Day: On February 8, 2026, St. Anthony's Church, Ternamakki, celebrated Missionary Childhood Day with a

vibrant liturgy presided over by **Rev. Fr. Stewart Fernandes**. The MCA children actively animated the Mass, symbolically presenting Christian virtues and reflecting Fr. Stewart's homily call to be the **"salt of the earth and light of the world."** The celebration concluded with an engaging half-day program of input sessions and games, fostering a spirit of joyful service and missionary identity.

Diocese of Karwar Announces the "Year of the Poor": The Diocese of Karwar proclaimed 12 February 2026 as the beginning of the "Year of the Poor," a pastoral initiative aimed at strengthening the Church's commitment to the poor and marginalized. The decree was announced in the presence of Bp Duming Dias and diocesan clergy, with the banner unveiled alongside the seven deans as a sign of shared responsibility. Bishop urged parishes and institutions to promote concrete acts of service and outreach, inspired by the Holy Father's encyclical *Dilexit Te*, fostering compassion, justice, and solidarity throughout the Diocese.

Jubilee Housing Project Unveiled: The Diocesan Jubilee Housing Project was launched on 12 February 2026 by Bp Duming Dias, with a model house unveiled to mark the start of the initiative. The project aims to build one dignified home in each parish for poor and needy families, making it a shared responsibility across the Diocese. Funding and support will come from benefactors, Lenten collections, beneficiary families, well-wishers, volunteers, agencies, and NGOs, with stronger parishes encouraged to assist village parishes. The initiative also seeks to foster hope, dignity, unity, and compassion within the Diocese.

Blessing and Inauguration of Chapel: The newly built chapel at Tatvangi, Haliyal, was blessed and inaugurated on 13 Feb. 2026 by Bp. Duming Dias, in the presence of priests and a large gathering of faithful. After the Eucharistic celebration and blessing of the chapel and altar, a felicitation program was held. The Bishop appreciated the village's communal harmony, thanked the benefactors, and encouraged the faithful to cherish the chapel as a house of prayer. The event concluded with a cultural performance and a vote of thanks.

Commission for Family

Marriage Preparation Course: The Marriage Preparation Course was held from 13–15 Feb. 2026 at DPC Hall, Shirwad, Karwar, with 46 participants. Organized by the Diocese of Karwar,

the program prepared couples for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony through sessions on communication, conflict resolution, finances, parenting, and faith in family life. Along with interactive activities, the course emphasized spiritual growth through the Eucharist, Adoration, and Reconciliation. It concluded with a valedictory session and certificate distribution, with participants expressing gratitude and readiness to build Christ-centered families.

Young Clergy Meeting: On February 16–17, 2026, the **Young Clergy Meeting** of the Diocese was held at the **Holy Cross Brothers House in Honavar**, fostering a spirit of fraternity and spiritual renewal. The two-day gathering featured an address by **Bishop Duming Dias**, an inspiring vocation testimony by **Fr. Joachim Fernandes**, and moments of prayerful solidarity with a bereaved priest. Through fellowship, shared reflection, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the young priests were strengthened in their collective identity and returned to their parishes with a renewed commitment to their priestly ministry.

Renovated workshop blocks Inaugurated at Asha Kiran ITI, Dandeli : On February 18, 2026, the **Asha Kiran ITI Training Centre in Dandeli** inaugurated its renovated Fitter Workshop, Electrical Lab, and Welding Workshop, funded by the CSR initiative of **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**. The ceremony, led by **Bishop Duming Dias** and Regional Manager **Mr. Sridaran**, highlighted the bank's nationwide commitment to educational development and social responsibility. While Mr. Sridaran encouraged students to utilize the new facilities for their professional growth, Bishop Duming Dias expressed profound gratitude to the bank and the project coordinators. The event concluded with a ceremony honoring the contributors and a formal vote of thanks, marking a significant step forward for the center's technical training capabilities.

Inauguration of the Year of the Poor and Housing Project at Cathedral, Karwar: On 18 Feb. 2026, Ash Wednesday, the Holy Eucharist was solemnly celebrated at Our Lady of Assumption Cathedral, Kajubag, Karwar, by Bp Duming Dias. In his homily, he emphasized prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as the true spirit of Lent. He also inaugurated the Year of the Poor and launched a diocesan housing project aimed at building homes for the poor in every parish, marking a meaningful beginning to the Lenten season.

Justice and Peace Commission

Date	Program	Place	Participants
02.01.	Panchayat Raj Training	Halvalli	28
12.01.	Women Rights	Jaddi, Siddapur	29
08.01.	Gender equality and Justice	Kirwatti	30
28.01.	Leadership training	Yellapur	31
12.01.	Govt. schemes	Manjunath Nagar	50
17.01.	Govt. schemes	Madikoppa	28
17.01.	Govt. schemes	Korlekai	26
08.01.	Documentation Management	Igod	27
09.01.	Documentation Management	Ravindra Nagar	28
31.01.	Documentation Management	Krishna-gadde	31
07.01.	Right based approach community	Kirwatti	25
24.01.	Strengthening of Grass root & Taluk Federation	Yellapur	40
19.01.	Free eye check up camp	Kirwatti	12

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year of the Poor and Housing Project: The Inauguration of the Year of the Poor and Housing Project in all the Parishes of the Diocese will be held on **1st March 2026**.

FAITH FORMATION Camp for the TENTH standard students

Dates	Place
1 6 th – 10 th April 2026	Yellapur Haliyal & Sirsi deaneries
2 6 th – 10 th April 2026	DPC Kone & Kajubag deaneries
3 6 th – 10 th April 2026	Holy Rosary School, Honnavar Kumta, Honavar, Bhatkal deanery

CAREER ADVANCEMENT Programme for 8,9 and 10 Students

Dates	Place
1. 6 th – 10 th April 2026	Yellapur: Haliyal and Sirsi deaneries
2. 6 th – 10 th April 2026	DPC: Kone & Kajubag deaneries
3. 6 th – 10 th April 2026	Holy Rosary School, Honnavar Kumta, Honavar, Bhatkal deanery

Vocation Camp for 9, 10, I PUC and II PUC Students

Date	Place
1 9 th April 9am to 2pm	Yellapur Haliyal & Sirsi deaneries
2 9 th April 9am -2pm	DPC Kone & Kajubag deaneries
3 9 th April 9am to 2pm	Holy Rosary School, Honnavar Kumta, Honavar and Bhatkal deanery

Commission For Education Career Guidance Course to be held at the Deanery level

Date	Deanery
1. 11 April 2026	Honnavar, Bhatkal, Kumta
2. 12 April 2026	Kone and Kajubag
3. 13 April 2026	Haliyal and Sirsi

Commission for Migrants

A day of prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal during the holy season of lent is organized to all the migrants and parishioners at St. John the Evangelist Church, Chendia on 22nd March 2026

Commission for Social Concerns and Development : There will be a Election Awareness Programm at Holy Rosary Church, Yellapur on 14th March 2026

Commission for Proclamation and Evangelization : MCA Convention April 14 at St. Joseph Church Hall Lower Kasarkod. For Kumta, Honavar and bhatkal deanery children. 9:30 am.

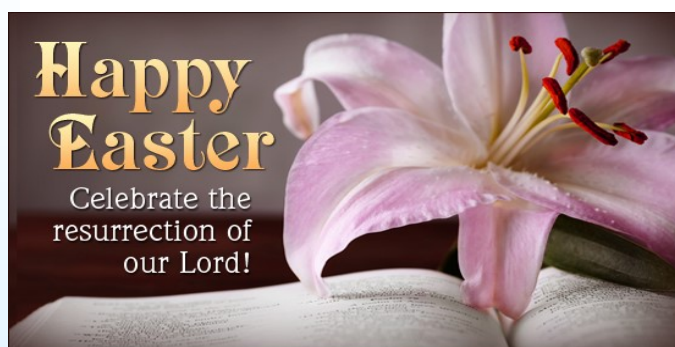
5. BISHOP'S ITINERARY

In the month of March

- 02 9 am Preran Shibir Meeting
- 03 10 am Housing Scheme Meeting
- 08 8 am Pastoral Visit, Bukkinkop
- 09-14 Retreat for Bishops, Chikmagalur
- 18 6. pm Clergy Recollection, Shimoga
- 19 9 am Day of the Consecrated, Shimoga
- 22 9 am Recollection (Religious), Shirwad
- 26 10 am Chrism Mass, Karwar

In the month of April

- 02 Maundy Thursday, Cathedral
- 03 Good Friday, Cathedral
- 04 Easter Sunday Vigil, Cathedral
- 6-10 Faith Formation Camps – 3 Zones
Vocation Camps
Career Advancement Programs
- 11-12 Pastoral Visit, Madi
- 13 Com. Directors' Meeting, Shimoga
5pm Blessing of Convent Chapel, Thirthahalli
- 14 9 am MCA Convention, Lower Kasarkod
- 18-19 5 pm Pastoral Visit, Bailur
- 20 Episcopal Ordination, Udupi
- 21 10 am Ordination, Upper Kasarkod
- 24 4 pm Mass at Holy Cross Chapel, Diggi
- 25-26 5 pm Pastoral Visit, Karikal
- 29 10 am Ordination, Mugwa



6. BIRTHDAYS

In the month of March

- 01 Fr. Lawrence Fernandes
- 03 Fr. David Pinto
- 04 Fr. Lorens D'Silva
Fr. Casmiro D'Souza
Fr. Vilet Fernandes
- 05 Fr. Nathaniel Cruz
- 06 Fr. Alwyn Prakash D'Souza SJ.
Fr. Santhosh Lopes (SAC)
- 07 Fr. Rony Coutinho
Fr. Salvador Rodrigues
- 10 Fr. Joachim Monteiro
- 12 Fr. Claudius Raja Doss
- 15 Fr. Roshan Fernandes
- 23 Fr. Jethro Bezzina
- 24 Fr. Anthony Robert
- 26 Fr. Jeevan Gomes SJ.
- 28 Fr. Philip Roque D'souza
- 29 Fr. Alexander S.
Fr. Stany Pinto

In the month of April

- 01 Fr. Gilbert Saldhana SJ.
- 04 Fr. Felix Lobo
Fr. Richard Rodrigues
Fr. Ronny Rodrigues
Fr. Stewart Fernandes
- 08 Fr. Anthony Dias
Fr. Salvatore Lecca
- 09 Fr. Paschal Bhaskar
- 10 Fr. Michael Pinto (Sr)
- 13 Fr. Maxim Nazareth (OFM. Cap)
- 16 Fr. Joachim Furtado SJ.
- 23 Fr. Natividade Rodrigues
Fr. Naveen Tauro
- 27 Fr. Anthony Gonsalves
- 29 Fr. James Lopes

7. To the heavenly abode

Mr. Kandith Fernandes aged 83, father of **Fr. Vilete Fernandes** passed away on 9th Feb.

Mr. Duming Dias aged 63, brother of **Fr. Anthony Dias** died on 9th Feb.

Mr Raphael D'souza, aged 72 years, the brother of **Fr Stany D'souza**

Mr Raymond Gonsalves, brother of **Fr Anthony Gonsalves**, aged 60 years, passed away on 14th Feb.

Mrs Daphne J. Rodrigues aged 62 years, sister of **Fr Lancy Rodrigues**, passed away on 17th Feb.

May the Lord grant them their eternal reward and comfort to the bereaved family members.